

news

"I THINK IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE SENSIBLE
IF RESOLUTIONS BEGAN ON JANUARY 2ND."
-HELEN FIELDING-

JANUARY 2024

From the Top

Dear Academy Board Members and Staff,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2024, I am filled with excitement and anticipation for the incredible journey ahead. January not only marks the beginning of a new chapter but is also Board Member Appreciation Month. Reflecting on the past year, we have achieved so much together and it is all thanks to the unwavering support and enthusiasm from each one of you. Your dedication has been the driving force behind our portfolio's success and we are eager to build upon that momentum in the coming months. Thank you.

As we embark on this New Year together, let's continue to embrace the spirit of collaboration, growth, and resilience. Together, we can turn our collective vision into reality and make 2024 a year filled with positive change and opportunities. Thank you for being an integral part of The LSSU Charter Schools family. Here's to a year of endless possibilities!

As always, if I can be of service, please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any of our Charter Schools Team.
Best wishes.

Chris Oshelski
Executive Director



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Compliance Corner

-Reminder-

Academy board should begin discussion on board member(s) who are up for reappointment or new appointment. The LSSU Board of Trustees last meeting before the terms expire will be on May 17, 2024. All board members must be nominated by the Academy board and submit a completed application to their appropriate field representative by **Friday, March 22, 2024**. Background checks, U.S. documentation and interviews will be performed prior to approval by the LSSU Board of Trustees.

It is best practice to schedule Annual Board meetings in May or June. This allows Epicenter tasks and other items to be scheduled based on your board commitments and coordinates with board term expirations of June 30.

Reminder to review the items due by **June 30** to ensure compliance with the due date of June 30. (For example, board self-evaluations, board calendars, etc. are due by June 30th)



BOARD GOVERNANCE

A goal is a dream with a deadline.
-Napolean Hill

Success is steady progress towards ones personal goals.
-Jim Rohn

You are never too old to set a new goal or to dream a new dream.
-C.S. Lewis

A goal should scare you a little and excite you a lot.
-Joe Vitale

When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps.
-Confucius

Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible to the visible.
-Tony Robbins

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Board Training

Look for additional board professional development resources on our website:

<https://www.lssu.edu/charterschools/professionaldevelopment/>



- **January 16th-** How to Protect Against Charter School Closure
- **February 27th-** How to Ensure the Safety and Welfare of Students
- **April 17th-** Question & Answer Session Dedicated to Topics from the year

All trainings begin at 6 p.m.

FINANCE CORNER

Happy New Year!

JANUARY

- 31st- Budget Revision Resolution
- 31st- Financial Audit Response to Letter to Those Charged with Governance

FEBRUARY

- 13th- Quarterly Financial Statement

MARCH

- 30th- Financial Audit Letter of Engagement

The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it in your back pocket.

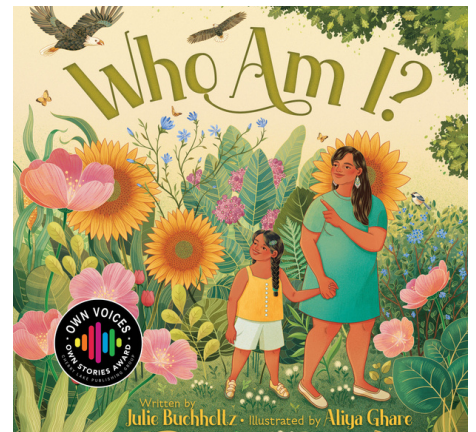
-Will Rogers



Literacy Night

On December 5th, 2023, Innocademy based in Zeeland hosted a Family Literacy Night. LSSU CSO field representative, Joe Thienes, and I were honored to be part of this wonderful event. There was a great turnout of twenty-three families that were smiling, laughing, and engaged. I was pleased to kick off the event by reading my story, *Who Am I*, as well as discuss the important role that parents play in developing their child's literacy. Parents truly are their child's most important teacher. Families then had their choice of a multitude of center based activities. What fun! We were so impressed with the quality of activities, enthusiasm of the teachers and staff, and the engagement of students and families. What a well organized, just plain old fun event! Well done, Jessenia Martinez and Team.

-submitted by Julie Buchholtz



Academy Spotlight



Ridge Park Charter

Little Library Provides Books for Neighborhood Kids, Honors Former Board Members Published: Aug 10, 2023

NHA Communications Team

There's a new reading resource for the neighborhood kids around **Ridge Park Charter Academy** in Grand Rapids, Mich. A colorful little outdoor library containing children's books is being installed outside the school for all to use and enjoy.

The library was made possible by staff at the school and was painted by members of Carissa Buursma's art class with an ocean theme. It features a sea turtle, flowers, and some abstract designs as well.

