



### Career & Technical Education

#### Director Mike Miller Reports on CTE NEWS:

##### Public Safety Program Receives Donation



On Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, Public Safety Students were in full turnout gear to receive a donated fire engine from the Morton Township Fire Department. This new truck will replace our current fire truck, a 1982 model that began its service in the Chicago Fire Department. The new truck is a 1992 model and will improve the program with its enhanced capability and increased reliability. It will allow students to practice truck, pump, and hose operations just to name a few. Both 9 & 10 News and the Pioneer were present for the ceremony thanks to Mr. Klumpp's coordination.

One of the many strengths of our CTE programs is the well-established partnerships with our community stakeholders. Mrs. Paquette, Mr. Harvell, and Sergeant Danielson have been diligent in fostering these relationships. It is through one of these relationships that we learned of Morton Township's intention to retire the engine from its fleet. We are grateful to Chief Allen Sutherby, the Morton Township Fire Department, and the Township Board for investing in our Public Safety program with this generous donation. It will serve as an invaluable resource for years to come.

##### MOCC Staff and Students Participate in Homecoming Parades



In an effort to extend our presence and outreach to the communities we serve, MOCC staff and students participated in the Big Rapids Homecoming parade on Friday, September 21 and are currently planning and preparing to participate in each district's parade if possible.



In addition to the float, which had a running diesel engine, a MIG welder, salon dryer chairs, a hospital bed, and a gurney, Mrs. Paquette drove the Public Safety program's police car with several "prisoners" in the back seat. Our presence was well received by the community members who lined the streets. Additionally, it gave a unique opportunity to the students to participate in the festivities in ways they might not have in the past if they aren't athletes or members of student council. We're grateful to all the staff who participated and especially Mrs. King, Ms. Bolin, Mrs. Hallman, Mrs. Paquette, and Mr. Bird for taking a lead role in the planning and execution of this new outreach effort.

## Special Projects

### Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

**Foster Grandparents**--we are fortunate to partner again this year with Eight CAP to engage with their Foster Grandparents program. We began the year with three energetic Grandmas, but we are now down to two due to health issues. These Grandmas interact with our students and

help support their learning in the classroom. They are paid through a federal grant to work 20 hours/week in our program. The students like having a Grandma in the classroom and the Grandmas enjoy the interaction with students. This inter-generational mix adds another layer of interest, learning and adventure for all!

**Book Walk Events**--Our Family Engagement Specialist has started to implement engagement programs and opportunities in the community and in our GSRP programs. The Family Engagement Team will be partnering with other organizations to offer four Book Walk Opportunities in the region each trimester so there will be a minimum of 12 events and four different books over the year. The first events will take place later this month with the *Going on a Leaf Hunt* book. So far events are planned for Ewart and Eastwood (Big Rapids) with two other sites to be selected soon! If you get a chance come on out and see the great collaborations with community agencies and schools to offer these events and engage everyone in reading and exploring literacy activities.

**Trauma Screen Results**--You may recall that we implemented a trauma screener as part of our enrollment process for GSRP. We are just beginning to dig into the forms to see what we can glean from them and to consider what our next action steps should be from a community and a programmatic perspective. Here are some numbers to think about in respect to these four year old children enrolled in preschool across our region.

|   |                      |                      |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|
| Of all voluntary screens returned:                                  |                      |                      |
|   | <b>Child Results</b> | <b>Adult Results</b> |
| n=  | 85                   | 91                   |
| Impacted by trauma  | 45%                  | 48%                  |
| Exposure to 3 or more traumas*                                      | 10%                  | 18%                  |
| *These are discreet categories and do not reflect repeated exposure |                      |                      |

We have begun talking about these results as a team and as a community and we are working on strategies to build resilience and to inform families of trauma's impact on child development, learning and behavior. Stay tuned!

**Evert Reads**--This project is in the third and final year of MOP Co-op funding. Jenny Rounds will be receiving a grant for \$8,000 to help sustain the community aspects of the project (excluding any staffing) from Yoplait. We are working with Evert public schools to sustain the mentoring/reading program in the schools.

