Spring 2016 Edition

Our Schools

MISSION OF THE MONROE COUNTY COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION
Empowering students to maximize their educational success to become productive, responsible global citizens.

@MCCSC_EDU (812) 330-7700
Monroe County Community School Corporation
www.mccsc.edu

FEATURES
MCCSC Robotics Programs
Grandview STEM Update
National Spelling Bee
Educators of the Year
Summer Program Preview

ENGAGE. EMPOWER. EDUCATE.

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MCCSC CORE VALUES

Value 1: Engagement
All students can learn. We teach all students. No exceptions. All students deserve rigorous, diverse curricular and extracurricular programs, integrated with technology. Such programs balance students’ needs and interests, resulting in high levels of student engagement, achievement and completion.

Value 2: Empowerment
All students are diverse and unique. When students are empowered, self-esteem grows. All students’ experiences and perspectives are assets that reflect the strength of our schools and the values of our community. Such assets, when respected, nurtured and explored, promote their academic success and the success of their peers.

Value 3: Environment
All students thrive in a positive, creative and stimulating learning and working environment. All employees excel in a culture actively supported by professional development opportunities. Highly-trained, highly-valued teachers and staff are pivotal to the continuous improvement and success of our students. All students deserve, and we will provide, a healthy, safe and secure learning environment.

Our Schools

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Cover Photo: MCCSC high school students prepare during a FIRST Robotics competition this Spring. More on the program on page 3.

features

4
2016 Educators of the Year

9
Bloomington North Spring Theatre Preview

11
MCCSC Summer Programs and Camps

Download the 2010 Referendum Update Brochure www.mccsc.edu/referendum

Arlington Heights
Elementary student preparing to test his LEGO car during the afterschool LEGO club this spring.
From the smallest LEGO robot to a massive FIRST Robotics machine, MCCSC students are learning hands-on skills in the highly innovative field of robotics. Bloomington South science teacher, Mrs. Cindy Kvale, and Mr. Chris Hacker, a local electrical engineer, lead the Bloomington FIRST Robotics Team 3494, the Quadrangles. The team consists of students from all MCCSC high schools learning skills ranging from building and testing prototypes, CAD designing, and C++ programming in addition to program management skills like grant writing, marketing, and prepping for awards. The team competed in two regional competitions in March gearing up for their main event at the Indiana FIRST State Championship April 14-16 in Kokomo. While the FIRST Robotics team is the most comprehensive robotics program in the MCCSC, students have the opportunity as early as elementary school to learn robotics and programming basics with LEGO robotics and the SeaPerch Underwater robotics. In 2015, the Clear Creek Lego robotics team earned 1st in innovative solution, 2nd in overall robot performance, 2nd in standard deviation performance, and 5th overall marking the most awards given to any all-girl team. Visit http://www.thequadrangles.com for more information on the MCCSC FIRST Robotics team.
Joe Donnelly  
*Outstanding Educator Award*

Mr. Donnelly was honored for his outstanding work as a music teacher and band director at Jackson Creek Middle school.

Helen Melwid  
*Outstanding Educator Award*

Mrs. Melwid was honored for her outstanding work as third grade teacher at Marlin Elementary.

Amy Morwick  
*Outstanding Educator Award*

Mrs. Morwick was recognized for her outstanding work as a career counselor at MCCSC’s Hoosier Hills Career Center.

Jenny Noble-Kuchera  
*Outstanding Educator Award*

Ms. Noble-Kuchera was honored for her outstanding work as an ELL (English Language Learner) teacher at Rogers and Binford Elementary.

Gwen Witten Upchurch  
*Outstanding Educator Award*

Mrs. Upchurch was honored for her outstanding work as the Director of Sounds of South, Bloomington South’s premiere singing performance group.

Dr. Judith DeMuth  
*Lifetime Achievement Award*

Superintendent DeMuth was honored for her lifetime achievement in education and community engagement with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award.
During the month of March and through the end of the 2015-16 school year, community volunteers are joining school events to share information about the 2010 MCCSC referendum. The referendum, approved in 2010, is set to expire at the end of 2016, and the MCCSC is positioned to pursue a continuation of it with a vote this November. Earlier this year, the MCCSC published a comprehensive brochure detailing the history of the 2010 referendum and the progress of the corporation since that time. The graph to the right shows the average expenditures from the fund over the six year period.
Jackson Creek Middle School became the final MCCSC secondary school to implement the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Curriculum in the 2015-16 school year. In 2010, the MCCSC first placed the program curriculum in its high schools and started more advanced technical courses at Hoosier Hills Career Center for juniors and seniors. Seeing a growing need and interest, in 2013, the MCCSC began expanding to middle schools with the Gateway to Technology courses as part of the pre-engineering program. Currently, MCCSC’s PLTW courses are divided into two main areas: biomedical and engineering courses. Classes include curriculum in engineering and architecture, robotics, and biomedical science offering career skill development in these areas throughout MCCSC middle and high schools.

