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GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT CONNECTIONS

INFORMATION & RESOURCES FOR GENESEE COUNTY EDUCATORS

WINTER 2020

HOPE AND POSSIBILITIES

Dr. Lisa Hagel, Superintendent

For the past few years, we at the Genesee Intermediate School District have been making a conscious effort to embrace the concepts of happiness. It has become clear that fueling success and our own happiness is truly a choice.

Hope is also a choice. It exists when we choose to believe that there is good ahead. When we make these choices, we will undoubtedly live and create positive change for ourselves and for those we come in contact with.

The work we all do has a significant impact, either directly or indirectly, on children and families across Genesee County. Therefore, it's vital that we as leaders, educators, and support staff are consistently growing and

becoming better. We all can, and should, create possibilities and instill hope and growth in ourselves and in others.

In this issue of the *Connections* newsletter, you will find information on professional development opportunities and new programs being offered and expanded to benefit students and the community overall. Additionally, you will read about efforts underway to help ensure our youngest children develop a solid foundation and knowledge of reading.

The work we all do matters, maybe even more than we may sometimes think. It can give people hope and help them see possibilities beyond their wildest dreams. This happens when we choose, over and over again, to see what is right with the world instead of what is wrong with the world. We all can have a small part in making a difference.



So, let us all embrace what may seem like challenges. Better yet, let's challenge ourselves to be better by learning something new, trying something new, by being more grateful for what we have, or just by having a more positive outlook.

What difference will it make? You won't know unless you give it a try!

Check out this [wonderful story](#) about how some kids impacted by the Flint water crisis are overcoming challenges to learn and grow in amazing ways, with the help of services that GISD provides.



Leadership ♦ Service ♦ Innovation
Partnering for success!

Program Expands to Benefit More Genesee County Families

Successful Kids = Involved Parents is what the SKIP program is all about. More children, and their families, now have an opportunity to participate and benefit from SKIP. Genesee Intermediate School District's Center for Countywide Programs is working to expand the SKIP parent-child interactive groups throughout Genesee County!

SKIP facts:

- Free parent and family support program for Genesee County families
- Serves families with children prenatal to Kindergarten entry
- Emphasizes supporting parents as their child's first teacher
- Delivers services through home visits, playgroups, field trips, and family events
- Partners with the community and local schools to provide opportunities for families to network and gain access to needed resources

There are currently parent-child interactive groups, or socialization groups, at twelve locations around Genesee County. Our goal is to partner with local districts to offer these fun and engaging groups in elementary schools! The overall mission will be to strengthen family connections with local school districts, collaborate closely with schools to promote family involvement and successful transitions, and to integrate existing community partnerships and resources.

Socialization groups will focus on:

- Language development and reading
- Math
- Social emotional learning, making friends
- Kindergarten readiness skills

Groups will have fun themes and resources for children and families. A core belief of SKIP is that parents are



a child's first teacher, so the program will focus on building skills of our children and parents. Countywide groups began meeting in January. We look forward to partnering with you and the families of our youngest children!

For more information, please contact Chandrika Payton, SKIP Coordinator, at (810) 591-5137.

Birth to Five Literacy Efforts Underway Throughout the County

Genesee Intermediate School District's Birth to Five Literacy Team works collaboratively between Early On®, the Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP), Early Head Start, and Head Start. Literacy coaches continue to provide support in the home, school, and community to

strengthen the language and literacy skills of children ages 0-5.

Home-based staff serving children birth to age five received focused training in literacy on the Birth to Three & Pre-K Essential Literacy Practices. The goal of these activities

is to increase the number of hours parents and children read together and participate in literacy activities, through building the skills of adults in literacy.

Early childhood programs throughout Flint and Genesee County were

supported in the implementation of the State of Michigan's Essentials Literacy Practices. Literacy coaches provided embedded professional development, showcasing the application of these practices for preschool teaching staff.


Family literacy events and activities have been hosted by partners throughout the Flint community. Literacy coaches have provided high-quality literacy experiences for families with children from birth to five years old. Events, such as the one pictured to the left, include a free day at the Flint Children's Museum for children and families.





We are SUPER Bee's!



Our Family Practices the 2 B's
Be Safe
Be Responsible

AT HOME 

 I can be SAFE by:

 I can be RESPONSIBLE by:

Home-Based Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports

The Genesee Intermediate School District's (GISD) home-based birth to five programs continue to implement the use of Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) in the home. Early On®, Head Start, Early Head Start, and Successful Kids = Involved Parents (SKIP) home-based staff are participating in training focusing on practices to support the behavioral needs of children and families. This work is aligned with and continues to support the Promoting Positive School Climate (PPSC) initiative at the GISD.

