



Sending Out An SOS

Save our Students, Save our Schools, Save our State. A relatively new education based organization has been formed and is sending out an SOS. Their message is clear—Michigan's school funding system is failing and needs to be reformed. In the past, educational funding reform has often meant that education was asking for more money. In this case, it means reform on many levels.

SOS is advocating for the following cost savings/reform measures:

Statewide Health Insurance Pool. Allow for access to a statewide health insurance pool for all public employees

Mandatory Premium Sharing for All Public School Employees. SOS supports legislation that requires all public school employees pay a minimum portion of their health insurance premiums, and that a maximum dollar cap be established for the employer contribution

Increasing Employee Contributions for MPSERS (the Michigan Public Schools Employee Retirement System). Current and future employees will need to pay a larger share of the costs in order to maintain the long term viability of MPSERS.

Resetting Minimum Age Requirements to Collect Retirement Health Care Benefits. Setting a minimum of age of 60 for newly hired employees to collect retiree health care benefits. Currently school employees can retire and receive insurance benefits after 30 years of service.

Promoting the Sharing of Services. SOS encourages school districts to collaborate and share services where it makes economic sense.

The Balancing of Collective Bargaining Laws such that it would prohibit automatic increases in pay or benefits from going into effect if a contract isn't settled. And, creating more effective mechanisms for enforcing current laws regarding illegal strikes. Short term, the stop gap funding measures that have been used by the legislature for the last eight years have not worked.

According to SOS, the state should engage in a comprehensive review and "overhall" of Michigan's school funding system based on data provided by the non partisan Citizens Research Council (CRC) study of Michigan's K-12 education system that is currently in progress. Measures should be considered to close ineffective loopholes in current tax laws, expand the base of sales tax to services, eliminate planned reductions in the income tax, and stop making schools and local government to conform to unfunded mandates. For more on SOS, visit www.sosmichigan.org.

Please call Scott Crosby at (231) 876-2260 or email at scrosby@wmisd.org with thoughts or questions.

Focus on the Future is a monthly publication of the WMISD. For additional copies, please contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210. Please contact any of our Staff if you have any questions.
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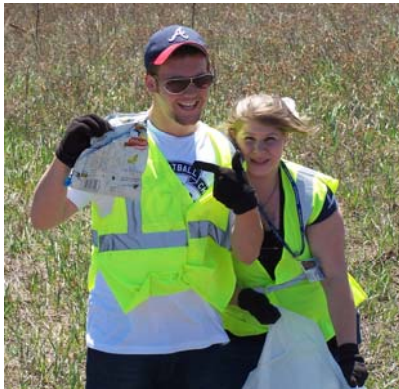


Focus on the Future



See what former students are saying about the CTC:

On April 26, 2010, CTC students representing the National Technical Honor Society and the Student Forum, along with CTC staff, cleaned a portion of US-131 Highway as part of the Adopt-A-Highway Program.



Well for me, it's not just the basic skills that I learned in BMA that I use on a daily basis like the 10-key calculator, multi-line phone skills, typing, and the programs like word and excel. What has been more of a benefit to me has been the personal skills that CTC helped to instill in me, such as communication, networking, public speaking and attendance skills. These are skills I would not have gained from high school.

CTC helped me transition from high school into the work setting which is another thing I don't feel you get from going just to high school. Students who are fresh from high school don't have the work ethic that is necessary for the working environment. That is why CTC has helped me get and maintain my co-op job still. The skills like the 10-key calculator, multi-line phone skills, typing and word and excel helped me get my co-op job; but the life skills like communication, networking, public speaking and good attendance are what have helped me to be a good employee for AAR.

Because of CTC I am more prepared for my career and I owe a lot to the wonderful teachers, para-professionals, and administrative personnel there. Since CTC, I have obtained my associate's for Human Resources through Baker College of Cadillac and I am almost finished with my bachelor's of Business Leadership through the accelerated program at Baker...only looking up from here. :)

Thanks,

Kaycee Jonas
A/P Clerk
AAR Mobility Systems



**CTC Open House
April 20, 2010**



What is the Great Start Parent Coalition?

The Great Start Parent Coalition includes parents, grandparents, caregivers and professionals who are involved with young children in Wexford, Missaukee and Northern Osceola counties. The purpose of the coalition is to increase parent participation in early childhood planning and decision making for our youngest citizens ages birth through kindergarten entry.

The coalition will:

- Serve as a voice for parents in their community
- Assist in building public support for early childhood as an investment in the future
- Support and participate in the assessment and strategic planning work of the Great Start Collaborative

Vision Statement:

A Great Start for every child in Michigan; safe, healthy and eager to succeed in school and in life.



