



September 2020 Issue

FROM THE TOP

Dear Academy Board Members and Leadership Teams,

Welcome back to a year like no other. 2020-21 is bound to be anything but typical. As members of the charter school family, we are positioned to provide a quality education to our students no matter the platform. We are poised to offer a more traditional face-to-face model, a blended or hybrid approach, or a full on virtual experience. There has been so much uncertainty from the type of platform, to what "phase" our particular region will be in, testing requirements, and changes to pupil accounting rules. We've completed Return to Learn plans, COVID plans, and Extended COVID plans. Rather than enjoy a relaxing summer, many of you have had to continuously work to be nimble and adjust to a new era in education. Thank you for your hard work. I've always laughed when people who are not in the world of education, hold the belief that teachers and administrators have it made because of summer break. If one good thing has come out of the COVID pandemic, is hopefully an appreciation for what you all do. I've seen countless memes and GIFs on this topic. Please see the memes below for a good laugh.

While this year is bound to be full of changes, no matter the platform, keep your eye on the ball, "students that are well prepared for the next phase of their lives whatever that may entail, further education, entering the workforce, or joining the military." I have all of the confidence in the world you will ensure this happens.

LSSU CSO will be launching a new platform for providing professional development to you. It is called ON24 and will allow us to provide training both on live and on demand. Please read the section of the newsletter entitled, "Brooke's Blurb" to learn more about this.

As always, do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our charter school team members, if we can be of service to you.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director
coshelski@lssu.edu



IN THIS ISSUE

From the Top.....Cover

New NWEA Norms
2020-21 Testing
Requirements.....Page 2

Meet your CSO Staff
Meet your new
Student Worker.....Page 3

It's All About Connection
Brooke's Corner.....Page 4

Learning Opportunity...Page 5

Authorizer
Information.....Page 6



NEW NWEA NORMS

Grade	Reading 2020 Norms	Reading 2015 Norms	Math 2020 Norms	Math 2015 Norms
2	185.57	188.7	189.42	192.1
3	197.12	198.6	201.08	203.4
4	204.83	205.9	210.51	213.5
5	210.98	211.8	218.75	221.4
6	215.36	215.8	222.88	225.3
7	218.36	218.2	226.73	228.6
8	221.66	220.1	230.30	230.9

Every three to five years, Northwest Evaluation Association updates their norm study outlining beginning, middle, and end of year achievement and student growth norms on the MAP assessment. The last update of these norms was in July 2020. In the table, you will find a comparison between the 2015 and 2020 norms.

As outlined in your Educational Goals, second through eighth graders are required to be assessed in math and reading by the MAP three times per year; once in the fall, again in the winter, and finally in the spring allowing us to monitor student progress towards these Educational Goals. These new norms automatically become part of your goals with no contract amendment needed.

“One child, one teacher, one pen, and one book can change the world.”

-Malal Yousafzai-

FINANCE UPDATE

November 2nd

Financial Audit, Financial Audit Letter to those Charged with Governance, FID submission due in Epicenter

November 16

1st quarter FY 2021 Financial Statement

December 14

Financial Audit Response to Letter to those Charged with Governance



2020-21 TESTING REQUIREMENTS

2020-21 Assessments		
Assessment	Grades	Date
State Approved Benchmark Assessment (variety)	K-8th	Within first 9 weeks of school and again at the EOY
Read by 3rd Grade (variety)	K-3	Students must be assessed within the first 30 days of school
PSAT 8/9	8 th grade 9 th grade	Spring 21 Fall 20 (PSAT NMSQT) and Spring 21 (PSAT 8/9)
PSAT NMSQT	10 th and 11 th grade	Fall 20
PSAT 10	10 th	Spring 21
SAT with Essay	11 th 12 th	Spring 21 Fall 20
MSTEP	3rd-8th	Anticipated for Spring 21

Public Acts 147, 148, and 149 were signed into law on August 20th, 2020. Although, as an authorizer, we had waived fall NWEA testing requirements, part of this legislation requires the administration of a state approved benchmark assessment in reading and math to all K-8th graders within the first 9 weeks of school. NWEA is on the list of approved assessments. K-3 graders are also required to be evaluated in reading within the first 30 days of school in order to meet the requirements of the Read by Third Grade Law. Academies may choose from a list of various screeners including NWEA or MDE’s Early Literacy Benchmark. At this time, the state is also requiring fall PSAT/SAT testing for 9th-12th graders. Although Superintendent Rice had applied to the U.S. Department of Education to waive Michigan’s testing requirements, U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos notified Dr. Rice that states should not anticipate waivers to the federal requirement to administer statewide summative assessments for the 2020-21 school year. The provided table outlines current testing requirements for the 2020-21 academic year. This may change. You can find the fall testing schedule here.

https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Fall_2020_School_Day_Testing_for_MDE_Provided_Assessments_690609_7.pdf

Please contact Julie Hopper if you have any questions. jhopper@lssu.edu or 906-635-2118

MEET YOUR CHARTER SCHOOL STAFF

Name: Brooke Maciag

Position: School Support Specialist

Hometown: Goetzville, Michigan

Family: Husband-Scott, Sons-Cale and Evan

Pets: Two dogs and a cat

Hobbies: Crafting, snowmobile racing

Little Known Fact: My family owns a sawmill which is the inspiration for the name of my Etsy shop, Sawdust Acre Creations.



