



Dear Academy Board Members and Leaders,

If someone had told me that schools across Michigan would be closed for an extended period of time due to a virus outbreak, I wouldn't have believed it. Hoping all of you are staying healthy during these uncertain times.

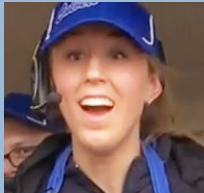
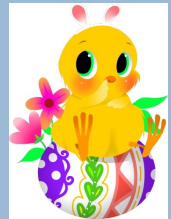
The threat of coronavirus has given us the opportunity to think outside of the box, to reevaluate how we do things, and forced us to adapt to changing conditions to ensure continuity in education for the students we serve. Forced social distancing has allowed us time to connect with our families while challenging us to find creative and innovative ways to ensure the needs of our students have been met. I am proud of our LSSU academies for being nimble and quickly adapting to this changing educational environment. I have witnessed various educational platforms being utilized, virtual museum and zoo tours, virtual story time, and even Easter egg bus stop deliveries. In both our physical community and the charter school community, we have witnessed countless random acts of kindness where people have gone above and beyond to help others. We are reminded of the good in the world during times of crisis. Once again, I am proud to be part of the charter school movement.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski

LSSU Charter Schools Director

Egg-celent News



Kaitlyn Watson
Grand Traverse Academy Valedictorian

Hooray for you! You make us proud! As an authorizer, we are so very impressed with how each of you have risen to the challenge of not only educating your students utilizing a variety of learning platforms but also ensuring student social emotional needs have been met. We'd like to highlight some of the good things occurring in our LSSU family of academies.

The Bay City Academy Bunny Bus Adventure rolled through the beautiful streets of Bay City on Thursday April 9th delivering over 2,500 eggs to over 30 of our bus stops bringing joy, laughter, and smiles to over 200 of amazing kids. One happy recipient said, "you brought a smile to our granddaughter's face as she woke up to your Blessing of Easter egg hunt. We brought the egg hunt inside and.....you showed our older children that a small act of kindness makes a difference. They had a blast hiding the eggs in the house and brought great joy to their hearts to be part of your egg hunt. Thanks so much."

Submitted by Brian Lynch, Superintendent of Bay City Academy

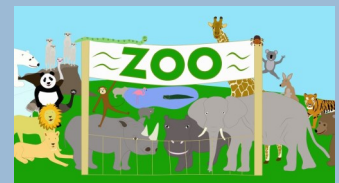


Michelle Floering
Grand Traverse Academy Principal

An extended school break due to COVID-19 social distancing did not stop Grand Traverse Academy's secondary principal Michelle Floering from finding a way to give one of our seniors some exciting news. After discovering that Kaitlyn Watson was working at a local Culver's, Michelle got into her car and went through the drive through to surprise her with news that Kaitlyn would be honored as Grand Traverse Academy's class of 2020 valedictorian.

Submitted by Jim Coneset, Superintendent of Grand Traverse Academy

Tipton Academy had a virtual "walking" zoo featuring the cutest animals around and many academies continue to feed not only their students but their communities. Thank you for your efforts!



Visitors to Campus



On Friday, February 21, forty-five 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from Drummond Island and DeTour schools came to Lake State to experience a program called Pathfinders. The two and a half hour program was a fun, interactive way for the students to learn cartography, geometry, the cardinal directions, as well as how to use a compass. The program was facilitated by nine Lake State students from the Recreation Club who loved sharing their passion for orienteering and map exploration.



The event kicked off with students being assigned to a group based on the number that was in their balloon during a popping balloon activity. The fun did not stop for the next couple of hours! There was a circuit the groups flowed through in fifteen minute intervals; the second hour, the groups had to build on what they had learned the first hour. Of course, the favorite activity was the Jeopardy game, which had the students remembering as many of the newly learned terms and facts so they could earn as many prizes (candies) as they could. The afternoon ended with a certificate ceremony in which every student got a high five from the Lake State student-facilitators.



It is always great to see the Lake State students enjoying the great energy of the younger students and to see the younger students thoroughly enjoying the activities, which help them learn new skills in an exciting and entertaining way.



Submitted by Lauren Paitson
Youth Camp Coordinator

MEET YOUR CSO STAFF

Name: *Rebecca Clawson*

Position: *Finance Specialist*

Hometown: *Sault Ste. Marie*

Family: *Husband-John, Son-Jake-age 5*

Hobbies: *Hands-on projects,
Do-It-Yourself Furniture*

Little Known Fact: *Becky lived in Japan for ten years.
She is also currently building a house.*



COMPLIANCE CORNER

- ◆ Academy Boards should finalize discussion on board member(s) for reappointment or new appointment. The LSSU Board of Trustee's last meeting before terms expire will be July 17, 2020. All board members must be nominated by the academy board and submit a completed application to their appropriate field rep by June 26, 2020. Background checks, U.S. documentation and interviews will be performed prior to approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

FINANCE UPDATE

Upcoming Important Dates

- ◆ May 15- 3rd Quarter Financial Statements
- June 30- Adopted Budget Resolution, Budget Hearing Notice, Budget Timeline, and 4th Quarter Budget Revision

IN THE FIELD

The following board training by Angie Irwin will be offered via webinar:

- ◆ May 13, 2020 Fiscal Finale: Critical Meetings and Actions to Consider

Look for those invitations
in your email.

-IMPORTANT-

May 13th, 2020 is Virtual Charter School Day at the Capital. We encourage all academy students, parents, staff, and board members to participate in this event. Don't miss the opportunity to celebrate the charter school movement. Our very own Madeline Black from WAY Academies will be a guest speaker. Way to go, Madeline!

For more information, go to
<https://www.charterschools.org/charter-day-at-the-capitol-1>

We hope you are able to participate!