



We care about our personal retirement funds. Should we care about the corporate health of Citibank or AIG? Do we care about a remote village thousands of miles away in Norway?

The stock market got into real estate by essentially underwriting a loan to purchase a \$600,000 home in California to someone who had relatively low income. This has had a global impact. Our personal retirement account, like that of the remote village in Norway, invested in a fund that provided for the financing of this home. We haven't been doing business as usual for a long time and all of the sudden we need to pay attention.

The same issues are true in education. We are connected to Grand Valley State University, to Baker College, to Pine River Schools, to Cheboygan Otsego Presque Isle Intermediate School District, to Cadillac Schools, to Waste Management, to Citizens Bank, to a huge number of different entities, in and outside of our community. We have moved away from business as usual and are paying attention to how we might effectively collaborate.

Gone are the days when we have a retirement and it means an automatic job posting, hiring someone without fingerprinting and a criminal records check, calling a trash service and just accepting the billing without pricing our options. And, gone are the days of making an expenditure of any sort without it being put to the test of budget worthiness. We pay attention to the stock market, real estate, banking, local and global industries, the corporate world and

many things beyond our local operation that may impact us. In no way are we doing things in education that suggest business as usual.

I just got off the phone with a local superintendent who had negotiated a lower cost insurance plan for his staff, reduced several staff positions, considered contracting various services, cut supplies, reduced travel, and was still looking for fresh bailing wire and tape to keep things together for another year.

In part, it is the economy that has caused your local schools to embrace aspects of being one educational community. We are purchasing common student services software, reviewing

curriculum on a regional cycle, purchasing as a single group, beginning to share business services, sharing professional development and legal consultation. There will always be the Vikings, Bulldogs and Ramblers but we are no longer functioning as one school district. We are functioning as local school districts that share efforts for quality, economy and efficiency wherever possible.

In the new economy of our times, your local schools are working as one, like no time in the past, to bring the highest quality education we can to our communities. The economy demands our cooperation. Our students deserve the best we can be - collaboratively.

*Please call Scott Crosby at (231) 876-2260 or email at [scrosby@wmisd.org](mailto:scrosby@wmisd.org) with thoughts or questions related to our services.*

## The New Business As Usual

### *Unbridled Collaboration*

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*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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*Guest Columnist:  
State Representative,  
Joel Sheltroun  
(D – West Branch)*

## CTE Pathway Toward Graduation

In 2006, the legislature passed bills that imposed new statewide graduation requirements for this year's sophomore class. But as a number of business leaders, educators and parents have told me, these graduation requirements are not meeting the needs of all students, especially those planning to enter the skilled trades.

In fact, these new requirements, referred to as the Michigan Merit Curriculum (MMC), are endangering high school Career Technical Education (CTE). School districts are being forced to direct more funds to advanced academic classes in order to comply with the MMC. In a time when school funding is stagnant, this means reducing funding to CTE and other programs. Students are also having trouble finding time in the schedules to take career courses when so much of their four years must be spent in advanced academic classes.

For students, this loss of CTE translates into missed opportunities to develop marketable job skills and experience classes that are relevant and meaningful to them. For business, this loss translates into fewer job applicants with the skills employers need to succeed. For our entire state, this loss means that Michigan may not be able to develop a diverse economy without the skilled people job makers demand.

To address this issue, I have introduced legislation that will allow students to choose a CTE pathway toward graduation. This pathway includes many of the same rigorous requirements as the current curriculum, but students choosing the career path will be able to count up to 4 CTE credits toward their high school diploma:

Career & Technical Prep Sequence – 3 credits  
English – 4 credits  
Math – 3 credits, including Algebra I and  
Geometry  
Science – 2 credits  
Social Studies – 2 credits  
Language other than English – 2 credits  
Phys Ed and Health – 1 credit  
Online Learning Experience  
Flexible Credit in any of the above areas  
– 1 credit

I look forward to working with leaders in our communities in the coming weeks and months to pass this legislation. It is critical that our state educate our future workers effectively and ensure that Michigan has the skilled people we need to prosper. I welcome your input at 1-888-347-8103 or [jsheltroun@house.mi.gov](mailto:jsheltroun@house.mi.gov).



