

From the Director's Desk...



Ronald S. Rizzo, Ph.D.



In his 1937 farewell address, British Ambassador [Hughe Knatchbull-Hugessen](#) once famously said, "May you live in interesting times." These certainly seem to be interesting times for those of us in the education field, with a number of new initiatives and requirements heading our way. I encourage you to read the articles by Associate Director Ron Schneider and Academic Assessment Specialist Charissa Talsma to get a sense of some of those initiatives. We will explore in depth what these requirements mean for our public school academies at our 15th Annual Spring Briefing also discussed in this newsletter.

January is Board Appreciation Month, and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Board members for their service and dedication. We appreciate your commitment to the academies on whose Boards you serve, and to the children who attend those academies!

As we reach the halfway point of this academic year, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank all staff who work in our 20 public school academies across the State, serving almost 9,500 students on a daily basis. Please know how much we respect and appreciate your work! We wish you continued success in the second half of this academic year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. S. Rizzo".

Dr. Ronald S. Rizzo
Director of Charter Schools

Thank
you

A close-up of a gold-colored fountain pen with a blue ink reservoir, positioned diagonally.

Greetings from the Associate Director

New Policies and Procedures for Public Schools



Ron Schneider
Associate Director

I wanted to make sure school leaders and board members are aware of some of the new requirements that have been approved for public schools in Michigan. I needed to split up the new requirements into two newsletters because of the volume of information! When discussing and dealing with all of these new mandates, boards and staff need to do some research on their own, involve legal and financial consultants, attend any ISD or MDE workshops, check for relevant policies that might need modifying, and involve all stakeholders when finalizing procedures. I will share some limited information on seclusion and restraint, new civics contents and assessment, teaching genocide, and CPR Training in this newsletter and address Zero Tolerance/Restorative Practices, Third Grade Reading Legislation, and Opioid Antagonists in the next one.

Seclusion and Restraint (S/R)

Basically, using S/R tactics with students will not be allowed for outbursts or behavior issues. Public Acts 394 and 395 and House Bills 5409-5417 of 2016 limit the use of S/R to emergency situations, where a student's behavior poses an "imminent risk" to the safety of the student or another and behavior is such that immediate intervention is required. If school officials do resort to S/R methods, they will need to report it to administrators, parents and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). One element of the legislation is the requirement that schools must train and identify staff members called "Key Identified Personnel" (KIP). KIPs are called in when an emergency situation arises that might require S/R methods and stay until the emergency is gone. The comprehensive training for KIPs is substantial, so they should become your local go-to person for S/R issues. Involve your KIP in documenting events and

-continued-

Questions?

Contact Ron Schneider
at

RonaldSchneider@ferris.edu

or

(231) 591-5803



Assessment News

NWEA@MAP®

Your academy should be well into the Winter Testing Window! I know there have been a few technological glitches—please do not hesitate to contact tech support if you run into a technological issue. The tech support specialists are highly trained to address the behind-the-scenes issues that may arise, and will often be able to troubleshoot your problem in minutes. If you have a question about data interpretation or specifics about the reports—that's where I come in!

MAJOR UPDATES: Two major updates have become live since the last newsletter:

1. [M-STEP Linking Study](#) was completed. This is HUGE! This now allows you to see what a student's projected proficiency is expected to be based on their performance on their most recent MAP assessment. As you can see, for students to be projected to be proficient, they have to be slightly above the Norm for their grade level. This correlates almost directly with the study I did comparing our portfolio students M-STEP and spring MAP performance. **REMEMBER:** Just because a student doesn't make that benchmark, doesn't mean they won't be proficient—these correlations are to show *likely* or *anticipated* proficiency.
2. NWEA Help Center: [What's New for Educators](#): (login is required) highlights the changes to the Student Profile Report that was released earlier this year. This report will continue to expand over the course of the next academic year. [NWEA Community](#) is a great place to find shared resources and tips from other NWEA MAP users.

