



The budget challenges in this state and in our area will result in a significant structural change in how education is delivered as early as next school year. In the 2010-11 school year, we will have ten percent less funding than we did in the 2008-09 school year. We will likely not return the funding level we had per student in 2008-09 until the year 2020. Simply put, we can not continue to operate schools as we have in the past.

What can we do? We will have to change our structure. Seat time waivers can now provide 10% of all students an opportunity to gain their education online. Use of these waivers will

increase. Independent local school systems will begin to work together with neighboring schools to provide programs. People will work across school districts to provide many types of support services, instructional services, administrative services, business services, technology, transportation, food services, substitute services, athletics, music, art, foreign languages, and other extra curricular activities.

My guess is that school employee insurance benefits will be capped not by local districts, but by the state. The state will reward the consolidation of services (not necessarily the consolidation of schools) between school districts. How we spend our local school money will be subject for public review online. And, locally we have the tough financial choice if we want to subsidize an underfunded state system by voting for or against school millage once again. Wages and

benefit packages for public education will remain mostly stagnant, with little change seen for the next eight to ten years.

So, given all of this, what motivates us to not only provide but to improve what we do for students?

Well, money was never the primary motivation but it

has become important to our lifestyle. Innovation and facing change head on will become the primary motivator. How can we use technology to engage children? What can we gain from expanded sharing to deliver better

instruction? And, how will we engage our communities to make education their top priority during challenging economic times?

We will meet the challenge and the economy will improve. Bank on persistence, embrace change and work to lead those you influence. If you are an educator, you have the capacity to be a leader, and your community needs your educational leadership during these difficult times.

*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.*

## A Time Like No Other

*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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## Rigor, Relevance, and Relationships



**November 2, 2009  
In-Service**



For more information, please contact,  
Julie McCall at 231-876-2265 or  
jmcalls@wmisd.org.

### **K-12 educators:**

On November 2, 2009, we welcome back Cathy Hamilton. Cathy was well received on November 3, 2008 when she presented: *Faces of AYP-Reaching All Students / Concepts of equity and dignity for all people and the assurance that continuous learning moves us further along that journey.* On November 2, 2009, Cathy will support our next steps "along that journey." During her morning session she will begin with the what, why, and how of relationships. Cathy will provide a resource tool, model, explain a lesson design template, and set a protocol that makes building relationships an intentional part of daily planning.

During the afternoon grade level sessions, teachers will work in small groups putting Cathy's recommendations into action. **K-12 teachers are asked to bring lessons they are currently teaching or planning to teach within the next month.** In these small groups, individuals will be sharing ideas, creating together, talking across contents, and across districts using the resource tool, lesson design template and protocol with lessons that they are currently teaching. Administrators, counselors, and social workers will meet directly with Cathy where she will clarify the support necessary to implement and continue the process of building relationships to improve student learning.

### **Early Childhood Educators:**

The Early Childhood Educators will be attending Conscious Discipline presented by Lesa Rice, NMCAA. Conscious Discipline® is an emotional intelligence program based on Brain Smart® strategies developed by Dr. Becky Bailey. Conscious Discipline® guides parents, teachers, administrators and staff through a specific process of promoting positive behavior changes. Change from a traditional reward and punishment, to a relationship-based community model that relies on cultivating higher-order thinking skills. It empowers both children and adults to respond rather than react to life events.

**What a fabulous opportunity. Districts working together,  
building relationships that will improve student learning.**



## Moving A Special Needs Preschool Classroom To Manton Elementary School



*For more information, please contact Maria Reynolds, Supervisor of Special Education, at 231-876-2295 or [mreynolds@wmisd.org](mailto:mreynolds@wmisd.org).*

By moving a special needs preschool classroom into a local setting, the WMISD Preschool Program has taken a step forward to meeting the Federal and State initiative that children will be educated in the least restrictive setting possible.