PBIS in the home strives to build the capacity of parents to help meet their children's social-emotional needs. Through the use of coaching, strategies are practiced to promote the three B's: Be Safe, Be Respectful, and Be Responsible.

PBIS in the home centers around these core beliefs:

- All behavior meets a need.
- Positive approaches teach children a better way to meet their needs.
- Behavior is related to the environment in which it occurs.
- Behavior changes as children mature and develop new skills.

Through this important work, we are beginning to establish positive structures in a child's home, as well as, supporting the parent with coaching strategies. Families often request assistance with behaviors in the home and through this process, we are able to create a positive and safe environment so everyone can be successful.

Curriculum and Instruction Resources and Updates

Social Studies Revised Standards

Use the resource links below for a "bird's-eye view" of the revised Michigan Social Studies Standards.

[Social Studies Standards Google Slides](#)
[Social Studies Standards PowerPoint](#)


To request access to presentation resources, email [Roy Sovis](#).

Career Exploration Requirements

Access reference sheets related to new [Career Exploration legislative requirements](#).

Michigan's Integrated Continuous Improvement Process (MICIP)

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) is transitioning from School Improvement to Continuous Improvement based on the Whole Child framework from ASCD. Check out these [MDE resources](#) to get up to speed!

Welcome to Genesee County's
Professional Learning Catalog
Opportunities that support the personal and professional growth of educators.

Professional Development Opportunities

If one of your goals for 2020 is to increase your knowledge in the area of science, several opportunities are now available to help you do just that. [Learn about science-focused professional development opportunities](#) and access the 2020 [Science/STEM Newsletter](#). Find all professional development opportunities available to Genesee County educators in the [Professional Learning Catalog](#).

Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resources

We are all hearing about Coronavirus (COVID-19) in the news and the spread of this virus is concerning. While there have been no confirmed cases of this virus in Michigan or Genesee County as of early March, there are actions that can be taken at home and in our schools to help keep our community healthy. Visit the [Coronavirus Resources](#) area of the Genesee Intermediate School District website to find helpful tips from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS).

The Interconnected School Framework Layer

Continuing to Build Supports for the Whole Child utilizing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports.

The Interconnected Systems Framework (ISF) aims to build upon the structure and strengths of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) and School Mental Health (SMH) programs. The goal is to integrate both systems into one comprehensive model that can be implemented within a multi-tiered system of support framework. Multi-Tiered System of Supports align with a public health model of universal promotion of the whole child. This approach is preventative and focuses on early intervention. If this collaboration is implemented with intention, there will be ongoing conversations and progress monitoring of the program each step along the way.



Within Genesee County, we have begun this work in four districts that participate in the Promoting Positive School Climate Project through the Genesee Intermediate School District. Using implementation science, from the National Institute Research Network (NIRN) the journey began by moving through the five stages, beginning with exploration.

First, these districts began to explore the need, fit, resources, and research needed to begin this new evidenced based system. Some of this work included prioritizing this at the district level with a team of leaders who came together regularly in an effort to begin this work. We also began by inviting community agencies to come and meet with district teams so that we could begin a conversation around areas such as funding, scheduling, job descriptions, potential barriers, and how tiered interventions might look in each building. Teams also convened to set the vision and mission for the work, identify action items, determine next steps, along with timelines to hold everyone accountable.

Importantly, during the entire process we continued to train community agencies and school leaders by developing a consistent and common language. It is important for our teams to continue to monitor progress with the purpose of higher student outcomes throughout this work. We will continue to build upon the work of PBIS and how it is integrated into our current school improvement plans and our other PBIS initiatives.

It is our hope that all students have equitable access to these strongly correlated interventions and ultimately reap the benefits of higher student achievement.

Through the work of the Promoting Positive School Climate Project, we continue to support students, staff, and families, while working collaboratively with our community agencies. Developing a comprehensive system of support for all students is where we can make the most positive impact for all stakeholders.



Information to Share with Graduates and their Families

The Genesee Opportunity (GO) stipend is still available to the class of 2019!

High school graduates who lived in and attended high school in Genesee County are eligible and should apply now. The stipend can be used toward costs to attend approved colleges and training institutions.

Find the stipend application and more details about this significant, one-of-a-kind program at www.geneseeego.org.



