



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 "overhaul" 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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National Career Readiness Certificate Gaining Momentum

The CTC is proud to say again this year that we will be obtaining the National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC) for all eligible 2010 CTC graduates. As you may already know, the NCRC verifies to employers anywhere in the United States that an individual has essential core employability skills in Reading, Math, and Locating Information. ACT has researched over 16,000 occupations, and these three skills are highly important to the majority of jobs in the workplace. The Certificate is an easily understood and nationally valued credential that certifies the attainment of these workplace skills.



When employers ask for the National Career Readiness Certificate for jobs in their workplace, they tap into the most qualified labor pool available. Applicants with a (NCRC) provide solid insight into their foundational skills in the core areas of Reading for Information, Applied Mathematics, and Locating Information. The NCRC can be used for:

- Screening—Employers interview only applicants who have the skills required for the job.
- Hiring and promotion—A National Career Readiness Certificate can be used as a "plus" factor to help make selection and promotion decisions.
- Targeting employee training and development—Employers can target their training budgets for job-specific skills rather than basic skills.



The Certificate is based on ACT's world-renowned WorkKeys® assessments—which remain the only proven system for linking job skills with workplace success. To earn The Certificate you must take three WorkKeys assessments—Math, Reading, and Locating Information. Your WorkKeys scores will determine what level of the Certificate you are eligible to earn. The levels of NCRC are listed below:

Bronze – scores at least a level 3 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 35 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database.

Silver – scores at least a level 4 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 65 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database.

Gold – scores at least a level 5 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 90 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database.

Platinum – scores at least a level 6 in each of the three core areas and has the necessary foundational skills for 99 percent of the jobs in the WorkKeys database.



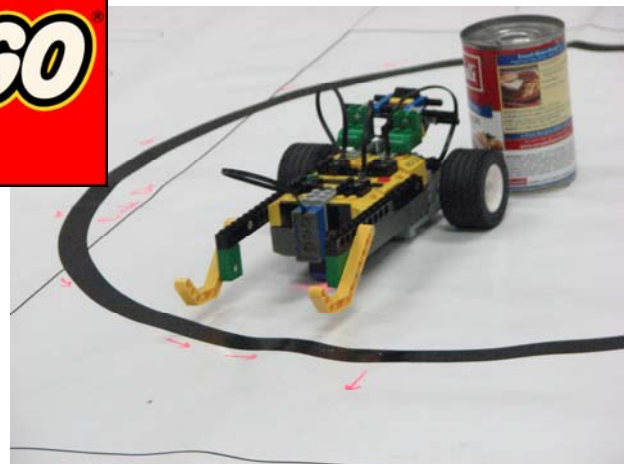
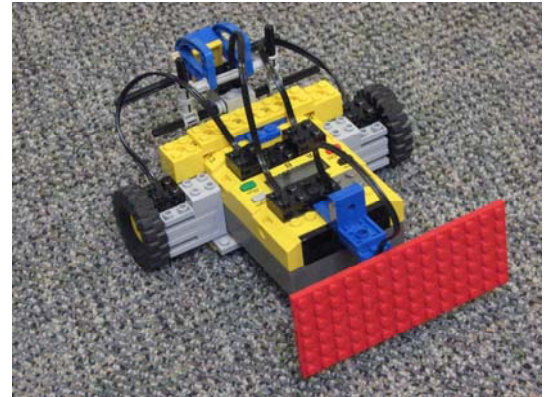
For more information, please contact David Cox, Director of Career Technical Education, at 231-876-2205 or dcox@wmisd.org.

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. The LEGO challenge is open to ALL seven school districts within our ISD and will take place at the Wexford Missaukee ISD General Education building located at 9905 E. 13th St. Cadillac, MI.

Technology is the future of our students today and should be used in their lives, EVERY day! The competition targets students in grades 5-8 and includes one challenge to complete that can be prepared ahead of time. 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.

This is an excellent opportunity for your students to show off their skills in math, science and technology. For more information contact Jodi Redman, jredman@wmisd.org.





19th Annual Talent Show March 24-26, 2010

Featuring the students from the four special education classes housed at the CTC and one class in the community.



The students were the stars of the show. They performed a little bit of everything, from stomping, clapping, bowing, strutting, spinning and promenading in a barnyard dance, to doing skits on building relationships and using cornfield jokes from "Hee Haw." They became part of a team, and experienced stage fright, felt the exhilaration of performing before a live audience and enjoyed a sense of relief and the satisfaction of a job well done.



