



MiCoOp 2023 Summer Conference
Breakout Sessions
as of 5/8/2023

A Winning Playbook: When All Programs Align!

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Bill Bergan, Discovery Academy Director; Tracey Jaggi, Curriculum Coordinator;
Frank Gonzalez, Discovery Academy Proctor, Berrien Springs Public Schools

In this session, Berrien Springs Public Schools will share how they have aligned their guaranteed and viable curriculum between Discovery Academy, the alternative education program, and the on-campus high school. The alignment of course scope and sequences as well as essential standards have allowed students to benefit and transition between programs. It also has allowed for credit recovery to be focused on student needs related to individual standards and units rather than repeating an entire course. Aligned curriculums across the district will give much more flexibility to students as well as professional growth and collaboration between programs that had not traditionally shared resources or professional learning. Berrien staff will share how this is a WIN-WIN relationship for all stakeholders including meeting student and teacher needs.

Reflective Questions:

- Are you able to have the same Guaranteed & Viable curriculum in all programs in your district?
- Are you able to drill down to the individual essential standard needs of your students in all programs?
- Does your Alternative or Virtual Program help with MTSS needs of your traditional high school students?

AI in Education: Innovations, Opportunities, and Challenges

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Tim Pirowski, Director of Technology, Berrien Springs Public Schools

This presentation aims to introduce school instructors to the world of artificial intelligence and its potential applications in education. It will cover the latest AI innovations and their potential benefits for teaching and learning, while also discussing the challenges that may arise.

Outcomes:

- Understand the potential benefits of using AI to personalize learning and improve student outcomes.
- Identify the different ways in which AI can be integrated into the classroom.
- Examine the potential challenges of using AI, such as privacy concerns and ethical considerations.

Breaking the Block - Creating a student schedule focused on opportunity and flexibility

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Jamie DeWitt, High School Principal, Portland Public Schools

In order to create a personalized experience for all students, creating a master schedule with flexibility can be an incredible challenge. Portland encountered this as we



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experienced reduced opportunities for elective options, student desires for work-based experiences, and a need to provide more flexible learning pathways for students. In the first year, PHS created over 20 new elective offerings, reduced the number of courses taken in a day, and created space for growing college/career pathways for students. Come to this session if you'd like to hear our "why" and our lessons learned, ask questions, and talk with other schools about creating flexible options for students within the traditional school day.

Outcomes:

- How do we work to create a master schedule with flexible and personalized options for students?
- What opportunities can be created for both advanced students as well as for students who need interventions?
- What are the biggest barriers to systemic change for new models of student learning time (student schedules)?

Is Your District Innovative?

Format: Table Discussion

Facilitator: Chris Davidson, Superintendent, Public Schools of Calumet, Laurium & Keweenaw

This will be a share-and-learn session focusing on the characteristics that make a district innovative, the inspiration that sparked their innovation, the key drivers sustaining their innovation, and where their innovation is taking their district.

Discussion Questions:

- What inspired your district to break the mold of traditional teaching and learning?
- How did your district utilize that inspiration to identify a coalition of the willing?
- What challenges has your district faced, and what is being done to sustain progress?
- What is next for innovative districts? And, what key characteristics define them, drive them, and sustain them?

Personalized Competency-Based Learning

Format: Table Discussion

Facilitator: Mike Burde, Director of Secondary Teaching & Learning, Wyoming Public Schools

Personalized Competency-Based Learning: What does this mean to you? This discussion will be flexible and fluid; allowing for authentic dialogue that will be steered by participants' interests and wonderings.

Discussion Questions:

- What does personalized competency-based education mean to you through the "systems" lens?
- What are some of the traditional paradigms for education that are attempting to be disrupted with this approach to learning? Which might be most challenging?
- Through the lens of our learners, what might success look like in a new approach to how we do school?



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- "What types of assessments and evaluation strategies can we use to accurately measure a student's competency and progress toward learning goals?"
- How can we empower students to take ownership of their learning and help them to develop a growth mindset?
- How can we leverage technology to personalize learning experiences and make them more accessible and engaging for students?
- How can we create a system that provides students with opportunities to develop essential skills such as critical thinking, creativity, and problem-solving?"

Personalized Professional Learning

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Mike Dahlinger, Administrator of School Partnerships, Michigan Virtual

Administrators often want to provide school- or district-wide professional development, personalized to staff...teachers crave this! Through Michigan Virtual's Group Registration and Enrollment program, you can choose courses for your staff to complete or curate a catalog with online, SCECH-bearing courses for staff to choose from. Additionally, personalized coaching services for blended and online learning efforts are available, as well as face-to-face synchronous training to make professional learning strong.

