



THE STING

CES Introduces Updated Drop-Off Procedures

Mornings can be rushed and stressful. This upcoming school year, Concord Elementary has plans to implement an updated, more efficient drop-off procedure that will relieve traffic congestion surrounding the school's entrance and expedite the drop-off process for parents and students alike.

The school's previous model required parents who were simply dropping off students to cross the traffic of those wishing to park and enter the office. This slowed the morning, created unnecessary traffic, and caused congestion.

In its place, the new procedure will simplify the drop-off process. Parents and guardians needing to park and enter the office will instead use the parking lot located on the north side of the building, streamlining drop-off traffic.

According to Principal Hutchinson, the concrete details of the new system's operation are still being ironed out and developed, but she's certain that the new model will be nailed down by fall and ready to implement as Concord welcomes students for the 2019–2020 school year.

Currently, staff at Concord Elementary are developing materials to share with parents which will describe the new procedures associated with the updated configuration. These will seek to answer any potential questions that may arise.

In August, Concord families can look forward to receiving more information that will further specify the exact drop-off and driving procedures for the upcoming fall.



THE SCOOP

CONCORD WELCOMES NEW STAFF

UPDATED DROP-OFF PROCEDURES

ROBOTICS TEAM QUALIFIES FOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Construction Update



Concord Partners With CP Federal Credit Union

Concord is excited to announce it will be partnering with CP Federal Credit Union to help students practice healthy savings habits and learn about finances through a hands-on, experiential approach. The programs, which are aimed at increasing financial literacy and helping students save for post-secondary education, will both be introduced this upcoming fall.

Concord Kindergarten's "Jackson Saves" Accounts

It's never too early to start saving for college. That's why this year, Concord's incoming kindergarteners will have the opportunity to open a "Jackson Saves" account. The program, which was made possible through a partnership with CP Federal Credit Union, encourages families to start saving early in their child's life.

In the fall, families of incoming kindergarteners will be given the choice to opt into the program by opening an account. Those taking part in the program will receive a \$50 deposit into the account from CP Federal Credit Union. Concord hopes that offering this opportunity to incoming kindergarteners will encourage families to begin saving for their child's post-secondary education, which will in turn open more doors for the student's future.

Student-Run Credit Union Program

With the help of CP Federal Credit Union, this upcoming fall Concord students will be given the opportunity to learn more about banking and financing and begin constructing healthy savings habits by opening their own credit union account.

The program, which will be available to those in kindergarten to eighth grade, will allow students to open their own account through the school. If they choose to participate, they will be able to make deposits and withdrawals on a regular basis.

Outside of serving as a practical way for students to explore the world of finances, banking, and budgeting, the program will also offer selected students the opportunity to act as members of the credit union's team by serving as student workers.

Those who are interested will be required to fill out an application and complete an interview process. After receiving job training, they will fill a designated role; available positions include classroom representative, membership representative, teller, accountant, and tech representative.

Other features of the program include incentives and prizes for those who practice healthy and regular saving habits. In implementing the student-run credit union program, the Concord school system hopes to set students up for financial success in their adult lives.



Band Room - Renovations will include leveling the floor, new windows, and new flooring.



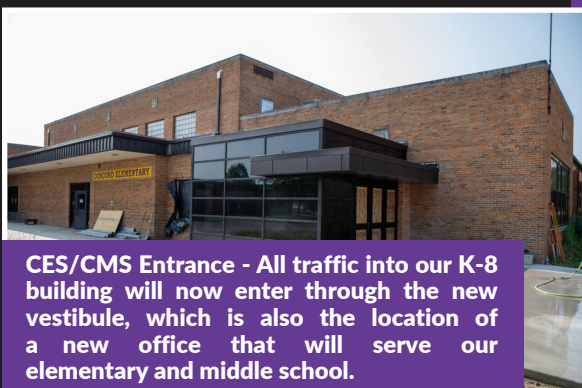
CHS Cafeteria - Renovations will include air conditioning and new ceiling.



CHS - A major piece of this renovation is the installation of all-new ventilation units throughout the school. This will drastically improve the indoor air quality of our high school.



CHS Library - Renovations to the library should be completed before the students come back to school.



CES/CMS Entrance - All traffic into our K-8 building will now enter through the new vestibule, which is also the location of a new office that will serve our elementary and middle school.

Concord Welcomes New Staff

With the 2019–2020 academic semesters just around the corner, Concord is gearing up for another great year. To kick it off, the school would like to extend a warm welcome to both Brianne Fiero and Amy Kelly, the latest additions to Concord's academic family.



Brianne Fiero

Mrs. Fiero graduated from Spring Arbor University in 2015 with a B.A. in biology. Since then, she has worked as a vet assistant, zookeeper at Potter Park Zoo, and infectious disease research scientist at TransPharm Preclinical Solutions.

In 2018, Mrs. Fiero was inspired to leave her research science position in order to explore a career in teaching. After serving as a substitute teacher for the subsequent year, she's excited to declare she's found her life's passion.

This upcoming academic year will be the official start of Mrs. Fiero's teaching career. Thrilled at the opportunity to combine her love of science and education, she will start the coming school year as a biology teacher for the Concord school system.

Amy Kelly

Mrs. Kelly is a proud graduate of Adrian College where she studied both English education and psychology. Since finishing her degrees, she has gained 12 years of experience teaching high school students and reports that she cannot imagine doing anything else.

This upcoming school year, she will be teaching English 9 and English 10 at Concord High School. She will also be instructing the school's new career and college readiness course.

