

Transitioning learning into the 21st century



iPads go to school

A pilot program in two area classrooms has some of our youngest students using the most advanced technology to enhance their learning. Ashley McDonald's kindergarten class at Lakeview Elementary and Amber Kowatch's second grade classroom at Franklin Elementary have been outfitted with iPads for each student for the 2010-2011 school year.

In the kindergarten room, the iPads are used during small group centers, whole group, and individually. They have proven to be great tools for reinforcing previously taught skills. According to McDonald:
"One great thing about a lot of the applica-



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iPADS: Classroom success

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tions is that they are self-correcting, so the students are able to monitor their own learning. I have a student who struggles with traditional paper pencil assignments, and the iPad has allowed him a different opportunity to learn the curriculum. Not only do the apps provide additional hands-on experience, but using the iPad with our class wiki has allowed the students multiple experiences to see their work displayed. We have made a few class books

"My favorite thing about the iPad is that we are learning new things."

-Molly

and the children love seeing their work in a book on the iPad that they can read over and over again. They are very motivating for all students. By having them in the classroom, I am able to reach all learning styles and levels."

Second graders at Lakeview are blogging, emailing, using wiki's, listening to podcasts, watching and creating movies, making

iBooks and so much more. Kowatch's second graders are doing more than she ever imagined they could:

"What I'm learning is so cool. You can go on the iPad and see Michigan."

-Emma

"The iPads have exceeded all of my wildest expectations. All of my goals have been met very early in the year and I am now creating new goals each day, week, and month. The iPads have opened my eyes to a whole new way of learning. I think differently about how kids learn and my reflection process has changed too. I am looking at assessments and using that data to change the way I teach.

I now think, "Will my students be engaged?" The question ultimately leads me to, "How can I do this on the iPad?" If I can do it on the iPads, the students will be engaged and learning at their fullest potential. The iPad has forever

"My favorite thing about the iPad is that we can listen to podcasts."

-Avah

changed the way I will teach and it has changed the way my students learn. My students want to learn and nothing is more exciting than that!"

In addition to their work in the classroom, these teachers and students are sharing what they are learning with educators from around the state and region.

On Nov. 9, Kowatch, along with three of her second grade students and their Principal, Andrea Large, traveled to Lansing for a day of sharing their experiences with the iPads. Set up in the

"My favorite thing about the iPad is that I get my very own."

-Hanna

halls of the State Capitol, the students and their teacher got to share their story, show off their skills, and talk with politicians about how technology is transitioning the classroom and learning right into the hands of children. Recently, their proposal to present at the Michigan Association of Computer Users in Learning (MACUL) was accepted. On March 18, 2011, Ashley

and Amber will present at Cobo Hall in Detroit on their year and their experiences with the iPads. As an outcrop of our Re-Imagine efforts, this project is leveraging a wide range of grants for online learning, project based learning, student data and assessment, and technology integration. Funded by the Mason-Lake and Oceana ISD, under grants from the Michigan Department of Education, this project serves as a pilot program that may spark similar efforts across the region. We have only just begun to travel down this path.

Stay tuned, this development should be interesting to watch... just ask the kids!



Mason-Lake & Oceana ISDs' boards of education are leaders in transitions

BY LAWRENCE D. LLOYD
SUPERINTENDENT
MASON-LAKE and OCEANA ISDs

Webster identifies several words as synonyms for the word transition including passage, shift, evolution, growth, and alteration. Over the years, public education programs and services have often been in a transition of some type. While some of these transitions have been based on sound research and practice for improvement, others have been pretty much the 'flavor of the month' variety. In recent times, we have shared examples of many collaborative initiatives that require a transition into a new 'collaborative' way of doing business. Transitions are rarely easy regardless of the change that is needed. School Board members at the Mason-Lake and Oceana Intermediate School Districts have accelerated many operational transitions and 'Business as Usual' really is a thing of the past.

In addition to sharing a superintendent since 2005, other examples of completed and/or ongoing transitions for the Mason-Lake and Oceana Intermediate School District Organizations include:

- One Special Education Department
- One General Education Department
- One Career-Technical Education Department
- One Technology department
- One Business Department
- One Human Resources Department
- One Early On Coordinator and One Great Start Collaborative Director
- A Wide Area Fiber Optic Network connecting all 11 districts (3 counties)
- All Board of Education meetings are 'dual' meetings for the school year.