Activities of the GSC Parent Coalition 2009-10

- The Great Start Parent Coalition has over 70 members with about 30 adults and children participating each month.
- The Parent Coalition worked with the United Way to place, construct and publicize the area's first "Born Learning Trail." The Trail, located at Missaukee County Park in Lake City, provides parents and young children with an interactive set of simple outdoor activities that promote development as well as healthy parent-child relationships.
- Local Great Start Parents & children joined others attending *Star Power Day* in Lansing at the State Capitol. The group met with both State Representatives to discuss the importance of early childhood programs and services.
- The GSC Parent Coalition delivered over 100 free books to local businesses, including doctor and dental clinic waiting rooms, the YMCA and preschool classrooms. The project promotes parents reading to their young children.

The Wexford-Missaukee Area Great Start Parent Coalition meetings are held monthly at the Emmanuel Lutheran Church, usually on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings are from 5:30-7:00 including dinner and childcare on site. We welcome new members. Please contact Rachel Rogers, GSC Parent Liaison at rrogers22@hotmail.com or 231-839-8500.

Parents – Let your voices be heard! Great Start Star Power Day

Join us on Wednesday, May 19, 2010 in Lansing for an opportunity to let our local legislators know the importance of early childhood programs to you and your family. Star Power Day is a state wide event that is sponsored by the Early Childhood Investment Corporation – ECIC. We are anticipating over 2000 participants. Each participant will have a chance to meet as a group with their legislator to discuss specific concern about our local systems of care and education for young children.

The bus leaves the WMISD at approximately 7AM and will return about 5PM – Children are welcome to attend. There will be activities for the children on the bus as well as at the event. Lunch will be provided free of charge to all who attend.

For more information from the ECIC Website and to register for the event go to: www.greatstartforkids.org/star-power. Please call or email Mike Acosta or Liz Walker at 876-2265, macosta@wmisd.org if you'd like more information or want to sign up to ride the bus with us.





CTC Co-Op Students of the Month—February



- Nicole Rekart (Mesick HS, Business Management Administration) works in the CTC Office as an office assistant
- Kevin Moomey (Cadillac Adult Ed, Power Sports & Equipment) works at McGuire's as an assistant maintenance technician

Parent Advisory Committee

Did you know that Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District has a Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) whose main function is to help keep a parent perspective within the Special Education Department and provide input and feedback to the Director of Special Education? This committee meets at least four times each year to give and receive information, work on projects, share, etc. Members of this group must be the parent of a student who is currently eligible and currently receiving Special Education Services.

At present, the following individuals have been nominated by their local school districts and have been appointed to the PAC by the Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District Board of Education: Nancy Schaafsma, Chairperson (representing Cadillac and the ISD); Pam Babcock (representing the ISD from McBain); Teresa Byrnes (representing Lake City); Judy Hatfield (representing Marion); Guy Hissong (representing Manton); Kelly Hoekwater (representing McBain); Barb Kelly (representing Mesick); and Patti Sisson (representing Pine River.)

At present, the group is putting the finishing touches on a handbook about the IEP process that is written in parent-friendly language which will be going to 1) parents who have had their children recently found eligible for Special Education services and 2) any other parent who is interested. The goal is to begin to distribute them once the document is finalized. Thanks for Mecosta-Osceola ISD for their many ideas, Judy Hatfield for working hard on it and the entire group for providing helpful suggestions for changes.

Their next project is to develop a short (maybe post card size) survey that parents could use to comment on how well their last IEP went and if they had any suggestions.

For more information, please contact John Bretschneider, Director of Special Education, at 231-876-2275 or jbret@wmisd.org.

CTC Co-Op Students of the Month—March



- Amanda Nielsen (Manton HS, Allied Health) works at Green Acres as a direct care worker
- Dustin Ripley (Pine River HS, Computers & Electronics) works at Avon Automotive as an assistant computer technician

CTC Co-Op Students of the Month—April



- Autumn Hutchings (Mesick HS, Allied Health) works at Lakeview Lutheran Manor as a Certified Nurse Aide
- Holly Smith (Manton HS, Hospitality, Retailing & Entrepreneurship) works at Young Life Timberwolf Lake Camp as a store clerk/kitchen assistant

CTC Students of the Quarter



←**AM Session: Front Row (L to R):** Stephen Crawford, Power Sports & Equipment (Mesick); Karri Benson, Cosmetology (WMCTC); Kelsey Bates, Allied Health Technology II (Mesick); Angelina VanDyke, Allied Health Technology I (Manton); Mary Raymond, Public Safety (Pine River); Stephanie Gamble, Business Management Administration (Pine River)