# Work-Based Learning

## On-the-Job Experiences for Our Students



The best way to learn a skill is to practice it and to do it. The best place to do it is where the skill is actually needed. Sound simple? It is. This serves as the principle behind a work-based program at the Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District classroom housed at the Career Technical Center.

The special education class in Lake Michigan Room of CTC has 16 students, all of whom go into the community to train and work on jobs at businesses in Cadillac. These students, 18 – 26 years old, work with job coaches at places such as Burke’s Restaurant, Blue Heron Café, Glen’s Market, Merrill’s Automotive, Cadillac Bus Garage, and Bright n Clean Laundromat. We’ve also set up job shadowing in the custodial field at the CTC, with the encouragement of Mr. Scott Crosby, Superintendent, Mr. Dave Cox, CTC Director, and Mr. Al Mohler, Custodian.

*For more information, please contact Michael Hughes at 231-876-2301 or [mhughes@wmisd.org](mailto:mhughes@wmisd.org)*

The goal of the program is to help students find a job in their community when they graduate. That’s the real challenge. It’s one thing to accept a trainee with a job coach, and another to hire a person with special needs on the payroll. But we are optimistic. Even with the economy in recession, the Cadillac business community is open to our students. Blue Heron and Country Garden Café have already hired one of our students who has shown the skills and maturity to do the job.

How do our students feel about the program? Here are some of the comments we hear about their work-based jobs: “The people there are very nice.” “The jobs are always different.” “I like making money.” “I like to tease with the staff.” “I like the supervisor.” The students look forward to going, and are sorry if they have to miss work. Many will ask to call work to let them know if they cannot come in that day.

We are excited about the program. So many teachable moments happen on the job, things we could not predict or plan for, experiences our students need to be successful. We are fortunate to have work-based learning in our school. Everyone benefits, most especially the students, but also the school and the community.





## in. qui. ry (noun)

The definition of inquiry from the dictionary is a formal investigation to determine facts of a case or, a request for information. After reading this we asked ourselves, how does inquiry, fit not only in the education system but also in the business community.

Inquiry lends itself beautifully in the classroom because children have a natural curiosity and need to know. They ask a great many questions and are willing to try and solve the problem or question at hand.

Whether teaching inquiry in math or science students need to use higher level thinking skills, collaborate with classmates-working cooperatively and sharing ideas, think creatively (outside the box), and build on prior knowledge. Inquiry teaching also, lays a foundation in which students begin to take responsibility for their own learning. Students develop skills in writing through individual reflection, they are able to analyze data-looking for relationships between evidence and explanations, and finally, use tools or different techniques to gather, and interpret information.

Now after we have elaborated on teaching inquiry to students we can see the connection between school and the business world. What employer wouldn't want a highly motivated employee who takes responsibility for themselves? Who is creative and willing to work and communicate with colleagues? Who is capable of higher level thinking skills and then able to act on what they have thought or reflected upon?

In education developing an inquiry-based program is important to the success of our students but in the end inquiry-based education produces a lifelong learner and an outstanding employee with a wealth of knowledge and skills.

*For more information, please contact Brandon Oberhaus at 876-4827 or Renee Gussert at 876-4828.*

## The 18th Annual Talent Show

The theme of this year's show is "Groovin to the 60's." The 60's were both fun and turbulent times. Focusing on the fun times is what this year's talent show is all about.

In the 60's, such significant milestones included:

- the first American in space;
- The Beatles made their American debut; and
- Weight-Watchers and Pop Tarts were both introduced to the American public.



America's love affair with the automobile was stronger than ever and Jan and Dean and The Beach Boys led the pack with songs about this love affair. Fun songs like "Teeny Weenie Itsy Bitsy Yellow Polka Dot Bikini" and the "Monster Mash" became popular hits that everyone was singing, while tie-day t-shirts were the fad and everything was groovy.

The students in Michael Hughes classroom will dazzle the audience with their funny routine to some of those crazy songs. Carol Kratochvil's students will be acting out a book that she wrote about colors, which the 60s are sure remembered for their vivid colors. Keith Kleinert's classroom will be performing a skit, which includes some of the most popular cruising' songs of the 60s including, "Route 66," "Hot Rod Lincoln," and "Little GTO." The students in Merrylye Hayes classroom will inform us of some interesting fun facts about this decade.