Manton Elementary School Principal Cathy Smart has been instrumental in the process of relocating the ISD classroom to the Manton site, after expressing a desire to see all Manton preschoolers, including those with special needs, educated in their local school. Benefits to having an ISD preschool in the local building are reduced travel time for the children, reduced transportation costs for the local district, and siblings in the same school; thus giving families a greater sense of community and continuity in the education of their children.

Research shows that special needs children learn best when they are educated alongside typical peers. The benefits of inclusion are seen in the social, communication and cognitive behaviors in the preschool classroom. Children learn from watching, interacting and conversing with each other. Typical children learn to develop positive attitudes towards others, and those with disabilities are provided with competent peers with whom to interact and communicate.

Having an ISD preschool classroom in Manton Elementary will allow for the opportunity of integration with the GSRP preschool and kindergarten students on the playground and in the classrooms. This is an exciting move that can only benefit all the children involved. Many thanks to Manton Schools for providing the physical space and for ensuring a smooth transition with careful planning and support. This promises to be an exciting year for staff and students of Manton and WMISD as we form a partnership in the education of our students.

*(Written by Ruth Center,  
Preschool Teacher/Consultant)*



Upcoming Professional Development	Date(s)	Time
<b>Pre-School</b>		
Implementing the Creative Curriculum Preschool PLC (Series of 3)	November 13	9:00 am—12:00 pm
<b>ELA</b>		
The Literacy Block	November 12	(K-2) 8:15—11:30 (3-5) 12:15—3:30
Literacy Work Stations (K-2)	December 8	8:30—3:30
Literacy Work Stations (3-6)	December 10	8:30—3:30
Guided Reading Groups (K-2)	January 12	8:30—3:30
Guided Reading Groups (3-6)	January 14	8:30—3:30
Learning New Information through High School ELA PLC (Series of 3)	November 18	8:30—11:00
<b>Social Studies</b>		
Learning New Information through High School Social Studies PLC (Series of 3)	November 18	1:00—3:30
K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Review	TBD	
<b>Mathematics and Science</b>		
Algebra 4 All (Series of 8)	October 23 November 20	8:30—3:30
*Inquiry and Technology in Mathematics (6-8)	November 19	8:30—3:30
*Learning How to Make Science Part of Your Day (Series of 5)	November 19	(5-7) 8:30—11:00 (K-4) 1:00—3:30
Learning New Information through High School Science PLC (Series of 3)	November 18	1:00—3:30
<b>Other</b>		
ELL Awareness Training	November 5	8:30—3:30
Learning New Information through Distance Learning PLC (Series of 9)	October 20	3:20—4:20
How to Coach for Increased Student Achievement (Series of 4)	November 6	8:15—11:30

\*PD is pending grant approval—check website for updates.

For more information, please contact Julie McCall at 231-876-2265 or [jmcall@wmisd.org](mailto:jmcall@wmisd.org).

## State School Aid Budget Passes

Finally! The legislature passed the school aid budget on October 9, 2009. The budget, as passed, is not great for Michigan's schools. There is a tendency to fall back on "it could have been worse." There was certainly talk of deeper cuts but the cuts that were made are still deep and will be difficult to deal with. The most basic item in the budget, the per pupil foundation allowance, was reduced by \$165 per student, which is approximately a 3% reduction to the basic foundation. Intermediate district discretionary funding, section 81, was reduced by 20%. Many other items were cut as well. To my knowledge, only one item was increased over the prior year, CEPI.

The timing of these cuts is very difficult for schools. Since the school's fiscal year began on July 1, 2009, we are greater than one third through the current year when the cuts were made. To further complicate matters, the budget includes new language that schools may take the cuts in certain categorical funds rather than the foundation if a "Service Consolidation Plan" that reduces costs is approved by the Department of Education by February 1, 2010. The format and content of that plan are as of yet unknown. Also, February 1, 2010 is seven twelfths of the way through the current year. So while we may have gained flexibility we will not be certain about it until then.

