Lapeer County Intermediate School District
Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) for Special Education

Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Winter Edition
February 2020
Issue: 2 of 3

"Every child is a different kind of flower, and all together, make this world a beautiful garden."
– Anonymous

MISSION STATEMENT
The mission of the Lapeer County Intermediate School District Parent Advisory Committee is to promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

PAC Representatives

ALMONT
Dawn Wedemeyer (586) 615-7858
Melissa Bordogna (586) 531-1591
Anne Wilson (586) 531-4330

DRYDEN
Melanie Starr (810) 895-6449

IMLAY CITY
Rachel Pratt (810) 721-0548
Denise Kipp (Rossen) (810) 721-1342
Heather Brown (810) 614-4746

LAPEER
Kim Hall (810) 664-4743
Debbie LeClaire (810) 656-1188
VACANCY

LAPEER COUNTY ISD
Regina Starr (810) 623-2041
Patricia Smith (586) 322-4576

NORTH BRANCH
Becky Baksa (989) 245-7308
Dave Bennett (989) 286-7244

CHATFIELD
Contact Lapeer County ISD

Feel Free to contact your local representative for assistance or questions.

The Lapeer County ISD Special Education Parent Advisory Committee

The Lapeer County Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) is a group of educators and parents representing our local school districts whose primary focus is to stay informed regarding Special Education plans and changes, current trends in Special Education at the County, State, and Federal level, and if needed, to assist and promote partnerships among parents and educators that benefit students with disabilities.

The PAC takes an active role in the development of the Lapeer County Special Education Mandatory Plan, a document which describes the delivery of special education services in Lapeer County. The PAC provides workshops and speakers from the county and state-wide programs which can richly serve not only the parents of children with special needs, but in many instances the individual with the disability.

The PAC meets at:
Lapeer County ISD Education and Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Road, Attica, MI.
6 p.m.–8:00 p.m.

Please visit the ISD website at: www.lapeerisd.org

Meeting Dates

2019:

September 30
6:00 PM-7:00 PM
"Assistive Technology"
Business Meeting

November 4
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
"Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy"

2020:

January 13
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
Business Meeting Only

February 3
6:00 PM- 8:00 PM
"Getting & Keeping the First Job"

March 9
6:00 PM- 7:00 PM
"Estate Planning- Special Needs Trusts"
Business Meeting

May 4
Daytime Event Time TBA
"Rethinking Guardianship"

The LCISD Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) PRESENTS:

"Estate Planning"

Creating Special Needs Trusts

Parents Will Learn:

* The first step you need to take to begin planning for a child with special needs
* The financial advantages & disadvantages to setting up a special needs trust
* How money can be spent (does it include medical bills or adaptive equipment?)
* How a special needs trust affects family assets and receiving financial assistance
* What an ABLE Account is and how it differs from a Special Needs Trust

Free Training — No Registration Required

LCISD Lapeer County Intermediate School District

Rickard, Denney, Garno, Leichliter & Childers

Monday,
March 9, 2020
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Lapeer County Education and Technology Center
690 N Lake Pleasant Rd, Attica 48412
Conference Room 146

LCISD Lapeer County Intermediate School District

Parent Advisory Committee Meeting Dates 2019-2020

September 30, 2019 -	"Assistive Technology" / Business Meeting
November 4, 2019 -	"Skills for Effective Parent Advocacy" (Michigan Alliance for Families)
January 13, 2020 -	Business Meeting
February 3, 2020 -	"Getting & Keeping the First Job" (Michigan Alliance for Families)
March 9, 2020 -	"Estate Planning- Creating Special Needs Trusts" / Business Meeting
May 4, 2020 -	"Rethinking Guardianship" (Daytime Presentation w/ Luncheon – MAF)

You're invited!

