



Education Matters

A Publication of Montcalm Area Intermediate School District

621 New Street

989-831-5261

PO Box 367

616-225-4700

Stanton MI 48888

www.maisd.com

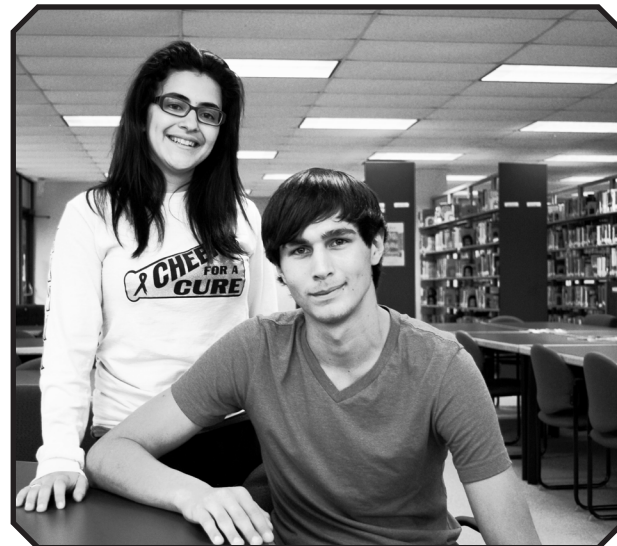
October, 2014

Early College at MCC Enters its Second Year 46 Students Enrolled in Program

SIDNEY – Forty-six students are enrolled in Early College at Montcalm Community College for the 2014-15 academic year. In its second year, the Early College program had 16 high schoolers return as second-year students and welcomed 30 new students for their first year. The program offers personalized learning in math, English, social studies and science. It is a joint venture between the MAISD and MCC. Each participating school is allotted seats based on its total school headcount. Participating schools include Belding, Carson City-Crystal, Central Montcalm, Greenville, Lakeview, Montabella, and Vestaburg.

Early College Director Shannon Tripp said the program is growing and gaining momentum. “We’re excited to have twice as many new students this year,” Tripp said. “We have had positive feedback from our returning students and their host schools, and we have gained a couple of new schools this year.” With its growth, Tripp was able to hire three full-time teachers, including Dean Gage, social studies and mentoring; Melissa Ausua, English and mentoring; and Tricia Yonker, math and science. “Having three full-time teachers makes it possible for us to work as a team,” Tripp said. “We are now able to discuss students that are struggling and apply interventions in each high school class to help them. There is more opportunity for communication with all staff members about the best way to help students.”

High school students Hannah Rauch and Tommy Redzinski are both new to Early College. Rauch, 16, said she learned about the program from her counselor at Central Montcalm High School, where she attended before enrolling in Early College. Rauch intends to study pre-law in college and said the program “will help me get ahead with my college education.” Redzinski, 17, had friends in last year’s Early College class, and he learned more about the program from his principal at Montabella High School. With aspirations of studying law enforcement, Redzinski said he also wanted to “get a jump start” on college.



Hannah Rauch, from Central Montcalm High School, and Tommy Redzinski, from Montabella High School, are settling into their first year in the Early College Program.

Both students said in addition to core curriculum, they have already learned lessons in time management and are finding value in the transitional lessons that are part of the first semester of Early College instruction. “There’s more work in our classes than there was at high school, and it’s sometimes hard to balance it,” Redzinski said. “I’ve learned to use my planner a lot for time management.” Rauch agreed, saying that she even schedules time to hang out with her friends so she doesn’t shortchange herself on the time she needs for studying and homework. Plus, she chose to continue participating as a cheerleader at Central Montcalm, so she’s also balancing practices with her college schedule.



Donna Harrington, from Greenville High School, is a second year student in the Early College at Montcalm Community College.

Tripp said during the first semester, students are taught soft skills necessary to be successful in college. “Many students at all levels struggle with note taking, study skills, time management, and communication,” Tripp said. “Early College focuses on those types of skills because when students know how to organize, study, and make time for homework, they are better prepared to navigate college classes.”