Another wrinkle in the new budget is a requirement that all schools post certain financial information on their web sites. On the surface, the information required does not seem very difficult to produce or to post. There is a problem, though, with cutting funding but increasing administrative burden. Lastly, the cuts in the budget may not be deep enough to sustain funding for the current year. Tax collections continue to come in well below projections. There could very well be additional cuts made after the revenue consensus conference in January. In the end, hold on to your hat because it's going to be a bumpy ride.

*For more information, please contact Tom Armstrong, Director of Business Services, at 231-876-2312 or [tarmstrong@wmisd.org](mailto:tarmstrong@wmisd.org).*

## Special Education and CTC Students Receive a \$1,250 Grant from MEEMIC

The special education and career technical students and staff of the WMISD received a grant from MEEMIC for \$1,250 to expand their in-school recycling program.

The CTC students will create a process to collect and transport recyclable materials, such as cardboard, paper, batteries, and metal. Students will place containers in each program, collect materials, and transport the materials to the Wexford County recycling center. Promotional materials will be created, distributed, posted and discussed at student and staff meetings to emphasize the importance of recycling. The students will become more aware of the benefits of recycling and the impact on the environment.

The staff in moderately cognitively impaired special education adult student classrooms will enhance their curriculum by providing a link to the community, school and the earth while teaching responsibility. Interaction with the community and school is vitally important for these students to learn to communicate, work and live responsibly. The benefits of recycling will be taught and shown to the students. The students will tour the recycling center and the landfill. They will discuss the impact that garbage has on groundwater. Also, the students will open a bag of garbage and see how much of it can actually be recycled. Each student will be responsible for collecting the recycling materials, sorting and helping to transport the materials to the recycling center.

The multiple severely impaired students will be exposed to recycling which will provide them with an age appropriate activity that is not only productive but also functional. The staff will read books and show videos on the benefits of recycling. Students, assisted by the teacher and aides, will collect recycling materials within their classrooms and a portion of their wing in the career technical center building.

*For more information, please contact Jennifer Gaffke at 231-876-2210 or [jgaffke@wmisd.org](mailto:jgaffke@wmisd.org).*



## Common Curriculum Review Process

The Wexford-Missaukee Curriculum Task Force provides a network for local schools to coordinate and support curriculum development. Last school year the group approved a common curriculum review cycle. This is exciting because it will allow district teacher representatives to meet and create a common written curriculum for K-12 instruction.

Each school year, all of the local school districts within the WMISD will work together to review one or two curriculum areas and make a recommendation for teaching and learning resources. Our first curriculum reviews will start this November with Social Studies and World Languages.

The Curriculum Task Force has approved a process for completing a common curriculum review based on ASCD's *Align the Design* by Mooney and Maushack. The process includes: (a) Data Analysis of both student achievement data and available curriculum resources, (b) Clarification of Standards by creating student friendly language, discussing depth of knowledge and reviewing assessment items, and (c) creating a Guide for Instructions that includes units or pacing and an assessment map.

# Curriculum

### Social Studies Curriculum Review (2009-10):

Proposed dates are worked in coordination with the HS Social Studies PLC.

November 18	HS Social Studies PLC - 1:00-3:30
December 2	K-12 Social Studies Curriculum review 1st meeting
January 6	K-12 Social Studies Curriculum review 2 <sup>nd</sup> meeting
February 12	K-12 Social Studies curriculum review 3 <sup>rd</sup> meeting
February 23	HS Social Studies PLC 1:00-3:00
April 13	K-12 Social Studies Curriculum Review 4 <sup>th</sup> meeting (combine with HS PLC) 8:30-3:30
June TBA	Unit Pacing, Assessment Mapping

### Dates for World Languages Curriculum Review (2009-10):

November 11	Day #1 World Languages Curriculum Review
January 13	Day #2 World Languages Curriculum Review
February 12	Social Studies is this day. <i>If there is a room available and another consultant available, World Languages can work the same day.#3</i>
February 19	Alternate day #3 World Languages Curriculum Review
April 15	Day #4 World Languages Curriculum Review
June TBA	Unit Pacing, Assessment Mapping

## CTC Task Force Established

The Wexford-Missaukee Career and Technical Center has established a Task Force to re-imagine Career and Technical Education in the WMISD. This committee is made up of business and industry leaders, education leaders, advisory committee members, and community members. The Task Force will take a look at current CTC programs for validity, growth, and expansion. In addition, they will look to the future to see what must change or be reshaped as we look at increased skill demands on today's workforce, addressing students' performance challenges, such as dropout rates and disengaged learners, as well as the challenges of a global economy.