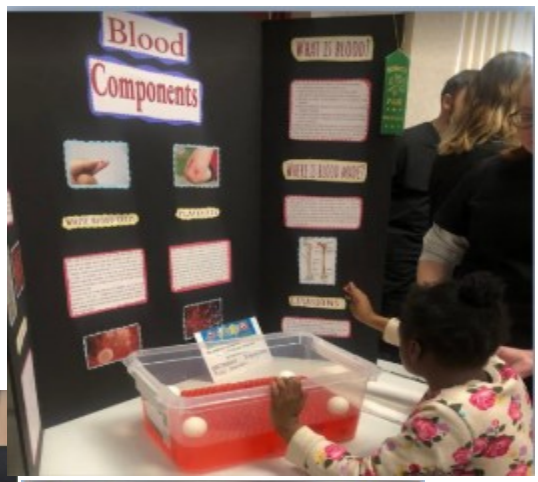
Welcome New

Parent Advisor Committee (PAC) Representative!

Hi I am Dave Bennett! I am from Mayville but my kids attend North Branch Elementary School. I have two daughters, a 7 year old and a 4 year old. My seven-year-old has some learning disabilities. I am a graduate of Michigan State University and I'm a dairy farmer in Mayville. I am also very involved in the parent group at the school. I hope with being involved with PAC I can help others with their needs for their children.

The Ed Tech All STARS have been busy this winter!

"Thanksgiving Feast, Mutch's Tree Farm, and A Science Fair with the Careers & Technology Education Students"



MICHIGAN LAW ENFORCEMENT

POLAR PLUNGE®

FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS MICHIGAN

Special Olympics Michigan

The Polar Plunge Is Coming To LAPEER!

Saturday, March 7th

11 am Registration

1 pm Plunge

Lapeer Center Building
425 County Center St. Lapeer, MI 48446

For more information or to donate visit:

https://www.classy.org/event/lapeer-polar-plunge/e264551

MICHIGAN Department of Education | Low Incidence Outreach

Website:

https://mdelio.org/

MDE's Low Incidence Outreach website has resources on:

* Blind/Visually Impaired
* Deaf/Heard of Hearing
* Events/News
* Family Support
* Camp Tuhsmeheta
* VI/DHH Endorsements

January MDE Low Incidence Outreach Newsletter

Can Be Found At The Web Link Below:

https://mdelio.org/news/january-2019-newsletter-available

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Young Athletes is a sports play program for children with and without disabilities ages 2-7. Young Athletes is designed to introduce kids to the world of sports prior to Special Olympics eligibility at age 8. Young Athletes introduces basic sport skills and children learn how to play with others. Lapeer County is considering starting a young athletes program and would like know if there is interest.

Special Olympics young athletes™

Please complete a short survey to let us know if there is interest in this program. There is a link to a video at the beginning of the survey that will help explain the program.

Link to survey:

bit.ly/youngathletesurvey

Paralympic Medalist Teaches Goalball Techniques to Students

When John Kusku played goalball competitively for the first time, he got a bloody nose.

"I thought it was great," said Kusku, who now plays on the men's U.S. Goalball Team. "I wanted to keep playing."

This past November, Kusku traveled to Ithaca, Michigan to teach goalball skills to seven students in first through sixth grade who are Blind/Visually Impaired (BVI). Goalball is specifically designed for individuals who are BVI; the objective is to throw or roll a ball through the other team's goal.

Setting an Example

Kusku said he didn't particularly enjoy playing goalball until he began attending the Michigan Blind Athletic Association's Sports Camp in 1996. He began playing regionally and joined the men's U.S. goalball team in 2009. Since then, Kusku's team has placed in tournaments across the world and earned a silver medal at the 2016 Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro. In 2020, the team is set to compete in the Paralympic Games in Tokyo. "I never knew goalball would allow me to travel outside Michigan, let alone across the world," Kusku said.

Future Goalball Events

Do you know a student who is interested in goalball? Stay tuned! Over the next few years, MDE-LIO is planning to build a facility at Camp Tuhsmeheta that will accommodate goalball activities for students.

