

***Our Mission:
Supporting Schools and
Student Achievement***

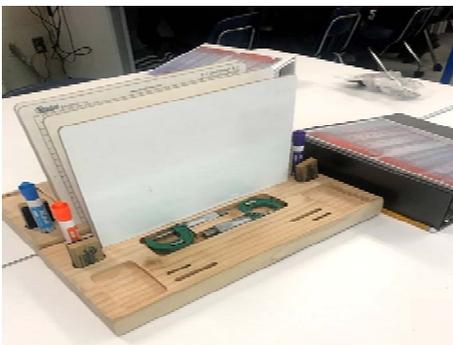
***Our Vision:
Impacting our community through high-quality educational programs, services, and learning experiences.***

Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

Innovative Engineering Students Design Organizer:

With all the hurdles and struggles this school year, there have been some silver linings to the COVID cloud. In Doug Ward's Innovative Engineering program, students designed and produced table organizers. Previously, these items would be stored in one collective location, and students would get them out as needed. To minimize cross-contamination, students now use the same tools and materials, and this organizer makes storage and access simple. In addition to the practicality of what they've created, the project-based learning approach that Mr. Ward frequently takes helps his students become real-world problem solvers.



**Cybersecurity and Information
Technology Students Continue to Excel
(pun intended):**

Despite the challenges of COVID, students in Roger Meinert's Cybersecurity and Information Technology (CsIT) program have earned a total of 34 certifications so far this year. When you add the certifications that second-year students earned last year in the program, CsIT students have a total of 92 certifications.

Additionally, as mentioned last month, this marks the second year of our CsIT Early/Middle College program. In addition to our seven EMC students, four students are taking CsIT college classes as dual enrollment. That's 11 students earning industry-recognized credentials in addition to college credit!

Lastly, two CsIT students will be working with the MOISD Technology Department for work-based learning. The Tech. Dept. was gracious to host students last year and we're excited to partner with them again. The students will begin later this month and be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays during their normally scheduled class time. The students will gain real-world experience as they apply the skills they've learned in class, and our technicians will have some help with their daily tasks. It's a win-win!

General Education

**Director of General Education
Tonya Harrison Reports:**

The General Ed Team:

Our goal of learning together continues with the trauma-informed classroom training with Allison Nelson. On October 23rd, over 415 participants logged into our Zoom meeting. However, this number doesn't account for the classrooms where numerous people share their learning through the same Zoom login. What a feat! Thank you to the tech support at the MOISD and all the local districts for making this effort successful. Our learning focus for the day was building a classroom environment and how to engage students in a positive relationship. The next ISD-wide learning day is on February 12th, with the MOISD and Big Rapids team meeting for a ½ day of learning on January 18th.



Bus Drivers-learning together

The local principals will begin their "case studies" with Allison Nelson on November 17th. Each district will share a student profile; Allison will facilitate how to build support for the student and strategies for the teachers and administrators.

In addition to the trauma work, we continue to serve on our local and state groups. The new school improvement platform will be released this week for local districts to "practice" building plans. I will be offering a few options to our local districts for learning about the platform MiCIP (Michigan's Continuous Improvement Process). The districts will be able to choose which learning

opportunity fits the best for their teams. MiCIP takes the place of ASSIST, the former school improvement platform. MiCIP brings data from the Data Hubs, allowing schools to automatically pull their state and some local data (NWEA) into their plans. MiCIP has a focus on the Whole Child for constructing plans based on growth and data stories, rather than checking boxes and deficiencies.

Early Literacy:

Amy is continuing to support educators in literacy by curating/creating resources found in a Padlet at bit.ly/MOISDLitToolkit. She is also setting up opportunities for virtual coaching online/on-demand professional learning. Amy created a Literacy Coaching Opportunity Board bit.ly/MOISDCOACH to help communicate opportunities available to local educators. Amy continues an active role in the statewide coaching network as she is collaborating on an Interactive Read Aloud project with two other ISD coaches from Hillsdale and COOR ISD's. This project will be aimed at teachers to encourage them to integrate more targeted and planned read aloud into their teaching practice.

Math/Science/Technology:

Justin Fox working with CC teachers

Justin Fox has been showcasing different ed-tech tools to instructors at the Career Center every other Wednesday through his

Ed Tech Intro program. The latest was Ed Tech Intro: Swivl. The Swivl allows teachers to record their lessons without the need for a camera operator or the need to stand in one spot in the room. It also can record from a second camera simultaneously, screencast, and live stream video via Zoom or Google Meet. As the need for distance learning strategies evolves, the Gen Ed team provides strategies and support to the teachers within the MOISD.

