



# THE STING



## THE SCOOP

BECKY HUTCHINSON ON  
EDUCATING THE WHOLE CHILD

CONCORD WELCOMES NEW  
BASKETBALL COACHES

ALL-CONFERENCE  
WINNERS ANNOUNCED

10<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
**AP District  
Honor Roll  
Recipient**



## Concord Community School District Named to College Board's AP District Honor Roll

Concord Community School District has invested in its AP program, and that dedication paid off this year when the district was named to the College Board's AP District Honor Roll.

Joining Concord on the Honor Roll were 249 other districts from the United States and Canada. In order to be named to the Honor Roll, Concord had to increase the number of students taking AP classes while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students who earned AP exam scores of 3 or higher. Concord had to maintain these numbers since 2017 in order to be considered for the Honor Roll.

"Being named to the AP Honor Roll is a terrific recognition of the hard work that both teachers and students have done," said Concord High School Principal Cheryl Price. "The Honor Roll recognition shows that Concord High School has increased the offerings of AP courses, but, more importantly, the recognition shows that teachers and students were engaged in the rigorous

work that led to an improvement of student scores at a Level 3 or higher on the AP exams."

Price noted that the high school has worked on increasing its AP offerings, which entails maintaining a certain level of teacher training. The trainings aren't cheap, but Concord has made them a priority; as a result, last year, the high school was able to offer four AP classes. The AP biology teacher moved out of state this year, but Price said she hopes that AP biology will be back on the course catalog soon.

"Concord has done a great job providing challenging coursework to our students through the College Board's Advanced Placement Program," said Concord Schools Superintendent Dan Funston. "We're proud of our students' success and the increase in passing scores on the AP exams. Our teachers and principal are working hard to continue this growth."

## ENROLLING KINDERGARTEN ROUNDUP

Parent Meeting  
3/25 at 6:00 PM in the  
Kindergarten Classrooms

Kindergarten Roundup Dates  
(by appointment only)  
4/14 - 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM  
4/15 - 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM

Concord Elementary School | 405 S. Main Street  
Rebecca Hutchinson, Principal  
Alison Breitenbach, Secretary | 517.524.6650

## Alumni Spotlight: Lauren Stacks Yamaoka

Pole vaulting is not for the faint of heart.

"You are essentially running at a box at full speed, knowing you will be getting flung through the air many feet off the ground," said former Concord pole vaulter and 2004 graduate Lauren Yamaoka. "If you chicken out halfway down the runway, it's actually more dangerous than committing, so being all in is important in the sport."



Lauren Yamaoka did commit to the sport, making it to cross country state finals all four years of high school and becoming team captain. The same sense of adventure and commitment that led her to succeed as a pole vaulter has served Yamaoka well since graduation as she has moved all across the country in the last 15 years. She studied psychology and creative writing at Hope College in Holland, MI, where she met her husband, Tom. Then she moved on to a fiction writing graduate program at Roosevelt University in Chicago.

"Back in high school, I never would have guessed where I would be today, both geographically and professionally," Yamaoka said. After graduate school, Yamaoka and her husband spent a year in San Francisco before moving to Dallas, TX in 2017. Yamaoka works as a nonprofit fundraiser for a local children's hospital, and in her spare time she holds a leadership role with a volunteer organization that serves the needy, spends time at a youth homeless shelter in her neighborhood, and continues to follow her passion of writing. Yamaoka has authored three historical novels that she hopes to have published someday.

Yamaoka credits Concord for shaping her into the person she is today. She discovered her love of reading and writing while in school at Concord, thanks to teachers who encouraged her to explore her creative side. Serving as class president and team captain of the Girls Cross Country team her senior year developed leadership skills that she relies on today.

"I never dreamed I'd someday live in Texas or . . . ask strangers to donate their hard-earned money to support the sick children in our community, but here I am and I love it . . . all because I got used to being outside my comfort zone," Yamaoka said.

### 130th Concord HS Alumni Association Banquet

Save the date for the 130th Annual Concord HS  
Alumni Association Banquet.

June 6th in the high school gym. All alumni welcome,  
so talk to your classmates!

**Information**  
517.921.8203

<http://sites.google.com/site/concordalumniassoc>  
Facebook @ConcordAlumniAssociation

## Educating the Whole Child



Sometimes, improving academics starts with making sure that the emotions have been taken care of. Recognizing this, Concord Community Schools are making a focus on educating the whole child, not just the brain.

The Concord Community Schools intervention team is piloting an electronic system that tracks student behaviors. This system allows students and their families to work collaboratively with teachers and administrators, all of whom will be able to keep tabs on children who may need some extra attention or encouragement. K-8 Principal Becky Hutchinson said that digitizing the process will allow for greater efficiency in notifying teachers and administrators about issues that may arise, and will ultimately help the students get the support they need to get through a rough patch and succeed academically.

"The system allows students to check-in with multiple adults throughout the day and get immediate feedback about how the day is going—both what they are doing well, and where they may be struggling," Hutchinson said. "[This way] trends and areas for increased support may be identified to support them better."

Another benefit to the new system is the data that will be readily available to students' families. Hutchinson said the system also encourages the student to track their own progress.