Back Row (L to R): Devin Darnell, Heavy Equipment Mechanics (Pine River); Brett Towner, Computers & Electronics (McBain); Ben Stagg, Machine Trades (WMCTC); Devon Hoaglund, Electrical Occupations (Mesick); Mike Flaughter, Agriscience (Mesick)

Not Pictured: Rochelle Wert, Hospitality Retailing & Entrepreneurship (Pine River); Derek Shetenhelm, Building Trades (Mesick); Tyler Emond, Welding & Metal Fabrication (Lake City)

→**PM Session: Front Row (L to R):** Lucas Schuholz, Public Safety (McBain); Courtney Dassance, Allied Health Technology II (Mesick); Amber DeBoer, Allied Health I (McBain); Danielle Agar, Business Management Administration (Pine River); Ashley Coates, Cosmetology (Pine River); Albion Wagner, Building Trades (Lake City)

Back Row (L to R): Nathan Bump, Heavy Equipment Mechanics (Cadillac); Austin Uptegraft, Machine Trades (Manton); Josh Duvall, Computers & Electronics (Lake City); Ben Stagg, Electrical Occupations (WMCTC); Clayton Schwach, Hospitality Retailing & Entrepreneurship (Manton); Matthew McLeod, Welding & Metal Fabrication (McBain); Glen Smith Jr, Power Sports & Equipment (Lake City); Haylee Jones, Agriscience (Lake City)



The Cosmetology Fashion Show was held on April 20, 2010 during the CTC Open House. Cosmetology students took the runway to dazzle the audience with unique make-up, creative twisted and flared up-dos, braided spikes, hair extensions and high volume sweeps. Local cosmetologists judged the students in three categories: Hair (uniqueness and technical), Make-up (creativity and application), and Best Overall. **Audrey West** (Lake City HS) took 1st place in Hair, **Amber Glendenning** (Mesick HS) took 1st place in Make-up, and **Shaelyn Zuback** (McBain HS) as Best-Overall. Second place winners were **Brittany Tysick** (McBain HS) in Hair and **Lexi Pettengill** (Cadillac HS) in Make-up, with 3rd place awarded to **Crystal Yonkman** (Marion HS) in Hair and Make-up.

2010 LEGO Expo and Challenge

Manistee, Wexford and Missaukee Math and Science Center in partnership with Wexford Missaukee ISD will be hosting the 5th annual LEGO Challenge and EXPO on May 6th from 8:30am – 11:00am. Students in 5th -8th Grade from Manton, McBain, Northern Michigan Christian and Pine River will be participating in the LEGO Challenge at the Wexford-Missaukee ISD General Education building located at 9905 E. 13th St. Cadillac, MI.

The LEGO Challenge, open to ALL seven school district within our ISD, challenges the children to design and develop robotic LEGO machines that must complete one pre-determined challenge. The challenge this year is focus around an Indiana Jones Theme in which the student teams have to pick up an artifact and move it to a specified location. This challenge can be prepared ahead of time.

“The children are very focused during the challenge,” says Karen Mlcek, Director of General Education at the Wexford-Missaukee ISD, “they are as quiet as mice, working in unison in their work stations while they are preparing for their challenge – it’s very exciting and intense to watch them.”

We also have an expo portion where students can demonstrate their more creative side and show off what their robots look like and can do based on how they have their robots programmed. The students design and program their robots to play music and dance.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to show off their skills in math, science and technology. The public is welcome, please join us in the fun!



For more information, please contact Karen Mlcek, Director of General Education, at 231-876-2265 or kmlcek@wmisd.org.

National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to these CTC students who were inducted into the National Technical Honor Society on April 8, 2010.



Cadillac

Curtis Baum
Nathan Bump
Trent Dosch
Cody Haines
Cadin Hess
Donald Hiltz
Matthew Holsinger
Zach Jennings
Jacob Lowing
Justin Martin
Brittany Morris
Morgan Nelson
Kristina Phillips
Travis Sebring
Lindsay Swinden

Lake City

Tabitha Hollars
Todd Labs
Shawn Leeuw
Chelsea Lewis
Thomas Peery
Dilly Scarbrough
Cody Vaughn
Bobbe Yeley

Manton

Jessica Chinnery
Liz Coffel
Jennifer Duncan
Trevor Grames
Stacey Longstreet
Eric Love
Robert Paddock
Christopher Schuneman
Caitlyn Shead
Angelina Van Dyke
Shelby VanOcker
Devin Witzak