Each student has a mentor teacher with whom they meet regularly to discuss any problems they may have, get help with classes and go over their current grades. Seventeen-year-old Donna Harrington, from Greenville, is a second-year student. She is enrolled in four courses this semester at MCC. She said her college classes “are harder and at a faster pace,” than high school, but “I’m in the environment I want to be in.” Harrington plans to study optometry at Ferris State University and is excited that she will graduate from high school next year with a college degree, too. “I’m saving so much money doing this now,” she said. “I will be more prepared for Ferris, and I’ll be ahead of everyone else.”

Early College accepts up to 45 students per year, and students must apply for admission to the program the spring prior to enrolling. If the number of applicants exceeds available seats, a lottery system is used to select participants. Half of the slots for Early College are reserved for students that are first generation college attendees, which means neither of their parents have any type of college degree.

Questions about Early College?

For more information about the Early College at MCC, visit www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege or contact Program Director Shannon Tripp at shannon.tripp@montcalm.edu or (616) 225-5706.



at Montcalm Community College

Story and photos courtesy of Shelly Springborn, Communications Director at Montcalm Community College.

Montcalm Area Intermediate School District
Serving the districts of Carson City-Crystal • Central Montcalm
Greenville • Lakeview • Montabella • Tri County • Vestaburg

Project SEARCH Partnership with Spectrum Health and Mid-Michigan Industries in First Year

The Project SEARCH High School Transitions Program has kicked off the year in full swing. The program is a unique, business led, one year school-to-work program that takes place entirely at the workplace. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration, and hands-on training through worksite rotations. MAISD is proud to partner with Spectrum Health United Hospital and Mid-Michigan Industries to bring this program to students in Montcalm County. It is one of only five programs of its kind in the State of Michigan.

The program provides real-life work experience combined with training in employability and independent living skills to help young adults with disabilities make a successful transition from school to adult life. The goal for each intern is competitive employment. Students attend the program for a full school year onsite at Spectrum Health United Hospital. The site is staffed by a special education teacher and one job coach to help students meet their educational and training needs.

Throughout the year, student interns gain new skills through work rotations in various departments of the hospital. Some of the departments include:

- Nutritional Services
- Environmental Services
- Sterile Processing
- Supply Chain
- Grounds

During the course of the program, students will participate in a functional academic curriculum with a focus on:

- Working responsibly.
- Effective communication with others.
- Planning and managing a career.
- Developing self-advocacy skills.
- Problem solving.



Project | SEARCH



Student interns enrolled in the Project Search high school transitions program learn job skills at Spectrum Health United Hospital. Pictured above from left to right, Drake Kavanagh works in the supply chain department, Paige Gleason assists with sterile processing, and Nick Trainor attends to plants in the environmental services department.

At left, student interns pose with their program job coach and teacher. Pictured from left to right: Job Coach Stephanie Sinclair, Nick Trainor, Klesa Marek, Paige Gleason, Drake Kavanagh, Quinn Kroeze, Philip Day, and teacher Chris Hamman.

What is Early On?

Early On Michigan supports infants and toddlers, birth until they turn 3 years of age, with developmental delays and/or disabilities.

Most parents wonder at times if their child is growing and developing like other children. Early On assists families with infants and toddlers who are experiencing delays in their development.

Don't worry. Just call.
616.225.4800



Don't worry. But don't wait.

If you think your infant or toddler may have a developmental delay, contact *Early On* at 1-616-225-4800.

Services are **free** to all families
Anyone can make a referral.

MAISD's Purpose

Leading, Collaborating and Serving to Create Education without Boundaries

MAISD Seeks AdvancED Accreditation

Being recognized with a seal of accreditation has long been a gold standard in businesses, industries, and organizations around the world. This is also true in the field of education. Schools set benchmarks for maintaining quality standards and they have continuous improvement processes in place to assure the highest quality of education is provided for the students we serve. This fall, MAISD entered an accreditation review process through AdvancED, an internationally known organization dedicated to advancing excellence in education.

