

July 2021



LAKE SUPERIOR  
STATE UNIVERSITY  
CHARTER SCHOOLS

## FROM THE TOP

Dear Academy Board Members and Leadership Teams,

You did it! Many of you have completed the 2020-21 academic year. For those of you who have extended calendars, hang on, you are almost there!

Thank you for going above and beyond this year to meet the needs of your students and families. To say it has been challenging is an understatement. I am optimistic that the 2021-22 school year will be somewhat more “normal” than the last year and a half. On the up side, the pandemic has allowed (and forced) us all to grow and adapt and find creative ways to get the job done.

I sincerely hope you make time to reconnect, unwind, and relax with loved ones during summer break. You’ve earned it.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Chris Oshelski  
Executive Director

## And the Winners Are....

One of my favorite analogies to explain the need for charters is the comparison of shoe shopping to charter schools. Let me explain. If I needed a pair of shoes and there was only one shoe store in town, I would be forced to purchase and wear a pair of shoes that maybe wasn’t the best fit for my foot. Perhaps it was the wrong size, color, or style. It’s the same thing with charters. Charters exist to provide much needed quality alternative educational options for families. I’d like to clarify that I am a fan of quality education. Period. There is room and a need for a variety of educational institutions to ensure each child and family receive an education that best meet their needs. Some students will thrive in traditional schools, others in private or parochial, while others in charters and that is okay! Not one educational system will be the best fit for all students.

At LSSU Charter Schools, we celebrated National Charter Schools week from May 10th-14th. LSSU academies reaped the benefits. The Charter School Office gave away themed bags filled with useful and fun materials and resources. To qualify, participants simply had to complete a daily challenge and post it on our Facebook page. Congratulations to the following winners and academies. We appreciate your participation and look forward to next year. If you didn’t participate this year, we encourage you to reconsider doing so next year. Just ask our winners about their great prizes!

**Self-Care Bag:** Angela Gilbert, Tipton Academy

**Calming Corner Bag:** Vanessa Renee, Tipton Academy

**Discipline and Diversity Bags:** Lisa Jaszcz, Detroit Service Learning Academy

**Technology Bag:** Angie Way, Concord Petoskey

**Formative Assessment Bag:** Lyndsey Panagiotides, Tipton Academy

**Student Engagement Bag:** Chris Beam, Detroit Service Learning Academy

**Perseverance Bag:** Angie Way, Concord Petoskey

**Growth Mindset Bag:** Karla Orlando, Tipton Academy

**Inspiration Bag:** The Crew at Concord Petoskey

Submitted by Julie Hopper



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## ACADEMIC REPORTS TO BE PUBLISHED

LSSU CSO was happy to lighten the load of administrators and assist with creating the transparency reports required under “Return to Learn.” We published both a mid-year report to meet the transparency requirement deadline of February 1 and an end of the year report with a deadline of June 30, 2021 for each of our academies. In addition, LSSU CSO will publish annual academy reports that align with educational goals. 2020-21 Annual Academy Reports will be completed by late summer/early fall. Yes, we realize that it has been a pandemic year, however feel it is important to establish (to the best of our abilities) some baseline data. We are aware that this data may not include all students tested, that testing conditions may have not been the most conducive to learning, virtual/in person instruction as well as numerous other factors to consider that impact results. Testing results will not be used for accountability purposes but rather roughly gauge where students are. As an authorizer, in the end, we felt it was important to collect the data we did have. If you have any questions on this, please contact, me, Julie Hopper at [jhopper@lssu.edu](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu) or 906-635-2118.

### 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](mailto:jhopper@lssu.edu).

*“If we want to reach real peace in the world, we should start educating children.”*

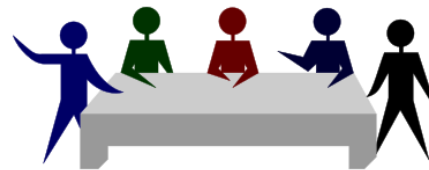
*-Mahatma Gandhi-*

### FINANCE UPDATE

HAPPY NEW  
FISCAL YEAR!

**April 14, 2021**  
FY2021 4th Quarter Financial Statements

**September 30, 2021**  
1st Quarter Budget Revision Resolution



### 2021-22 Board Webinar Topics

#### Theme: The Kitchen Sink of Governance

Goal: *The ultimate goal of this series is to bring more focus to specific challenges that boards face, with solutions to overcome those challenges.*

- September 2021: Introduction to Becoming a New Board Member
- November 2021: The Role of the Board
- January 2022: Understanding the Charter Contract
- February 2022: Understanding Student Achievement Scores: The Basics
- March/April 2022: Evaluating Critical Relationships
- Assessing the Transition from Virtual to In-Person Meetings (On Demand)
- The Role of the Officer (On Demand)
- Getting Boards Back on Track to Governance (On Demand)
- The Establishment and Effective Use of Committees (On Demand)
- Managing your Finances (On Demand)
- Board Succession Planning (On Demand)

