

news

"IF I HAD MY WAY, I'D REMOVE JANUARY FROM THE CALENDAR ALTOGETHER AND HAVE AN EXTRA JULY INSTEAD."

-ROALD DAHL-

JULY 2023

From the Top

Dear Academy Board Members and Academy Staff,

I hope all of you are finding some time for rest and relaxation during the summer months. If you happen to make a trip to the U.P for some outdoor activities, please feel free to stop by the LSSU campus and the Charter Schools Office.

The CSO will offer some regional governance board training this coming year in Northern Michigan, Grand Rapids, and Southwest Michigan. We look forward to our boards and school leadership participating in these regional professional development opportunities. Your LSSU field representative will have dates and more information forthcoming in the next couple of months.

The LSSU CSO prides itself in making ourselves available to academy boards and leadership. We consider ourselves partners in education and want to assist wherever needed. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to our office for ways we can be of assistance.

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director



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Annual ACE Conference

Everyone has a R.O.L.E.

Real Opportunity for Leadership and Engagement.

The annual Michigan Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Initiative Conference was held on May 24, 2023 on the beautiful campus of Central Michigan University. This annual conference provides the opportunity for Master Trainers, Community Champions, the Michigan Association of Health Plans Foundation, and the Michigan Public Health Institute to gather to discuss current ACE priorities, funding, programming, and partnerships.

ACEs are defined as a traumatic that happens during childhood prior to the age of 18. There are three broad categories of ACEs that include abuse, neglect, and household dysfunction. If we ensure that children have safe, stable, and nurturing relationships and environments even despite adversity, we can mitigate the impact of trauma. To learn more, <https://www.miace.org/>

Julie Buchholtz is a Master Trainer. Contact her at jhopper@lssu.edu to request training.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

-Governance and Compliance Reports
Reports will be emailed to Academy boards in August.

-Professional Development Options
We will be offering professional development face-to-face training in October/November in three regional areas this year. More information will be sent out once the details are finalized. In addition to face-to-face meetings, we will also conduct webinars with Angie Irwin

-Reauthorizations
The eight reauthorization contracts for last year are just about finalized and sent to MDE. We thank you for your due diligence in completing the many tasks required to complete the review process and contract documents. There will be one reauthorization for this 2023-2024 year.

"WHAT GOOD IS THE WARMTH OF SUMMER, WITHOUT THE COLD OF WINTER TO GIVE IT SWEETNESS ."
- JOHN STEINBECK -

2023-24 NWEA TESTING WINDOWS



FALL

September 12-October 6

WINTER

January 8-February 9

SPRING

April 29-June 7

If you are in need of a testing window modification, please make your request to Julie Buchholtz at jhopper@lssu.edu.

FINANCE CORNER

Happy New Fiscal Year!

August 15

4th Quarter Financial
Statements

September 30

Budget Amendment
Resolution- 1st Quarter



AIA & Automate Show

The students from American International Academy are making a major splash in the Metro Detroit STEM community. Sixteen of the best minds in science from the Rosewood campus went on a field trip to the 2023 Automate Show, the world's largest industry conference for robotics and automation.

The students did awesome representing AIA, their families, the Inkster community and Ecotek Lab. Students were able to meet the Automate senior staff, tour the exhibitor floor, ask questions, and demonstrate their knowledge of robotics and engineering.

A BIG thanks to Dr. James Spruill, Robotics instructor at AIA Rosewood, for arranging the field trip.

Submitted by Keith Young



Academy Spotlight



Concord Academy of Petoskey

On May 26th, 2023, senior Greyson Janka, presented one of the most unique valedictorian speeches around. Janka graduated from Concord Academy of Petoskey. His heartfelt speech combined creative movement and storytelling where Janka recounted his experiences at Concord Academy of Petoskey., "I have lots of memories from senior year, creating a gingerbread putt putt course, becoming Quiz Bowl champions, getting smacked in the face with whipped cream for senior Pi day, and those much needed snow days....wherever life takes you, remember its okay to not have a plan, the world is bigger than you realize and smaller than you think." Way to go, Greyson. You are one of the reasons that charters are needed and necessary. Best of luck to you.

To watch Greyon's amazing presentation, click here, <https://fb.watch/liJrCuhZid/>.

Brooke's Corner

I hope this article finds you having a happy summer vacation or at least slowdown in your schedule. I always look at summer vacation as an opportunity to reflect on things that went well, either by design or happy accident and those things that I know might need some tweaking to work the best. It is a time of self-development as I finally get a chance to sit down with that stack of professional development books and videos I've been saving to watch later. One of those movies I had the opportunity to watch was **The Right to Read** . Their website summarizes the movie by the following, "When a child can't read, their chances of incarceration, homelessness, and unemployment increase. That's why Oakland-based NAACP activist Kareem Weaver believes literacy is one of the greatest civil rights issues of our time and is fighting for better reading instruction. "What good is winning the right to vote if we can't even read the ballot?" Fed up with bleak reading scores in his own community, Kareem files a petition with the Oakland Unified School District demanding change."

