



2021 Summer Conference August 2-4, 2021

AUGUST 2

Administrators' Retreat

This afternoon is set aside for district administrative staff to network and learn from one another. Schedule received separately from this program.

AUGUST 3

10:30-11:30 am

Sponsor Booths Open

Room: Oak North

11:30 am-12:00 pm

Lunch

Room: Oak North and South

12:00-12:30 pm

Welcome, Introductions, Sponsors

Room: Oak North and South

12:30-1:30 pm

What is Innovation in Education?

Room: Oak North and South

Format: Whole Group Panel Discussion

Will Heath, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools

Tim Throne, Superintendent, Oxford Community Schools

MiCoOp districts embraced student-centered learning before the term became widely used. Virtual schools, homeschool partnerships, and other programs are among the educational options offered by our districts. Some may consider these to be innovative while others may not. In our whole group session, panel members will discuss a variety of questions around the topic of innovation in education.

Questions to consider:

- What is innovation in education? Who determines if something is innovative?
- What is the difference between disruptive innovation and sustaining innovation?
- What role should the federal, state, and local levels play (or not play) in innovation?
- What are you trying to accomplish in your district by innovating, and why is it important?
- What is hindering innovation in public education and how can we address it?
- What do you see as the next innovation for your district?

1:30-1:45 pm

MiCoOp Yearly Photo

Outside, weather permitting



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1:45-2:00 pm

Break

2:00-3:00 pm

Equipping Staff with the Resources and Knowledge to Support Students for a Quality Virtual Experience

Room: Birch North

Format: Presentation

Kristi Teall, Executive Director, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Chris Loiselle, Operations Director, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Ryan Thelen, Associate Executive Director, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Jackie Gipe, MTSS Coordinator, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Jennifer Grimm, Client Support Specialist, Student Achievement Systems

Link Learning has been an innovator in virtual programming for at-risk students for over 10 years. During this panel discussion, you will learn how to:

- build collaboration among staff to support an effective virtual learning experience for students
- provide an MTSS structure for virtual learners
- use data to monitor progress of your virtual program
- use tools to increase engagement and productivity
- implement QA to increase performance
- close the achievement gap with special pops
- innovate to provide a quality virtual program

Outcomes:

- To understand which tools are necessary to improve virtual learning
- To understand process is critical to improve virtual learning
- To understand how to provide scaffolding to support both staff and students

Reinventing Student-Centered Learning in a Post-Pandemic Classroom

Room: Birch South

Format: Presentation

Jamie DeWitt, High School Principal, Portland Public Schools

As we break out of the haze of the COVID-19 pandemic, we will all (hopefully) return to our classrooms, where everything seems the same - but everything is different. Now, more than ever, we have the opportunity to move forward into a new world of student-centered instruction. With the norms of our 2019 classrooms thrown out the window, what are the ways that we (as teachers and/or leaders) work with students to help guide them forward? The purpose of this session is to gather together, reflect on the positive decisions we made for students this year, engage in choice board learning about what student-centered learning is, and discuss our focus area for the upcoming school year.

Outcomes:

- Participants will reflect on their work over the past year to identify moments of challenges and successes.
- Participants will explore various resources within a choice board to investigate student-centered learning.
- Participants will discuss their reflections and learning in a "what if we..." discussion protocol.



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The Year of COVID: Challenges, Lessons Learned, and Moving Forward

Room: Oak North

Format: Table Discussion

Cindy Fadel, Director, Gull Lake Virtual Partnership

Michon Periso, Director, Lapeer Virtual Partnership

Join us to discuss how COVID has impacted our partnership programs. We'll talk about the challenges we faced, lessons we learned, and how we plan to run our programs going forward. To streamline our discussion, please come with your district's top three challenges and top three lessons learned.

Outcomes:

- Compare challenges faced by partnership programs due to COVID.
- Discover solutions to challenges used by other partnerships.
- Evaluate new ideas to apply to the next school year.

Superintendent Session with legislators

Room: Oak South

3:10-4:10 pm

A Wild GooseChase: Differentiating Professional Learning for All Educators

Room: Birch North

Format: Hands-on Workshop

Dr. Ann Bingham, Curriculum Director, Niles Community Schools

At Niles Community Schools (NCS) we were challenged with not only facilitating district provided professional development online but to do so in a way that was engaging and allowed teachers to elevate their utilization of educational technology. In this session we will discuss how NCS utilized the goosechase app to facilitate professional learning centered around The Distance Learning Playbook, by Hattie, Fisher & Frey. Participants will be able to experience the app and determine which missions best match their professional learning goals. Participants will need their phone for this session so that they can download the application.

Outcomes:

- How can the goosechase app be utilized to differentiate professional learning for all staff members?
- How can the Distance Learning Playbook elevate instruction both virtually and in person?

Care and Training of Online Teachers

Room: Oak North

Format: Table Discussion

Betsy Springer, Virtual Teacher, Gull Lake Virtual Partnership

We will discuss and develop methods to mentor new virtual teachers. Mentoring of new teachers is required in Michigan for three years, yet few districts have processes defined to help virtual teachers specifically. What tools can be developed to help a teacher mentor guide a new virtual teacher in the most effective manner? This session will work as a workshop/brainstorming. The goal is to end with a concrete tool to assist districts and teacher mentors.

Outcomes:

- Develop tools and checklists to assist teachers in mentoring new teachers.
- Identify needs of new virtual teachers that mentors can address.



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Raise Your Hand for Quality Online Programming: What is it? How do you support and sustain it?