Many other examples of 'transitions' are identified in this newsletter, which clearly are being made with 'student opportunity and success' as the primary emphasis. In recognizing January as '**School Board of Education Recognition Month**' the School Board members at Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs continue to lead and make many 'transitions' in an ongoing effort to collaborate together to build capacity and benefit all school districts and students in Mason, Lake, and Oceana counties. January is a month when we can say thank you to these members of our communities who commit their time and efforts for the benefit of all our students and school districts. Many times these people are forgotten, but they are certainly appreciated. Our hats are off to these twelve members for their 'vision' and practice of what collaborative service can really mean. Thanks to all of the following people:

"Thank you to these members of our communities who commit their time and efforts for the benefit of all our students."

Lawrence D. Lloyd

Superintendent, Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs

Oceana Intermediate School District

President – Rick Hodges
Vice President - Bob Fisher
Secretary - Vince Greiner
Treasurer - Doug Fris
Trustee - Deana Fox
Trustee - Paul Wilson

Mason-Lake Intermediate School District

President – Gilbert Larsen
Vice President – Cathy Becker
Secretary - Patricia Collins
Treasurer - Jim Dittmer
Trustee - David Bass
Trustee - Paul Wilson
Trustee - Mark Boon

MLISD-OISD General Education Professional Development Schedule, Winter 2010-2011

Workshop	Date	Time	Facilitator	Description	Location	Category
Adaptive Schools	1-6-11 2-16-11 3-22-11 5-11-11	4:00-8:00	Kristie Dila Jen Orton Linda Steigenga	Participants will receive extra training that includes ideas and strategies to enhance student and adult learning through activities that engage and influence thinking.	MLISD	Pre K-12 All Subjects
3 rd -8 th Writing Workshop- Informational Writing New Unit!!!	1-13-11 1-27-11	4:30-8:00	Jen Orton	This workshop provides teachers with the opportunity to do their own writing for this unit. We'll walk through the unit and clarify turning points, decisions and structures. Participants will leave with a teacher's binder full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with lesson cue cards, copies of student samples, ideas for mentor texts, and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Meal provided.	MLISD	ELA
Effective Educational Practices (Para Pro Academy)	1-18-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session provides supports and strategies useful for students with autism. You don't need to be working with a student with autism to attend. These strategies are effective with all students.	MLISD	All Subject Areas
Oceana Middle School Formative Assessment Study Group (for representatives only)	1-19-11 3-9-11 4-20-11	1:00-4:00	Jen Orton	Teachers meet to study, discuss and implement formative assessment in their middle school classrooms.	Shelby Middle School	All Subject Areas
Middle School ELA (6 th -8 th grade ELA teachers)	1-20-11 3-16-11	8:30-3:30	Jen Orton & Teacher Leaders	Focus topics across the year will include 6 to 8 Vertical ELA Alignment, Year-long plan, MEAP updates, The new Common Core State Standards, Formative Assessment: student-friendly targets & descriptive feedback, Kelly Gallagher Strategies, and Writing Units. Meal provided.	MLISD OISD	ELA
Preschool Science and Social Studies	1-21-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Claire Rewold	All early childhood educators welcome! Attend a full day session designed to highlight ways you can implement science and social studies opportunities in your daily routine. Hands-on fun for our youngest learners aligned to Michigan's Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten.	MLISD	Early Childhood
School Improvement Workshop (School Improvement Teams welcome to attend)	1-25-11 2-24-11	8:30-3:30	Linda Steigenga	Participants will learn about the new CNA online and will have time to work on the 40 indicators and plan and reflect on school improvement as a team. School improvement teams will have time to work on the Advance-Ed site.	MLISD	All Subject Areas
Effective Educational Practices (Para Pro Academy)	1-25-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session provides supports and strategies useful for students with autism. You don't need to be working with a student with autism to attend. These strategies are effective with all students.	OISD	All Subject Areas
Curriculum Mapping	1-26-11 3-23-11	8:30-11:30 12:30-3:30 4:00-7:00 Sessions held at these times on all dates.	General Education Team	Teachers will be given time to work on their curriculum maps, assessments, or alignment. Three time slots are offered for each day: morning, afternoon, and after school. Teachers may sign up for one or all time slots on any of the three days. No meal provided.	MLISD	All Subject Areas
Induction Teacher	1-26-11 3-23-11 5-2-11	4:30-6:30	General Education Team	New teachers: gather with fellow colleagues to discuss classroom and time management, families as partners, lesson planning and assessment strategies as you navigate through the beginning of your career. No meal provided.	MLISD MLISD OISD	All subject areas
CPI Refresher Training	2-15-11	4:00-7:30	Bill White	Crisis Prevention Intervention teaches techniques to help classroom staff manage student behaviors.	MLISD	
3 rd -8 th Writing Workshop- Fiction: Unit 4: Big Dreams, Tall Ambitions	2-17-11 3-3-11	4:30-8:00	Jen Orton	This workshop provides teachers with the opportunity to do their own writing for the Units of Study for Teaching Writing by Lucy Calkins & colleagues. We'll walk through the unit and clarify turning points, decisions and structures. Participants will leave with a teacher's binder full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with lesson cue cards, copies of student samples, ideas for mentor texts, and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Participants must bring the Lucy Calkins unit book to each session. Meal provided.	MLISD	ELA