Above: A Jackson Creek Project Lead the Way student assembles a scale model of a playground during a group project.
During the 2015-16 academic year, two MCCSC elementary schools piloted a new Digital Citizenship curriculum resulting in a Common Sense Media Certification for the school. The program includes three adaptable 45 minute interactive lessons with topics ranging from Cyberbullying to Digital Footprint and Online Reputation. With the pilot sites nearly finished with their first year, the corporation intends to expand the initiative to the remaining elementary and middle schools in the fall of 2016 continuing through the 2017-18 school year. The expansion will result in all elementary and middle schools being Digital Citizenship Certified Schools. The corporation will pursue designation as a Digital Citizenship Certified District in the 2018-2019 School Year.

Grandview Elementary is a step closer to being an Indiana Department of Education certified STEM school. STEM, or Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math, certification through IDOE will position Grandview and the MCCSC in a select group of schools around the State integrating technology instruction into the core of the school’s curriculum. In March, the Community Foundation of Bloomington and Monroe County awarded a $30,000 grant to the Foundation of Monroe County Community Schools supporting the Grandview initiative. The added funding will provide professional development training for teaching staff at Grandview in addition to material support for the program. Grandview hosts an annual science night. This year’s STEM night is taking place on April 5, 2016 at 6:00pm and features community partners in the science and technology industries. For more information on the IDOE STEM certification, visit, http://www.doe.in.gov/ccr/stem-school-certification-application.

Above: A Grandview student learns computer program code during the worldwide Hour of Code this year.
For the past eight years, the MCCSC has operated 21st Century Community Learning Centers at the six Title I elementary schools and the MCCSC EdVenture Camp. The Federal program provides funding for enriching afterschool programs serving all students and enabling students who qualify for Free or Reduced lunch at those schools to attend the program at no cost. With one of the most comprehensive programs in the State, the MCCSC 21st CCLC program and its staff have become a mentor organization for similar programs throughout Indiana. School Age Care Program Director, Laura Threlkeld, serves as an advisor for new programs in Indiana. For more information on the 21st CCLC programs, visit www.mccsc.edu/sac.

Right: Students participate in an MCCSC afterschool program. Physical activity and educational enrichment opportunities are integrated in the programs throughout the MCCSC.

high school

BLOOMINGTON SOUTH DANCE MARATHON 2016

Hundreds of students will join one another on April 9, 2016, as part of this year’s Bloomington South Dance Marathon (BSDM). More than 200 students from both North and South participate and organize the annual fundraising event benefiting Riley Children’s Hospital in Indianapolis. The event is modeled after the highly successful Indiana University Dance Marathon. Students plan fundraising events throughout the year culminating with the dance marathon in April. Last year’s event raised an incredible $122,112.85 totaling more than $500,000 donated since the program’s inception ten years ago. Stay current with the group at https://www.facebook.com/bsdm2014/.

Above: (Top Left) Dance marathon students predict the fundraising goals for 2015. (Top Right) Cameron Bland, a cancer survivor and a Riley patient, was recognized with a Red Wagon from Riley in 2015. (Bottom) Student participants in 2015 display the fundraising total for the event.
Earlier this year, the MCCS Foundation awarded a grant to Hoosier Hills Career Center students supporting materials for a competition at Ivy Tech Community College in Terre Haute. Hoosier Hills students built an entire engine in a competition measuring horsepower and torque. Hoosier Hills students won both parts of the competition with their student built engine reaching a max horsepower of 495 and torque of 457lb. In early March, Automotive Collision Repair, Welding and Drafting & Engineering students earned first place in its class for a student built motorcycle at the Indiana Motorcycle Expo held at the State Fairgrounds. The entire bike was designed, hand fabricated, and painted by students and currently holds two ECTA (East Coast Timing Association) land speed records.

**THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

**BLOOMINGTON NORTH THEATRE PERFORMANCE OPENS APRIL 8**

Bloomington North’s Theatre and Performing Arts Department will open its spring musical on Friday, April 8. The family-fun musical comedy centers around six students participating in a fictional spelling contest. Audience members are included throughout this lively performance. Francesca Sobrer, North Theatre Program Director, was recently honored along with her students at an MCCSC School Board meeting for their recognition at the Indiana State Thespian Conference earlier this year.