It is no secret that before the pandemic, U.S. literacy rates were abysmal and educators across the country are agreeing that the lack of literate individuals is quickly becoming the greatest civil rights issue of our time, regardless of race, religion, color, or socioeconomic status. In support of ALL students within our portfolio, the CSO will be providing and supporting a series of professional development and book studies that focus on literacy instruction best practices. Please watch for upcoming notifications in July. We hope your academy takes advantage of these opportunities.

-Brooke-

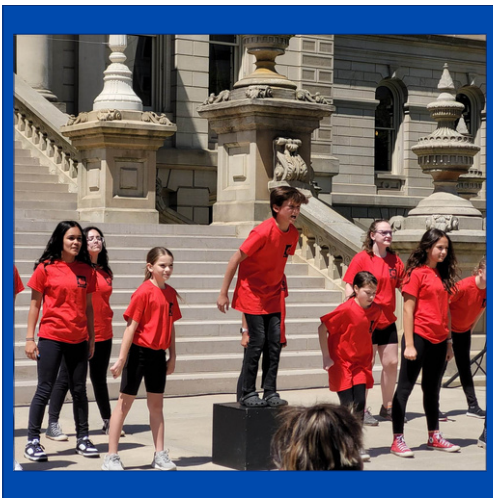


Charter Day at the Capital



ANGELA GILBERT & JULIE BUCHHOLTZ

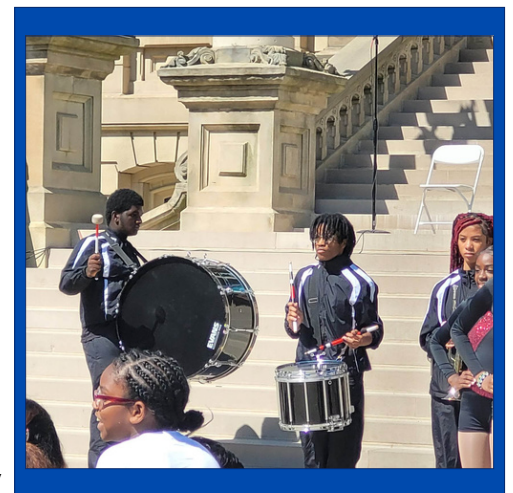
THE LSSU CHARTER SCHOOL STAFF WAS ABLE TO CELEBRATE NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK BY TAKING PART IN THE MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMY'S CHARTER DAY AT THE CAPITAL. CHARTER DAY TOOK PLACE ON MAY 10, 2023. OVER 1,000 SUPPORTERS OF THE CHARTER SCHOOL MOVEMENT CAME TOGETHER TO CELEBRATE THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATIONAL CHOICE. ATTENDEES WERE TREATED TO ENGAGING SPEAKERS, SUNSHINY WEATHER, A TASTY LUNCH PROVIDED BY LOCAL FOOD TRUCKS, WERE ENTERTAINED BY PERFORMANCES PUT ON BY TALENTED CHARTER STUDENTS, AND WERE PRESENTED THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH LEGISLATORS. CONGRATULATIONS TO AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL ACADEMY'S MARCHING BAND AND BAY CITY ACADEMY'S THEATER GROUP FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES. DAN QUISENBERRY, PRESIDENT OF MAPSA, WAS ALSO RECOGNIZED FOR HIS TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE TO MAPSA. THANK YOU, DAN, FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND LEADERSHIP IN PROMOTING CHARTER SCHOOLS.



Bay City Academy Theater Group



MAPSA President Dan Quisenberry



American International Academy
Marching Band

A-F Repealed

On Monday, May 22, 2023, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed House Bill 4166 repealing the letter grade system for public school rankings. Whitmer stated, "Today's legislation will eliminate burdensome requirements and allow schools to implement the best practices to help their students succeed." (Detroit Free Press, May 22, 2023) The rankings provide a way for the public to evaluate and compare performance amongst schools in Michigan. Superintendent of Education, Dr. Michael Rice, declared it a win for parents explaining that schools are complex and all that educators do does not translate well into letter grades.

Michigan's School Index System, which complies with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires that every state have an accountability system and will remain in effect. The overall index value ranges from 0-100 and is based on student growth, proficiency, graduation rates, English Learner Progress, attendance rates, advanced coursework completion, postsecondary enrollment and staffing ratios. Schools that have a low index value may be identified for support.

Senate Bill 12

On March 24, 2023, a bill was signed by Governor Gretchen Whitmer that repeals a section of law that prevents 3rd grade students from being promoted to 4th grade if they do not meet a score of 1252 on the reading portions of the state required Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress (M-STEP). Governor Whitmer said, "Today, we are taking action to put power back into parent's hands so they can work with their child's teachers and make decisions that are best for their family." State Senator Dayna Polehanki (D-Livonia) thanked the Governor for signing the legislation. Polehanki continued, "Parents and schools should be trusted to make decisions about grade retention-the state shouldn't mass flunk 3rd graders without parent input based on one test."