“An educator not only teaches lessons but helps shape young minds .“

Dr. Lee Buono

For the rest of the story visit, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFs8P_TrAVQ&t=214s

MEET SIERRA BURTON

The Charter School Office is pleased to welcome Miss Sierra Burton as our student worker. Sierra will assist with a variety of tasks from to scanning, printing, and shredding documents to learning about the basics of charter schools 101 as well as other duties as assigned.

Sierra hails from Drummond Island, Michigan and attended DeTour Arts & Technology Academy, an academy authorized by Lake Superior State University. Although this is her first year physically on campus, Sierra is well on her way to reaching her goal of entering the field of physical therapy. She has, in fact, already accumulated enough college credits to be considered a sophomore. When she is not hitting the books or working on campus, Sierra enjoys a variety of sports including volleyball, basketball, and watching football. She also enjoys shopping.

While still in high school, Sierra took advantage of an opportunity afforded her by the Early Middle College Program which is a partnership between LSSU and the constituent school districts



Sierra Burton

of the Eastern Upper Peninsula Intermediate School District. This five year high school program allows a student to earn a high school diploma and college credits leading up to an associate's degree from LSSU or a Michigan Early/Middle College Association technical certificate.

Welcome aboard, Sierra. We are glad you are part of our team.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

We will be partnering with other authorizers again for the 2020-21 year to offer a five part governance webinar series entitled, “Governance in a Post-Pandemic Environment: Navigating your Board Role within a New Reality “

Webinar #1- Sept. 23
Owning your Governance Role During Change

Webinar #2- Oct. 14
Owning your Budget During Change

Webinar #3- Nov. 18
Owning Student Learning During Change

Webinar #4- TBD
Owning the Future During Change

Webinar #5- TBD
Owning Board Culture During Change

*In addition, there will be a NEW Board Member 101 presentation to be scheduled in early Fall.

*Look for more information to register and further description of the webinar in your email in September.

FROM THE FIELD

- ◆ The continuation of virtual board meetings has been approved from the Governor's Office until further notice. Please remember to fully comply with the posting requirements for virtual meetings.

WELL SAID

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.”

William Butler Yates

“All students can learn and succeed but not in the same way and not on the same day.”

William G. Spady

“The best teachers are those who show you where to look but don't tell you what to see.”

Alexandra K. Trenfor

“Your most unhappy customers are your greatest source of learning.”

(yes, your students are your customers)

Bill Gates

“If you don't first secure student's hearts, you don't have a shot at their brains.”

Angela Maiers

“One of the most valuable resource that all teachers have is each other. Without collaboration our growth is limited to our own perspectives.”

Robert John Meehan

“The greatest sign of success for a teacher is to be able to say, “The children are now working as if I did not exist.”

Maria Montessori



IT'S ALL ABOUT CONNECTION

We are living in unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There are numerous unknowns, and it seems as if once we adjust to a new mandate or requirement, it either changes again or a new one is added. To say the least, these are uncertain times that require us to be more adaptable and nimble than ever.

One thing you can be sure of, no matter the added legislation or requirements that impact education, in order to reach kids, no matter the educational platform utilized, you must build a relationship based on trust and respect before learning can occur. Think connect **first** with your students and teach second. Get to know your students, their likes, dislikes, interests, and families. Become a better listener and ask, “tell me more” questions. “I feel more connected to teachers who check in to see how we're doing. Reminding me that you're human makes me more engaged in your class.” Anonymous Student

I know, I know, easier said than done when there are only so many hours in the day. Finding creative ways to connect, whether it be practicing empathetic listening, journaling, texting, video messages, handwritten messages, phone calls, or face-to-face one on one conversations (or should I say mask-to-mask) can make all of the difference. The late and great Rita Pierson talked about the value of a relationship and states, “kids don't learn from people they don't like.” Take a moment to watch her Ted Talk. It will be a worthy investment of your time...7 minutes and 48 seconds specifically. Pierson states, “Every child deserves a champion; an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connection and insists they become the best they can possibly be.” <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SFnMTHhKdkw>

Written by: Julie Hopper

BROOKE'S CORNER

Happy Fall! This is my absolute favorite season of the year, and I'm ready for campfires, cozy sweatshirts, and beautiful fall colors. I have some very exciting news to share with you. LSSU is proud to partner with On24 to bring you professional development at a distance. This partnership will allow us to provide both live and on demand sessions for the professional development opportunities we usually offer and an new line up featuring shining stars within our portfolio.