Room: Birch South

Format: Presentation

Kristin Flynn, Executive Director of Student Achievement, Caledonia Community Schools

Digital learning is in a constant state of change. What makes for quality online teaching? What considerations should be made from the district level to support quality online course development and instruction? In this session, we will explore best practices in developing online content and cultivating quality online instruction by looking at:

- Professional Responsibilities
- Digital Pedagogy
- Community Building
- Learner Engagement
- Digital Citizenship
- Diverse Instruction
- Assessment & Measurement
- Instructional Design

Outcomes:

- Explore available resources to help with district decision-making around quality online courses and instruction.
- Share collective successes stories and lessons learned around virtual programming.
- Develop a quick 'next steps' roadmap specific to each individual's district.

Superintendent Session with legislators

Room: Oak South

4:15-5:00 pm

Sponsor Showcase

Room: Oak North

Please support our sponsors by attending this session. This is an opportunity to talk with sponsors individually or in small groups.

6:00 pm

For those wanting to continue networking, we'll meet for dinner at Big Buck Brewery, 550 S Wisconsin Ave, Gaylord. A common space has been reserved for the MiCoOp with dinner costs on your own.



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AUGUST 4

8:00-9:00 am

Breakfast

Room: Oak North and South

9:00-9:30 am

Table Talks

Room: Oak North and South

Discuss the questions on the card at your table.

9:30-9:45 am

Announcements and Updates

Room: Oak North and South

SCECH Information, Book Club, Legislative Update

9:45-10:00 am

Break

10:00-11:15 am

How We Use Our LMS

Room: Oak North and South

Format: Discussion Dash

This session is formatted like “speed dating.” In the 75-minute session, participants will be able to hear from and talk to four different individuals about how they use their LMS. This is a fast-paced session so be sure to get contact information to follow up with additional questions. The presenters and topics for this session are:

- Best Practices for Using Calvert - Kristie Noguera, Hamilton Community Schools
- Assessing Using Brightspace - Portland Public Schools
- Instructional Practices Using Brightspace - Portland Public Schools
- Playlists for Classes and Groups of Students Using Schoology - Tim Pirowski, Berrien Springs Public Schools
- Using SeeSaw as an LMS for Elementary Ed - Stacy Lancour, Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium, and Keweenaw
- Creating Hybrid Courses in Agilix Buzz - Jordan Dennis, Oxford Community Schools

Outcomes:

- Compare use of LMS in other districts to current use in own district
- Acquire ideas to apply to own district's LMS



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School Culture + Staff Connection + Student Support = Student Success

Room: Birch North

Format: Presentation

Nicole Erickson, Center Director, West Michigan Virtual Academy

Chris Loiselle, Director of Quality Control, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

During a review of student outcomes and engagement between this year and last, it was found that West Michigan Virtual was able to increase student attendance by over 30%, log in rates by 27%, and time spent on task by 48%. Learn more about the cultural changes needed at this school to accomplish these improvements in spite of the COVID epidemic.

Outcomes:

- Understanding the critical nature of closely monitoring student learning in a virtual environment, and what tools can make the difference between losing students and increasing engagement.
- Learn how important a school culture of connection, relationship, and support is for effective virtual educational environments
- Find out how deep into students' lives educators must enter in order to truly support at-risk youth in a virtual environment.

Superintendent Session

Room: Birch South

11:30-12:30 pm

How Do We Use Staff to Personalize Learning?

Room: Oak South

Format: Table Discussion

Dr. Thomas Bruce, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning & Student Services, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Personalizing learning is a huge undertaking but one that is imperative for our students to find the individual success each of them needs. As we move down the path of personalized learning, how do we find and manage a team to meet the needs of every student? Throughout this table discussion, we will think outside the box of traditional staffing and envision possible ways to help our students realize their full potential.

Reflective Discussion Questions:

- How do we transition staff into new roles that support personalized learning?
- What do we know about Michigan law that allows us to use volunteers, like recent college graduates and business employees, to support student learning?
- How do we address collective bargaining agreement barriers that limit moving toward personalizing learning?
- What can we do to get creative about revenue sources to support personalized learning?

Hybrid Homeschooling

Room: Birch South

Format: Table Discussion

Eve Kaltz, MiCoOp Consultant, Retired Superintendent

This session will be a conversation based on the book Hybrid Homeschooling by Michael Q. McShane.

Reading the book is not a prerequisite for participating in the discussion, but the book contains interesting



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content from hybrid homeschools across the country. Join us to delve deeper into this topic and discuss ways in which we can secure this option for families in our districts. We might even have a guest speaker join us by phone!

Discussion Questions:

- Would you categorize the partnership programs in our districts as hybrid homeschooling? Why or why not? Are there non-public hybrid homeschools in your community?
- What problem(s) could (or do) hybrid homeschooling solve in your district or community?
- What can hybrid homeschooling tell us about innovation in education?
- How can we (or should we) secure a hybrid homeschooling option in public policy (state law)?

Building a Positive School Climate is Essential, Especially with the Year We've Been Through!

Room: Birch North

Format: Presentation

Jennifer Grimm, Client Support Specialist, Student Achievement Systems

Kristi Teall, Executive Director, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Your time is important. Spend it building meaningful, lasting relationships with your staff and students, not creating spreadsheets and charts. In this session, we'll share the use and application of a few tools designed to make the school day run more efficiently and effectively. As Confucius says, "If you are positive, you'll see opportunities instead of obstacles."

Outcomes:

- Learn how to schedule the school day around staff, students and relationships, not administrative paperwork.
- A positive attitude is contagious and a sign of success. What can you do today to upgrade your school climate to one of confidence and optimism?

12:30-2:00 pm

Lunch and Networking

Room: Oak North and South

Complete this form by **August 13, 2021** if you'd like to receive SCECHs. The link to the form will also be emailed to you early next week.





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