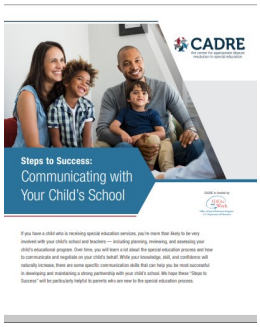
CADRE | The Center for Appropriate Dispute Resolution in Special Education

Supporting the prevention and resolution of disputes through partnership and collaboration

"A Tale of Two Conversations"

This popular video resource has been updated. The two-part series shows a parent of a child with a disability and a school administrator demonstrating poor communication skills and then provides the positive alternative. **View the video at the link below:**

https://www.cadreworks.org/resources/cadre-materials-state-resource/tale-two-conversations



Get the complete brochure at:

https://www.cadreworks.org/sites/default/files/resources/CADRE%20Steps%20To%20Success%202019%20Accessible.pdf

Family Matters

Learn about special education topics. Find resources to help you and your child.

What is *Family Matters*?

Visit our web page

michigan.gov/specialeducation-familymatters

Family Matters is an outreach effort from the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education (MDE OSE). *Family Matters* provides parents with information about special education and other resources. See their website for various "Fact" sheets on a number of special education topics.

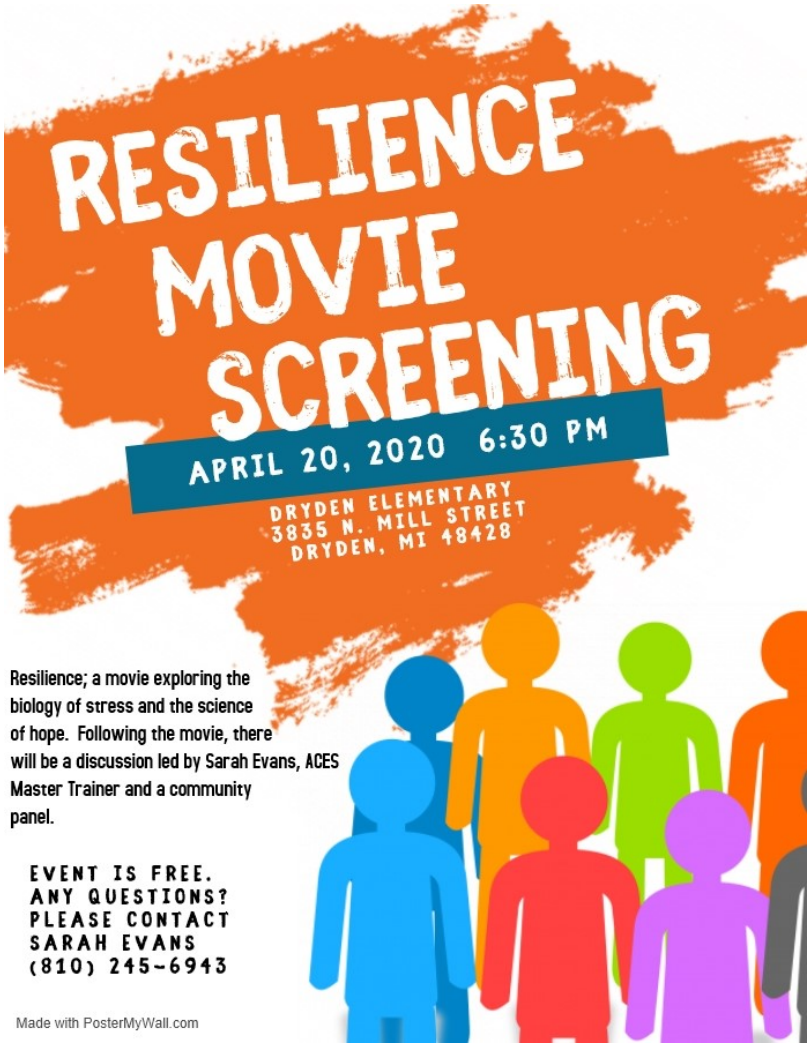
MICHIGAN Department of Education

1-888-320-8384 (OSE information line)

NEW FACT SHEETS:

* **Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)**
* **Educational Development Plan (EDP)**
* **Multi-Tier Systems of Support (MTSS)**
* **Personal Curriculum (PC)**

FREE Movie Screening with Panel Discussion



"Children who experience adversity tend to have health problems later in life."
-Dr. Nadine Burke Harris

The movie Resilience discusses the biology of stress and the science of hope.