Educational Goals

Many of you have been asking about our Educational Goals for the 2016-2017 school year. On behalf of all of us at the CSO, we do apologize for the delay. The main reason for the delay is that we would like to construct a goal policy that can remain in place for more than one year. Our goal is that we would like to view these contractual goals, and performance on them, not just as yearly marks, but as a way to gauge a school's effectiveness over time.

That being said, we can share with you the assessments that we will be using for our goals:

Grades	Assessment	Type
2-8*	NWEA MAP	Growth, Achievement
9-11	PSAT/SAT	Growth, Achievement
3-8	M-STEP	Growth, Achievement

*2016-2017 will be the last year that 9th and 10th grade MAP will be required. Schools will have the option to continue using the MAP assessment for those grades if they would like, but it will not be used as an accountability piece.

In regards to achievement benchmarks or targets, we are moving away from having a specific score or benchmark as the standard for attainment. Rather, we are looking more at a systemic process—are your scores moving up?—both numerically and relative to other schools/systems. For example, rather than saying 3rd grade math must average a RIT of 203.4, did an academy's RIT (and consequently their national percentile ranking) progress forward.

Professional Development

REGISTER NOW!!! For the upcoming “Make It, Take It” Student Centered Literacy Instruction Workshop being held at the FLITE Library on February 16. Amy Kavanaugh and Kristin Conley, two FSU professors, will be providing some great resources and tips for literacy instruction in 5th-8th grade. [Register here.](#)

The Grand Valley Professional Development Opportunities have started up again! I met with Lissa Brunan and Alissa Thelan and they were both excited to see FSU Charter Schools teachers at some of their professional development workshops this fall and would love to see more of you! They LOVE having new eyes and ears to be able to give relevant professional development opportunities! To see what they offer, follow this link: <http://www.gvsu.edu/cso/professional-development-11.htm> Here are their offerings for February and March. Click on the event to be directly linked to the event page; double-check the date and location when registering!

- February 1:
 - [Synthetic Phonics vs. Analytic Phonics](#) (Grand Rapids)
- February 7:
 - [Make and Take: Interactive Formative Assessments](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Reading in the Content Area](#) (Detroit)
- February 8:
 - [Student Climate & Culture 101: Being Culturally Responsive to the needs of Urban Students](#) (Detroit)
 - [Reading in the Content Area](#) (Grand Rapids)
- February 9:
 - [Make and Take: Interactive Formative Assessments](#) (Detroit)
 - [Engaging Students in Meaningful Math using Games](#) (Grand Rapids)
- February 15
 - [Reading RTI: A Movement Approach to Intervention](#) (Detroit)
 - [Math RTI: A Movement Approach to Intervention](#) (Detroit)
- February 16:
 - [Climate and Culture 102*: Being Culturally Responsive with Pedagogy and Relevant Instructional Practices within the Urban Classroom](#) (Grand Rapids)
- February 21:
 - [NWEA Applying Reports](#) (Detroit)
- February 22:
 - [NWEA Applying Reports](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 2:
 - [Engaging Students in Meaningful Math using Games](#) (Detroit)