"We worked in shifts a little bit because of its small size," Buursma said. "One class picked the theme and the other class started right in on it."

The outdoor library is dedicated to former Ridge Park School Board members Paul Toohey and Dottie Stiger. Their names are inscribed on a plaque on the outside. Ridge Park Principal Hector Ulloa fondly recalled the impact Toohey and Stiger had on the school and the care they showed the student population.

"Paul was the president when I came to the school and he and Dottie clearly understood Ridge Park," Ulloa said. "The uniqueness of our population, the history of long-standing teachers, traditions, and achievement, they knew it through and through. They were amazing advocates for Ridge Park. They were phenomenal and they're missed."

Ulloa said the way Toohey and Stiger represented themselves has impacted the board for years to come.

"There's so much that goes into it," he said. "When you see a really effective board meeting and they're coming in with notes and questions and we're prepared for a healthy discussion, even if there are conflicts or if there are differing opinions. That's when a board is great, and they helped make Ridge Park what it is now."

"I think that legacy carries over with the people that worked with them. There's kind of this institutional knowledge that passes along the way that we do things. They were awesome."



Macomb Montessori Academy

Macomb Montessori Academy would like to highlight the increase with the State of Michigan Index Score for this past year!

As you know that we are on the State priority school list, and as a result on a Partnership Agreement. Exciting news! We doubled are index score from 23.15 (21/22) to 46.92 (22/23). In addition, our Growth index scores, was 17.27 (21/22) to 68.46 (22/23). These scores are beyond exciting and brings us closer to academic proficiency.

In the past year, during the aftermath of a pandemic my staff has worked hard to meet the academic needs of our students. We refuse to settle and have pushed achallenged ges our students to grow. Our school theme is Grow with Us and it has taught us that growing does take times, but it will happen if we work together.

I want to acknowledge and highlight the hard work of MMA amazing teachers, staff and parents! I want to acknowledge students that have worked hard on closing their academic gaps in learning. It's these small steps in academic growth that makes the difference.

Indeed, there still work to be done, but we are off to amazing start. As we go into 2024, we will continue to focus on academic growth.

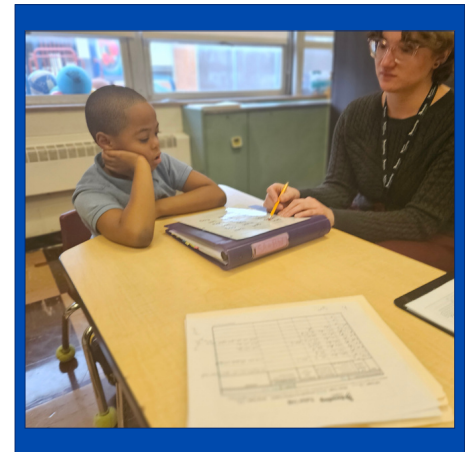
I am thankful to Choice Schools Associates and our school Superintendent, Mrs. Kerri Barrett, MMA Board Members and our ongoing support from LSSU.

Thank you!

Mrs. Shanina Draughn
Head of School of MMA



"I am thankful to Choice Schools Associates and our school Superintendent, Mrs. Kerri Barrett, MMA Board Members and our ongoing support from LSSU."
-Mrs. Shanina Draughn



2023-2024 Testing Windows

Fall

September 12-October 6

Winter

January 8-February 9

Spring

April 29- June 7

Per your Educational Goals, 2nd-8th graders must be assessed three times per year by NWEA MAP according to the LSSU testing windows.

Please remember to certify in Epicenter as soon as you have completed testing!

Mid-Year Reports

LSSU CSO will once again supply mid-year reports that satisfy the guidelines of PA48. Although the benchmark assessment requirement under PA48 is on hiatus for 2023-2024, it will return for 2024-25. Due to feedback from academy leaders on the usefulness and value of the reports, I decided to continue completing these reports despite a reprieve in the requirement for this year. These reports communicate progress on the Measures of Academic Progress or MAP by NWEA, a nationally norm referenced assessment. This assessment is required as outlined in your Educational Goals. Academic achievement and growth data is disaggregated by grade level and at the academy level. Please remember to certify in Epicenter as soon as you have completed winter testing. This is my cue to pull the needed files and begin your report. Academies should receive their reports by the end of February. The winter testing window closes on **February 9th.**

If you have any questions, please contact Julie Buchholtz at jhopper@lssu.edu.