As we work to highlight great teachers who have great strategies to share, we know time out of the classroom can be a struggle. Lack of substitutes, sub costs, extra planning for the teacher, and the driving need to have students moving forward each and every day in their learning can make it hard for teachers to get out of the classroom during the day. By partnering with On24 to offer on demand sessions, educators will be able to earn SCECH's by actively participating in interactive prerecorded sessions at a time that best suits their schedule. This is a game changer in the PD world.

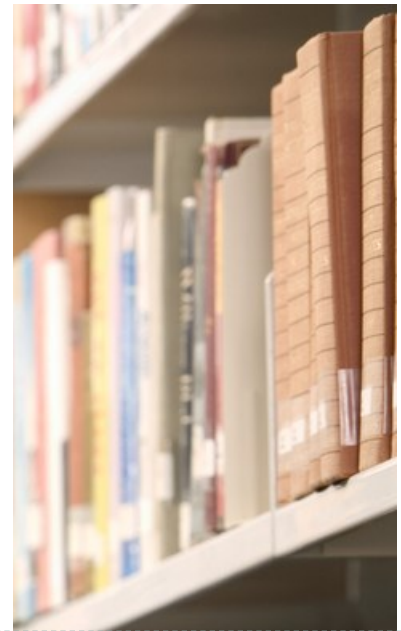
I'm so excited to get started on this and welcome any ideas you have sessions or needs your district has. Additionally, if you have a rock star teacher who you think the world needs to hear from, let me know. We would love to work with them to create a session and share what it is they do so well.

Brooke

LEARNING OPPORTUNITY

Have you heard of the acronym ACEs and wondered what it was all about? Come join the fun and learn about ACEs, trauma, COVID 19, and building resilience in your students, colleagues, and communities. ACE stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences and is defined as a traumatic event occurring during childhood (prior to age 18). The original ACE study was so important because it confirmed with scientific evidence that adversity early in life leads to an increased possibility of physical, mental, and behavioral issues later in life. If this sounds like something you would be interested in learning more about, follow the link to register for the FREE course offered through MAPSA's MI Charter Network. LSSU's very own, Julie Hopper, will team up with Shawna Boomgaard from Oakland University to teach this 6 week course. The course will launch with a live webinar on September 24th from 3:30-5 with short weekly check-ins with additional resources and activities provided. We hope you are able to join!

Did I mention you also can earn up to 4 SCECHs?
<https://micharter.mn.co/all-courses>



“On24 will allow us to provide on demand professional development that is engaging while giving us the ability to provide SCECH’s to professionals on a schedule that best fits them.”

Brooke Maciag

TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF ALL LAKERS AND GUESTS

- Stay at least 6 feet from other people
- When in public, wear a face covering over your nose and mouth
- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue; then throw the tissue in the trash and wash your hands
- Do not touch your eyes, nose, and mouth. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick, except to get medical care



Lake Superior State University has implemented safety practices and policies to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Posters and signs as well as sanitizer stations have been placed throughout campus.

CHARTER SCHOOLS STAFF

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director
coshelski@lssu.edu

Jenny Peterman
Administrative Assistant
jpeterman@lssu.edu

Julie Hopper
Academic Assessment
jhopper@lssu.edu

Brooke Maciag
School Support Specialist
bmaciag@lssu.edu

John Chandler
Field Representative
jchandler1@lssu.edu

Garnet Green
Field Representative
ggreen3@lssu.edu

Keith Krahnke
Field Representative
kkrahnke1@lssu.edu

Melissa Weisberger
Field Representative
mweisberger@lssu.edu

PHILOSOPHY

We believe in authorizing through the lens of an educator, realizing students are more than academic performance or financial incentives. True authorizing takes into account the whole child, whole academy, and whole community while recognizing the importance of increased performance and sustainability.

MISSION

To ensure quality oversight and support to our authorized charter academies resulting in students who are prepared for the next phase of life whether it be attending college or entering the work force.

VISION

We envision an educational system in Michigan that provides families with diverse educational opportunities that allow each child to flourish and find his/her place in the global community.

OUR VALUES

- EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING
- DIVERSITY
- OPPORTUNITY
- ETHICS AND PRINCIPLES
- ACCOUNTABILITY AND AUTONOMY
- STEWARDSHIP

Lake Superior State University
Charter Schools Office
650 W. Easterday Avenue
Sault Ste. Marie, MI
49783