Workshop	Date	Time	Facilitator	Description	Location	Category
Positive Behavioral Supports (Para Pro Academy)	2-23-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	The Positive Behavior Support model is a team based training for students with autism. You don't need to be working with a student with autism to attend. These strategies are effective with all students.	MLISD	All subject areas
Positive Behavioral Supports (Para Pro Academy)	2-24-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	The Positive Behavior Support model is a team based training for students with autism. You don't need to be working with a student with autism to attend. These strategies are effective with all students.	OISD	All subject areas
Secondary Literacy Network Because ISD-wide recommendations for high school ELA instruction will be addressed by this network, the ISD will reimburse for up to two, half-day substitutes per session.	3-4-11	11:30-3:30	Jen Orton & WSCC Educators	Local ELA high school teacher representatives from each district and WSCC ELA educators will share updates, state mandates and best ideas in the teaching of reading and writing. Close and Critical Reading will be a focus throughout the year. The High School & WSCC Literacy Network will meet three Friday afternoons during the 2010-11 school year. Lunch will be provided.	Oceana: Location TBA	ELA
CPI Initial Training	3-8-11 3-9-11	4:00-8:00	Bill White	Crisis Prevention Intervention teaches techniques to help classroom staff manage student behaviors.	MLISD	All
Working with Emotionally Impaired Students (Para Pro Academy)	3-15-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session will provide strategies effective in working with students with emotional impairments. You do not need to be working with a student with emotional impairments to attend this session. These strategies are useful with all students.	MLISD	All subject areas
Middle School and High School Science PLC	3-16-11	4:00 – 6:00	Kathy Surd	Come and discuss topics for middle school and high school science.	MLISD	Science
Working with Emotionally Impaired Students (Para Pro Academy)	3-16-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session will provide strategies effective in working with students with emotional impairments. You do not need to be working with a student with emotional impairments to attend this session. These strategies are useful with all students.	OISD	All subject areas
3 rd -8 th Writing Workshop, Unit 5: Literary Essays: Writing about Reading	3-17-11 3-24-11	4:30-8:00	Jen Orton	This workshop provides teachers with the opportunity to do their own writing for the Units of Study for Teaching Writing by Lucy Calkins & colleagues. We'll walk through the unit and clarify turning points, decisions and structures. Participants will leave with a teacher's binder full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with lesson cue cards, copies of student samples, ideas for mentor texts, and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Participants must bring the Lucy Calkins unit book to each session. Meal provided.	MLISD	ELA
Middle School Math Meeting	4-11-11	8:30-3:30	Kathy Surd	Discussion of standards and implementation for middle school mathematics. Taking a closer look at the common mathematics assessments. Lunch Provided	MLISD	Math
K-12 Social Studies Network (for representatives only) Because ISD-wide decisions and recommendations for Social Studies instruction will be addressed by this network, districts may bill the ISD for half-day substitutes.	4-12-11	8:30-11:30	Cathy Feyt Beth Pobjewski Jen Orton	Teacher representatives from each district will share social studies curriculum updates and vertical alignment across the K-12 span and will recommend necessary changes to improve instruction and learning. These recommendations may be addressed by the ISD-wide curriculum council. The K-12 SS Network will meet three half days during the 2010-11 school year. There may be additional opportunities to work on SS curriculum during the afternoon of the scheduled meetings. No meal provided.	MLISD	Social Studies
K-5 ELA Network (for representatives only) Because ISD-wide decisions and recommendations for K-5 ELA instruction will be addressed by this network, districts may bill the ISD for half-day substitutes.	4-12-11	12:30-3:30	Jen Orton & Teacher Leaders	Teacher representatives from each district will share English Language Arts curriculum updates and vertical alignment across the K-5 span and will recommend necessary changes to improve instruction and learning. These recommendations may be addressed by the ISD-wide curriculum council. The K-5 ELA Network will meet three half days during the 2010-11 school year. No Meal Provided	MLISD	ELA
K-12 Social Studies Assessment	4-12-11	12:30-3:30	Cathy Feyt	Cathy Feyt will assist teachers in finding, adapting, evaluating, and creating unit tests for the MC3 Social Studies units. Bring a team or come alone. No meal provided.	MLISD	Social Studies