- March 6
 - [Student Climate & Culture 101: Being Culturally Responsive to the needs of Urban Students](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 7
 - [Infusing Synthetic Phonics Strategies with Reading Street](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 8
 - [Infusing Synthetic Phonics Strategies with Reading Street](#) (Detroit)
- March 9
 - [Unpacking the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics](#) (Detroit)
 - [Creating Writing Units with Mentor Text](#) (Detroit)
- March 10
 - [Creating Writing Units with Mentor Text](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Differentiating Instruction to Better Meet the Needs of ALL Students](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 14
 - [Reading Bill 4882—Third Grade Reading Bill](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Climate & Culture 102: Being Culturally Responsive with Pedagogy and Relevant Instructional Practices within the Urban Classroom**](#) (Detroit)
- March 15
 - [Reading Bill 4882—Third Grade Reading Bill](#) (Detroit)
- March 16
 - [Teaching Science through Inquiry](#) (Detroit)
 - [Integrating S.T.E. and M. ins Not Only Possible, it's Fun for You and Your Students Too!](#) (Detroit)
 - [Independent Workstations](#) (Detroit)
 - [Unpacking the Common Core State Standards for Mathematics](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 17
 - [Teaching Science through Inquiry](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Integrating S.T.E. and M. ins Not Only Possible, it's Fun for You and Your Students Too!](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Independent Workstations](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 28
 - [NWEA Informing Instruction](#) (Detroit)
 - [Year 1 of PSAT/SAT Done! What Should We be doing Now?](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Reading Bill 4822](#) (Grand Rapids)
- March 29
 - [NWEA Informing Instruction](#) (Grand Rapids)
 - [Year 1 of PSAT/SAT Done! What Should We be doing Now?](#) (Detroit)
 - [Reading Bill 4822](#) (Detroit)
- March 30
 - [Nonviolent Crisis Intervention](#) (Grand Rapids)

Remember that the registration costs are covered by the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office!

Last summer, the CSO and the FSU School of Education piloted a Curriculum Boot Camp with one of our academies. This allowed teachers to work intensively on their curriculum without interruption. Through the process, we discovered that this event is best if conducted with a single school district, and by request. If any of you would like more information about this program and/or opportunity, please let Charissa know.

Dates to Note:

- January 9-February 3: NWEA MAP Winter Window
- February 16: Literacy Tools: A Make It Take It Workshop facilitated by Amy Kavanaugh and Kristin Conley. Ferris State University Campus
- March 21: Spring Briefing
- April 10-May 26: MSTEP Testing Window
 - April 10-May 5: Grades 5, 8, 11
 - May 1- May 26: Grades 3, 4, 6, & 7
- April 11: Michigan SAT Testing Date
- April 11 or 12: Michigan PSAT8/9, PSAT10 dates
- April 17-June 9: NWEA Spring Window

Resources:

- Academic Assessment Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/fsucsoaa/>
- Khan Academy Practice Links
 - This [link](#) will get you to PDFs that contain links to Khan Academy Practice Exercises. I am working on a way to get the documents into an easily accessible location; however, I found when I downloaded the PDF's, the hyperlink of the resource went away.
- Teachers pay Teachers & Pinterest
There are thousands of MAP-correlated resources out there on these crowdsourced sites. Just remember to make sure the content matches your learning target, and that the activity truly matches that target.
- [NWEA RIT to College Explorer](#)
This website allows a student to enter their RIT score at different seasons and see what college's acceptance rates are. Similarly, students can look at their top college choices and see how their RIT compares to their enrollment as well as their ACT score.

Board Development Opportunity



Wednesday, February 22, 2017

Board Dinner & Development

The DoubleTree Hotel
Detroit-Nov

We invite all Ferris State University authorized academy board members to join us on February 22, 2017 at the DoubleTree-Nov as our guest for a Board Dinner & Development, ***"What Every Board Member Wished They Knew About Their Financial Statements"***. How often have you, as a board member, listened to a business manager or auditor's presentation and rather than asking intuitive, value added questions, just stared at the ceiling? You are not alone if you chose the counting ceiling tile option! Patrick Sweeney, CPA partner at Croskey, Lanni, PC, has worked with many boards to teach them how to increase understanding of financial information and how to break it down into simple understandable relationships.

Please register by February 15 – seats are limited! For more information and registration, [click here](#).

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events:

- March 21 – Spring Briefing
- May 3 – Board Day at the Capitol

More info will be emailed in the near future.

Questions?

Contact Mindy Britton
at
MindyBritton@ferris.edu
or
231-591-5804

15th Annual Spring Briefing

Mark Your Calendar!