Behavior/Mental Health Supports:

Michael continues to provide on-site behavioral consultation, coaching and structured student observations upon request. He has been particularly active at the Educational Center, Reed City Area Public Schools, and Evert Elementary.

We continue to team with the Special Education Department with the Nonviolent Crisis Intervention Training (CPI). This is a two-day comprehensive crisis intervention training, and it is provided monthly for educators throughout the MOISD. The CPI curriculum has been updated in 2020. Michael, Mary Corder, and Beth Bond share in the training facilitation and provide value-added content to enhance the quality of the training experience and to support self-awareness and transformation of personal practices.



CPI Learning-The classroom day

Michael and Beth have co-created an inclusive Resilience Project for future

roll out to support the individual and collective resilience of special education staff. The Resilience Project has been intentionally designed with stakeholder participation as a "peer-support" process that will involve facilitated small group discussions with a focused exploration of research-based resilience activities and interventions. The project will be rolled out in early 2021.

Michael and Beth will be hosting and facilitating a Collaborative Support Network designed specifically to benefit the student support efforts of the numerous behavior interventionists, paraprofessionals, emotional wellness coaches, general education social workers, and others working in similar roles throughout the ISD. The network's primary aim is to provide these professionals (many recently hired by their local districts) the opportunity to receive support, share successes, showcase evidence-based practices, and learn new skills and techniques. The network will become operational in November.

Michael and Beth also serve as active members of two agency-based groups (MORTAR and MOCRT) affiliated with DHHS and CMH involved with promoting community resilience through proactive outreach activities and post-crisis support following critical incidents.

Beth Bond, our mental health consultant, has mostly been active in Evert Elementary with observations, individual student/family assistance, and classroom social skill lessons. She is organizing and co-facilitating the Transition Council this school year. Meetings are offered face-to-face and via Zoom to ensure member attendance. MRS did a comprehensive presentation at the October meeting and Personal

Curriculums will be the focus of the November meeting. Beth is collaborating with Chippewa Hills Elementary principals and general ed SSW to provide social/emotional learning, bully prevention, and child protection lessons for K – 4th grade students. She is also a member of the Community Wrap-Around team, which meets monthly.

Special Education

Director of Special Education Christy Miller Reports:

Our General supervision systems grant application (GSSG) from the MDE was officially approved. This grant funds the work of Ayla Lockhart and myself surrounding supporting schools in increasing practices that bring about improvements in compliance and results for students. This year's system includes two planned trainings (which will take place in winter) that examine how to determine educational benefit for students as well as training on how to write high-quality IEPs. We are also increasing the number of guidance documents that are now accompanied by a video walkthrough. These videos are designed with current staff as well as future staff in mind. They can be a resource to refer to for a refresher or an opportunity to training someone new. With COVID impacts on schools leaving the sub-pool even more shallow, we feel these video training will minimize the amount of time teachers, and direct service staff need to be away from students.

I have started my work with the Mecosta County Jail to create a better system to deliver special education services to students housed in the County Jail. Over

the past year, improving these systems has been a focus of ISDs throughout the state, and we are looking forward to this collaboration.

Ready for Life, an organization that provides college experiences for students with disabilities, continues to try and get a program off the ground and running at Ferris State University. The organization is looking to partner with the ISD to identify possible students who would benefit from the program. While we are still exploring whether collaboration would be possible, I have agreed to serve on the Ferris State/RFL Advisory Committee to lend assistance in any way that I can by providing school perspective to the process. I am hoping that through collaboration, we can provide more opportunities for young adults with disabilities in our ISD communities

Special Education Supervisor Jaime Knappe Reports:

Overall, this has been a month of creativity!

Itinerants:

With all of the school districts having differing schedules due to closures related to Covid-19, staff really needed a more consistent communication tool. So, with the help of the technology department, we got staff updated to the school messenger system "skylert," where staff receives the information about the closure through their avenue of choice (email, phone call, or text). This has really improved the communication timeliness for closures. Due to our vacant school psychologist position, we have been working collaboratively with Big Rapids Public Schools to increase support using Presence Learning for evaluations and assigning an

in-person school psychologist into each building to provide additional support. We are working hard to get creative to meet the needs of all staff and students.

