

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



Newsletter for the Families of Children with Special Needs

Winter Edition
February 2017
Issue: 2 of 3



"Once you learn to appreciate small victories, there is no need for a finish line."

-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

Kim Schurig- (586) 873-8611
Holly Ardman- (586) 372-1942
VACANCY

DRYDEN

Melanie Starr-(810)895-6449

IMLAY CITY

Melivia Mutch-(810)724-3918
Lorri Ruffrage-(734) 755-9587
Denise Kipp (Rossen)-(810)-721-1342

LAPEER

Kim Hall-(810)-664-4743 Chairperson
Kim Mileski-(810) 660-7751
VACANCY

LAPEER COUNTY ISD

Regina Starr- (810) 623-2041
Jessica Dombeck- (810) 701-0486

NORTH BRANCH

Becky Baksa-(989)245-7308
Shelli Greschaw-(810)688-7491

CHATFIELD

Contact Lapeer County ISD

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

Almont Special Education Teacher Wins Excellence in Education Award

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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.lcisd.k12.mi.us

PAC Meeting Dates 2017

March 6

Topic:

"MiABLE Savings Act"

May 8

Topic:

"Surrogate Parents and Special Education Decision-Making"

June 5

Business Mtg.

Please join us at our meetings, we welcome and encourage your participation and suggestions.

Childcare is not available



Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Presents:

“MiABLE Savings Act”

Achieving A Better Life Experience

For those that receive SSI disability benefits, a 529 savings program has been created to encourage and assist individuals and families in saving funds for supporting individuals with disabilities.

TOPICS:

- ♦ **ABLE account history & features**
- ♦ **Who is eligible for ABLE accounts?**
- ♦ **What can ABLE funds be used for?**
- ♦ **MiABLE features (tax implications)**
- ♦ **How to open a MiABLE account**



LCISD Lapeer County
Intermediate School District

March 6, 2017

6:00– 8:00 PM

**LCISD Education & Technology Center
690 N. Lake Pleasant Rd.
Attica, MI 48412**

Lapeer County Educator Wins Excellence in Education Award from the Michigan Lottery

The award winner, Dawn Wedemeyer, is a special education teacher at Almont High School, which is part of Almont Community Schools. Congratulations Dawn!!!

Winners of the weekly award receive a plaque, a \$500 cash prize, and a \$500 grant to their classroom, school or school district. One of the weekly winners will be selected as the Educator of the Year and will receive a \$10,000 cash prize.

Excellence in Education award nominees are evaluated on the following criteria:

- Excellence – Their work consistently helps students and/or their schools or school districts advance to higher levels of academic achievement.
- Dedication – They consistently go above and beyond expectations to help students succeed.
- Inspiration – Their work inspires others around them to exceed expectations either academically or professionally.
- Leadership – They demonstrate clear leadership skills in their positions with their school or school districts.
- Effectiveness – The nominee's work has clear and positive results on the educational advancement of students within the school or school district.



“My favorite part about being an educator is seeing the growth of my students as they become more and more independent,” Wedemeyer said. “When I was in high school, I volunteered in several special education classrooms. I always knew that I wanted to teach, but to see the growth in those students and their excitement and joy over the tiniest accomplishment was exciting and helped me choose my career path.”

(Dawn Wedemeyer talks with Michigan State University basketball coach, Tom Izzo, after accepting her Excellence in Education Award)



About The Great Bike Giveaway

For a child with special needs, bike riding offers far more than a recreational experience. Bike riding provides a source of much-needed exercise, gives therapeutic value, and contributes to an inclusive environment where a child with special needs can ride a bike like everyone else.

Due to balance and mobility challenges, many children and teens with special needs require the use of an adaptive bike. Sadly, most families cannot afford the high costs of adaptive bikes and their children remain on the sidelines watching their friends and family members ride by.

Registration deadline: **Wednesday, March 15, 11:59 am**

Visit their website at: <https://bikes.friendshipcircle.org>



Adaptive bikes
promote health,
inclusion
and plain old fun.

View a list of adaptive bike health benefits.



Lapeer County Education & Technology Center Is Awarded MI HEART Safe School Award



HEART Safe School Award Program:

A HEART Safe designation recognizes a school's efforts to prevent sudden cardiac death of the young (SCDY) by screening its athletes for inherited syndromes that predispose to sudden cardiac arrest and preparing for a cardiac emergency. Members of this school community know how to recognize the signs of a sudden cardiac arrest and respond quickly by calling 9-1-1 and using CPR and an automated external defibrillator (AED) until EMS arrives.