**Great Start Collaborative**--Great Start Coordinator, Jessica Wimmer and Mark Higgins have been working on budgets, final reports, carryover budgets, for prior year and are quickly moving to submit the 2018-19 action agenda and budget. We are provided with four outcomes by the state:

1. Children are born healthy
2. Children are healthy, thriving, and developmentally on track from birth to third grade.
3. Children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry.
4. Children are prepared to succeed in fourth grade and beyond by

reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

How we achieve these outcomes is locally determined by all the agencies and their voices represented around these outcomes. The activities to achieve the four outcomes will be identified, revised, and completed using data and by engaging diverse community supports to implement the activities following these identified community priorities:

1. Creating a strong community by implementing the Strengthening Families framework into early childhood programs.
2. Initiating family engagement in prenatal-school entry opportunities.
3. Becoming a better trauma informed community.

Thanks for your continued support! Enjoy these beautiful fall colors while they last!

**Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:**

**MOISD Website Refresh:**

The new website was activated on 9/13/2018. This transition organized the menu system and cleaned up old data on the site. We will do further training with staff on how to layout documents to meet the standards of formatting required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

**MiSEN (Michigan statewide Education Network) Internet Services from Merit:** Our Data Center has moved to the new state MiSEN Internet connection. This system will add reliability and reduce redundancy to prevent failure.

The MOISD is one of the 18 pilot ISDs in the State and the first ISD to be connected to the new MiSEN Internet Access connection. This connection is supplied by Merit Network, one of two MiSEN locations in the State. Merit network is a nonprofit group formed by the major universities in the State and is housed in Ann Arbor Michigan.

We have completed a needs assessment and inventory of where the location is and what is needed to connect those buildings.

In addition, we are working with MiSEN to help the local libraries interconnect with the MiSEN Project. The MiSEN group has given the green light to connect them as it directly meets their mission of working with E-Rate qualified entities that help with the MDE 10 in 10 goals. This has not yet been done in the State, and we would be a leading initiative. This could be a cost savings for the libraries and would help free up money for additional resources.

## General Education

### Director of General Education Tonya Harrison Reports:

#### The Gen Ed Team:

Our team goals will be centered around the MOISD initiatives of Trauma/Behavior informed schools, Early Literacy, MTSS (*Multi-Tiered Systems of Support*), and the joint initiatives that cross the Special Education and General Education “lines”. We want to continue to support the thought process of “all students first in our instructional goals”!

As the Director of General Education, I work to stay up to date on state initiatives and curriculum updates and best practices.

I remain a member of numerous state groups including the General Education Leadership Network (GELN), the Michigan Collaboration Hub (MiCH), the Actionable Data Hubs Advisory, and act as a member of the board of directors for the Michigan Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (Mich-ASCD). The Data Hubs is a state initiative that has the potential to bring real instructional value to our local schools and is one of my favorite monthly meetings. Our technology director, Fred Sharpsteen, and I are currently collaborating on creating a barrier list and action plan for our local schools to help them get connected to the state Data Hubs. Our goal is to have all schools not only connected to the Hubs but using the data collected by the Hubs, so classroom teachers and principals can turn the data into data they can actually use to drive instruction in their classrooms and buildings.

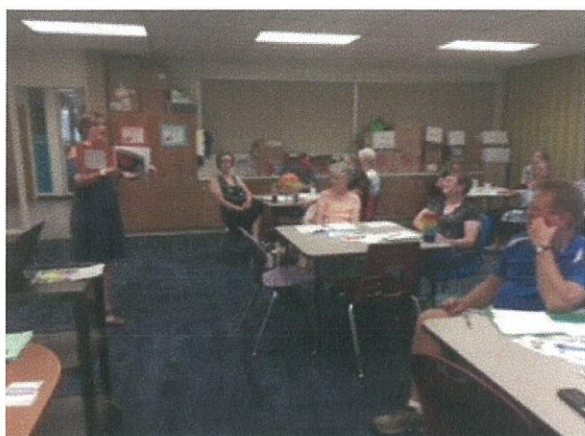
#### Early Literacy:

Amy and Cathy will be attending the second 4-day Essential Practices Institute in Grand Rapids next week, along with several district principals and teachers. Between the August and September trainings, all 6 districts will have had representatives from their district who have attended the Essential Practices training with the researchers!

Our literacy coaches are presenting the Early Release Essential Practice Professional Learning Series again at Morley Elementary for three early release dates Sept. 21, Nov. 9, Jan. 18 This year’s focus for all 3 dates is on Essential Practices # 3 and # 9. We will be spending each session having teachers using current classroom data and assisting them in

planning targeted instruction for their students.

