



Logan (left) and Kay (right) are having fun in Ruth Center's pre-school classroom



Meeting the Needs of the Visually Impaired Students

Over the past twelve (12) years, WMISD had only a few students with visual impairments, and we contracted with surrounding Intermediate School District's (ISD's) a day or two (per week) to serve the needs of our students. Due to an increased need, WMISD has hired a full-time Teacher Consultant for the Visually Impaired who is also certified in Orientation & Mobility. We are very pleased to have Rebecca Wright-Somsel on staff this year.

Rebecca Wright-Somsel is our new part-time Teacher Consultant for the Visually Impaired. Her last position was in Hillsdale ISD, and she has had Team Teaching experience in Battle Creek High School. Rebecca will also be providing Orientation & Mobility services to our Visually Impaired students.



Maria Reynolds is the ISD's newest Supervisor of Special Education working in preschool. She has previously served WMISD as the Preschool Coordinator with additional responsibilities with Early On. Maria also has more than 20 years of preschool experience.



Kellie Mulder is our new Early On Coordinator. She comes to us with a background in School Social Work with experience from Kent ISD, a state-wide Early On leader. She grew up in Lake City and attended high school at Northern Michigan Christian.

Keith Kleinert is our new Teacher of the Severely Cognitively Impaired (SCI) Adult classroom. He comes to us with related experiences from Clare-Gladwin RESD and COOR ISD.



Val O'Neill is our Teacher Assistant in Doug Olson's classroom for the Moderately Cognitively Impaired at Mackinaw Trail Middle School. She has regularly subbed for WMISD over the last several years in a variety of rooms with many students.



Leslie Sauter is our new School Social Worker. She comes to us with more than 10 years of experience in the Mt. Pleasant School District and 10 more years of experience with Community Mental Health for Central Michigan.



Nicole Schaub is one of our new Speech Therapists. She comes to us with clinical experience from Mercy Rehabilitation Services in Cadillac.

Annette Schneider is our new Teacher Assistant in Severely Cognitively Impaired Adult classroom. She has regularly subbed for WMISD and also has many years of experience with Northern Lakes Community Mental Health.



Roger Thorne is our new Speech Therapist. He has more than 20 years of experience in primarily clinical contracting situations, and he has also had school experiences in West Branch/Rose City, Algonac, Mt. Clemens, etc.



WMISD Board of Education

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WMISD 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.

Upcoming October Issue:
Special Edition for
Local School District Teaching Staff

Focus on the Future



Wexford Missaukee Intermediate School District is introducing a new concept with our newsletter. We are looking to be more informational, with an eye on what will be upcoming. We do many things across our district that you should know about. Today, we want to give you some insight as to what you might expect from us.

First of all, welcome back to the 2008-09 school year. Representing all of our area schools, we face many challenges ahead. As I author this article I have to wonder about the impact of challenges in financial markets, about how presidential politics will change our lives for the next four years, and about what changes lie ahead for Education.

For the coming year we have fifty-five more Career and Technical Education students in our Career Center. We have added staff and emphasis to address the need for high quality universal preschool. And we are doing more things in collaboration with all of our area schools.

This year we will be visiting schools and children at earlier age with staff from our Career Technical Center. We will be working with local schools in Special Education to identify children who struggle early in their school experience with reading and math and then provide specific intervention assistance to the school and children. In General Education we continue to work with schools to meet the standards established by the Michigan Merit Curriculum. And, we are actively helping local districts with collaborative purchasing, technology services, curriculum services and business services. **If we can develop appropriate collaborative activities that create efficiencies and save local districts time and money, while improving quality, we can all serve children better in years to come.**

Please read our new forward looking newsletter. If it helps you understand what we have upcoming, or what we are hoping to accomplish that is good. If you would like more information on the programs and services offered by the WMISD, please don't hesitate to contact me at (231) 876-2262 or email me at scrosby@wmisd.org.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Scott Crosby
Superintendent



The Winds Of Change Are Blowing At CTC!

As the new Director of the Career and Technical Center at the Wexford-Missaukee ISD, I would like to share with you all the exciting changes for the 2008-09 school year.

First, Charlie Schwarz has assumed the roles and duties as Principal of the WMCTC. We are also extremely pleased to have three new people on staff. Tim Rigling is the new Instructor of the Electrical Occupations program, formerly known as Robotics/Automation, and Tim Johnson is the new Paraprofessional in the Heavy Equipment Mechanics program. Our new Secretary / Receptionist in the main office is Sheri Pollington.

Second, the beginning and ending instructional times have been adjusted to accommodate the students from Cadillac as they have switched to trimesters this year.

Third, we will be pursuing more dual enrollment opportunities for our students through Baker College and Ferris State University as well as being able to continue to offer academic credit options for students to meet the new Michigan high school graduation requirements.

Additionally, we will be providing students with more career awareness opportunities at an earlier age by providing tours of the CTC to all 8th grade students within the ISD. We will also be traveling to each local district to discuss careers with upper elementary and middle school students.

Our goal is simple, "Preparing Students for Career Success." The entire staff at the WMCTC is proud of all the educational opportunities we have provided for students over the years and will strive to continue that legacy. As your new CTE Director, I will make you one promise, and that is we will continue to strive to look for ways to keep the CTC "the place to be".

Please feel free to stop in and see first hand the power of Career and Technical Education.

