



Career & Technical Education

Director of CTE Mike Miller Reports:

National Apprenticeship Week:

Contributed by Doug Ward

The Welding and Innovative Engineering programs toured Reed City Group as a part of National Apprenticeship Week. While touring, they discussed apprenticeships and work ethics. John Barnett, CEO, also talked to them about what to look for in a company when they graduate. John had a great message for our students.



*Students learning about manufacturing processes
at Reed City Tool*

Additionally, we had Dave Grevels from Primo Tool present to our students about his company. While doing so he discussed a work-based learning position that he is looking to fill. This led to some impromptu

interviews on the spot. Students printed their resumes and Dave conducted five interviews. We are planning to place another student there very soon!

Meceola Tech Fall Semester Update:

The fall semester of Meceola Tech successfully concluded with CNA students taking the Prometric written and hands-on assessments. All students successfully passed the written assessment and nearly all passed the hands-on portion. Students who passed both portions are now eligible to work in long-term care facilities and most already have jobs lined up with local facilities such as Metron and Altercare.

EMT students are continuing their training and are on track to complete and begin the National Registry testing in February. The Automotive Electrical class concluded and an Automotive and Heavy/Medium Duty Truck Brakes class is scheduled to run in January. In addition to the traditional welding classes that ran Mondays and Wednesdays, we had nine Yoplait employees attend industry-specific welding training on Tuesdays and Thursdays this semester. Yoplait has requested and we are planning to run a machining program for these same employees in January.

MOCC Educators Earn Google Certification:

Contributed by Joy Paquette

The Career Center now has multiple Google Certified Educators. Justin Fox, Mark Danielson, Kelly Williams, Shellie Hallman, and Joy Paquette passed their exam and earned the Level 1 certification in November shortly after attending the annual miGoogle

Conference. They can now proudly display the Google Educator badge. The exam covers many of the G Suite cloud-based programs like Google Drive, Gmail, Google Classroom, and Google Calendar just to name a few.



The Google Certified Educator Level 1 badge

These educators are planning to hold further training with MOCC instructors, as well as LEA teachers who wish to expand their use of G Suite applications in the classroom. In addition to increased opportunity for engagement and accountability, Google Classroom saves on paper, helps students stay caught up if they are absent, and gives them instantaneous feedback on assessments and assignments.

Culinary Arts Students:

Once again, Culinary Arts students made a cake in support of the annual Mecosta Osceola United Way's Great Cake and Dessert Auction. This year's cake was a peanut butter chocolate "turkey cake". This scrumptious looking turkey with edible feathers was awarded to highest bidder Pete Kent. In the spirit of the holiday season, he then gifted it to Shane Strickler, who also bid on the poultry confection and later reported the cake tasted as good as it looked! We are thankful to these gentlemen for their support and to Mrs. Upham and Mrs. Hallman for helping students participate in this community event.



100.9 Big Country DJs Rob and Louise with Fran Arquette (BR), Elizabeth Goodwin (EV), and Sierra Culp (EV)

Special Projects

Director of Special Projects Karen Roy Reports:

Merry Christmas!

I am very excited to share this month's updates! This first piece aligns well with the Board's Core Goals:

Student Focused and Everyone Together:

We are at the end of our first trimester for GSRP and staff are formulating their goals based on this data for the remainder of the year, based on the goal that we are going to work toward achieving 85% of all enrolled students will be "School Ready" based on anecdotal evidence entered into the COR Advantage System by May 8, 2020. Here is a quick snapshot of where our little ones are compared to national averages at this point-in-time:

This data represents 23,908 **student-focused** observations across 36 Knowledge Developmental Indicators (KDIs) in the

above eight content areas. Looks like we are off to a Great Start!

After the first of the year staff will begin to dive into their set goals and learn more about using questioning to extend children's thinking to support their continued growth and development as we support and encourage high-level thinking. Amy Posey (Gen. Ed Literacy Coach) and Jessica Wimmer (Great Start Collaborative Coord.) will be modeling and integrating these questioning techniques into their next literacy sessions with GSRP staff--truly Everyone Together!

These questioning techniques will be woven into training/meetings across the rest of the year. We will be using the text, *Big Questions for Young Minds*, Strasser, J. & Bresson L.M., NAEYC. 2017. I have been talking with a mentor from NAEYC and planning for total integration with our curriculum, program guidelines, and with the Essential Literacy Practices. It is really "not one more thing", rather how do we work more intentionally to achieve great things! She is really excited about our approach and is planning on joining us via Zoom from time to time and we are thinking about how to use this great work for a breakout session at next year's national conference in Anaheim.