Workshop	Date	Time	Facilitator	Description	Location	Category
What's in an IEP (Para Pro Academy)	4-13-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session will take attendees through the IEP process used to provide special education services. This session is open to all who are interested. You don't need to be specifically working with a special education student to attend.	OISD	All subject areas
Adaptive Schools (Days 3 & 4)	4-14-11 4-15-11	8:30-3:30	Carolyn McKanders Kristie Dila Jen Orton Linda Steigenga	Participants will receive the third and fourth days of training that include ideas and strategies to enhance student and adult learning through activities that engage and influence thinking. Lunch provided.	MLISD	Pre K-12 All Subjects
3 rd -8 th Writing Workshop- Poetry New Unit!!!	4-14-11 4-21-11	4:30-8:00	Jen Orton	This workshop provides teachers with the opportunity to do their own writing for this unit. We'll walk through the unit and clarify turning points, decisions and structures. Participants will leave with a teacher's binder full of their own models to share with students. In addition, we'll provide teachers with lesson cue cards, copies of student samples, ideas for mentor texts, and other materials needed to teach each lesson in the unit. Meal provided.	MLISD	ELA
CPI Initial Training	4-18-11 4-20-11	8:30-3:30 8:30-12:00	Jennifer Russell Hugh Neville	Crisis Prevention Intervention teaches techniques to help classroom staff manage student behaviors.	OISD	All Subjects
What's in an IEP? (Para Pro Academy)	4-20-11	4:00-7:00	Bill White	This session will take attendees through the IEP process used to provide special education services. This session is open to all who are interested. You don't need to be specifically working with a special education student to attend.	MLISD	All subject areas
Math Intervention Kit Make and Take K-2 nd	4-27-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Heather Chickering	All materials and supplies will be available for you to create both the Early Math kit focused on counting and number sense as well as the Time, Money and Measurement kit to utilize in your intervention block.	MLISD	Math
Co-Teaching for General Ed and Special Ed Teachers (only MS and HS General and Special Ed Teachers)	5-9-11 5-10-11	8:30-3:30	Carolyn McKanders Michael Dolcemascolo	Participants will learn from the Co-founders of Adaptive Schools how to make Co-Teaching work in the classroom. Participants who attend these two sessions will also have the opportunity to have Carolyn McKanders visit their classroom to model teach and reflect on the practice of Co-Teaching Partnerships consisting of one general and one special education teacher need to attend this course together.	MLISD	All subject areas
Consonant Blends and Digraphs Intervention Kit 1 st -3 rd	5-11-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Heather Chickering	All materials and supplies will be available for you to create a kit focused on the skills of decoding text, particularly blends and digraphs. This kit will be useful in your intervention time with students.	MLISD	ELA
Preschool: Making Math Real!	5-13-10	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Claire Rewold	All early childhood educators welcome. Join us as we celebrate a day with numbers and early math tasks. You're sure to walk away with ideas ready for your classroom aligned to Michigan's Standards of Quality for Pre-kindergarten.	MLISD	Early Childhood
Preschool-K Home Intervention Kits	5-27-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Heather Chickering	Come to create home kits designed to support your early elementary classroom instruction. Early literacy as well as fine motor skills can be reinforced utilizing these kits.	MLISD	Early Childhood
Creative Curriculum 5th Edition	6-13-11 6-14-11	8:30-3:30	Teaching Strategies Brandi Mendham	This training will provide an overview of instruction utilizing the newest edition of Creative Curriculum.	MLISD	Early Childhood
Early Elementary Curriculum Mapping	6-27-11 6-28-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Claire Rewold	Bring all of your instructional materials for two days of planning and preparation to align your instruction to state standards and be all set for fall!	MLISD	Early Childhood
Creative Curriculum Gold Assessment	8-8-11 8-9-11	8:30-3:30	Teaching Strategies Brandi Mendham	Spend time learning how to implement the Gold assessment system from Creative Curriculum.	MLISD	Early Childhood
Early Childhood Assessment Review	8-15-11 8-16-11	8:30-3:30	Brandi Mendham Claire Rewold	Spend time evaluating your current early childhood assessments as we look at how we can enter them into Data Director.	MLISD	Early Childhood

REGISTRATION

Please register for all professional development classes through COURSEWHERE.