**THE 25TH ANNUAL PUTNAM COUNTY SPELLING BEE**

April 8, 9, 15, 16, 2016 7:30pm
$15.00 General
$10.00 Students and Seniors

Bloomington North Auditorium

Tickets available at Door. Box Office opens at 6:45pm
For reservations: call 330-7724 ext. 50235
NEWS IN BRIEF

Happenings and Updates from the Monroe County Community School Corporation

NATIONAL SPELLING BEE
Tri-North seventh grader Tara Ganguly won the regional spelling bee in February and moves on to the National Spelling Bee in Baltimore/DC in late May 2016.

OUTDOOR ED
The Lakeview PTO and Miracle Construction have gathered funds and donated labor for a new shelter house on the school grounds. Teachers will use the shelter as an outdoor classroom.

SCIENCE OLYMPIAD
Three MCCSC teams placed in the top five at the 2016 Science Olympiad on March 12. Tri-North, (3rd) Bloomington South (3rd), and Bloomington North (5th) all placed.

JAPANESE
A team of MCCSC students placed third at the Japanese Olympiad at Ball State University on February 27. Categories included speaking, culture, geography, and more.

ADULT EDUCATION
In a partnership with Bloomington non-profit New Leaf, New Hope, MCCSC Adult Education now offers GED and workforce development courses to inmates at the Monroe County Jail.

EVE OF STARS
The MCCSC will honor 2016 retirees in its annual Evening of Stars event taking place Tuesday, May 10. More information is available at www.mccsc.edu/EOS2016.
GEARING UP FOR SUMMER PROGRAMS

From summer enrichment and credit recovery to elective summer camps, the MCCSC offers an array of summer programs starting the first week of June. Staff and students are already preparing for a packed summer of learning and excitement. EdVenture Camp, MCCSC’s 21st Century Community Learning Center camp, returns at Templeton Elementary accompanied by Camp Connections, now in its third year. Summer Reading Camp and the Blended Learning program return to Fairview. The computer technology and support course returns for a second summer at both North and South teaching high school students skills needed for technology credentials. Also returning for a second summer, is the Jumpstart Reading camp supported by the Duke Energy Foundation offering summer reading instruction for elementary students. Parents may contact the school office for more information.

Above: A student participates in activities during the 2015 Camp Connections summer camp at Templeton Elementary

Above: Summer Reading Camp teacher teaches students during the 2015 camp at Fairview Elementary.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MCCSC 2016 Summer Programs and Summer School</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Elementary Summer Program</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fairview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading with Blended Learning Fairview Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EdVenture Camp Templeton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jumpstart Reading Templeton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School Summer School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bloomington South</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camp Connections Templeton Elementary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Computer Tech &amp; Support North &amp; South HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FAST CONNECTIONS

Board of School Trustees
Martha Street, President
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Dr. David Sabbagh, Asst. Secretary
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Rob Moore, Adult Education
Eric Jackson, Bloomington Graduation School
Alan Dafoe, Hoosier Hills Career Center
Jeffry Henderson, BHS North
Mark Fletcher, BHS South
Eric Gilpin, Batchelor Middle
Dr. David Pillar, Jackson Creek Middle
Craig Fisher, Tri-North Middle School
Micah Heath, Arlington Heights Elementary
Lucy Fischman, Binford Elementary
Chris Finley, Chilts Elementary
Dr. Deb Prenkert, Clear Creek Elementary
Dr. Justin Hunter, Fairview Elementary
Lisa Roberts, Grandview Elementary
Margaret Dainton, Highland Park Elementary
John Hudson, Lakeview Elementary
Tim Dowling, Marlin Elementary
Mark Conrad, Rogers Elementary
Nick McGinnis, Summit Elementary
Donald Carver, Templeton Elementary
Lily Albright, Unionville Elementary
Dr. Gretchen Morgan, University Elementary

IMPORTANT DATES

Election Day/In-Service-No School
Monday, May 2, 2016
Tuesday, May 3, 2016

Winter Weather Makeup Days
Monday, May 23 & Tuesday, May 24, 2016

Commencements
Adult Ed: Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Hoosier Hills: Thursday, May 12, 2016
Graduation School: Thursday, May 26, 2016
Academy of S&E: Friday, May 27, 2016
Bloomington North: Saturday, May 28, 2016
Bloomington South: Saturday, May 28, 2016

MCCSC SCHOOL BOARD SCHEDULE

Calendar of Regular Meetings
April-June 2016

Tuesday, April 26, 2016
Tuesday, May 17, 2016
Tuesday, June 28, 2016

Meeting dates are scheduled for the 4th Tuesday of each month at 6:00pm with the exception of May, November, and December.

CONTACT US
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