Brooke's Corner

Welcome to the 2024! I'm excited to see what the next trip around the sun has in store for us. I wanted to update you on what is happening in the CSO School Support land. We are still working hard at planning a fantastic Leadership Summit set to take place in Bay City on July 16 & 17 to be followed by a day to kick off our year-long PD opportunity with GPS Solutions for Restorative Practices. In addition to planning for great learning opportunities, I'm working with some teachers at the district level to offer support in instruction and planning. If those services sound like something that may benefit your district, please reach out and we can work something out. Finally, new to LSSU Charter Schools is our new podcast titled "Let's Talk Strategy". Links to the podcast will be able to be found on both our website and our social media pages, so please watch for those.

By Brooke Maciag

National Charter Schools Week runs from May 13th- 17th, 2024. MAPSA Charter Day at the Capital will be held on May 15th, 2024. LSSU CSO will have a week of challenges with great prizes. More information coming in April.

Holiday Card Winners

Each year, the LSSU Charter Schools Office holds a holiday card contest where we seek out the artistic talent of students attending our public school academies. Winners are chosen from 5 categories; Kindergarten, 1st-2nd, 3rd-5th, 6th-8th, and 9th-12th and receive LSSU Swag Bags chock full of LSSU goodies.

-Submitted by Julie Buchholtz



Winner 9th-12th- **Dana Bacon**, 12th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Honorable Mention 9th-12th- **Liv Lovelace**, 9th grade, North Central Academy



Winner 6th-8th- **Ember Lauzon**, 7th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Honorable Mention 9th-12th- **Ava Butera**, 12th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Laker Spirit- **Cassidy Weber**, 11th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Laker Spirit- **Autumn Larsen**, 12th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Honorable Mention 3rd-5th- **Lucy Pischel**, 4th grade, Concord Academy Petoskey

Holiday Card Winners Continued



Winner 3rd-5th- **Penelope Garris**,
5th grade, Grand Traverse Academy



Judge's Choice- **Niibiishenh Osawamick**,
Kindergarten, Concord Academy Petoskey



Honorable Mention 6th-8th- **Paiden Stone**,
7th grade, North Central Academy



Judge's Choice- **Lincoln Klooster**- 6th grade,
Grand Traverse Academy

Honorable Mention
K-2nd- **Piper Pelo**,
2nd grade,
Bay City Academy



Winner K-2nd- **Adaline Winberg**, 2nd grade,
Concord Academy Petoskey



Welcome to the LSSU Family!



Venetta Watt Tucker

We cannot say enough about our board members. Those selfless individuals who donate their time and energy to improve the educational outcomes of students in their communities. Thank you. LSSU CSO would like to welcome Venetta Watt Tucker and Sanford Edwards III to the board for WAY Flint.



Sanford Edwards III

*"We make a living by what we get,
but we make a life by what we give."
-Winston Churchill*



Leadership Summit

WHAT: LSSU Charter Schools Leadership Summit

WHEN: July 16th-18th, 2024

WHERE: Bay City, Michigan

WHY: The Leadership Summit will allow the opportunity for teachers, administrators, and staff to come together for professional development, collaboration, and team building.

Please contact Brooke Maciag for more information at bmaciag@lssu.edu. Registration information coming soon.

Assessment ABC's

by Lynn Methner

NWEA MAP reports provide a useful instructional tool to gather relevant information about student performance or progress and can be used by classroom teachers, interventionist and administrators. While the **Class Report and Classroom Breakdown Reports** provide a wealth of information on student achievement and growth, the **Achievement Status and Growth Summary with Quadrant Chart** can be used when there is more than one test window.

So what does this mean instructionally? The **Quadrant Report** allows educators to compare student achievement and growth over a period of time such as Fall to Winter. This report analyzes the results from both test windows and makes it easy for educators to visually see where students fall. This helps educators monitor student growth, achievement, the effectiveness of interventions and make necessary adjustments.

By using the filters to the right, educators can choose which subjects are shown, gender, ethnicity, etc. The **Quadrant Report** then displays student results in four quadrants: Low Achievement/Low Growth, Low Achievement/High Growth, High Achievement/High Growth and High Achievement/ Low Growth.

The **Quadrant Report** can be especially useful since we often focus on achievement and our lowest performing students. While that is important, this report helps monitor individual student growth and progress for “All” so we don’t miss those students who may be under the radar. The **Quadrant Report** can also serve as a resource when conferencing with students and parents. By using the filter to the right, one can unselect “show student names” and generate a report with individual dots representing students tested. Educators can then have conversations with the student and parents regarding where they think they fall on the chart, and then show them where their actual data point falls on the continuum. This can lead to rich conversations, identifying reasons for performance and planning for student success.

Growth Mindset

“Test scores and measures of achievement tell you where a student is, but they don’t tell you where a student could end up.” – Carol Dweck.



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.



LSSU CSO Team

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