<http://www.solutionwhere.com/mloisd>

Call or e-mail Jenny S. at Mason-Lake ISD with questions.
757-4934 x146 or jschlukibir@mloisd.org

New staff

The MLOISDs would like to introduce you to eight new professional staff members. Perhaps you have met a few of them already...



Cheryl Snyder
Mason-Lake
assigned
Occupational
Therapist



**Jessica
Van Mourik**
Mason-Lake
assigned
Speech and
Language
Pathologist



Lisa Luttrull
Oceana
assigned
Physical
Therapist



Rachel Grimes
Teaches at the
Mason-Lake
Center in the
secondary
MoCI
classroom



**Shawn
Markham**
Mason-Lake
assigned
Physical
Therapy
Assistant



Lindy Papes
Mason-Lake
assigned
Speech and
Language
Pathologist



Tonya Springer
Teaches in
the Oceana
Middle School
MoCI
classroom



Marc Dennis
Behavior
Management/
School Safety
Coordinator
for Mason-
Lake



Early On success

One of the very first children in the Oceana Early On program was **Asia Redinger**.

Asia was referred in June of 1994 as a child who was profoundly deaf.

Asia as well as her family were provided with home visits and a signing teacher.

After Asia turned three, she attended a school in Fremont. She later attended the Michigan School for the Deaf in Flint, Michigan. The Oceana ISD trans-

ported her every Friday and Sunday.

Asia was on the honor roll every year, played four years of basketball, two years of volleyball and soccer, and was on the Academic Bowl, Yearbook, and Student Council.

Asia graduated as Valedictorian of her class in June of 2010.

She was accepted at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C. where she will be pursuing a Master's degree in Early Childhood Education.

Special Education

New ECDD Classroom

On Nov. 22, MLISD opened a new section of Early Childhood Developmentally Delayed in

Baldwin. There will be seven students attending the program taught by Peggy Rossler four half-days per week.

Interesting Facts

Did you know?

- ◆ The MLOISD psychologists conducted a total of 148 initial evaluations in the 09/10 school year.
- ◆ The MLOISD speech and language pathologists carried an average caseload of 55 during the 09/10 school year and conducted a total of 134 initial evaluations.
- ◆ There was a total of 1,430 special education eligible students across Mason-Lake and Oceana counties during the 09/10 school year based upon the December 1 count.
- ◆ 138 children received occupational therapy services in the 09/10 school year.
- ◆ 61 children received physical therapy services.
- ◆ The MLOISD Early On team saw a total of 153 children (birth to 3 years old) in Mason-Lake and Oceana counties during the 09/10 year.

ARRA services provided to date

- ◆ Middle school/high school math and science coaching with Dave VanDuinen and Kathy Winczewski
- ◆ Ten teachers were trained in AARI (Adolescent Accelerated Reading Intervention) and provided with \$1,500 of books.
- ◆ Approximately 55 people were trained in Cognitive Coaching with Carolyn McKanders. 50 were trained in Adaptive Schools.
- ◆ Three Mason Lake staff were trained to become Adaptive Schools trainers.
- ◆ Fifty individuals are in the process of being trained in three Lindamood Bell programs. \$33,931 worth of kits and materials were supplied to our elementary buildings.
- ◆ Six RtI coaches were provided to districts

to help implement an RtI process.

- ◆ Thirty-five ParaPro Academy sessions have been offered. These are monthly opportunities to gain valuable skills. Over 160 have attended with many attending multiple sessions.
- ◆ An IEP cart, or the equivalent, was purchased for every building. Each cart contained a computer, printer and projector to assist in the facilitation of IEP's.
- ◆ A new web-based Special Education Management System was purchased.
- ◆ Five days of training for approximately 133 special educators, administrators, and principals was provided for the new IEP program, Illuminate.



Career and Technical Education Department afternoon entrepreneurship class.

CTE Entrepreneurship Academy

In partnership with WSCC, the Mason-Lake ISD Career and Technical Education Program (CTE) is offering a Fundamentals of Entrepreneurship course for all seniors enrolled in a second year CTE program. Morning and afternoon sessions of this class are being taught by Julie Van Dyke, CTE Instructor and WSCC adjunct faculty member.

This fall, a total of 30 CTE students are enrolled in the morning and afternoon sessions. In addition, there are also WSCC students enrolled in these classes.