This next piece is a collaboration of staff--teachers and associate teachers pooling their time, talent, and knowledge to share a slice of the work they are doing in and outside the classroom.

I **value** their **contribution** to the great work going on in our department. Thanks go out to Brittany Firman, Claire Tefft, Olivia Bolthouse, and Kristen Bechaz.

Incorporating Early Literacy Essentials in the Classroom and at Home:

From day one, a child's brain begins forming connections very quickly—connections that build the foundation for all learning he or she will do later in life. In fact, 90% of children's critical brain development occurs by age five. Children who are read to, sung to, and talked to from a young age develop bigger vocabularies, become better readers, and are more likely to succeed in school. It is far easier to reach children starting from birth with quality early education experiences than to try and catch them up later with interventions in the kindergarten to third-grade years.

Our GSRP Programs are participating in the Early Literacy Essentials Training to help make us informed and aware of how we can implement the essentials for the children in our classrooms. What are the Essentials? The Essentials are "research-supported instructional practices that can have a positive impact on literacy development. The use of these practices in every classroom, every day could make a measurable positive difference in the State's literacy achievement. They should be viewed, as in practice guides in medicine, as presenting a minimum 'standard of care' for Michigan's children."

Incorporating the following activities in the classroom and at home help to build your child's language and literacy development:

- Sort clothes – by color, by size, or types (socks, pants, shirts)
- Look for shapes
- Hunt for numbers and letters
- Count
- Find colors
- Read labels
- Read books

Keeping in that vein of being **student-focused** and all things GSRP, Joanne

Mitchell, Early Childhood Specialist, is sharing the following information about the various curriculum, assessment, developmental screeners, and program quality assessment tools we use in our programs.

Curriculum:

We strive to provide a quality educational program for a diverse population of children with widely varying levels of development and ability by following the High Scope curriculum. In the High Scope curriculum, adults and children are partners in learning. Through active participatory learning, a child constructs knowledge of the world through their own, direct experience with people, objects, materials, events and ideas. More information regarding the High Scope curriculum can be found at www.highscope.org.

Developmental Screening:

We utilize a developmental screening tool, known as the Brigance III, to assess children’s skills in different developmental areas. Each child is screened within two (2) weeks of initial attendance. If concerns are noted, teachers will refer children for further consultation and/or diagnostic assessment through the MOISD’s assessment process. If there is a need for further evaluation, the teachers will confer with the parents and parental consent will be obtained.

On-Going Child Assessment:

We utilize High Scope’s online Child Observation Record (COR Advantage). This observation-based instrument provides a systematic, ongoing assessment of a child’s knowledge and abilities in all areas of development. This is accomplished by teachers observing children during all portions of the day and throughout the program year. Teachers keep anecdotal notes about skills observed in 36 areas under nine domains. Teachers use this

information to develop comprehensive lessons that support and challenge the children’s skills and abilities. Teachers share this information with parents at scheduled conferences and home visits.

Program Quality:

The preschool Program Quality Assessment -Revised(PQA-R) is a rating instrument designed to evaluate the quality of early childhood programs. The Early Childhood Specialist (ECS) observes each teaching team using the PQA-R instrument to document evidence of practice in the areas of The Learning Environment; Teaching and Learning Routines and Adult-Child Interactions; and Curriculum, Planning, Assessment and Family Engagement. Results from this assessment are then used by the program to complete Quality Improvement Plans for the classroom, Professional Development Plans for staff and Quality Improvement Plans the overall Program.

Thanks for your continued support! Have a wonderful, joy-filled Christmas season.

General Education

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

The General Ed Team:

Fall, especially November is the beginning of School Improvement for schools and districts. Schools are beginning to review their early universal/benchmark data from the year and compare it to the goals set in their continuous improvement plans. The State also offers their annual School Improvement Conference for two days in Lansing. Educators, from local districts and

ISD's, gather to learn together about new instructional practices, programs, technology support, continuous improvement strategies, and updates from the Michigan Department of Education. This year we spent time learning about the new Continuous Improvement Platform called MiCIP. The platform will be used by all districts beginning in the 2021-2022 school year. Districts will no longer be using ASSIST, the current platform for "logging" school improvement plans. Tonya Harrison was able to attend this year, along with local representatives from Big Rapids, Morley-Stanwood, and Crossroads.