The student's have worked very hard at putting together a top-rated show and we look forward to dazzling the audience with songs, color and laughter.

The show times in the Lake Superior Room at the CTC are:

Wednesday, March 25—Dress Rehearsal at 1pm

Thursday, March 26—10am and 1pm

Friday, March 27—10am with cast party to follow

*For more information, please contact Keith Kleinert at 231-876-2302 or [kkleinert@wmisd.org](mailto:kkleinert@wmisd.org)*

## CTC Annual Open House

**Tuesday, April 21, 2009**

Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center

*Come see for yourself—  
what we consider the best kept secret in the area.*



9:00 am—3:00 pm  
and  
6:00—8:00 pm

Cosmetology Fashion Show

5:00—7:00 pm in the Lake Superior Room

## CTC Scholarship Golf Outing



**Saturday, May, 16, 2009**

Missaukee Golf Club

8:00 am—Registration, Coffee and Donuts

9:00 am—Shotgun Start (scramble)

2:00 pm—Lunch

\$50 per person includes  
18 holes with cart, door prizes and lunch

Proceeds will be used for scholarships  
for CTC students.

*Contact Jason Johnston at 231-876-2206 to  
register or to sponsor a hole.*

# ↑ Please Join Us ↓



Bring a Blanket to sit on with your family!

Jim Gill offers more than a show to watch. It's an opportunity for family play! In concert, Jim bangs out energetic rhythms on his banjo while everyone claps, jumps, dances and even sneezes along. The concert is filled, of course, with songs from Jim's award-winning recordings and features sing-alongs of Jim's musical books for young children.

## Free Family Concert For the Entire Community!

Bill Oliver's Conference Center  
at the Rodeway Inn  
M-55 West of M-115 in Cadillac

**Thursday April 23<sup>rd</sup>**

6:30-7:30 P.M.

**Sponsored By:**

**Wexford-Missaukee Great Start Collaborative and  
Great Parents, Great Start**

*For questions contact Wexford-Missaukee Great Start  
Co-Coordinators at 231-876-2265*





## Great Start Parent Coalition

The Great Start Parent Coalition is off and running! This group consists of parents, caregiver, educators, and grandparents who want to see every child in Michigan go to kindergarten prepared.

The coalition advocates and supports early childhood education and services for Wexford, Missaukee, and Osceola counties. We discuss issues that families with young children face, and offer possible solutions to The Great Start Collaborative, a group that makes the solutions possible.

### *How Do We Do This?*

- We work to educate one another on services for our children.
- We report to the Great Start Collaborative so they understand what the coalition wants, needs, and feels is important in our communities.
- We help the collaborative make decisions and voice our opinions to help them with their decisions.
- We work together to advocate and support early childhood services and programs in our area and throughout the state.
- We tell our legislators what we want and support bills that help our children succeed.
- We participate in community events to help inform others on who we are and to support the Great Start Collaborative members.

### *We are growing!*

Twenty-four families attended the coalition meeting in March. After a family dinner, adults met while children enjoyed supervised playtime. The coalition has focused on topics such as: Who decides if your preschooler is ready for kindergarten, providing an on-line resource for parents, and getting the word out to families about the many resources that are available in the Wexford-Missaukee area.

Please join us at our next parent coalition meeting:

**Thursday, April 16th**

5:30 – 7:00 pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church,  
11198 E. M-55, Cadillac

RSVP: Rachel Rogers, Great Start Parent Liaison  
[rrrogers22@hotmail.com](mailto:rrrogers22@hotmail.com) or 839.8500

## Area Great Start Readiness Programs Collaborate

Manton, Pine River, and Cadillac GSRP programs are writing their grants collaboratively this year. With support from Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District, Early Childhood Specialist, Liz Walker, and the three local districts worked on collaborative goals and processes.

We will have our district wide “Preschool Advisory Council” meetings at the WMISD General Education Building. We invite all local agencies that work with young children to be a part of the advisory process. As a collaborative group the local preschools will work together to support the following goals:

### **Our Child Development Goal from Creative Curriculum:**

- Comprehends and interprets meaning from books and other texts.
- Imitates act of reading in play.
- Compares and predicts story events; acts out main events of a familiar story.
- Retells a story including many details and draws connections between story events.