Cathy has been working in Evert Elementary working with teachers and training paraprofessionals around using data to drive and target their instruction. Amy and Cathy also collaborated with Jenny Rounds as part of the training for the Evert READS mentoring program

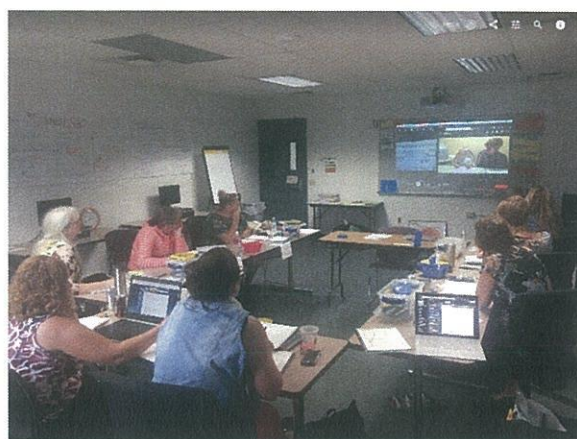


Amy sharing information

### Math and Science:

The General Education Department hosted the Math Recovery Intervention Specialist training on Sept 18th-21st. This workshop is the start of an intensive ten-day training with educators and interventionists from Mecosta-Osceola ISD, Wexford-Missaukee ISD, and Manistee ISD. Larry Wyn, along with Jodi Redman, from WMISD are co-facilitating the workshop and will be coaching the participants throughout the school year as they progress to get their Intervention Specialist Certification. Each instructor will be equipped to work intensively with students to determine their level of understanding and deliver prescribed intervention lessons. During the week, the participants watched assessment videos, discuss student understanding, and delivered live assessments at Crossroads

Charter Academy. Instructors left the workshop excited to support their students and fill the gaps in their knowledge. This course is just one of many Math Recovery courses that will be available to educators, free of charge, throughout the year. This workshop was made available through a Math Science Partnership grant that was written in collaboration with Wexford-Missaukee ISD.



Math Recovery Interventionist Learning

### Behavioral Specialist:

Our Behavioral Specialist, Michael Basauno, has participated in numerous learning opportunities in the past few months including Mindfulness Fundamentals, Assisting Individuals in Crisis, Managing School Crisis, along with learning alongside our literacy coaches at the Essentials in Early Literacy training this month.

Michael has a variety of onsite professional learning for our locals and ISD staff members, including CPI (*Crisis Prevention Institute*) training, TCI (*Therapeutic Crisis Intervention*) training, and FBA's and data collection. We are also planning a winter training to support Tier I Classroom Management which impacts CHAMPS (*Community Health Automated Medicaid*

*Processing System*) and MiBLSI (*Michigan's Integrated Behavior and Learning Support Initiative*). This Tier I learning directly impacts all students with PBIS (*Positive Behavioral Interventions*) systems.

## Special Education

### Director of Special Education Kim Tufnell Reports:

I attended our first State Directors' meeting in Lansing where we discussed the "needs improvement" determination that the State received on the State Performance Plan indicators. It was helpful to have the explanation from MDE on the formula for the determinations. We were also informed that we met the target in COMPLIANCE, but fall very short on RESULTS for students with disabilities. This is where the components of our General Supervision Grant will be a great start for evaluating our processes in order to improve outcomes for students in our area.

Our team has conducted three Ed Benefit Reviews as part of our General Supervision Grant. This has been a great opportunity for ISD and local district staff to work collaboratively on a common understanding of compliance and results. Educational Benefit Reviews serve to help staff understand that a student's Individualized Education Plan's (IEP) purpose is to provide the support necessary to access the curriculum, thus gaining educational benefit. It has been rewarding to see the "a-ha" moments with participants during the process.

Our Coordinated Early Intervening Services (CHAMPS) plan is being slowly and methodically implemented throughout the ISD area. We discussed the components of reporting and implementation stage at the first Principals' meeting and our itinerant teams are scheduling meetings with the district leadership teams to discuss the process moving forward. One of our districts has already sent out the parent informational letter and completed the K-1 assessments to determine groups/interventions. While it is an enormous amount of work up front, we're excited to see the collaboration and problem solving that is already happening.

### Special Education Supervisor Beth Bond Reports:

#### MOEC Upcoming events:

Annual Parent Open House and Ice Cream Social was held Friday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00. This year there was a "Scavenger Hunt" for parents to find or do things in the Ed Center building. All that attended were able to enjoy "make your own" ice cream sundaes.