The AdvancED accreditation process includes the review of performance based on five Standards of Quality. These standards are reflected in research-based, comprehensive quality statements that describe the conditions and factors which contribute to a quality educational experience and operational effectiveness.

These five standards focus on performance in areas of Purpose and Direction, Governance and Leadership, Teaching and Assessing for Learning, Resources and Support Systems, and Using Results for Continuous Improvement.

The accreditation process is lengthy and will take 2-3 years to complete. It requires submission of the application, a self-assessment review, an onsite review with a team from AdvancED, and finalizing the accreditation progress report before accreditation status is granted.

Any questions related to the accreditation process can be directed to Michelle Goodwin, Associate Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, mgoodwin@maisd.com or 616-225-6136.



MAISD Superintendent Leads in Lansing

MAISD Superintendent, Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, will continue serving in leadership positions with two state level organizations during the coming school year.



*MAISD Superintendent
Dr. Scott M. Koenigsknecht*

Dr. Koenigsknecht is one of a twelve member Board of Overseers serving the Michigan Public School Employees Office of Retirement Services. He was appointed to fulfill this role by Governor Snyder and represents school system superintendents. He is currently serving as the board chair. His term expires on March 30, 2017.

Dr. Koenigsknecht will also continue his service as the chair of the Legislative Committee for the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators, otherwise known as MAISA. This committee is comprised of elected representatives from each of the ten state regions, plus executive board members and MAISA government relations staff. They meet monthly when the state legislature is in session. Their role is to respond to proposed legislation and work with elected officials to improve public education for all students.

Dr. Koenigsknecht is proud to represent MAISD and Montcalm County as he serves in both of these leadership roles. His leadership on behalf of MAISD and the seven school districts we serve is a valuable resource for staff, students, and parents in Montcalm County.

Special Thanks to Turk Lake Restaurant and The Meat Shack

The MAISD Administrative Team enjoyed a great night of fun serving pancakes and sausage to those who came out to Turk Lake Restaurant for dinner on Monday, October 6. The event was held to raise money for MAISD's endowment fund which has been created under the Central Montcalm Community Foundation. This fund will be used specifically for children with disabilities who are being served through the programs and services provided by MAISD. The pancake dinner raised almost \$500 toward this fund.

MAISD sends a very special thank you to Tom and Ann Smith, owners of Turk Lake Restaurant, and The Meat Shack in Greenville. Their generous support made this event possible. Thanks to the staff at Turk Lake Restaurant for donating the pancakes and showing us their incredible hospitality and to The Meat Shack for donating the sausage. We greatly appreciate all the people who made a special trip to support MAISD and our endowment fund. Thank you for joining us for dinner!

If you would like to contribute to MAISD's endowment fund for children with disabilities, you may do so through Central Montcalm Community Foundation or by contacting Brenda Greenhoe at bgreenhoe@maisd.com or 616-225-6260.



Dr. William Seiter, and his wife, Marcia, get ready to enjoy their pancake dinner. Dr. Seiter was the first superintendent to serve MAISD in 1964.



Members of the MAISD administrative team are ready to serve up some pancakes and sausage!



Pancakes anyone? Pictured above are pancake servers Ron Simon, Associate Superintendent for Finance; Marty Combs, Early Childhood Special Education Supervisor; and Dr. Scott Koenigsknecht, Superintendent.

~~ Thank You ~~

MAISD's Promise
Exceptional Leadership with Unmatched Service



VOTE

November 4

MCC Seeks Operating Millage Renewal

Over the past 20 years, voters have twice approved a mill levy that is central to sustaining Montcalm Community College. The mill levy – created by popular vote in 1996 – is set to lapse unless renewed.

The 1.18 mill levy, which was renewed by voters in 2005 by an 80-percent margin, provides approximately \$2.5 million annually towards MCC's operating budget. The levy also supports the recruiting and retaining of quality faculty and staff, the maintenance of clean, modern facilities, and the challenge of ensuring the use of relevant, state-of-the-art instructional tools and technology in their classrooms.