Dr. Humes Presents MI HEART Award to Nurse Bridget Carson and ETC Staff



What You Need To Know About Lead Poisoning

What is lead poisoning?

Lead is a toxic metal used in a variety of products and materials, including paint, vinyl mini-blinds, pipes, leaded crystal, dishware, and pottery coatings. When lead is absorbed into the body, it can cause serious damage to vital organs like the brain, kidneys, nerves, and blood cells. Lead poisoning is especially harmful to children under the age of six.

What are the health effects of lead poisoning in children?

Lead interferes with the development and functioning of almost all body organs, particularly the kidneys, red blood cells, and central nervous system.

Lead poisoning is much more serious when children are exposed to lead. Since their bodies are not fully developed, lead poisoning can cause:

- ▶ Brain, liver, and kidney damage;
- ▶ Slowed development;
- ▶ Learning or behavior problems;
- ▶ Lowered intellect (or IQ);
- ▶ Hearing loss; and
- ▶ Restlessness.

What are the symptoms of lead poisoning?

Most children with lead poisoning do not show any outward symptoms unless blood-lead levels become extremely high; consequently, many cases of children with lead poisoning go undiagnosed and untreated. However, some symptoms of poisoning include:

- ▶ Headaches;
- ▶ Stomachaches;
- ▶ Nausea;
- ▶ Tiredness; and
- ▶ Irritability.

Because the symptoms of lead poisoning are similar to those of flus or viruses, the only way to know if a child is poisoned is to have a doctor perform a simple blood test.

Blood Testing: The only way to detect lead poisoning is by performing a simple blood test. The bodies of children six-months to two years of age absorb more lead; thus, testing is increasingly important for their health. Nevertheless, all children under the age of six should have their blood-lead levels tested at their regular pediatrician's office or at a public health clinic, even if nothing is apparently wrong with their health.



For more information about lead poisoning, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead or call The National Lead Information Center at 1-800-424-LEAD (5323).



Forever Friends Network (FFN)

Every child wants to be accepted and have a place where they can be themselves without judgment. Forever Friends Network (FFN) is a place where they can go and have fun. We are an Autism Support Organization based in Lapeer, MI. Everyone is welcome to join our social groups. Ages 5-10 must be accompanied by an adult.

Social groups are held on the: 1st & 3rd Friday every month / 5:30 - 7:30 pm / Maple Grove School / 2020 Imlay City Rd.

Check us out at: www.foreverfriendsnetwork.net

Taco Fiesta Dinner Fundraiser - April 8, 2017

(With Silent Auction & Bake Sale)

- ◆ Time: 2:00-6:00 PM
- ◆ Location: Maple Grove 2020 Imlay City Road

- ◆ \$10 - 3 Taco Dinner
- ◆ \$8 - 2 Taco Dinner

For Additional Information Contact: Regina Starr (810) 623-2041

Includes: Drink, Rice, Beans, and Toppings



You are invited to a community gathering of groups and individuals connected to the disability community and education system in Lapeer County...



Who should attend?

Parents and caregivers of children/teens/young adults with a disability or learning challenge; community agencies, community organizations, service clubs, school district employees, PTA, school board members, appointed and elected officials, community members interested in the education of children and supporting families.

What is this meeting about?

Michigan Alliance for Families is planning our future work in Lapeer County. This stakeholder meeting will bring together families with children receiving special education and/or early intervention services for networking, dialogue, and planning and the members of the community that support them.



Tuesday, May 9, 2017

1:00pm - 3:00pm

or

6:30pm – 8:00pm

Sign-in opens 30 minutes before each session starts.

Lapeer Ed Tech Center

690 N. Lake Pleasant Road Attica, MI 48412

RSVP with Jill Clyne by 5/3/17

(810) 989-9144 ext 3 or

jill@michiganallianceforfamilies.org Or online at
www.michiganallianceforfamilies.org/rsvp



Getting My Own Address (GMOA) Information/Resources Meeting

TOPICS:

- **March 15:** Roommates: options for sharing food, transportation and other parts of your life
- **May 17:** Information to share – Letters of Intent
- **October 18:** Topic TBD

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Location:

Community Housing Network
570 Kirts Blvd, Suite 231 [\(map\)](#)
Troy, MI 48084

Who's Eligible?

All people with disabilities, family members, guardians and professionals who support them are welcome to attend GMOA Information/Resources Meetings. Reservations are not necessary.

For More Information Contact: Linda Ronan Brown

Housing Resource Consultant and Founder of Getting My Own Address program

248-269-1346 or Lbrown@chninc.net

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. It only takes 10 minutes to complete and you will receive your results via email or phone within a week. **Parents will also learn more about what to expect at each stage of development.**

Early Diagnosis and Intervention can help give a child the best opportunity to reach his/her full potential.