Aviation Program Available to Students in Genesee County

The sky is the limit! Students enrolled in Genesee Career Institute's (GCI) new aviation program are learning what that might really mean for their future career plans.

GCI, in partnership with Crosswinds Aviation, launched its aviation program in September 2019. Students in the program get an introduction into several aspects of the aviation industry, including 10 hours of flight simulator time and computer-based flight training.

Boeing CEO Dennis Muilenburg believes a growing shortage of pilots represents "one of the biggest challenges" facing the airline industry. As the United States faces a serious shortage of pilots, students in the GCI aviation program get a first-hand look at aviation as a career option.

Kelcie Stevens, a senior at Grand Blanc High School, joined the class to expand her interest in aviation and learn more about the industry. "I really want to fly a plane even if I can't be a commercial pilot, but I would like to," she said.

Students who complete the first year of the aviation program will qualify to take the FAA Pilot Ground Knowledge test. After completing the second year of the program, students will be able to test for a drone certification.

A Refocus for Wellness Programs

Wellness is a deliberate effort to be healthy, prevent illness, and prolong life.

Many employers began exploring the idea of wellness in the early 1980s. According to the Global Wellness Institute, about half of employers around the world were promoting wellness strategies by 2014. Most wellness programs focus on reducing absenteeism and healthcare costs for both the employer and employee.

Forbes recently published an article expressing that organizations need to refocus and target four key areas of wellness: financial stability, healthy lifestyle (physical and nutrition), a sense of belonging, and emotional intelligence. Creating wellness programs can help alleviate "worry" areas and positively affect the lives and overall happiness of employees.

The following are examples of topics and ideas for successful wellness programs:

Financial Stability

Tuition reimbursement
401(k)/403(b) contribution
Budgeting workshops

Healthy Lifestyle (Physical and Nutrition)

- On-site flu clinics
- Lunch and learn nutrition education

- On-site physical activity programs, such as Zumba, Yoga, and 5K training programs

Belonging/Team-Oriented Culture

Team outings (charitable and community events, team building activities)
Book clubs
Work celebrations and healthy potlucks

Emotional Stability

- Yoga and meditation groups
- Stress management programs

Staff engagement and participation is critical to the success of any wellness program. A successful wellness program is tailored to an organization's culture and climate.

To help promote wellness within your organization, you may want to start by surveying employees on how to best create a wellness program to suit their needs. It's also a good idea to research group medical insurance providers to find out if they offer free wellness classes and resources to employees to help start a path to a positive and healthy lifestyle.

Source: <https://globalwellnessinstitute.org/industry-research/history-of-wellness/>

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/>
Is it time to rethink your wellness strategy?





Open for Business and Learning!

Staff and students of the Genesee Intermediate School District's (GISD) Genesee Career Institute

(GCI) are excited about re-opening the restaurant and conference center at GCI.

Formerly known as Weekdays, the restaurant has a new name and a completely new look. The new and improved restaurant, now called Fifty81 Bistro, will allow high school juniors and seniors enrolled in GCI's Culinary Arts program to improve their culinary talents in a state-of-the-art facility.

Renovations began at the facility in May 2018 and have resulted in dramatic changes to the kitchen, restaurant and conference center. The kitchen was enlarged and equipment updated to include a smoker, state-of-the-art Combi Ovens (combination ovens that provide steam or dry heat for cooking and baking) and a Confections/Chocolate Station with a chocolate tempering machine. The Chocolate Station allows students to make desserts that both taste and look as though they were made by professional chefs.

The conference center has undergone an impressive transformation as well. There is a brand new entrance and lobby area. A new hallway lined with a wall of windows leads to the updated conference rooms.

"We are so excited about the completion of this project," said GCI Principal, Deborah Davis. "These additions and upgrades elevate our Culinary Arts program to an even higher level which provides a wonderful opportunity for local students interested in a career in this field."

The GCI Conference Center is available for school districts and community groups to hold meetings and special events by appointment. Please [email Laura Manning](#) for additional information on room reservations and catering options.

Fifty81 Bistro also serves the community as a functioning restaurant located at 5081 Torrey Rd, Flint, MI 48507. It is open to the public Tuesday-Thursday for breakfast from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and lunch from 12:15 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. Stop in and enjoy a delicious meal!



GENESEE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT
LEADERSHIP ♦ SERVICE ♦ INNOVATION
Partnering for success!

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Genesee Intermediate School District

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For more information about Genesee Intermediate School District's programs and services, visit our website at www.geneseeisd.org. Send comments or feedback regarding the *Connections* newsletter to connections@geneseeisd.org.