Early Literacy:

Amy Posey and Tonya Harrison were able to attend an outstanding learning opportunity hosted by Kent ISD called Ignite Engagement. The facilitator was Ellin Oliver Keene, who is the author of several books, including Engaging Children: Igniting a Drive for Deeper Learning K-8. What an exciting day! Ellin was energetic and real, as she shared life in the classroom experiences and provided details about igniting engagement with students. She drew in the instructional practices of literacy, but her focus was on good teaching and how to bring your students into the classroom of learning. The General Education Department looks forward to sharing our learning with our locals' principals and begin a conversation about bringing Ellin Keene to our ISD. It would be a great opportunity to have other ISD's come to the MOISD for a big event.

Math/Science:



Barryton Students Ready for the Star Lab

Mr. Fox continues to share our MOISD Star Lab to our local schools. He provides the learning opportunity to our local elementary students during the day or in the evening, based on the events of the individual school. Students learn about space and can "see the sky" lit up with stars, watching the constellations and other space entities, throughout the various seasons/times of the year. He has been to several schools this year including Morley-Stanwood and Barryton Elementary.



Students in the Star Lab

Behavioral Specialist/Mental Health

Supports: *Report shared from Beth Bond, School Mental Health Consultant*

As I start some new social skills groups in our locals, I'm excited to bring back a successful program that I initiated years ago called Beauty Shop Girls. Small groups of similar-aged girls are formed to address specific social skill needs. The focus can be topics such as friendship skills, appropriate classroom behaviors, hygiene, character traits, etc. I combine the lessons with simple "beauty activities" such as using hand lotion, painting fingernails, discussing hair care and the importance of oral hygiene. I've reached out to some of my female colleagues for donations of unused hotel-size shampoos/conditioners and partially used lotions and nail polish. I will purchase new hair brushes, tooth brushes, and other single use products from our local dollar store. I'm hoping to share pictures of some of the Beauty Shop Girls participants in future board reports.

Technology

Director of Technology Fred Sharpsteen Reports:



Kyle Bowen, pictured above, became the Mecosta Osceola Career Centers' first certified Microsoft Office Specialist Master. This is an amazing achievement for this young man, especially since we started the training and testing only about eight weeks ago.

To achieve a Microsoft Office Specialist Master certification, a student must be certified as/in:

- Microsoft Word
- Word Expert
- Microsoft Excel
- Excel Expert
- Microsoft PowerPoint

Students then choose either:

- Microsoft Access
- Microsoft Outlook

The Microsoft Office Specialist Master amounts to six certifications. Kyle has completed the certification process in about two months. He is now working to complete Microsoft Outlook. He will then have the full suite of Microsoft Office certifications. If you see Kyle, please take a moment to recognize his accomplishments

Xello / Career Cruising:



Xello is engaging college and career readiness software that unlocks every student's potential by opening their eyes to future possibilities and equipping them. We have completed the setup of Xello for 100% of the districts. Also, 100% are now connected to MiDataHubs. The data hubs will help LEAs to quickly integrate systems

like this without the need for manual imports and exports of local data. These systems have a direct impact on the students' learning path. They allow multiple data points to be used to assess the students' progress and, in the case of Xello, help them learn about career opportunities after they graduate from school. I am sure the MOCC building will be reading more about this Xello project as we move into the training of staff phase of this project.

On deck projects are:

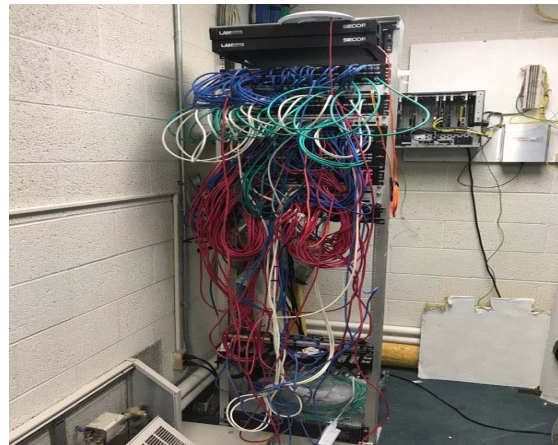
Getting ready for the spring M-Step testing:

Successful M-Step testing in the spring was due to a well-orchestrated process that just doesn't happen by accident. We spend the winter months getting the servers ready and testing workstations so that the system is completely ready for M-Step in the spring. The schedules for testing are very tight, so there is no room for failed tests. Also, if there are struggles in completing tests, student outcomes could be affected. For these reasons, we put a large amount of effort into helping create a successful testing cycle, as do all the LEA technology teams.

