



April 2021 Issue

FROM THE TOP

Dear Academy Board Members and Leadership Teams,

Spring has sprung and brighter days are ahead. We are looking forward to the warmer days and sunshine that come with spring and summer and bet you are as well.

We are in the home stretch of the 2020-21 academic year and are hopeful that we will be able to get back to a new sense of “normalcy” for 2021-22. We have missed traveling to your academies and meeting with you in person but are optimistic that we will be able to return to doing so in the fall. Thank you for being so adaptable to the changing times during the pandemic. Being an administrator, teacher, or board member are tough during any given year let alone during a global pandemic. We recognize the countless hours you have put in and commend you for your dedication and commitment to the students and families you serve. Well done!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director

HURRAY for Charter School Day

The annual Charter School Day at the Capital brings together charter school supporters from all over the state. This year the event, due to the pandemic, will once again be held virtually. Rather than designating only ONE day to recognize the wonderful world of charters, events have been planned for an entire week! Mark your calendars for the week of May 10th-14th which happens to coincide with National Charter Schools Week. We encourage you to take part in the week long activities that promote and celebrate charter schools. LSSU CSO will also hold various contests throughout the week. Please see page two of the newsletter for more information.

Please check out the link for more detailed information.

<https://www.charterschools.org/charter-day-at-the-capitol-1>

Monday: Charter Meet & Greets

Tuesday: Charters Lead Letters

Wednesday: Capital Day

Thursday: MI Charter Pride Swag

Friday: Virtual Celebrations



Quotes to Ponder

“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-

“My teacher thought that I was smarter than I was—so I was.”
-A six-year-old-

“Sometimes the thing your students need most right now has nothing to do with what’s on the lesson plan.”
-Anonymous-

“All kids need is a little help, a little hope, and somebody who believes in them.”
-Magic Johnson-

“What you do makes a difference , and you have to decide which difference you want to make.”
-Jane Goodall-

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ACCOUNTABILITY AND TESTING

Good news first. As outlined in the Michigan Department of Education's March 29th, 2021 memo, the U.S. Department of Education has waived the federal requirements for school accountability in Michigan for the 2020-21 school year due to the disruption of instruction caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now the bad news. The USED denied the waiver for spring summative assessments (April 6 memo). Here are the key takeaways.

1. Accountability has been waived.
2. The 95% student participation has been waived.
3. Spring summative assessments are a "go."
4. Schools are required to offer the assessments (on site) to students that are remote or virtual.
5. Check out the following link for more information. https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Spotlight_4-8-21_721796_7.pdf
6. Spring NWEA is still required. It cannot be waived since it is included in your "Return to Learn" Plan. Please reach out to me if you have any questions. Julie Hopper, jhopper@lssu.edu

NWEA Testing Windows
2021-22

Fall: September 13 - October 4

Winter: January 10 - February 7

Spring: April 25 - June 3

*If you require an extension or modification, please contact Julie Hopper at jhopper@lssu.edu.

"So often in life things that you regard as an impediment turn out to be great good fortune."

-Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg-

FINANCE UPDATE

April 30, 2021
3rd Quarter Budget Revision

May 15, 2021
3rd Quarter Financial Statements

June 30, 2021

- FY2022 Adopted Budget Resolution
- FY2022 Public Hearing Notice
- 4th Quarter Budget Revision
- FY2022 Budget timeline



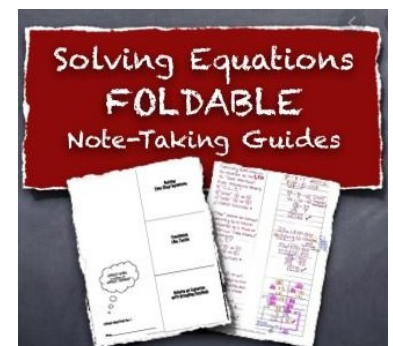
BROOKE'S CORNER

As educators, the benefit of some form of student notetaking is no secret and much research around note taking strategies has been conducted over the years. Join us on May 10th at 4:00 p.m. on our new platform for a summary of the research that supports notetaking as well as many take away activities you can immediately implement within classrooms serving all ages. Think "Foldables."