## MEET YOUR CHARTER SCHOOL STAFF

**Name:** Keith Krahnke

**Position:** Field Representative

**Hometown:** Has lived in Pickford, MI for the past 31 years

**Family:** Wife, Katherine: three children and two grandchildren

**Pets:** A wide variety of birds, deer, wolves and the occasional skunk

**Hobbies:** Gardening, cooking, hockey, golf, motorcycle riding

**Little Known Fact:** Brooke Maciag is a former student and former employee of mine. Despite that, she has gone on to become very successful. :)



## BROOKE'S CORNER

The flyer below outlines the professional development topics available for the 2021-22 academic year. More specific dates will be announced in the near future. We will continue to provide our usual board training through Angie Irwin. For our educators, we have decided to focus on high leverage practices which what we feel will assist in meeting the needs of students and facilitate recovering from the pandemic in terms of lost learning time. Training in Adverse Childhood Experiences and Non-violent Crisis Intervention will be provided on demand.

# 2021-2022

## Professional Development Offerings

Continuing to grow our knowledge of how to best serve students.

**Board Members**

- Introduction to Becoming a New Board Member
- The Role of the Board
- Understanding the Charter Contract
- Understanding Student Achievement Scores: The Basics
- Evaluating Critical Relationships

**Educators**

- Nurturing Students' Executive Functioning Skills
- Creating a Trauma Informed Classroom
- Delving into High Leverage Instructional Practices:
  - \* Implementing Organization Routines
  - \* Designing a Lesson
  - \* Leading a Discussion
  - \* Eliciting & Interpreting
  - \* Checking Student Understanding

**On Demand or Request**

- Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Non-violent Crisis Intervention
- Assessing the Transition from Virtual to In-Person Board Meetings
- The Role of the Board Officer
- Getting Boards Back on Track to Governance
- The Establishment and Effective Use of Committees

## COMPLIANCE CORNER

-Epicenter tasks have been rolled over and are ready for the 2021-22 school year

-The Master Calendar of reporting requirements for 2021-22 can be found on the LSSU CSO website under "Forms."

<https://www.lssu.edu/charter-schools/forms-and-documents/>

-For information on ESSER Guidance on spending, please see the link below. Note that we are waiting on additional information and updates and will pass along accordingly. This update is from May 2021.

<https://www.lssu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/LSSU-CSO-ESSER-Fact-Sheet.pdf>

## FROM THE FIELD

- ◆ The Governance & Compliance Report will be published in late August/early September



## TIERING AND SUPPORT IN 2021-22

LSSU CSO is moving towards a new system of identifying academies that are at risk for not meeting contractual goals. This is not meant to be punitive in nature but rather allow us, as your authorizer, to provide needed support that increases the probability of student and academy success. Academies will be identified for support in any of the following categories: finance, governance and compliance, academics, or whole child identifiers. Academies will be identified for support in late July (timeline may be adjusted due to when data becomes available), complete a plan of action in August, implement the plan in September through June, and evaluate the success of the plan in July. The 2021-22 school year will be our pilot year and we look forward to working with you. For more information, contact [Brooke Maciag](mailto:Brooke Maciag), School Support Specialist at [bmaciag@lssu.edu](mailto:bmaciag@lssu.edu).



*“What you think, you become. What you feel, you attract. What you imagine, you create.”*  
-Buddha-



## Visitors on Campus

This June, 24 students (and 6 chaperones) from Innocademy Allegan Charter School stayed on campus for 2 nights for a fun, event-filled summer camp! Students were greeted by the Admissions office and provided a tour of campus. After their campus tour, students hit the classrooms to enjoy an origami activity that used their mathematics skills, and then extracted DNA from strawberries. Their first evening consisted of scaling the rock wall in the SAC, and playing games on the courts. The night was completed with smores by a roaring fire.

Their 2nd day at LSSU was filled with outdoor fun! Joined by CFRE staff members, the students put on waders to search for macroinvertebrates in the river at Pendill's Beach. Lamprey, crawfish, and other critters were found using nets to collect the species. Next stop was Tahquamenon Upper Falls, to meet with DNR Park Interpreter, Theresa Neal. The students learned all about the history and ecology of the area. After having lunch, students made their way over to Newberry to check out Oswald's Bear Ranch. Students returned to campus very tired but enjoyed a movie and games in Peacock Cove. Because of their long drive back to Allegan, the next morning students ate breakfast and departed campus.

Submitted by  
Stacy Post, Director of Admissions



## READ BY GRADE 3 UPDATE

The Senate Education Committee moved two bills in a 4-2 party-line vote to pause the controversial “Read by Grade 3 Law” but will restart and expand the law in the 2021-22 school year. The “Read by Grade Three” law was passed in 2016 and requires third graders who scored a 1252 or below to be retained and, in 2021-22, will expand to include 4th graders.

Former State Superintendent Michael Rice stated, “third grade retentions are bad public policy, and even more so if expanding students in two grades.” To learn more, please visit,

<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/education/2021/05/26/michigan-third-grade-reading-law-pause-fourth-grade-retention-2022/7447661002/>



“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you will go.”