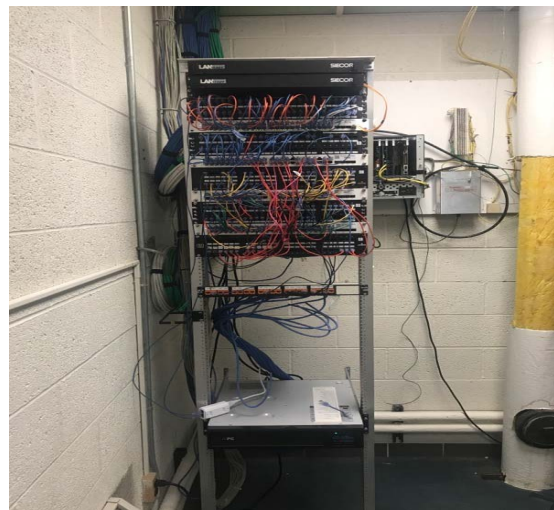
MOP Co-Op team helps Reed City Public Schools and Crossroads Charter Academy:

The MOP Co-Op team jumped in to help Crossroads Charter Academy when the voice mail on their phone system failed on November 15th. Ryan Boochard and Mike Schonert placed 50 plus phones. We also activated six switches and traced down ports for them. We are scheduled to help them run some network wiring over the holiday break to some new area that did not have the modern network wiring.

On School Safety Day, while staff and students were out of the buildings at Reed City Public Schools, the Reed City technology team and the MOISD MOP Co-op team took on the challenge of changing out the IDF cabinets to reorganize it. Chad Marshall, Bob Breedlove, and Mike Schonert worked on an IDF makeover and switch replacement. By organizing the cables, troubleshooting network issues will be easier to navigate in the future.



Before shot of an IDF



After shot of the same IDF

Special Education

Special Education Supervisor Jenny Knopf Reports:

The past month has just flown by for us here at the Education Center! A big THANK YOU to our supportive Board of Education for approving the funds needed to add a new playground structure. The funds will include purchase and installation of the equipment. The playground committee wrote a grant for part of the structure and GameTime responded with a 100% match of the funds. The structure is planned to be installed in the Spring of 2020. Thank you again!

We learned a lot from the fire safety assembly on November 5th. Thank you to Firefighter Alayna and Firefighter Bethany for spending the morning with us, giving all students the opportunity for students to take a close up look at the firetruck!!



Natalie and Ryan liked sitting in the firetruck!

The Harvest Dinner was a great success! Over 150 students and staff enjoyed a delicious tasting plate of Thanksgiving favorites. A big thank you to Jennifer Upham, her staff, and students from Culinary Arts for helping to make this event happen! Education Center students and staff decorated the gym and students had the opportunity to have their pictures taken in the Fall Photo Booth. Thank you to Lisa Nielsen and all staff for making great things happen for kids!



Jacob and Gavin patiently waiting for their plates!



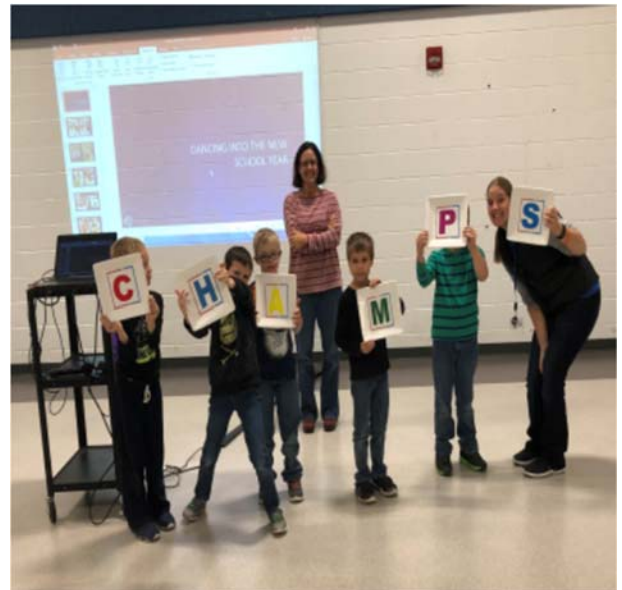
Students and staff enjoyed the fall themed photo booth!



MOEC Upcoming events:

- **Parent's Night Out** is scheduled for Friday, **December 6th** at the Education Center. Ed Center staff will welcome students from 5- 7:00 p.m. Students will enjoy a special night of fun including: dinner, games, arts and crafts, and other activities.
- **Santa Shop** is scheduled for **December 18th** in the gym. Students will have the opportunity to shop for their family and friends with

their classmates and help from MOISD staff. This event is a great way for our students to practice social skills such as choice making, turn taking, and good manners, along with math/money skills. Santa Shop is a student only activity and participation by students is completely optional.



CHAMPS-ing out our assembly expectations!!!

Respectfully Submitted, Jenny Knopf –
MOEC Sp. Ed. Supervisor