Early On:

Back in March, with our initial shutdown, virtual learning was a tricky task for our students that were under 3-years-old. We were awarded the Governor's Emergency Education Relief (GEER) funds. These funds will be utilized to provide additional Personal Protective Equipment that is unique to services being provided in the student's home and service materials for students that are required to attend virtually (due to school shutdowns and/or sick family members in the household). The Early On team has worked very hard to buy materials to build bags for each student that can be used with the service provider via zoom or other avenues simultaneously as the student/parent they are coaching. The Early On staff is doing an excellent job of getting creative to meet our youngest population's needs.

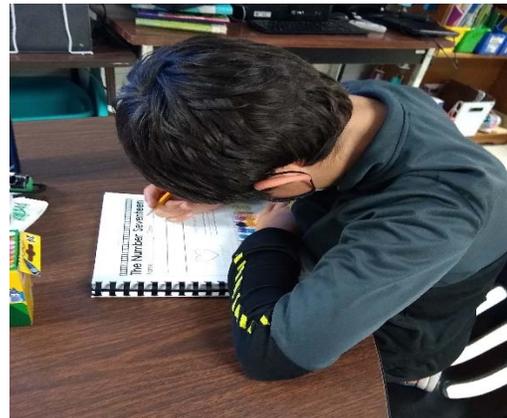
Special Education Supervisor Jenny Knopf Reports:

I am so excited to showcase pictures of students and staff working and learning together for this report! Staff continues to model and teach (and reteach) proper safety routines and procedures. Some things may look a little different this year. However, what hasn't changed is the staff's dedication to putting students first! Students and staff celebrated Halloween with individual classroom parties. A big thank you to Keeley Kading for creating an awesome slideshow. Keeley, a para in Kayla Meyer's middle school classroom, organized pictures of students in their costumes into a slideshow. Complete with music, classrooms could play the slideshow

so students and staff could safely see students in their costumes!



An elementary student is strengthening his fine motor skills with Legos.4



A middle school student is working on his math binder.



A middle school student is writing his numbers to 100.



An elementary student is working on identifying safety signs in his binder.



Artwork completed by the elementary resource room students!

Shout out to Tiffany Spedowski!

Tiffany has been driving the bus for the MOISD for over eight years! She welcomed students on the day before Halloween with a “spooktacularly” decorated bus! What an awesome surprise for students!!!



A stellar example of a MOISD staff member going above and beyond for students!!!

The high school classroom passed out, collected, and counted ballots on November 3rd!



Special Education Supervisor for Evert Public Schools and Planner/Monitor Ayla Lockhart Reports:

As districts and buildings are closing, staff, students, and parents are learning to adjust

to the new virtual learning environment that looks different from the Spring. Every student will have a Contingency Learning Plan that will define supports and services while engaged in virtual learning at any point in time. I would love to send gratitude to teams, families, and communities that are working together during this time. It is taking a great deal of planning and flexibility.

Teams are working collaboratively and endlessly to ensure support and services are set and ready to go when needed. Staff is learning a lot of new modes of delivery and instruction methods to support students in virtual learning as it is not the same as in-person teaching. Teachers, Students, and Parents are also finding the balance between going back and forth between virtual and face-to-face learning with closures and quarantines. Communication is critical, and creativity is at it's max to reach student needs!

Special Education Supervisor of MOISD Satellite Programs & Big Rapids Public Schools Cheryl Wright Reports:

Teachers in our satellite programs have been working on setting goals for students' individual proficiency and creating action steps with their teams for meeting goals.

Big Rapids Middle School Program:

The teacher and staff at the program for students with emotional impairments at Big Rapids Middle School have been revising the positive behavior support system, which allows students to earn points for successfully meeting daily goals. Staff collaborated with students to identify incentives and have implemented an economic system where students are able

to keep a bank record of points and write checks to spend them. The students are really excited about this system!

When Big Rapids announced the temporary school closure that included students in grades 6-8, the staff was ready. Contingency Learning Plans were activated. Students accessed work and met with their teacher virtually. Our behavior techs showed tremendous flexibility in taking on different roles during this time.

Early Childhood Special Education:

The teacher and staff have revamped the sensory room to create stations for different activities. Students have the opportunity to engage in favorite activities and are also supported in trying new activities to build additional skills. The staff has also created hands-on materials that are ready to be distributed in the event students need to learn from home.