Did you Know? Special Education Facts

As the count of all students within the seven local school districts that make up Wexford-Missaukee ISD (Cadillac, Lake City, Manton, Marion, McBain, Mesick and Pine River) has fallen from about 9,700 in 2005 to about 9,270 in 2009, the number of Special Education students has also fallen. In 2005 our Special Education count was a few shy of 1,400, and as of December 1, 2009, our Special Education count was about 1,290. Since about 14% of the public school students are also identified as being eligible for Special Education services, the fall in counts was roughly proportional.

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) keeps a close watch on each school district's: a) initial referral to initial IEP timelines, b) how well Transition pages in IEP's are completed, c) if there are too many (or not enough) students as being eligible for Special Education services based on the number of General Education students within the school district, d) the amount of time Special Education students are in General Education settings, etc.

The U.S. Department of Education's long term, overall goal (which is also a MDE goal) is that 80% of all Special Education eligible students will be in General Education settings at least 80% of the time. MDE's target goal (short term goal) for the 2009-2010 school year is 61% of all Special Education eligible students will be in General Education settings at least 80% of the time. For the 2010-2011 school year, MDE's target goal moves up to 63%.

All school districts within the Wexford-Missaukee ISD are receiving Individuals with Disability Act (IDEA) American Recovery and Restoration Act (ARRA) stimulus funds during the 2009-2010 school year. MDE officials are allowing half of all of these funds to support existing Special Education staff members during the 2009-2010 school year. The other half of the funds must be used in new initiatives, professional development, the purchase of technology for special education students, etc.

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

Math Makes a Difference (MMAD)

“I used to think, ‘Are we seriously going to use this (math)?’” Was a comment, in the beginning, from a student participating in Math Makes a Difference. After completion of the program, six hour long sessions with engineers from the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), the same student said, “But now, it’s exciting to think about and figure out how math is used in real life – it’s everywhere!”

Math Makes a Difference is a program where engineers from MDOT go out to a local district and work in a math classroom, solving problems and making real-world connections with the students. The engineers begin class by showing students an object from the civil engineering field, such as a piece of cable or boring of the road which helps explain their job and how they use mathematics. Next, the engineers present and help solve math story problems with the class and give problem solving advice.

The problems that the engineers use have been selected based on low achieving areas from our ISD wide MEAP data. This program brings community members into the classroom and motivates students to consider careers in math, science and engineering.



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

What's New at CTC?

Dental Assisting Program

Two students are participating in a Dental Assisting program through a partnership with Dental Health Professionals under the leadership of Dr. Michael Leuder. The students are receiving theory at CTC by a registered Dental Assistant and then report to the Dental Health Professional office 2 days per week for clinical rotation. This is a great partnership with a community business/employer and a way we can provide additional programming for our students.

New Program Name

The Electrical Occupations and Computers & Electronics programs will be combined to form a new program, Computers Networking and Electronics Technology or CNET.

Public Safety at CTC

The Public Safety program will soon be completing it's first year at the Career Technical Center. During the first semester, the students were under the tutelage of Frank Dickson, a retired Michigan State Police Trooper, while earning dual enrollment credit through West Shore Community College. The second semester brought Terry Williams on board as the instructor. Terry is contracted through Forest Area Schools and is a certified Kalkaska County Deputy Sheriff. The students are currently dual enrolled with Baker College.

The program's expanding curriculum includes: corrections, criminal justice, fire safety, fire science, court systems, emergency response, and dispatch. Every Friday the students attend the YMCA Dillon Community Center for physical training and water safety and rescue. The Public Safety program at the CTC will continue to offer students opportunities and exposure to many careers within the Public Safety field.

For more information, please contact David Cox, Director of Career Technical Education, at 231-876-2205 or dcoc@wmisd.org.

CTC Summer Camps June 16-18, 2010

Automotive Camp

Come in and explore the exciting and challenging world of automobile maintenance and repair. During this three day camp, students will be introduced to basic electrical circuits and the use of multimeters used for electrical system testing. Students will also learn basic under hood and under car maintenance procedures that are the fundamentals of automobile preventative maintenance. Come see what the world of automotive repair holds for you!

Business Camp

Making Memories in Multi-Media—Have fun and learn tricks in business that everyone wants to know. Use digital photos and your own pictures that you scan to produce videos with video cameras and web-cams to create a movie "All About You" on MovieMaker. Plus, create your own personalized greeting cards, memo pads, or calendar with your own and other pictures; bind the calendar for a memorable keepsake or gift.

Computer and Technology Camp

This program offers students an unique adventure in technology and computer exploration not normally encountered during the regular school-year classes. The IT Camp promises to be a fun, hands-on and educational program that further develops young people's technology skills through a variety of non-traditional projects and activities. Students will explore computing technology, build pc's and look into technology career opportunities. Each student will have use of his/her own computer workstation for the program.