There are five areas of **development** that are examined with our Ages and Stages developmental screening (ASQ-3):

Fine Motor
Gross Motor
Communication
Problem Solving
Personal-Social

There are seven areas of **social-emotional** development that are examined with our Ages and Stages Social-Emotional Screening (ASQ:SE-2):

Self-regulation
Compliance
Communication
Adaptive Functioning

Click On: http://www.lcisd.k12.mi.us/departments/early_childhood

Questions contact B4Kindergarten Information Line 810-245-5994



Becoming You: Loving Yourself from the Inside Out

Gloria Sherman, a nationally recognized individual and family coach will be presenting this program for women in recovery. It is designed to empower women to understand their feelings, stressors, and strengths. The goal of the workshops is to help women develop an understanding of their belief system, personality style, embrace new learning opportunities, and develop a plan of action for moving forward.

Classes will begin Monday, January 30, 2017, February 6, 13 and 20th. Follow up sessions March 6 and 20th.

Location: St. Matthews Church, 220 W. Nepessing
Meeting times: 6:30-8:15 pm
Cost: Free, pre-registration is appreciated. To register call 810-441-8027
Topics to be explored:

- * Communicating from a Place of Authenticity
- * Putting On Your Own Oxygen Mask First
- * Exploring the Power of Love, Belonging, and Being Enough
- * Oh the Places You'll Go – Don't Let Where You've Been, Stop You!

In The News



Legislature Passes Seclusion & Restraint Laws

The use of **non-emergency** restraint and seclusion practices will no longer be allowed in Michigan schools under legislation.

Under the legislation, **restraint and seclusion practices may only be used if a child is a danger to themselves or others**. The bills also require any use of restraint and seclusion to be reported both to the parents and the Michigan Department of Education, as well as requiring additional training for school personnel on how to handle behavioral situations.

The legislation codifies the current State Board of Education policy regarding appropriate usage of restraint and seclusion practices into law.

The bills are now Public Acts 394-402 of 2016.

MDE must develop a state policy on seclusion and restraint. Local districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts would then be required to adopt and implement local policies consistent with MDE's model policy. Such policies must be in place for the 2017-2018 school year.

Restorative Practices & Student Discipline

The Legislature recently passed a package of seven bills that will require school officials to consider various factors before suspending or expelling a student and to consider the use of **restorative practices**, regardless of whether a student is suspended or expelled. The new laws take effect August 1, 2017.

Factors to Consider Before Discipline

Public Act 360 of 2016 (PA 360) adds Section 1310d to the Revised School Code (RSC). **Except for students who are being expelled for possessing a firearm in a weapon free school zone**, Section 1310d requires school officials to consider all of the following factors before suspending or expelling a student under Sections 1310, 1311(1), 1311(2), or 1311a:

- (1) The student's age;
- (2) The student's disciplinary history;
- (3) Whether the student has a disability;
- (4) The seriousness of the violation or behavior committed;
- (5) Whether the violation or behavior committed threatened the safety of any student or staff member;
- (6) Whether restorative practices will be used to address the violation or behavior committed; and
- (7) Whether a lesser intervention would properly address the violation or behavior committed.

Section 1310d gives school officials sole discretion over the method used to consider these factors.



FREE PRESCHOOL!!

Great Start Readiness Program

Serving eligible children that are 4 years old by
September 1, 2017

- **State Funded**
- **Evidence Based Curriculum**
- **Child Screening and Assessment**
- **Home Visits**
- **Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- **Certified Teachers**
- **Transportation Available at Some Locations**
- **Licensed by the State**

Why is Preschool Important?

Research shows that children who attend high-quality preschool programs are MORE likely to:

- **Read proficiently by 3rd Grade**
- **Graduate from High School**
- **Attend College**
- **Earn Higher Incomes**

Preschool prepares children for Kindergarten,
3rd grade, and beyond!

Contact

**B 4 Kindergarten at
(810) B4K-FYYI
(810-245-3994)**

for more information



THE LAPEER AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

AND

LAPEER COUNTY INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Invite you to a

Community Conversation



WHO: Local Business Owners, Parents & Community Stakeholders
LOCATION: Lapeer Center Building 425 County Center Street, Lapeer, MI 48446
WHEN: Thursday, April 27, 2017
TIME: 6:00-8:00 PM

Please join us for an evening of facilitated conversation and collective brainstorming about how our community can increase employment opportunities for youth and young adults with disabilities. We will have an informal discussion about increasing employment for youth with disabilities and explore ways to create new opportunities. Light refreshments will be served.