When she isn't teaching, reading, or writing, Mrs. Kelly can be found behind the lens of a camera. She is also an avid sports fan and loves cheering on her favorite hockey and baseball teams.

Mrs. Kelly is relocating with her husband Michael and three children from Crystal Lake, IL, to Michigan in order to join the Concord school system in the upcoming academic year.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: Five Generations of Arbuckles

With five generations having passed through the local school system, the Arbuckles' deep roots have given the family a strong connection to and special love for the Concord community.

Originally from Kentucky, the Arbuckle family moved to Michigan in the 1940s. Drawn by the rural community's slower pace and fresh air, they decided to settle down in Concord, eventually building a farm, which remains in the family still today. More than 80 years later, the children and grandchildren of those original family members still live, work, and raise their own children in the Concord community.

It was even through the Concord school system that Abby Arbuckle met her now-husband. Having attended junior prom together as friends, they began dating shortly after college. After marriage, they chose to return to their hometown and settle down in Concord themselves.

"Our favorite aspect about the Concord community is that it's small and safe," Abby says, "It's home for us." She cites living in a small community and running into family members and former classmates as some of the many small joys of her family's life in Concord.

Having married into the family, Abby is not the only Arbuckle teaching in the local school system. Her sister-in-law Amanda Arbuckle, a second-grade teacher, has served the Concord schools for the last 15 years.

Amanda's children, Carter, Avery, and Raegan, are among the fifth-generation members of the Arbuckle family to pass through the Concord school system. This upcoming year, Abby's 4-year-old son Sam will join them as a Jr. Jacket.

"It's an amazing feeling to know that my son, who will attend Concord schools next year, will be cared for and safe," Abby says, noting that as a mother and teacher she couldn't ask for anything better. "I know he will walk down the halls and everyone will know who he belongs to, and he'll be watched over by my nieces and nephews and the other teachers in the building," she says.

When speaking of the Concord community at large, Abby says, "We're like a family. I think it's important to note that even families who aren't from this community quite often feel the same way."



Concord Robotics Team Qualifies for World Championship for Third Consecutive Year



With determination and collaboration, the Concord robotics team is undeniably operating with all the poise of a well-oiled machine. After another successful season, the team proudly entered the FIRST Championship Competition for the third consecutive year.

Each season, more than 400 of the top robotics teams from across the country compete to claim the title of world champions. This year, the FIRST Championship was held at the Cobo Center in Detroit, Michigan.

To qualify, Concord's team was first required to perform well in previous district-level meets. After ranking locally, the team qualified for the Michigan State Finals. Despite the fact that Michigan is one of the largest states for FIRST Robotics with more than 500 teams attending annually, Concord placed exceptionally, earning a spot at the 2019 FIRST World Championship.

Coach Lance Veydt attributes the success largely to the comprehensive design of this year's robot. Despite the restrictive timeline, with multiple CAD designs and plenty of teamwork the program's students were able to build a multi-functional robot capable of excelling in all facets of the game.

Using teamwork and the individual skill sets gained throughout the year, the students designed a robot that could, in the words of Veydt, "do it all." This gave Concord's team a competitive edge that allowed the team to claim its first-ever event victory this past season.

According to Veydt, the team's success is a testament to the students' hard work and dedication. Many students work hard, even in the off-season, to develop their technical skill sets and broaden their abilities. Outside of summer camps, some students even take advantage of internship opportunities with Caster Concepts and Conceptual Innovations.

Outside of designing, building, and programming, students are also involved in fundraising efforts, scouting, and promotion. According to Veydt, the team-building and skill-sharpening exercises that happen in the program foster a fun, innovative, and educational community.

This year's team consisted of 30 students ranging from the ages of 14 to 19, although Concord does offer robotics programs for students as young as first grade. Veydt encourages parents who believe their children may enjoy the development, team-building, and other rewards offered by the robotics program to reach out to the school regarding participation.

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Assistant Principal Mike Arbuckle Joins Concord Schools

This upcoming academic year, Concord Elementary and Middle School is welcoming aboard a new assistant principal. As a Concord native, Mike Arbuckle is thrilled to finally return to his roots and serve his home community.

Having graduated from the Concord school system himself, Arbuckle went on to study at Spring Arbor University. After completing his degree, he began his career at Grass Lake Community Schools. According to Arbuckle, it was Grass Lake's small-town feel and community values that first drew him to the area. "It reminded me a lot of Concord in that sense," he says.



During his time at Grass Lake, Arbuckle held a myriad of positions. He taught kindergarten, first grade, third grade, fourth grade, fifth grade, and ended as the dean of students. While he enjoyed 17 years serving as an educator in the Grass Lake school system, he had always hoped his career in education would take him back to his roots in Concord.

According to Arbuckle, Concord has always been a small school with big opportunities. "This community has always been a great place to be a kid, a great place to be raised, and a great place to start a family," he says. Arbuckle's own children, Carter, Avery and Raegan, are all Concord students themselves. His wife, Amanda, whom he met while attending the high school, has been teaching second grade at Concord for 15 years. Together, they own and operate a local family farm that raises show pigs.

Moving forward this academic year, Arbuckle is looking forward to helping foster learning environments that offer each Concord student a top-quality education. "Every decision we make is for the best interest of the kids," he says. "The kids are our business." Arbuckle cites new building renovations, curriculum improvements, and the continued offering of a wide range of extracurriculars as just a few of the most exciting developments on the school's horizon.

Having finally been granted the opportunity to work in his community, Arbuckle has no plans to ever leave. "This is my home," he says. "I'll spend the rest of my career here, moving Concord in a positive direction."