Riverview Resource Room:

The teacher and staff have been able to integrate students into their general education classes for all or most of the day with their support. They continue working on strategies to increase independence. Last week, staff and students braved the snow flurries to march in the Halloween parade along with their school community.



Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Here we are already in the month where we turn our thoughts to those things we give thanks. Here are some that topped my list as I was thinking about what to share with you this month:

- Foster Grandparent program through 8 CAP-Right now, we cannot have our Grandmas in our classrooms due to COVID dangers for them and additional exposures to our students/staff. They really want to continue to support our programs and contribute something back in any way they can and still be safe. We partner with them to assemble projects, and we are working with them to create videos of them reading stories that our classrooms can use in the classroom or use to push out in our virtual classroom. They are currently working on putting together Talking is Teaching bags for distribution at our Virtual Baby Shower. They are also putting together the one-minute activity card packs distributed through the hospital birthing center and physician's office. While it might not seem like much, it is work that staff can comfortably hand over and move on to other work, and they are so excited to be helping and feeling valued, important, and knowing their contribution makes a difference.



- For staff and students working hard to ensure we remain face-to-face for as long as possible with as many students as possible!
- For my Administrative Team partners who I can consult with, brainstorm and plan with.
- For our Technology Department for setting us up for our virtual program's success, for virtual coaching and helping us create tools to help parents be true partners in the virtual learning environment with their preschoolers.
- For Mark Klumpp and Patience for helping to find the right staff to fill open positions on our GSRP team and find folks that can be substitutes in our classrooms.
- For the collaborative relationships with community partners that have been instrumental in the following projects:

Mecosta Reads

Update provided by Jessica Wimmer

Mecosta County Reads continues to increase community literacy needs and employability through literacy supports and resources. The Adult and Employability and Early Literacy groups have had an active summer resulting in assessment and services/supports to adults and school-age children and a successful Talking Is Teaching campaign, which was embedded into the Rock The Crock feeding program through Angels of

Actions. The Mecosta/Osceola Great Start Collaborative provides supports to ensure data collection is done to capture needs, barriers, and project successes. The data will also reveal barriers not originally detected.

Adult and Employability/School-Age

- One family of three is receiving literacy assessment, resources, and supports.
- Literacy Assessments are provided at Angels of Action through a collaboration with Ferris State University, SLD Read, and other partners [as needed].

Early Literacy

- Rock The Crock [mid-program] Evaluations
- 98.4% report increased family engagement during mealtime
- 92% report increased Talk, Read, and Sing interactions with children birth-age 8
- 92% report 'making the meals' with their children - resulting in measuring, reading recipes, and mixing
*some parents report children measuring for the first time
- 96.9% reported increase family time outside of mealtime due to Rock The Crock
- 98.4% report using the Crock-Pot outside of Rock The Crock meals

Parent Feedback

- *"We are eating healthier throughout the week."*
- *"I actually take the time to make dinner with the program, and I'm able to spend the time with my boys!"*
- *"My kiddos are spending time in the kitchen with me, but now do so even more!"*

- *"My daughter loves helping measure out ingredients and cooking with me. Thank you so much!"*

Virtual Community Baby Shower

update provided by Tricia Smith-Bennett

The Mecosta-Osceola Community Baby Shower hosted by the Mecosta Osceola Breastfeeding Coalition (a sub-committee of the Great Start Collaborative) is an opportunity for pregnant moms and all parents (moms, dads, grandparents, foster parents, etc.) who are the primary caregiver for a child under the age of 12 months to virtually connect with each other and learn about resources and supports that are available to them within their communities. Moms will receive safe sleep information, car seat safety, breastfeeding supports, and more. The baby shower gift includes a car seat, with installation instructions from a certified car seat technician, via Zoom, diapers, wipes, sleep sacks, self-care items for mom, hygiene care items for baby, books, and more. Each parent will also receive a free library card from the library of their choice and a Talking Is Teaching bag with hopes to increase parents talking, reading, and singing with their children. There will also be a Facebook LIVE opportunity where participants will be able to watch and interact with the keynote speaker, which will share critical information on postpartum depression, a number of recorded sessions on various topics from local resources, and support to networking opportunities.