#### This month's featured teacher is Kathleen Rau...

Kathleen is our brand new Adult Transition Center - 1 teacher. A little bit about Kathleen in her own words via an excerpt from a letter sent home to parents/guardians:

My name is Kathleen Rau, and I am the new teacher in your son/daughter's classroom. I have both my bachelor's and master's degree from Central Michigan University and have been teaching high school special education for 12 years. For

the majority of my teaching career, I taught for the MOISD at Muskegon River Youth Home. While I enjoyed my time at the youth home, I was ready for something new, and the idea of helping young adults access the community and support their independence to the fullest extent possible is so exciting to me.

Throughout my college career, I worked in an adult foster care home and provided direct care to adults with cognitive disabilities. I also have two pseudo nephews with Fragile X syndrome and two very dear friends with Cerebral Palsy and Muscular Dystrophy. Still, I know that I have a lot to learn, and I want you to know I will be doing everything I can to make sure your son/daughter has a positive and meaningful experience while he/she is in this program.

As your daughter/son may have already told you. I am married and have four children, three sons and one daughter (Jordan 22, Zoey 17, Logan 14, and Luke 11). We have three dogs in our home, but my dog is a Yorkie/Maltese mix named Piper. I love history, music, and art so in my free time my children and I like to go to museums, historical places (Greenfield Village is one of my favorite places), plays, and concerts together.

Kathleen has definitely jumped in with both feet. She's already coordinating activities/services with outside community resources such as campgrounds to sell "Fire Starters" that the students are making in class, wrapping silverware for local restaurants, having MSU-Extension come in for cooking, and having her mom volunteer to teach simple sewing. Her young adults are loving all the new activities and learning opportunities!



*Brent and Tammy are making Christmas Tags.*



*Ashleigh, Brandon, and Jordan are wrapping plastic-ware for the cafeteria.*



*Damond w/ the help of a para is making fire-starters.*

Respectfully Submitted, Beth Bond - MOEC  
Sp. Ed. Supervisor

## **Special Education Supervisor Christy Miller Reports:**

### **Meet Jennifer Herrema...**

*New Speech and Language Pathologist  
serving Reed City!*

I was born and raised in Mason County, Michigan. I attended Central Michigan University to complete my undergraduate studies with a major in Communication Disorders and a minor in Child Development. I then went on to complete my graduate school experience at Michigan State University, earning a Master's degree in Communicative Sciences and Disorders. Throughout my four internships in grad school, I gained experience working in multiple school districts, a private practice outpatient clinic, and in the adult neuro rehab unit at Hope Network, working with people post stroke and post TBI. I have always been passionate about serving other people, and enjoy working as a volunteer firefighter and medical first responder when I am not at school. :) I am very thankful to have the opportunity to start my career as a Speech-Language Pathologist working for the MOISD!

### **Meet Emily White...**

*New Speech and Language Pathologist  
serving Chippewa Hills and Reed City!*

I grew up in New Era, MI and attended high school in Shelby. I graduated from Central Michigan University with my Master's Degree in May 2017. I previously worked as a speech-language pathologist for Huron Intermediate School District in Bad Axe, MI. I am so grateful for the opportunity to work for MOISD and to be closer to family and friends. I enjoy hiking and camping in my free time.

### **Meet Brianna Ballew...**

*New Occupational Therapist serving Reed  
City, Big Rapids, and Early On!*

My name is Brianna Ballew. I am 24 years old and recently graduated from Grand Valley State University's Occupational Science and Therapy program. I have completed Level I fieldwork in three different settings, which include a school, a not-for-profit successful aging center, and acute care. I also completed the more extensive Level II fieldwork programs at Mary Free Bed's Subacute Rehabilitation Center, as well as Helen DeVos Children's Hospital (HDVCH) Outpatient Center. With my placement at HDVCH, I have experience in pediatric developmental therapy, as well as pediatric feeding therapy. I was recently married in July and have moved to Big Rapids with my husband who attends pharmacy school at Ferris State University. I enjoy cooking, hiking, going to the beach, and spending time with friends and family. I am very excited and looking forward to my new position here at the MOISD as I continue to grow and positively impact children and their families as a school-based Occupational Therapist.

### **Meet Arianne Boynton...**

*New Speech and Language Pathologist  
serving Big Rapids!*

Arianne is coming to us from us with previous experience, having worked in a previous position as a therapist in Traverse Bay Area ISD. We're excited to have her on our team serving Big Rapids Middle School, High School, and Riverview Elementary!