



A Message from Superintendent, Joseph Murphy

I am pleased to bring you the second Huron Intermediate School District Board Newsletter of the 2017-2018 school year. We aim to keep you informed of the great programs and services offered at the HISD.

Earlier this year, my Administrative staff and I attended local school staff meetings to gain survey information about HISD programs and services from local school staff members. We have studied this information and are currently sharing this with the HISD board of education and staff. Later, we will be meeting with Administrative teams across the county to share and discuss these results. Thank you to all staff members across the county for taking the time to complete this survey and giving us valuable feedback. The HISD values this and will use it as part of our improvement plan, and in future strategic planning. We are already using the information to develop a plan



for how we can provide better service and improve communication with our local schools. We look forward to continuing our partnership with all schools in Huron County to provide great opportunities for all students. I welcome any feedback or ideas you may have. Please e-mail me at [jmurphy@huronisd.org](mailto:jmurphy@huronisd.org) with any questions, concerns, or feedback. Have a great winter break!



December 21, 2017 through January 1, 2018

Visit our website often to find out about trainings, upcoming events, local data, and so much more!

[www.huronisd.org](http://www.huronisd.org)



Find us on Facebook!

[HuronIntermediateSchoolDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/HuronIntermediateSchoolDistrict)



## Early Literacy Update

---

The Huron ISD provides a Literacy Consultant, Marilyn Peplinski, who works directly with our local schools. This school year, the Early Literacy focus is on Kindergarten and First Grade. These first few months of learning have included navigating our way through the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Bill and digging deeper into classroom routines that support phonemic awareness and phonics in K-1 through Professional Development opportunities. This winter there will be three more training sessions that will support vocabulary, comprehension and fluency practices in K-1. The teachers throughout our county have a growth mindset and a willingness to share experiences and strengthen skills. It is always very apparent that our K-1 teachers have the best interest of their students in mind.

We are entering the second phase of a coaching model that encourages local school K-1 teams to choose a focus area to research. Together they develop a lesson that Mrs. Peplinski then models in their classrooms. The teachers are provided subs so they have an opportunity to view the lessons together, debrief, and reflect on how this could inform their own practices. Throughout this model the teachers meet during prep times and after school. One of the goals of this model is to help further the partnership in growth within our schools. We are committed to ensuring that Huron County students are readers!



## Michigan Enacts New Seclusion and Restraint Legislation

---

Recent legislation overhauled requirements that govern the use of seclusion and restraint in schools. The purpose is to provide a policy encouraging the use of proactive strategies to reduce challenging student behaviors and prohibit the use of seclusion and restraint, except in the case of emergency situations when it is necessary to ensure the safety of the student or others. This new law applies to all students, not just students receiving special education.

Effective with the 2017-18 school year, local school districts, ISDs, and PSAs are required to provide training regarding the use of seclusion and restraint including "awareness training" for all school personnel who have regular contact with students. It also requires identification of "key identified personnel" to receive comprehensive training on the use of emergency seclusion and physical restraint to be able to respond to emergency situations. While it is the hope that the necessary use of emergency seclusion or restraint is rare, if it does need to occur, the law requires specific actions to be taken by the school.

The Huron ISD Nonviolent Crisis Intervention training team has provided numerous training opportunities to school personnel across the county to help staff use proactive approaches to reduce the occurrence of challenging behaviors, to be able to safely intervene when behaviors become dangerous, and to understand how to handle crisis with minimal anxiety and maximum safety. School administrators have familiarized themselves with the provisions of the new law. Districts have provided the mandated training to school personnel and implemented the required procedures for seclusion and restraint.

## HISD to Start School Before Labor Day Beginning with the 2018-19 School Year

A waiver has been granted to the Huron Intermediate School District from the Michigan Department of Education that allows all schools residing within the Huron ISD to begin school before Labor Day beginning with the 2018-2019 school year. At this time, all or most school districts in Huron County are planning on beginning the 2018-2019 school year on Tuesday, August 28, 2018. This complies with proposed Senate Bill 271 which would allow for all schools to start before Labor Day but not be in session on Mondays and Fridays in August. Huron County Superintendents have received parent, community, and board input in making this decision.