Parents do the best they can, and when parents know better, they do better! The Breastfeeding Coalition and partners include DHD#10, Spectrum Health Big

Rapids and Reed City Hospitals, Mid-Michigan Community Action Agency, Life Resources, Central Michigan District Health Department, Area Public Libraries, Mecosta/Osceola Great Start Collaborative Partners, and Parent Ambassadors. They are working to increase child development awareness so parents can be confident that they are making the best decision possible and are connected to the support and resources they need.

**Registration numbers keep going up! We are currently at 64 moms registered!

I could go on for pages, but I know you get the idea of the sort of work we have going on here. It is about collaborations and relationships that support the organizational **Vision**: *Impacting our community through high-quality educational programs, services, and learning experiences*. So that we can fulfill the organizational **Mission**: *Supporting Schools and Students Achievement*--beginning with our very youngest learners--born and unborn! Lastly, thank you for your continued support and for being our champions.

Technology

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:

COVID has created some unusual times for technology teams at every school. This has changed how technology staff in education handle moving to remote learning, especially as instruction may move back and forth between remote and face-to-face delivery.

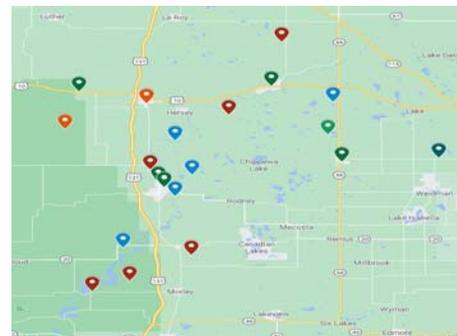
October was Cyber Security Awareness Month:

This past month allowed us to see what we can do to strengthen our student information and personal security. School districts across the country were already increasingly vulnerable to cyber threats prior to COVID-19. On top of that, many dealt with budget and staffing challenges, making it harder to improve their cybersecurity defenses.

Then, the pandemic hit, and schools went remotely. That shift, which made students and educators more reliant on digital tools, expanded schools' attack surface and aggravated threats such as email phishing and ransomware file attacks. In late June, the FBI even warned K–12 schools to expect a surge of cyberattacks because of the remote learning.

Internet Speed Test in Mecosta and Osceola ISD:

In October, we have run over 25 internet speed tests in the MOISD boundaries. Only a handful have passed the 1 Mbps upload speeds needed for Zoom remote learning. On the following map, green is a good test, and red is a bad test. The blue pins are ones we will be testing. The green pins are mostly in villages or cities. Results from a year ago show very similar locations.



MI-Connect Funds for MOISD LEAs:

The MOISD technology staff is helping to coordinate the MI-Connect state funds (<https://mi-connect.org/>). These funds will be used for technology at the LEAs. These funds came from Michigan Senate Bill SB-690. The Michigan Association of Intermediate Schools Administrators (MAISA) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) have put ISDs in charge of overseeing local and internal distribution of the money. The MOISD decided to use a formula that would equally distribute the amount to the LEAs on a per-pupil basis. The total funding for the MOISD area was \$148,361. This comes to about \$18.33 per student. Due to social economic and rural population factors, we did not receive the maximum amount. This money can be used for remote learning needs. LEAs are looking to fund some of the items that include Chromebooks / mobile devices, Internet connections to the home, learning management systems, and remote support access systems.

There are two other parts to this program. The first is a rebate of \$25.00 to \$50.00 per mobile device, including Chromebooks purchased after March 1st, 2020. Second, \$100,000 was set aside for the state to do cybersecurity training with technology departments statewide. We have seen a significant increase in bad actors hacking on the system in our daily reports.

Opportunities and Challenges of Remote Learning Project Moon Shot:

We have had continued conversations with FSU's Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Bhavani Koneru, to create equity for all students. We have a scheduled meeting with Ferris State University and Merit to see about a multi-state project to help close the homework gap with the MOISD schools and students being a candidate for this pilot.

Zoom and Remoting Learning:

This month, we hit a new record with the October 23rd Allison Nelson trauma training having over 430 Zoom connections!

Purchasing Challenges continue with hardware:

Purchasing continues to be a challenge for our schools. We have been finding technology education resources such as headphones, conference webcams, mobile devices like Chromebooks, and other technology peripherals to be short in supply. The main factor is due to remote learning and what is outlined in the Continuity of Learning Plans. There has been more of a demand for these products in the state and the nation.

Welcome Zeke Holley!

Zeke will be filling the open MOP technology support position at Evart Public Schools. Zeke comes from Mid-Michigan College where he graduated from the IT program with an associate degree in computer information systems.