Marion

Anthony Abernathy
Spencer Beebe
Julianne Fewless

McBain

Jacob Fields
Brock Jenema
Matthew McLeod
Thomas Roby
Denae Smith

Mesick

Jennifer Coddington
Will Guerra
Garrett Runyon

NMC

Sarah Dick

Pine River

Billy Absher
Eric Batzer
Ashley Coates
Jacob Cubitt
Daniel Gingrich
Ashley Graham
Kelsie Keeler
Rebeca Lockhart
Haley Olson
A.J. Park
Walter Rice
Dustin Ripley

Home School

Amanda Chrispell
Ben Stagg



Career and Technical Student Organizations

Skills USA

State Competition—April 2010

Hospitality, Retailing, and Entrepreneurship

Ariel Williams (Cadillac HS) and **Lacie Clay** (Manton HS) competed in the Food & Beverage category

Kristina Phillips (Cadillac HS) and **James Barber** (Cadillac HS) competed in the Culinary category

Power Sports and Equipment

Dan Ellenbass (Cadillac HS) won 2nd place in Motorcycle Technician and **Brock Jenema** (McBain HS) won 3rd place in Motorcycle Technician

Travis Walters (Manton HS) won 3rd place in Power Equipment Technician

Heavy Equipment Mechanics

Bryon Cates (Cadillac HS) and **Troy Hutchinson** (Lake City HS) competed in the Diesel Technology category



DECA

State Competition—March 2010

Kendrick Hilton (Mesick HS) competed in the Restaurant and Food Service Management category and won a medal for event test and another medal for high scores overall.

Morgan Blackmer (Cadillac HS) competed in Quick Serve Food Management category and won a medal for overall high score.

Other students who participated in DECA State Competition included: **Holly Smith** (Manton HS) and **Kristy Lattimer** (Cadillac HS)



HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America)

State Leadership Competition—April 2010

Shawn Barnes (Mesick HS) won 1st place in Interviewing Skills

Brittany Cross (Manton HS) won 2nd place in Medical Terminology

Cody Campbell (Lake City HS) and **Fred West** (Lake City HS) won 3rd place in CERT

Other students who participated in HOSA State Competitions included: **Alex Helsel** (Lake City HS), **Kelsey Bates** (Mesick HS), **Liz Coffel** (Manton HS), **Krystal Kollasch** (Cadillac HS), **Amanda Chrispell**, **Chelsea Carl** (Lake City HS), and **Kala Bongard** (Lake City HS)



FFA State Skills Competition—April 2010

Student Participants:

Jessica Gildersleeve (Cadillac HS), **Haylee Jones** (Lake City HS), and **Brittany Stowell** (Lake City HS)

NMWE (Northern Michigan Welding Educators)

Welder Qualification Testing—April 2010

Lucas Yonkman (McBain HS) passed the D1.1 GMAW (Gas Metal Arc Welding) qualification test

Robert Paddock (Manton HS) passed the D1.1 GMAW (Gas Metal Arc Welding) qualification test

Matthew McLeod (McBain HS) passed the D1.1 SMAW (Shielded Metal Arc Welding) qualification test.



Congratulations to all CTC students who participated in State CTSO Competitions!!

Good Luck to Shawn Barnes who will be competing at the HOSA National Leadership Conference on June 23-26, 2010 in Orlando, Florida!



Coming Soon:

The Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center is planning to have a highly qualified Math teacher on staff next school year to help CTC students earn academic credit in Math (Algebra II), which has been mandated by the Michigan Merit Curriculum.

Did you know?

Your son or daughter can earn **FREE** College Credits while attending the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center.

Visit the Career Tech website at www.wmisd.org for more information.

2nd Annual Wexford-Missaukee Scholarship CTC Golf Outing

Saturday, May 22, 2010

9:00 am Shotgun Start (Scramble)



McGuire's Resort
7880 Mackinaw Trail
Cadillac, MI 49601

Cost: \$60 per person, which includes: 18 holes with cart, sleeve of golf balls, door prizes, lunch and a group photo.

Registration Deadline is May 14, 2010.

For more information or to register:
Please contact Jason Johnston at (231) 876-2206.

WMSD Mission Statement
The mission of the Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District is to provide high quality educational and support services requested by its constituent local districts whereby each district can more effectively meet the educational needs of its students and citizens.

WMSD Board of Education
William Sparks—President
Dr. Garold Koester—Vice-President
Chris McCrinmon—Treasurer
Dean Smallegan—Secretary
Harold Kibbe—Trustee
Daryl Morr—Trustee
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Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District
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Cadillac, MI 49601