Diesel Power Mechanics Camp

Come in and discover the exciting world of diesel powered heavy equipment. During this 3-day camp, students will learn how a diesel engine works, how electrical systems work and learn what today's technicians will need to know to keep the equipment working. Students will learn new skills on live equipment, run engines and use a computer. After this fun and exciting camp, students will look at diesel powered equipment and trucks in different way.

Electronics Camp

Come and explore the world of Electricity and Electronics in this FUN and interactive program. Students will learn about lightning and perform fascinating electronic experiments. Students will also learn about various electronic components and how to solder. An electronic kit will be built that the student can take home with them.

Floral Design Camp

During this 3-day camp, students will learn basic floral design. Through hands-on activities, students will learn flower care, tool safety, flower textures, proper color schemes and basic floral supplies. Students will also be given an opportunity to create and take home a basic floral arrangement.

Health Careers Camp

Explore exciting medical careers which may include: Laboratory Technician, Pharmacist, Nursing, Medical Assistant, EMT/Paramedic, Surgical Technician, Veterinarian and Physical Therapy. The Wexford-Missaukee CTC, Baker College of Cadillac and Mercy Hospital have once again partnered together to sponsor the 6th Annual Health Career Camp. Students will have opportunities to meet with medical professionals, have hands-on experiences and tour the local hospital. Transportation to the hospital will be provided.

Junior Police Academy

Join us and be part of a fun-filled, action packed three days of Junior Police Academy. Students will take part in physical training and conditioning, police and detective methods, watching police videos, talking to police officers and fire fighters. Students will also visit a police station and a fire department.

Power Sports and Equipment Camp

Come in and learn what the world of Power Sports and Equipment has to offer. During this 3-day camp, students will learn what is involved in power sports and equipment, such as motorcycles, ATV and turf equipment. Through hands-on activities with both 2 cycle and 4 cycle engines, students will have the opportunity to learn about engine theory and operate different types of engines.

Woodworking Camp

Do you enjoy building things and working with your hands? Come and spend three days in the woodshop crafting your very own pinewood derby car. Students in this class will learn to design their cars, build them using a variety of different tools, and trick them out with custom paint jobs. On the final day of the camp, put your design skills to the test as we take the finished cars to the track.

F U N	Grades 6-8	
	FREE	
	9 AM—12 PM	

CTC Summer Camps

June 16-18, 2010

Grades 6—8  9 am—12 pm

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

- Automotive Camp
- Business Camp
- Computer & Technology Camp
- Diesel Power Mechanics Camp
- Electronics Camp
- Floral Design Camp
- Health Careers Camp
- Junior Police Academy
- Power Sports & Equipment Camp
- Woodworking Camp

**Hurry.
Space is
Limited!**

Free

**WEXFORD-MISSAUKEE
CAREER TECHNICAL CENTER**
9901 E. 13th Street, Cadillac, MI 49601

**Registration
Deadline is
May 3, 2010.**



2010 CTC Summer Camp Registration Form

Student's Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City, Zip: _____
Gender: Male Female
Grade Entering 2010/11: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Home Phone: _____
Other Phone: _____
Emergency Contact Name: _____
Emergency Contact Phone: _____
Adult Shirt Size: _____
 Small Medium Large X-Large



Please indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd camp choices.

- _____
- _____
- _____

Required:
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Some of the summer camps may include a field trip in the Cadillac area. Transportation will be provided by the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center. A parent/guardian must sign below to give permission to the student to participate on the field trip.

Required:
Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Please check below only if you do not want your student to participate in publicity or photos taken by event sponsors or other news media outlets.

NO, I do not want my student involved in publicity or photos during summer camp.

Please mail **COMPLETED** registration form to:

Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center
Attn: Jennifer Gaffke
9901 E. 13th Street
Cadillac, MI 49601



For more information, please call
Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210.
Visit our website at <http://ctc.wmisd.org>.



MIOSHA Training Institute (sponsored by the WMISD)

- What:** How to Conduct a Workplace Inspection
- When:** June 3, 2010
(9:00 am—4pm)
- Where:** Wexford-Missaukee CTC
9901 E. 13th Street
Cadillac, MI 49601
- Cost:** \$90 per person, includes lunch and course materials

For more information, please contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231.876.2210 or jgaffke@wmisd.org

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.

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

William Sparks—President
Dr. Garold Koester—Vice-President
Chris McCrinmon—Treasurer
Dean Smallegan—Secretary
Harold Kibbe—Trustee
Daryl Morr—Trustee
Jackie Ruppel—Trustee

Wexford-Missaukee
Intermediate School District
9907 E. 13th Street
Cadillac, MI 49601