Mill-Levy Renewal Proposal

The Montcalm Community College Board of Trustees is asking voters to renew a mill levy set to lapse in 2015. The levy is 1.18 mills and provides approximately \$2.5 million annually toward MCC's operating budget.

This is Not a New Tax

This would be the renewal of a mill levy that has been in place since 1996 and previously was approved twice by voters. MCC received more than 80-percent support for renewal of its mill levy in 2005.



Montcalm Community College



Winter Wear Drive For Infants and Toddlers

The Montcalm County Great Start Collaborative
and the Montcalm County Department of Human Services
are partnering to help keep our children warm!

We are accepting donations of **NEW** or **GENTLY USED** and **CLEAN** winter items
for families with young children!

Families need:

COATS, HATS, GLOVES, SCARVES, BOOTS, SNOW PANTS!

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Main Collection Sites Include:

MAISD Office, 621 New St. Stanton

Dept. of Human Services, 609 N. State, Stanton

Contact us for local community collection sites!

For more information:

Kylie Wells
Great Start Montcalm County
621 New Street, Stanton, MI 48888
(616) 225-6146
E-mail: Kwells@maisd.com

Terry King
Montcalm County Department of Human Services
609 N State, Stanton, MI 48888
(989) 831-8413
E-mail: kingt2@michigan.gov



MACC Criminal Justice Students Attend Distracted Driving Conference Submitted by Kristi Jeffrey, MACC Criminal Justice Instructor

Criminal Justice students from the Montcalm Area Career Center (known as The MACC) attended the 4th Annual Drive to Survive conference on October 15 held in Holland, Michigan. This event, coordinated by the Ionia County Youth Advisory Council, is intended to increase awareness of the risks of distracted driving through the presentation of personal stories, shocking statistics, and impactful driving simulations. Attendees were able to hear firsthand from victims and those impacted by distracted driving. They also heard from emergency first responders and members of law enforcement who shared their experiences and provided tools to students to help keep them safe.

The MACC students were able to attend the conference through the support of a grant obtained by MACC Criminal Justice Instructor Kristi Jeffrey. "The students learned about current traffic laws and the response from law enforcement, which fit nicely into the content they learn in the classroom," Jeffrey said, noting that students will continue discussing traffic laws and criminal sanctions throughout the remainder of the school year. "By attending a conference like this, students are engaged in real aspects of the criminal justice system while being reminded that their choices have consequences."

The students enjoyed the conference and plan to share what they learned with fellow students. "It was a fun way to learn more about the impact of texting and driving," said Tim Schmidt, a senior at Greenville High School.

"The speakers were really good and I was reminded that driving is a serious responsibility, even without distractions, and your texts can wait," said Dylan Helms, a senior at Fulton High School.



Top: Criminal Justice students participated in a driving simulation that mimics texting and driving. Right: Students from all over the state learned from various vendors about the impact of distracted driving. Bottom: Jessica Frey, a junior from Lakeview High School, drove with and without simulation goggles to better understand how driving impaired affects her ability to drive safely.

MAISD Board of Education

Steve Foster, President
Mark Christensen, Vice-President
Bud Longnecker, Secretary
Brian Corwin, Treasurer
Chris Bradshaw, Trustee

MAISD Administration

Dr. Scott Koenigsnecht, Superintendent
Ron Simon, Associate Superintendent Finance
Katie Flynn, Associate Superintendent Special Education
Celena Mills, Associate Superintendent Career Technical Education
Michelle Goodwin, Associate Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction

This publication is a production of MAISD and is printed quarterly.
For more information, questions or comments,
contact Penny Dora, Executive Assistant.
989-831-5261 or 616-225-6136
pdora@maisd.com
www.maisd.com

It is the policy of Montcalm Area Intermediate School District that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, gender, height, weight, marital status, or disability shall be subjected to discrimination in any program, service, activity, or in employment for which it is responsible. Inquiries related to discrimination should be directed to:
MAISD Superintendent
621 New Street, PO Box 367
Stanton MI 48888
989-831-5261