Check our LSSU webpage for details. SCECH's will be available plus the session will also be available to be viewed on demand 24 hours after the live event.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

<https://www.lssu.edu/charter-schools/instructional-professional-development/>



MEET YOUR CHARTER SCHOOL STAFF

Name: Melissa Weisberger

Position: Field Representative

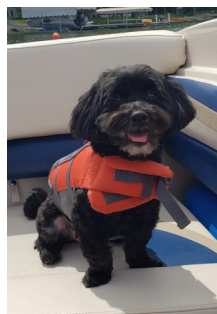
Hometown: Farmington Hills

Family: Brian-Husband of 20 years (met in Elementary School), Maya-17, Zach-14

Pets: Chewy, a 7 year old Havanese.
Full name: Chewbacca El Macho Weisberger.
The kids felt like he needed a middle name for when he is in trouble!

Hobbies: Cooking and eating new recipes using fresh ingredients, running/walking outside, attending sporting events the kids are involved in including volleyball, soccer, and robotics.

Little Known Fact: Despite my fear of heights, I went skydiving with my now husband when we were first dating.



Goodie Bag Giveaway

As prefaced in our cover article entitled, “Charter School Day,” the week of May 10th-14th is National Charter School’s week. LSSU Charter Schools will be celebrating the occasion by giving away TWO themed goodie bags each day. Bags will be chalked full of useful materials and resources that will allow you to either elevate your teaching game or to just take better care of yourself. Remember, “you can’t pour from an empty cup.” Self care is vital in being able to continue to do the job you love. Taking time for yourself allows you to better serve your students.



Goodie bag themes include; Inspiration, Self-care, Formative Assessment, Engagement, Discipline, Mindset, Diversity/Equality, Technology, and Perseverance.

You may be wondering, “how do I win one of these wonderful bags filled with amazing materials and resources?” That’s easy. Be sure to visit our LSSU Charter School Office Facebook page during Charter Schools Week (beginning on May 10th and running through May 14th) to participate in our daily challenges. Once you have completed the daily challenge, your name will be entered into the drawing. Winners will be announced by 5 p.m. each day. Good luck. We look forward to seeing your posts and participation!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
May 10th-14th, 2021
National Charter Schools Week!

COMPLIANCE CORNER

All new appointment / reappointment applications were due on April 2nd. Academy Boards should finalize discussion on board members(s) for reappointment or new appointment. The LSSU Board of Trustee’s last meeting before terms expire will be May 7, 2021. All board members must be nominated by the Academy board and submit a completed application to their appropriate field representative. Background checks, U.S. documentation and interviews will be performed prior to approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees. If you missed the April 2nd deadline, please submit documentation as soon as possible. Nominations will be added to the July 16th, 2021 Board of Trustee’s meeting.

Academy board members are required to have two credits of Professional Development each academic year. See below under “Board Training” for information on the last webinar for this academic year

New and expanding charter school forms due by April 9 to Jenny Peterman at jpeterman@lssu.edu.

BOARD TRAINING
Webinar #5- Apr. 21
Owning the Future During Change

FROM THE FIELD

- ◆ The provision that allowed for virtual board meetings has passed however, there are a few options that allow members to continue to meet virtually such as medical conditions or if a local unit of government declares a state of emergency. Check with your city, township, and county.

LSSU CHARTER SCHOOL'S MISSION

Our mission at LSSU Charter Schools is to “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.”

Not all students that graduate from LSSU authorized academies will move on to college. College is not for everybody! Students should be exposed to multiple career opportunities and options while they are still in high school. We applaud those academies that provide students with career and technical education programs. This page features academies that expose students to career pathways which is essential to our society. We need welders. We need plumbers and electricians. We need factory workers. There are jobs available in these fields that allow individuals to have a well paying and satisfying career.

“It is in your hands to make of our world a better one for all.”

Nelson Mandela

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ACADEMY PARTNERSHIPS



Two academies authorized by LSSU joined forces to promote autism awareness. The Service Learning Academy District comprised of Detroit Service Learning Academy, Redford Service Learning Academy, and Oak Park Service Learning Academy came together with Advanced Technology Academy for one worthy cause. The Special Education staff from each district collaborated and discussed evidence-based best practices, compliance, and communication. In past years, Advanced Technology raised autism awareness through a lemonade sale run by their elementary special education students. Proceeds were donated to the Autism Society of Michigan. The Service Learning Academy District has also raised autism awareness by accepting staff donations with the proceeds sent to the Autism Society of Michigan. As a result of current safety precautions and CDC guidelines, the districts could not come together in person but still wanted to make a difference. Through brainstorming, the districts decided to wear special autism awareness t-shirts and collect donations. Monetary donations were then sent to the Autism Society of Michigan. Thank you to all involved for not only your financial donation but for promoting equality in education and autism awareness.