This is a FREE event at:

DRYDEN Elementary School

April 20, 2020 at 6:30 PM

Can't make this date?

Another Resilience Movie Screening will take place on:

March 10, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Columbiaville Community Center

4620 Water Street

Columbiaville, MI 48421

TEN COSTLY MISTAKES TO AVOID WHEN PLANNING FOR A LOVED ONE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

ACADEMY OF SPECIAL NEEDS PLANNERS

No one likes to think about what will happen to our loved ones with special needs when we are no longer here. Unfortunately, the most popular estate plan in the United States is doing nothing. While not a good idea for anyone, it is especially troubling if there is a loved one with special needs. If you do nothing, your estate is managed under the rules set forth in your state's probate code. The state probate code does NOT consider whether a loved one has special needs. This could cause the wrong person to be named to oversee your loved one's care, or even cost your loved one access to essential benefits. Doing nothing really isn't a good option. For more information, and the other nine costly mistakes most families make when planning for a loved one with special needs, see the following guide from the Academy of Special Needs Planners. They encourage the use of this guide for background material and urge you to contact a trusted estate planning attorney to plan for your particular needs.

https://mielderlaw.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/10-Costly-Special-Needs-Planning-Mistakes.pdf?x52646

Early Childhood

Early Intervention for children birth to 36 months; supporting families so that they may enhance the development of their children within their daily routines and activities

Lapeer County Intermediate School District provides Early On services. This early intervention service is for infants and toddlers, birth to three years of age, with developmental delay(s) and/or disabilities, and their families. Research has shown that by addressing delays early on – especially between birth and age 3 – we can more effectively impact a child's development, event into adulthood.

Don't worry. But don't wait. If you think your infant or toddler may have any type of delay, contact Early On at 1-800-Early On or locally at 810-245-3994.

Helping parents and their children ages 3- 5, connect with Special Education supports if they have a suspected disability

Children grow and develop at different rates. Children who are not meeting milestones and/or struggling to learn may need additional supports to help them prepare for kindergarten. Special education programs and/or supports are available to children ages 3, 4, and 5 through each of the local school districts.

Concerned about your child? Call the ISD at 810-245-3994 to complete a simple Build Up Referral Form. Your local school district Special Education Department will reach out to you for more information and possibly an evaluation of your child.

The Lapeer County ISD oversees the GSRP grant in Lapeer County. Local school districts and community based partners independently run their programs under monitoring by the LCISD and the Michigan Department of Education.

Census data specific to Lapeer ISD showed there were 440 age and income eligible children this year. We receive funding to serve 230 eligible four year olds.

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. 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.

Great Start Collaborative and Great Start Parent Coalition

The Great Start Collaborative (GSC) and Parent Coalition (GSPC) of Lapeer County connect parents, agencies, preschools, health care, and many more who are working together to improve programs and services for families with young children. The work is based on the four State of Michigan goals: children are born healthy, children are healthy, thriving and developmentally on track birth to age 8, children are developmentally ready to succeed in school at the time of school entry and children are prepared to succeed in 4th grade and beyond by reading proficiently by the end of third grade.

FREE Developmental Screenings for Young Children

Families with children between the ages of 2 months and 5 years residing in Lapeer County School Districts can complete a FREE Ages and Stages (ASQ-3) developmental screening, or Social-Emotional Screening if you have behavior concerns.
Go to the link at: www.lapeerisd.org

Available free with the generous support of:

United Way of Lapeer County