Yours in education,


David J. Cox

CTE Director



Co-op Students of the Month:



Kelsi Baron—Allied Health Technologies, Mesick HS, Mesick Dental Center

Derek Curtis—Agriscience & Natural Resources, Pine River HS, Northwoods Feed and Supply



Work-Based Learning at WMCTC

The Work-Based Learning office encourages CTC students to explore career options through job shadowing, work exploration and co-operative education.

Job Shadowing is either a half day or full day visit to a job site to learn more about a career. Students follow an adult worker through a portion of their day, asking questions and observing tasks, allowing them to see the skills, education, and qualifications needed for that particular career.

Work Exploration is an instructional technique in which a student is placed with an employer for up to 45 hours to observe and participate in a work setting. This is an unpaid experience and must be CTC program related. While employment may result from the work exploration, it is not necessarily the intended outcome.

Co-operative Education is a paid job, and is an extension of a student's CTC program in which the student is enrolled. This part-time job is planned through a written training plan incorporating the skills learned in the CTC program in an on-the-job setting.

New Staff, More Students

John Partridge, CTC Instructor

We are off to a flying start in the Computers and Electronics class. We welcome Tim Rigling as the new Electrical Occupations instructor. Tim brings many years of technical and teaching experience to both of our programs. We have combined some curriculum and are team teaching due to the similarities in our programs.

The Computers and Electronics class would also like to welcome our new paraprofessional, Shawn Kadwell, who joined our staff last spring. He has 15 years of experience as an electronic technician and communication installer formerly with Northern Fire and Safety and Cellular One/ Dobson. Shawn feels strongly about the hands-on technical experiences we are providing with Career and Technical Education.

Lastly, student enrollment is up in both technology programs. Students are continuing their practice for the A+, Network+, or HTI+ certifications as well as preparing for careers in electrical and mechanical engineering, residential wiring, robotics, hydraulics, and pneumatics.

Great Start Readiness Program Consortium Grant

General Education is implementing several collaborative Early Childhood Projects to support the WMISD Early Childhood goal: *Within 3-5 years all children within the WMISD service area will enter Kindergarten with skills that allow them to meet the needs of the new grade level content expectations.*

A new consortium with Cadillac, Manton, and Pine River districts has been initiated to provide opportunities for Early Childhood programs under the Great Start Readiness Program Grant. General Education will support these programs through licensing, professional development and instructional assistance.

The second new responsibility for General Education is the Great Parents, Great Start Grant, which had been facilitated by Special Education in the past. Staff will continue to look at data to help identify gaps and develop programs that support the needs of children and families.

The third new initiative is the successful receipt of the Great Start Collaborative Grant. This three-year grant provides funds for staff to advocate and lead initiatives in quality Early Childhood program development. The first six months has been set aside for regional Early Childhood program planning.

Math Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative Grant

Renee Gussert and Brandon Oberhaus (Cadillac Area Public Schools) will be assigned to the Manistee, Wexford-Missaukee Regional Math Science Centers next semester. This opportunity has been made possible through a Michigan Math Science Teacher Leadership Collaborative Grant. Renee and Brandon have already received seven days of training for the project. This project helps to support the WMISD goal: *Within 3-5 years all middle and high school buildings will be aligned to curriculum and implementing the new high school content expectations and Michigan Graduation Requirements.*



Pat Apfel is our new ELA Instructional Consultant. Pat has many years of classroom experience, with an emphasis in English Language Arts. She was the Reading First coach for the Marion Schools for two years and Title I Director in prior years.

Ming Ha was recently hired to support Manton Consolidated Schools through a collaborative technology project. Ming comes to us with network and help desk experience. She is a great asset to our technology team.



Career and Technical Education

Increase in 2008-09 Enrollment

The enrollment at the Wexford-Missaukee Career Technical Center has increased by 55 students from last year. A total of 567 students are currently attending one of thirteen programs.

CTE Programs

The thirteen state-approved Career and Technical Education programs offered at the WMCTC include: Agriscience and Natural Resources, Automotive Services, Building Trades, Business Management Administration, Computers and Electronics, Cosmetology, Electrical Occupations, Health Occupations, Heavy Equipment Mechanics, Hospitality, Retailing and Entrepreneurship, Machine Trades, Metal Fabrication, and Power Sports and Equipment.

For a look into the great opportunities and programs at the WMCTC, please stop by; we would love to give you a tour and tell you why "the CTC is the place to be."

Articulated Credit

Students can also earn free college credit through articulation. Articulated credit allows high school students to receive college credit for Career and Technical Education courses, thereby eliminating the need for duplication of similar courses at the college level.

Dual Enrollment Credit

To assist students with preparation for college, the WMCTC offers dual enrollment with Baker College of Cadillac. As part of the curriculum in each program, students earn four college credits at the completion of their senior year. These credits are awarded free of charge to students who successfully complete their coursework. These credits can be transferred to most colleges or universities within the State of Michigan.



Tim Ringling joins the ISD staff as the new Electrical Occupations Instructor in the Career Technical Center. Prior to the WMCTC, Tim was most recently employed at the Mecosta-Osceola ISD.



Tim Johnson has been hired as the new Paraprofessional in the Heavy Equipment Mechanics program at the CTC.



Sheri Pollington has been hired as the new CTC Secretary / Receptionist. She was previously employed by the MSU County Extension Office.