Legislation was enacted that required schools in Michigan to begin classes after Labor Day beginning with the 2006-2007 school year. This legislation was enacted to protect the State of Michigan's tourism industry. Since that move, Michigan has moved back to a requirement of 180 days of student instruction pushing back the end date of school to mid-June. Ninety-nine School Districts and Charter Schools and 24 ISDs have obtained waivers for the 2017-2018 school year.

Some of the possible benefits of starting school before Labor Day are:

- Earlier access to instruction gives more time to prepare for tests, such as M-STEP and SAT. The new third grade retention law makes the M-STEP even more important.
- Students whose families can't afford summer enrichment activities are more likely to experience academic setbacks as a result of longer breaks away from school.



- Research supports a "summer slide" in which students lose academic ground during long periods away from school. This is more pronounced in student groups that are already struggling, including those from less-affluent families.
- It gives local school districts control to create a more flexible calendar with more breaks throughout the year or an earlier end date.
- Increased participation in athletics.
- Aligns better with College Dual Enrollment Courses.
- Some Early Childhood Programs, such as Head Start, already start earlier.

## We're Going Back To School



# Before Labor Day!



## Huron Learning Center Offers Programs for Cognitively Impaired Students

---

The Huron Learning Center (HLC) is a center-based school for students with moderate to severe cognitive impairments as well as individuals with autism and severe emotional impairments. HLC serves students from birth to 26 years of age. All Huron Learning Center students must have a special education eligibility, and access our programs through the Individualized Education Program (IEP) process. Our facility has approximately 130 students which come from the seven K-12 districts in Huron County. HLC programs provide school-aged students and young adults an education, which maximizes their potential. Students attending any HLC Moderate Cognitive Impairment (MOCI) programs are not awarded credit or grades towards a diploma, but are on track to receive a Certificate of Completion.

Our Moderate Cognitive Impairment (MOCI) programs include: Elementary MOCI (ages 6-11), Intermediate MOCI (ages 11-15), Secondary MOCI (ages 15-20), and Adult MOCI (ages 20-26). These programs work on academics and functional living skills. Secondary MOCI students also participate in in-house jobs throughout the Learning Center, while our Adult program focuses on independent living skills and work-based learning within the community.

Our Severe Multiple Impairment (SXI) program provides services for students ranging in age from 6-26 years of age. The primary focus is helping students become as independent and productive as possible. Students learn daily living skills, motor skills, leisure skills, and also participate in community outings. Many students require alternate methods of com-



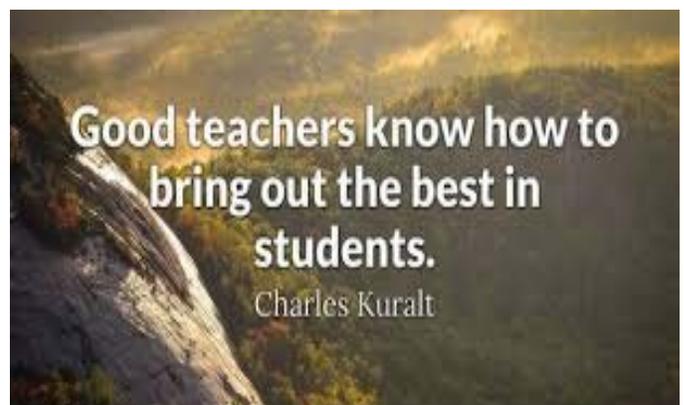
## Prep/Work Based Learning Provided at the Huron Learning Center

---

The Preparing Responsible Employable Persons (PREP) program serves students ranging from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> grade. This half-day program is offered in the AM and housed at the Huron Area Technical Center. The goal is for these students is to gain knowledge of Tech Center programs through exploration and exposure. Students become prepared to independently access the Tech Center program of their choice by their 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade year.

The Work-Based Learning (WBL) program is also a half day program housed at the Huron Area Technical Center and is offered in the PM. This program is designed to teach students the employability skills, good work habits, and attitudes needed to gain independent employment. Students participate in work sites throughout the community and are accompanied by a Job Coach. This program is designed for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and should align with the student's transition goal within the IEP.

If you have any questions about HLC programs or services please contact Jill Iskow or Katie Kolar.