Dr. Seuss

## U.P. SUMMER SPLENDOR

There is no better time than summer to explore the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Cool waters, sandy beaches, and the most amazing sunsets abound. If you happen to find yourself in our neck of the woods, please stop into our office to say hello. LSSU Fletcher Center– 650 W. Easterday, SSM, MI. We’d love to see you.

### Summer Read Recommendations

Untamed: Glennon Dole

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse: Charlie Mackesy

The Firekeeper’s Daughter: Angeline Boulley

Mother Nature is Trying to Kill You: Dan Riskin

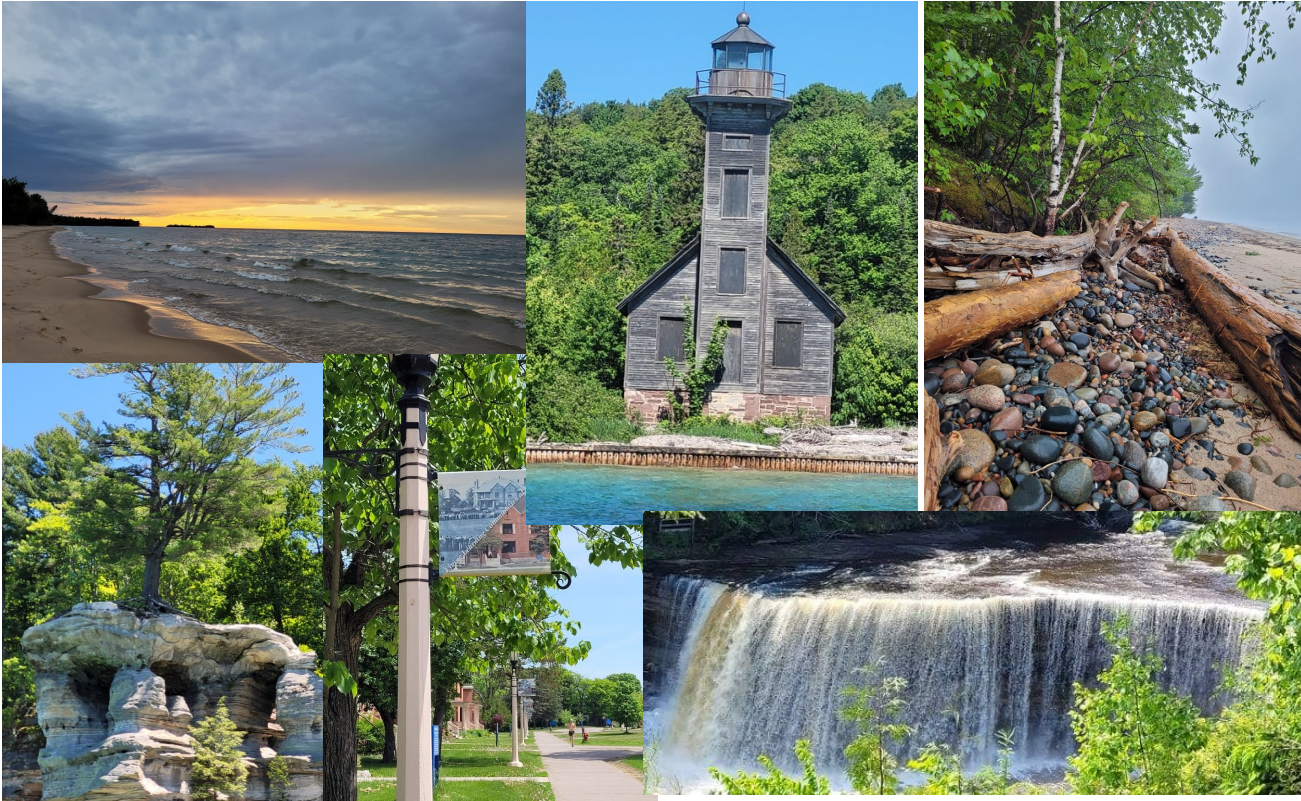
The Good Earth: Pearl S. Buck

The President is Missing

The President’s Daughter:

James Patterson & Bill Clinton

The Handmaid’s Tale: Margaret Atwood



## CHARTER SCHOOLS STAFF

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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

### COWBOY CAVIAR

- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1 teaspoon chili powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 pound Roma tomatoes
- 1 (15oz) can of black-eyed peas drained and rinsed
- 1 can (15 oz) can of black beans
- 11 ounces sweet corn
- 1 red onion diced
- 1 green bell pepper diced
- 1 red bell pepper diced
- 1 cup fresh cilantro chopped

#### Directions

In a large bowl, whisk together the oil, sugar, vinegar, chili powder, and salt. Add tomatoes, black-eyed peas, beans, corn, onion, and bell peppers. Stir to combine. Stir in cilantro. Cover and chill until serving time. Serve with tortilla chips.

Serving Size: 1 cup  
Calories: 185 kcal  
Carbs: 22 g  
Protein: 5 g  
Fat: 10 g  
Sodium: 201 mg  
Potassium: 336 mg  
Fiber: 5 g  
Sugar: 7 G

Submitted by Julie Hopper



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