### **Our Parent Involvement Goal:**

- Exchange information with parents about how to promote and extend children’s learning and social development.
- Send home newsletters to parents to support and extend children’s learning.
- Follow up on information with parents at conferences and home visits on learning objectives.
- Invite parents to join the parent advisory council and local Great Start Collaborative Parent Coalition.

### **Our Program Quality Goal:**

The program has a time each day for small group activities that reflect and extend children’s interests and development.

- 1.) Staff will set aside time daily for small group activities.
- 2.) Staff will plan appropriate small group activities to support student learning in relation to the Creative Curriculum Progress Checkpoints.
- 3.) Teachers will begin to use the CC.net reporting tools to plan and implement small group activities that align with specific student needs.
- 4.) Teachers will begin to allow children to contribute their own ideas and participate at their own developmental levels.

The local buildings with the support from WMISD, Early Reading First, NMCAA and NEMSCA will be implementing the goals at their preschool advisory council meetings.

*You can learn more about the grant at the Michigan Great Start Collaborative web sites:*

<http://www.greatstartforkids.org/index.htm>

<http://www.michigan.gov/greatstart>



## MIOSHA Training Institute (sponsored by the WMISD)

**What:** Supervisor's Role in Safety and Health

**When:** April 23, 2009 (9am—4pm)

**Where:** Wexford-Missaukee CTC  
9901 E. 13th Street, Cadillac

**Cost:** \$90 per person, includes lunch and course materials

### Who Should Attend:

Managers, Employees and Business Owners

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210 or jgaffke@wmisd.org*



## Summer Academic Camps

The Wexford-Missaukee CTC has several openings for students in the 10th– 11th grade to attend week-long summer academic camps at Ferris State University at **NO COST**. Students are housed in university residence halls and are provided with on-campus meals.

The camps include:

- Biotechnology (7/19-24/09)
- Computer Technology (6/21-24/09)
- Criminal Justice (6/14-19/09)
- Television & Digital Media Production (6/21-26/09)
- Design & Manufacturing (6/14-19/09)
- Design, Transportation & Electronics (7/12-17/09)
- Architecture, Construction & Graphics (7/12-17/09)

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210 or jgaffke@wmisd.org*

# Hurry, Space is Limited!

# Fun at CTC



## Grades 6-9

*For more information contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210 or go to our website <http://ctc.wmisd.org> for a copy of the registration form*

## June 15-18, 2009

**F** Explore one of these exciting 2 or 3-day camps full of hands-on activities and programs:

**R** Computer & Technology Camp  
Culinary Camp

Diesel Power Mechanics Camp

**E** Drafting Camp  
Electronics Camp

Floral Design Camp

**E** Health Careers Camp  
Introduction to Welding/Metal Fabrication Camp

**WEXFORD-MISSAUKEE  
CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER**



## National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)

The Wexford-Missaukee CTC is now providing students with a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). This certificate is based on ACT's WorkKeys® which verify to employers that a student has attained essential core employability skills in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. The NCRC uses test results from these assessments to award certificates in three categories:

- Bronze Level:** A minimum of a level 3 in each assessment.
- Silver Level:** A minimum of a level 4 in each assessment.
- Gold Level:** A minimum of a level 5 in each assessment.

ACT WorkKeys has compiled a database of occupational profiles for thousands of jobs to determine the certain skill levels needed in Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information.

The certificate is an easily understood and universally valued credential that certifies the attainment of essential skills. It is designed to complement other traditional credentials, such as a high school diploma or college degree by confirming the student's competence in a specific set of workplace skills.

Many employers are profiling jobs based on the level of attainment in the NCRC. In fact, some companies/businesses across the country are researching the workforce (amount and level of NCRC) in states and counties before locating there.

If you are interested in more information pertaining to or becoming a partner in the National Career Readiness Certification, please call *Dave Cox, CTC Director, at 231-876-2207.*

*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.

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**Wexford-Missaukee Intermediate School District**  
9907 E. 13th Street  
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