## Great Start Readiness Program Offered Throughout Huron County

The Great Start Readiness Program (GSRP) is Michigan's state funded preschool program for four-year-old children with factors which may place them at-risk of educational failure. The program is administered by the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Great Start. Research on preschool programs and specific research on GSRP indicates that children provided with a high-quality preschool experience show significant positive developmental differences when compared to children from the same backgrounds who did not attend a high-quality preschool program.

To strengthen learning at home and increase positive child outcomes, GSRPs must provide for active and continuous involvement of parents/legal guardians in the learning process. Depending on income level, parents may be required to pay tuition but parents are never charged additional fees for program elements such as transportation or meal service. Through advisory committees, parents assist to evaluate and make recommendations about the program.

Intermediate School Districts (ISDs) are the grantees for the GSRP. ISDs may directly provide or may award slots to subrecipients to provide comprehensive preschool programming. ISDs receive funding via eleven State Aid Payments for each fiscal year, beginning in October. GSRP is described in Section 32d and 39 of the current State School Aid Act. State funds are appropriated annually based on an October 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> fiscal year. As part of administering the GSRP, ISDs must designate an Early Childhood Contact (ECC) who is responsible for the administration of the grant and monitoring of subrecipient and ISD operated programs.



The purpose of GSRP is to improve school readiness through high-quality preschool and family support services. Preschool programs funded through this state grant program must be designed to meet the comprehensive needs of four-year-old children and must provide opportunities for the active involvement of parents in the program planning and implementation. All classrooms use a research-based curriculum, and a comprehensive child assessment tool. Each classroom has a lead and associate teacher who meet credentials specified in the State School Aid Act.

In Huron County, there are GSRP programs in Bad Axe at the Huron Learning Center, operated by the ISD; at Caseville; North Huron; and Owen-Gage, all operated by the local school districts; and at Harbor Beach and Ubly, which are operated by the Northeast Michigan Community Service Agency (NEMCSA). NEMCSA is a community action agency that operates Head Start Preschool Programs. Beyond Harbor Beach and Ubly, NEMCSA also operates Head Start classrooms at Lakers and in Bad Axe at the Huron Learning Center. Head Start is a federally-funded preschool program for low income 3 and 4-year-old children and their families.

For more information please contact Rebecca Gettel at [rebeccal@huronisd.org](mailto:rebeccal@huronisd.org).



## Huron Area Technical Center Adds New Program to List of Offerings

Starting next year, the Huron Area Technical Center (HATC) will be offering students a new program titled Visual Communications. The Visual Communications Program will replace our current Information Management Systems (IMS) Program. Visual Communications will focus on communication skills with an emphasis on graphics, graphic design, Webpage development, Adobe InDesign, photography, video editing and production, social media applications, and Illustrator. This program is currently being developed but will be in place in the fall for the 2018-2019 school year.

HATC currently offers: Dual Enrollment, Automotive Technology, Construction/Building Technology, Cosmetology, Electrical Technology, Health Sciences, Hospitality and Food Services, Law Enforcement/ Public Safety, Marketing, Mechanical/ Architectural Engineering and Design, Power Technology, and Professions in Education. For more information, please contact Clark Brock [cbrock@huronisd.org](mailto:cbrock@huronisd.org) or Lane Walker [lwalker@huronisd.org](mailto:lwalker@huronisd.org)

## Big Buck Night Held at Huron Area Technical Center

On November 9, the Huron Area Technical Center (HATC) hosted a Big Buck Night. The evening highlighted Tech Center programs, students, and their passion for hunting and the outdoors. "We have amazing students who share a passion for the outdoors and we wanted to give them an evening to showcase their love for hunting and fishing. The kids did a great job!" said Lane Walker, HATC Assistant Principal.



The night began with a catered dinner by the Hospitality and Food Services Program. The students served homemade bread bowls with chili and bean soup. After dinner, Jimmy Gretzinger, host of Michigan Out of Doors, interviewed each student and gave a presentation about the students and their hunting adventures. Todd Bishop, Michigan Chapter President of Ducks Unlimited and Randy Brown, owner of Randy's Hunting Center, made donations so everyone walked away with a prize. Also in attendance was Huron County Conservation Officer Kyle Buckholtz who was there supporting the students. "We have a lot of students and staff that share a love for the outdoors and we are blessed to have so many great opportunities in Huron County to enjoy them. We appreciate all the individuals that donated their time and resources for this event. Their efforts made the evening a huge success," said Walker.