Outcomes:

- The ability to individualize/customize Professional Development for everyone
- The flexibility to have Professional Development where and when it fits best for the staff
- The opportunity to earn SCECH credits easily with updated reports on staff progress

School Culture...More Than An Attitude

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Tracey Hurford, Hybrid Learning Coordinator, Oxford Virtual Academy, Oxford Community Schools

School culture is more than an attitude. School culture needs a cultivated plan that is put into place, modeled, and practiced. Learn about our school's journey as we emerge out of Covid, a school tragedy, and create a fresh new way to BE.

Outcomes:

- Attitudes and Behaviors: We will learn how attitudes and behaviors can not only impact student performance but also how they both can make or break relationships with additional stakeholders including staff and parents/guardians.
- Customer Service: Is there room for Customer Service in our schools? We will explore how this practice is necessary in our changing world of education.
- Collaborative Teacher Leadership: Collaboration is a group of people with different skills, working together as equals, to create solid solutions. Let's reflect on how your school staff comes together as a team.



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- All of our actions and reactions send ripples through this world, creating positive or negative views and feelings. Let's reflect on how to create a healthy Human Factor.

Self Care and Educator Wellness

Format: Hands-on Workshop

Presenter: Betsy Springer, Teacher, Gull Lake Virtual Partnership

The adage is "You can't pour from an empty cup." Practice strategies for personal wellness as you relate to your role in education. Also, learn and discuss how you can support your colleagues in their own wellness journey.

Reflection questions:

- How does personal wellness impact educator effectiveness?
- How can teachers be more mindful?
- How can you support mindfulness and well-being in your organization?

Supporting Staff Through "Book Knowledge"

Format: Table Discussion

Facilitator: William Heath, Superintendent, Portland Public Schools

Books can be a catalyst for change. In this session, participants will be introduced to a series of books by Chip and Dan Heath and how each can be used, along with additional resources from the authors, in your district. Books discussed include *Made to Stick*, *Switch*, *Decisive*, *Power of Moments*, and *Upstream*. Whether you are seeking wisdom for teachers, administrators, leadership teams, decision-makers, or long-range planners, this session will provide an overview of resources to get you started.

Reflective Questions:

- How can we shape the path for change?
- How can we make communication more effective and memorable?
- Why is it important to stop fixing the potholes and start building moments?
- How can we learn to dodge biases and make better decisions?
- How can we prevent problems before they start?

Using Behavior Coaches to Impact Tier 4 Students

Format: Presentation

Presenters: Dustin Mobley, Director of Regional Services; Jackie Gipe, MTSS Coordinator; Amber Long, Regional Director, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Link Learning uses behavior coaches to support their Tier 4 students. This presentation will discuss how they use behavior coaches to build relationships with students, provide resources to meet student needs, and ultimately impact academics. Tier 4 data will be shared prior to and after the implementation of behavior coaches.

Outcomes:

- How can a school reach its "toughest" students?
- What role does relationship building play in supporting academic growth?



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- How can you incorporate a new position to support students and center staff?

What's in a System?

Format: Panel Presentation

Facilitator: Chris Loiselle, Director of Operations, Link Learning, Berrien Springs Public Schools

Presenters: Bobbi Jo Stoner, Principal of Early College and Innovative Programs, Gull Lake Community Schools; Emma Haygood, District Onboard Trainer, Berrien Springs Public Schools; Laura Bartel, Special Education Director, Link Learning; Simone Margraf, Director of Elementary Education, Jennifer Warner, Director of Secondary Education, Portland Public Schools

Systems are an important piece of running our school districts and impact the success of our innovative programming. The members of this panel will share district, school, or program systems in place and facilitate a discussion about them. Curriculum adoption, MTSS, special education, and onboarding of new staff will be covered.

Outcomes:

- Participants will learn about successful systems in other MiCoOp districts.
- Participants relate to the systems presented and compare them to those in their own districts.
- Participants discover new ways to look at their district's systems.

Write for Resiliency

Format: Presentation

Presenter: Janet Schell, Principal; Karen Brown, Instructional Coach; Caitlin Martin, English Teacher and Curriculum Writer, Oxford Virtual Academy, Oxford Public Schools

Opening the door to Oxford Virtual Academy staff's shared experience of connection and the use of writing to explore and build resiliency. Please bring paper and something to write with. **Session note: be prepared to listen, write, and learn about loss and grief. This could be an emotional session for some, so please take care of yourself.

Outcomes:

- Participants will learn about how OVA teachers struggled to build their capacity to support student learning while students experienced loss.
- Participants will recognize the circle of grief and the art of comforting in and dumping out.
- Participants will acquire resources that can be used to support staff members seeking guidance or support while dealing with loss or grief.