Michigan's Read by Grade Three Law took effect in 2019 stating possible retention of students who did not meet the reading benchmark. Note that parents were able to sign a "Good Cause Exemption" appealing retention. With the passage of Bill 12, however, the retention clause is removed. Parents will be notified if their child does not meet the benchmark score with the child receiving support and intervention.

Changes to NWEA

As many of you are aware, LSSU determines the educational goals for your academy minus the academy specific goals. You are required to assess your 2nd-8th graders three times per year by NWEA Measures of Academic Progress or MAP.

This summer, NWEA will release a number of MAP Growth test updates that feature an enhanced item selection algorithm. The new algorithm goals include continued validity and reliability of test data, a better reflection of student classroom instruction, and increased student engagement/improvement of the test taking experience. The enhanced item selection algorithm considers additional factors when selecting test items. NWEA believes that these new tests are an improvement and better aligned with content taught in classrooms. While NWEA believes the new test is better aligned with content taught in classrooms, using the new test scores will impact test scores.

While there have not been any observed changes in test scores for reading tests, there has been a measurable change in math test scores. In the pilot study, students in grades 3rd-8th who were assessed in math, scored an average of 3 points higher compared to previous tests.

LSSU will allow your academy to choose which version of MAP to utilize for 2023-24. If you haven't already done so, you must notify both NWEA and LSSU which version of MAP you will use. (July 1, 2023 deadline) https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NrP7sCmjNaA4yPrpb-1Rfh_KXAxoaZ8l8UjjaPM1Jw/edit

Some LSSU academies have requested to use the original version in order to ensure consistency and allow for comparative data following the pandemic. Other academies are eager to embrace the new version because it is better aligned to grade level content standards. For now, there is no wrong choice, You know your students better than anyone else.

Please note that NWEA may decide to phase out the original assessment by summer of 2025. More information to come on this. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at jhopper@lssu.edu or 906-635-2118.



Annual Academic Reports

As the LSSU Academic Assessment Specialist, it is my job to measure the degree to which the students in our academies meet their educational goals and then report that information to Academy leadership and boards. I will once again "hit the road" beginning in late August through late fall to present your Academy's 2022-2023 Annual Academic report in person. You will receive notification as to which board meeting I will attend within the next month. I look forward to seeing all of you. In a few cases, if there is a scheduling conflict, your friendly field representative may be the one to present your report.



*If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to Julie Buchholtz at jhopper@lssu.edu or 906-635-2118

With Fond Remembrance



It is with great sadness that the Charter Schools Office announces the passing of one of our former members of the LSSU Charter Schools family. Bruce Harger passed away on Friday, June 23, 2003. He began his career at LSSU as an assistant professor of Economics. He served in a variety of roles during his tenure at LSSU, retiring in 2007 as Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs. Shortly after retiring, he returned to LSSU to serve as Director of Charter Schools. Bruce was a life long learner, earning his Ph.D. from Michigan State in 1991. He enjoyed reading, cooking, watching the MSU Spartans play, traveling, and spending time with his loved ones.

Bruce had a positive impact on the LSSU community and will be greatly missed.



Assessment ABC's

by Lynn Methner

While students may be on summer break, it is not too soon to be thinking about Fall assessments and setting the stage for favorable student outcomes. Successful educators realize the primary objective of assessments is to understand where a student is on their learning journey. High quality assessments like NWEA MAP provide educators with important information they need to adjust instructional strategies to maximize learning and motivate students to set learning targets.

When planning for Fall testing, there are a number of considerations to ensure consistent and valid test administration. While not all inclusive, I've included a quick checklist below for things to consider:

Test Administration Preparation for Administrators:

- Consult IT for device readiness
- Rostering students
- Schedule staff training
- Develop Test Administration Guidelines including policy for retakes
- Identify student's needs for accommodations (504 plans and IEP's)
- Space considerations for shared spaces or small group testing
- Middle and high school considerations- bell schedule, attendance, athletics
- Plan for reducing disruptions- classroom and building wide (PA system, bell, etc)
- Plan for make-up assessments- staff and space considerations
- Parent and student communication once school starts

Krahnke Retires

Field representative, Keith Krahnke, retired as a field representative for LSSU Charter Schools on June 30, 2023. Krahnke, a life long educator, has worn many hats in his career; teacher, principal, superintendent, coach, field representative, College and Career Readiness Coordinator, and even bus driver when needed. He has also been an active board member for the E.U.P. United Way, enjoys gardening, motorcycles, hunting, golf, cooking, and watching the Tigers. He is father to three, husband to Kathy, as well as a grandfather. We wish you a relaxing and wonderful retirement, Keith, although we imagine Kathy already has her "To Do" list ready and waiting.

Thank you for your years of dedication and commitment to the children and families you have served. We will miss you.



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, joining the military, or entering the workforce.

Vision

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



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