Tuesday, March 21, 2017

The Charter Schools Office will host its 15th Annual Spring Briefing on March 21, 2017, at the DoubleTree Hotel Detroit-Dearborn. The briefing will follow a different format from past years with breakout focus sessions after lunch. There will be a focus session for Board members and one for members of school leadership teams. The full agenda will be released with the Spring Briefing invitation.

School Leaders, Curriculum Directors, Assessment Coordinators, Board members, Epicenter users, and management company representatives are encouraged to attend. Please be sure to reserve your spot!

Look for an Electronic Invitation in February!



Who Should Attend?

- All School Leaders
- Curriculum Directors
- Assessment Coordinators
- Board Members
- Epicenter Users
- Management Company Representatives

Questions?

Contact Ron Rizzo
at
RonaldRizzo@ferris.edu

or

Sue Lewis
at
SusanLewis@ferris.edu

or Call
231-591-5802

Charter Schools Office Scholarship Fund



Charter Schools Office Scholarship Fund

Admissions

1201 S. State Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 591-2100
Toll Free: (800) 433-7747
FAX: (231) 591-2688
admissions@ferris.edu

Further Scholarship Information Contact: Scholarships and Financial Aid

1201 S. State Street
Big Rapids, MI 49307
(231) 591-2110
Toll Free: (800) 433-7747
ext: 2122
FAX: (231) 591-2950
scholarships@ferris.edu

College is an investment in your future, and whether or not to attend college is one of the most important decisions you will make in your lifetime. College is also expensive. For this reason, the Charter Schools Office at Ferris State University has established a program called the Charter Schools Office Scholarship Fund to assist students considering enrollment at Ferris State University. Scholarship funds are meant to help with payment for tuition or room and board. The scholarship is available to graduates from any Ferris State University authorized high schools.

Graduates from any of the Ferris State University authorized academy high schools listed below may apply:

- Allen Academy
- Blended Learning Academies Credit Recovery High School
- Clara B. Ford Academy
- Creative Technologies Academy
- Detroit Delta Preparatory Academy for Social Justice
- Hope Academy of West Michigan
- Hope of Detroit Academy
- Lighthouse Academy
- Marshall Academy
- Michigan Collegiate High School
- Michigan Connections Academy
- Voyageur College Prep High School

**Students graduating
from Ferris State
University authorized
public school academies
are automatically
eligible for
consideration of the
Charter Schools Office
scholarship!**



-See next page for the Scholarship Brochure-

Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change Named Michigan Reward School



Congratulations to Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change (MMAEC) for being named a Michigan Reward School. MMAEC was recognized as a "Beating The Odds" school by outperforming 30 other schools with similar student demographics. When asked what she attributed the Academy's success to, Head of School Alisha DuBois stated, "We have a phenomenal staff here."



Muskegon Montessori Academy for Environmental Change is in their fourth year of operation in Norton Shores and is managed by MICHoice.



***School Board Recognition Month -
January 2017***

On behalf of the Ferris State University Charter Schools Office, we thank all of our Academy Board Members for their service to the academies and students!

We appreciate your work!



**Northridge Academy Receives Donations
of Mittens and Hats**



In January, approximately 150 mittens and hats were delivered to Northridge Academy from the CSO. For the tenth consecutive year, the CSO collected the mittens, etc., in lieu of buying each other gifts.

Schools with a free/reduced lunch rate over 75% are eligible for the program, and academies are selected in alphabetical order.

Our Mission

FSU Mission

Ferris State University prepares students for successful careers, responsible citizenship, and lifelong learning. Through its many partnerships and its career-oriented, broad-based education, Ferris serves our rapidly changing global economy and society.

CSO Mission

The Ferris State University Charter Schools Office focuses on student success and continuous improvement through quality oversight, professional learning opportunities, and relevant resources for its authorized public school academies.

Ferris State University Charter Schools Office



Bulldogs Lovin' the Snow!

Ferris State University, Charter Schools Office - CPD, 1020 Maple Street, Big Rapids, MI 49307