*For more information, please contact David Cox, CTE Director, at 231-876-2207 or [dcox@wmisd.org](mailto:dcox@wmisd.org).*

## CTC Receives a Renewing Michigan's Schools Energy Grant

The CTC was selected as one of fifteen schools to receive a grant that will install and provide instruction on wind, solar, bio fuels, bio mass, weather, green building, and more. The total grant award is worth approximately \$75,000 in equipment and curriculum.

The goal is to have CTC become a renewable energy demonstration site with resident experts to further educate the local communities. Michigan-made products, curriculum, and labor will be utilized to the fullest extent. The intent is for the CTC to be capable of producing \$600-\$800 of energy annually. With a projected 20 year life span, this project could save the WMISD \$12,000—\$16,000 in energy costs.

Stay tuned for more to come on this exciting opportunity for our students and communities.

*For more information, please contact David Cox, CTE Director, at 231-876-2207 or [dcox@wmisd.org](mailto:dcox@wmisd.org).*



**CTC Is The Place To Be**



*CTC Students in the Hospitality, Retailing, and Entrepreneurship program celebrate DECA week doing community service projects in downtown Cadillac on October 13, 2009.*



## CTC Students To Begin Mentoring MS Students

The Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center will begin a Middle School Mentoring Program for approximately 25-30 seventh grade students. Students who are considered either "at risk" or "potentially at risk" will be identified by staff at the local middle schools using the criteria identified by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in his Dropout Challenge Program. Students will need to apply and be accepted into the "Got Potential" program at the CTC. We anticipate the first group of 7<sup>th</sup> grade students will begin this program during 2<sup>nd</sup> semester of the 2009-10 school year.

*For more information, please contact, Jill Baker-Cooley at 231-876-2208 or [jbaker@wmisd.org](mailto:jbaker@wmisd.org).*



## CTC National Technical Honor Society



The 2009-10 school year brings several new and exciting projects for the Wexford-Missaukee CTC National Technical Honor Society. The CTC has 36 returning NTHS members from its 2008-09 inaugural membership. NTHS members will maintain a 3.5 or better GPA, have five or fewer absences per semester and each member will volunteer for ten hours of community service. Our members have set a group goal of 500 community service hours for the 2009-10 school year.

Twenty-one NTHS members began their community service projects in September working on an Adopt-A-Highway project thru MDOT. Holly Smith (Manton, HRE), Matt McGinness (Lake City, Agriscience) and Tyler Smith (Mesick, Agriscience) volunteered to decorate orange construction cones, which will be displayed September 26 in downtown Cadillac for the United Way's Crazy Cone Contest during the Fall Festival.

On October 8, Todd Labs (Lake City, Auto Service) will provided information to senior citizens on "Winter Travel Survival" during the Council on Aging Get Ready for Winter project. NTHS members are organizing a Breast Cancer Awareness Day, October 22 with WMISD staff and CTC students wearing pink. Throughout the week of October 19-23, NTHS members will sell pink ribbons to students and staff and "Pink" ice cream as well as other activities to raise money for breast cancer awareness and research.

The NTHS members are partnering with the United Way and Counsel on Aging on a variety of projects throughout the school year and are planning to speak about NTHS to all eight area school boards as well as the WM-ISD Board.

*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*

### WMISD Mission Statement

William Sparks—President  
Dr. Garold Koester—Vice-President  
Chris McTrimmmon—Treasurer  
Dean Smallegan—Secretary  
Harold Kibbe—Trustee  
Daryl Morr—Trustee  
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### WMISD Board of Education

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