

Lakeland STAR News

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We Are Growing "Leaps and Bounds"!

Welcome to the 2019-2020 school year! I hope you are looking forward to this journey as much as we are here at LSSA. We have nearly doubled our enrollment within one year! With doubling enrollment, that means we have also added to our staff to meet the needs of all our learners. I am thrilled to welcome Abby Schultz, Nicole Schiltz, Leslie Thompson, Brittany Hazard, and Jamie Harris to our incredible team of educators and support staff.

We had a very busy summer, beginning with our annual fundraising Golf Outing on June 10th at the Minocqua Country Club. The generosity of our community and individuals across the country allow us to continue to grow and provide students and families with a choice for their education. Thanks to the generosity of Ascension Howard Young Medical Center, our PAES Lab facility has grown to nearly 5,000 square feet. This addition has allowed for the creation of a transition-focused classroom, an additional sensory room, and space for the Driver's Education simulator that was purchased through our gracious donors at the Golf Outing.

Eric Johnson has been an instrumental piece to our PAES Lab success. This past summer, Eric extended our PAES Lab, which also now focuses on career exploration. The LSSA PAES Lab and Career Exploration Center, in collaboration with local and surrounding community partners, offers our Lakeland area Grades 7-12 students engagement and firsthand on-site and off-site career exploration opportunities in a variety of employment fields. In addition, there was also the implementation of First Step Lab for students who are struggling learners. First Step provides more simplistic and much-needed remedial skill assessments that these individuals will need so they can progress into the traditional PAES Lab model. A huge thanks to Eric for his "out of the box" thinking and making the LSSA PAES Lab and Career Exploration Center a place where virtually anyone can learn new skills.

This summer also brought us our first offering of Summer Enrichment for LSSA students. Stephanie Cull facilitated a two-week National Inventors Science Camp, which allowed our students to participate in a fun, high-energy program where they teamed up with familiar faces to make the impossible possible. Claire Malchow and Kris Webster ended out the summer enrichment with a week of fun-in-the-sun activities. They painted and hid rocks in the community with our Facebook address on them. Several were found by vacationers and documented to our Facebook page. They also facilitated doing community outings to Torpy Park, and exploring shops and businesses in the local community. They focused on healthy snack preparation, and were also able to spend time with the horses at Scholl Community Impact Group in Winchester. The students just loved these experiences!

On behalf of our students and staff, I would like to thank our Governance Board, the LUHS School Board, and our countless community sponsors and donors who afford our team this opportunity to work and serve our families at LSSA. Thanks to you, we will be able to continue providing state-of-the-art programming and, more importantly, choice for our families when deciding on where to send their students. I am excited to continue to watch our students grow and find success in their education endeavors!

Appreciatively,

Eric Mikoleit
Director, Lakeland STAR School/Academy



Golf Outing

Our June 10th Golf Outing fundraiser was a huge success



Summer Enrichment

Students enjoyed variety of learning activities, including Science Camp



First Step Lab

Funded by Golf Outing Donations, First Step Lab helps struggling learners develop job skills

LSSA PAES Lab adds First Step Lab, Career Exploration Center

Students enjoy experiential career exploration opportunities on Fridays

The Lakeland STAR School/Academy PAES Lab, under the full-time direction of paraprofessional educator Eric A. Johnson, greatly expanded its scope of operations in the 2019-20 school year with several additions, including a First Step Lab program for struggling learners and Friday afternoon Career Exploration activities.

The PAES Lab, which offers job skills and workplace readiness evaluation in five career cluster areas for students at Lakeland STAR and Lakeland Area Consortium schools LUHS, AV-W, MHLT, Lac du Flambeau and North Lakeland, added First Step Lab programming



to better serve struggling learners through simplified one-on-one job skills instruction and evaluation.

Career Exploration activities on Friday afternoons, made possible by a variety of community partners across the Northwoods, allows students the opportunity to experience various careers firsthand in the dynamism of the actual workplace (above at the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Police Department, at right at NBC affiliate WJFW-TV 12), where students interact one-on-one with supervisors and employees about their on-the-job workplace experiences and the skills and education required for their jobs. Upcoming outings include the Wisconsin DNR, Rhinelander-Oneida County Airport, the Minocqua Police Department, Marthaler Motors, Nicolet College, and Advanced Welding Institute.

To keep up-to-date, visit the Lakeland STAR School/Academy PAES Lab and Career Exploration Center on Facebook.



"FARM TO TABLE" COMES FULL CIRCLE FROM PLOT TO HARVEST

Students at Lakeland STAR School/Academy received firsthand experience with "farm to table." In the Spring at our Minocqua Community Garden plot, students helped to pull weeds, till and amend the soil with compost, and plant our seedlings. Summer Enrichment brought students back to the garden to water and weed and put a weed barrier down, preventing further weed growth. This organic garden doesn't allow any weed-killers. Harvesting happened in Autumn. Students then found the real value of having their own garden, as our bounty was plentiful! A highlight of the harvest was our homemade Pico di Gallo and the from-scratch "Italian-like" spaghetti sauce. It was a hit with the students and staff. The Minocqua Community Garden was extremely welcoming to our students. We want to thank them for this opportunity.



LSSA staffers present at Children Come First Conference at Wisconsin Dells

At Wisconsin Family Ties' 30th Annual Children Come First Conference in Wisconsin Dells on Nov. 11th-12th, Lakeland STAR Special Education Teacher Claire Malchow (below, at left) and Speech Language Therapist Kris Webster (below, at right) presented on their creation of Lakeland STAR's Girls Empowerment Group, a class dedicated to helping girls develop educationally, socially and emotionally into independent, empowered young women.

The Children Come First Conference is for those caring for, working with, or concerned with the well being of children and young adults with social, emotional, and behavioral challenges. Each year, this conference brings together professionals, educators and families with national experts in the field of children's mental health.

In addition to discussing the programming, curriculum, and activities implemented in their own Girls Group, Claire and Kris helped attendees identify the needs for this type of programming in their practice and how to best structure their own programming to fit their students' needs.

PAES® Lab hosts tour group

Wisconsin State Assembly Representative Rob Swearingen (R-34, Rhinelander) recently visited the Lakeland STAR School/Academy PAES® Lab and Career Exploration Center, based at Howard Young Medical Center, Woodruff. Pictured below from left are Jennifer Varsik, director, Project SEARCH (based at HYMC); Jacqui Monge, Director of Nursing; LSSA PAES® Lab and Career Exploration Center director Eric A. Johnson; State Representative Rob Swearingen; Trig Solberg, chairman, Howard Young Foundation; Lori Butkus, Hospital Elder Life Program and Project SEARCH Business Liaison; and Laurie Oungst, chief administrative officer, Howard Young Medical Center.



LAKELAND STAR STUDENT PROFILE: ISAIAH PHILLIPS

Among the new students at Lakeland STAR School/Academy in the 2019-20 school year is seventh-grader Isaiah Phillips. Isaiah said he likes the "friendly" staff and laid back, conversational and pressure-free atmosphere at Lakeland STAR, as well as the various classes and enrichment opportunities offered, including Art, Social Communications and Lakeland STAR's off-site PAES® Lab job skills assessment and career exploration facility at Howard Young Medical Center. At the PAES® Lab, Isaiah's favorite jobs include those in the Business/Marketing career cluster, including cash-handling and data entry. Says Isaiah of STAR: "They have more freedom around the school and you get to learn lots of different things. I think it (STAR) is a good place to be."