This mix of educational levels is an excellent opportunity for the high school students to see how college students participate in the classroom setting.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP LEARNING OUTCOMES

What it takes to be a successful entrepreneur	How to organize and manage their business
How to identify, develop and test a business concept	How to research and market their business
How to select the best business entry option	How to understand and get their financials in order
How to select the best business entry option	How and where to get funding for their business
How to determine the feasibility of their business concept	The importance of networking with other entrepreneurs

After completing this fall semester, CTE students will have the option to either enroll in the WSCC On-Line Small Business Management course, or potentially enroll in a Work-Based Learn-

ing project with a local business or organization. Julie Van Dyke will be working with these students on an individual basis to determine which course of action best fits their needs.

General Education

THE REIMAGINE EARLY YEARS GRANT: Funding to Support Our Area's Youngest Learners

Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs are pleased to announce we were recently awarded the ReImagine Early Years grant in the amount of \$96,750 which will be utilized to enhance the services available to the birth through third grade population in each of the three counties we serve. This grant was made available through the Early Childhood Investment Corporation with support from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

The purpose of the ReImagine Early Years grant is to build or strengthen the bridge between early childhood and K-12 systems, a critical part of creating a successful educational pathway from birth to college for all Michigan children. Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs qualified to apply for these funds based on our status as a ReImagine Demonstration Site.

Key priorities include:

- Extend our student data system to incorporate early childhood settings
- Alignment of curriculum, assessment, and use of data across PK-3rd grade, including professional development focused on comprehensive curriculum mapping and the use of demographic and assessment data to inform curriculum and instruction
- Ensure equitable access to and benefit of technology for parents, children, and families
- Institute the CARE (Child Adult Relationship Education) program in partnership with our local Great Start Child Care Regional Resource Center
- Increase the number of playgroup opportunities for families across our three counties
- Provide a consistent framework for instruction grounded in Creative Curriculum, 5th edition
- Provide additional PD opportunities aligned to Michigan's Early Childhood Standards

For information regarding professional development opportunities provided through the ReImagine Early Years Grant, including **additional summer offerings**, see the **PD schedule** beginning on page three.



MLOISDs awarded Middle College grant

The Mason-Lake and Oceana ISDs, in conjunction with West Shore Community College and Manistee ISD, have been awarded a \$398,500 Middle College Partnership Grant that will provide students a chance to earn an associate's degree or an equivalent number of college transferrable credits at WSCC by their 5th year of non-traditional high school.

The program will also link students interested in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics careers to local businesses and industries providing students with on-the-job exposure to future career opportunities. The Academy of Science, Mathematics and Technology, named ASM Tech (pronounced "Awesome" Tech), will offer its first classes to incoming juniors in the fall of 2011.

Goals in the Grant:

1. Provide Early College as an educational choice option.
2. Increase the number of students enrolled and succeeding in college-level STEM courses.
3. Increase the expectations of students and parents for college attendance and success, particularly in STEM-related coursework and career paths.

According to Mason-Lake Oceana Mathematics and Science Center Director Kathy Surd, Early colleges are already in existence around Michigan especially in larger metropolitan areas.

"ASM Tech is unique for both the rural setting and in the proposed design model. The grant reviewers were impressed by the strong partnership that has developed between West Shore Community College, Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties, the Mason County Manufactures Association, and all of the local schools in Lake, Manistee, Mason, and Oceana counties who came together to support this grant proposal," stated Surd.

The grant will provide students up to two years of tuition and textbook fees. Just like all other West Shore students, ASM Tech students will have direct access to many of the college's services; such as scholarship and financial aid information, career counseling and tutoring services.

"The Early College is a great opportunity for students to get a jump start on their college education," said WSCC Director of Admissions Wendy Fought. "This takes the apprehension out of the transition to college that so many students face. It also familiarizes them with our campus and our course work and helps them realize they truly can excel in a college setting."

Larry Lloyd, Superintendent of the Mason-Lake & Oceana Intermediate School Districts noted that "the successful grant application was a true team effort. The collaborative culture that currently exists between our school districts, our ISDs and West Shore Community College was quickly identified and noted by the grant reviewers. Moving forward, the future students and families of ASM Tech are the true winners".

Currently, a design team is meeting to establish policies for ASM Tech. Members of the design team include representatives from Lake, Manistee, Mason, and Oceana local school districts; West Shore Community College; and Mason-Lake Oceana ISDs.

The four-year grant is renewable up to \$1.1 million.