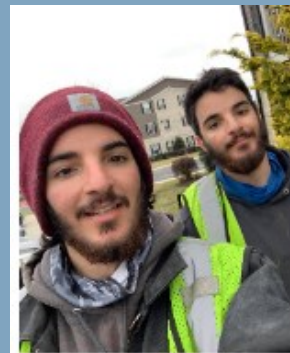
CONCORD PETOSKEY TWIN POWER

Concord Academy Petoskey graduates, brothers Paul and Mike Tietjen, knew that attending college was not the pathway that either wanted to take. They also disliked the idea of a 9-to-5 office job where they sat all day. Lucky for them, a welding class was offered to them while they were in high school that would launch their careers. Any student from a school/academy belonging to the Charlevoix-Emmet Intermediate School District is open to enrolling in the welding class offered at Pellston High School. Concord Academy Petoskey met that criteria belonging to this ISD.

Paul led the way by enrolling in the welding class his junior year with Mike following in his brother's footsteps, his senior year. The two also enrolled in a summer welding camp offered by the Industrial Arts Institute and Char-Em ISD's Career and Technical Education department. Paul and Mike decided on pipe-fitting welding. From there, the brothers were put in contact with the Northwest Michigan Works program which helps to guide students towards potential careers. Through Northwest Michigan Works, the brothers were able to do a work study at FeAl Metal Design in Petoskey. In September 2019, they headed to Ohio to attend Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. This elite training institution is known for their high success rate in placing graduates with good paying jobs. The Tietjen brothers worked hard putting in long hours but it paid off. In 11 months, they learned how to read blueprints for welding symbols and worked their way through the various skill levels needed for professional welders. In August, both passed the test to become certified third year apprentices. They worked in Michigan and Wisconsin before accepting a job in Virginia working through the Dual Temp agency on a project for Andros Products where they expect to be until May 2021.

What advice would the Tietjen brother give others who may be interested in exploring a career in the trades? Work hard to have a high GPA in whatever program you enter, demonstrate good attendance, punctuality, and a willingness to listen and learn. Paul elaborates, "if you don't put your best foot forward, everyone is going to know that about you."

*Source: Career and College Readiness Spotlight, Char-Em Intermediate District
<https://www.facebook.com/charemisd>



Concord Petoskey Academy
Class of 2019
Paul and Mike Tietjen



CAREER PATHWAYS AT WSC PHLEBOTOMY



Students at WSC Academy in Ypsilanti have a wonderful opportunity where they can simultaneously earn their high school degree while gaining the skills needed to become a Phlebotomy technician. WSC, in conjunction with Phlebotomy Express Training Centers, have teamed up to set students on the path for a career in phlebotomy. <https://youtu.be/MJScflAiks>

Phlebotomy Express Owner, Kimberely Harrington, told WSC students, "I got tears in my eyes when I pulled into the academy parking lot because I know what this is going to do. Your life is going to change in a short period of time." WSC Academy has partnered with Phlebotomy Express to offer a 6-week Phlebotomy certification for its students. This program is certified through the state of Michigan and allows students to draw blood, give injections and perform COVID-19 testing swabs. The medical field phlebotomist career needs have increased tremendously allowing for our students to be placed in paid positions ranging from \$16 - 20/hour and paid on-site internships. Current students and graduates of the academy have been enrolled. Ten students have completed the academic portions and are fulfilling clinical requirements. We expect to train a minimum of 20 students by June semester end. All students will receive the diploma and certification at graduation ceremony June 11, 2021.

Submitted by Portia Mann, WSC Superintendent

DID YOU KNOW?

- Leeches were commonly used to draw blood in the 19th Century.
- Phlebotomy can be traced back to ancient Roman, Greek, and Egyptian civilizations.
- Blood was removed (in ancient times), to rid the body of illness or "evil spirits."

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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.

STAFF RECIPE

Sweet and Sour Meatloaf

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 1 large egg
- 5 tablespoons ketchup, divided
- 2 tablespoons mustard
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 2 tablespoons onion soup mix (I also chop some fresh onion)
- 1/4 teaspoon each of salt and pepper
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- Garlic
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons of apple cider vinegar

Directions

In a large bowl, combine the egg, 2 tbsp. of ketchup, the mustard, bread crumbs, dry soup mix, garlic, salt, pepper, Italian seasoning, and beef. Form into a loaf and bake on 350 for 30 minutes. (sometimes I throw in a dash or two of Worcestershire sauce)

In another bowl, mix together the remaining ketchup, sugars, and vinegar to create a sauce.

Remove meatloaf from oven and pour sauce over it. Return meatloaf to oven for another 15-20 minutes.

Submitted by Julie Hopper