"Many students are excited to see that their hard work is paying off," she said. "Seeing the visual graph of their data empowers them to keep working on their goals even when it is hard."



## CCAC Gets a New Counselor, Assists 5,000 Students a Year



Sydney Brown, CCAC Advisor

High school graduation is an exciting time, but can also be fraught with indecision and fear. Luckily for Concord students, the Jackson College and Career Access Center (CCAC) offers counseling services to help students navigate the decisions and processes that rear their heads as graduation nears. One of those advisors, Sydney Brown, is a new addition to the CCAC.

"I help high school seniors (as well as anyone who walks into the CCAC office) figure out their post-secondary plans," Brown said. Brown, who started in April 2019, and other advisors are available to assist with college applications, FAFSA applications, scholarships, resumes, cover letters, and job searches. Brown comes to the CCAC with a psychology degree from Kalamazoo College and work experience in the admissions and student development offices at Spring Arbor University.

## All-Conference Winners

Concord offers a big congratulations to our All-Conference winners from the fall sports season. Way to go, teams!

**Varsity football:** Brandon Kettwich, Bryce Black, and Seth Marshall were named to 1st Team, and Quinn Coppernoll, Scottie Spicer, and CJ Glaspie were named to 2nd Team. Marley Sprague received an honorable mention. The Academic All-Conference winners were Brandon Kettwich, Jack Freeman, Bryce Black, Scott Spicer, Marley Sprague, Ross Weeks, Carol Franssen, Seth Marshall, Austyn Obenour, and James Franssen.

**Volleyball:** Georgie Weeks and Karlee Gamet received honorable mentions. The Academic All-Conference winners were Jacey Hutchins, Julia Riske, Georgia Weeks, Karlee Gamet, Riley Weeks, and Hadley Kettwich.

**Girls' cross country:** Skylar Thompson was named a 1st Team MVP. The Academic All-Conference winners were Skylar Thompson, Haylie Kowalski, and Shianne Alejandro.

**Boys' cross country:** Jonathan Mikovits and Matt Record were named to 1st Team. The Academic All-Conference winners were Luke Holton, Matt Record, Bryan Smith, Jonathan Mikovits, Cody Hellard, Chuckie King, Joe Bulko, Logan Barrett, Adair Artis, and Isaac Waldron.

**Girls' golf:** Khloe Rothenberger was named to 1st Team and Bree Vilminot was named to 2nd Team. Lauren Gray was an Academic All-Conference winner.

## Other Athletic Achievements

Athletic Director Matt Lehman said the department had numerous all-conference and state-level recognitions. The high school boys' cross country team was the Academic State Champion for the first time in school history, with the highest grade point average of any Michigan Division 4 team. The team also won a Big 8 Championship for the 30th time since the team's inception in the 1973-74 school year, and won regionals for the 23rd time in school history.

Jonathan Mikovits (4th in State Division 4) and Skylar Thompson (5th in State Division 4) were regional champions, and both met criteria for induction to the Concord Wall of Fame.

Concord football earned its 4th playoff berth in school history.

Khloe Rothenberger was 10th in Division 4 in girls' golf.

"Having only graduated from high school in 2014, I remember how nerve-racking it can be when trying to choose the right path after high school, and I am hoping that I can make students as confident as possible with their post-secondary plan choices," Brown said.

The center serves more than 5,000 students and clients per year, said CCAC Executive Director Nancy Peters-Lewis. In addition to maintaining the center at the Jackson Crossing Mall, the CCAC places advisors in each of its 13 Connected Community high schools to serve students Monday through Friday. The center's main emphasis is on assisting seniors with their post-secondary plans, offering consultations for post-secondary and career planning free of charge. This year, the center has also added an adult English as a Second Language class.

"We, along with our collaborative partners, assist students and clients in starting their futures," said Peters-Lewis. In the last year, the center has facilitated college tour visits for more than 1,000 juniors from all 13 districts. Its college advisors have conducted post-secondary planning sessions with 1,057 high school juniors. The center has also conducted programs for middle school and elementary school students. The CCAC is located at 1082 Jackson Crossing in Jackson and is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 10 AM to 6 PM and Friday and Saturday from noon to 5 PM. If you are interested in the CCAC's services, contact the center at 517.990.0671.

## Concord Welcomes Gill and Rando to Basketball Program



**Marcus Gill,**  
Head Boys Varsity Basketball Coach

Concord is pleased to welcome the new coaches of the girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams. Marcus Gill, the new boys' head coach, sees his job as an opportunity to teach life skills as well as athletic technique. He aspires to help his players "develop a lifestyle consisting of character, loyalty, hard work, and honesty."

Gill, who is the senior associate director of admissions and multicultural coordinator at Albion College, came to Concord in late May. He has coached basketball continuously since 2004. Most recently, he spent five years as assistant coach at Albion before coming to coach the Yellow Jackets.

Gill has also coached at Earlham College, Ohio Wesleyan University, All Ohio Red AAU, and Siena Heights University. He has brought teams to the MIAA championship, coached NCAA Division III qualifying teams on two occasions, and coached a team to NCAA Division III Elite 8. Gill strives to get the best out of his players both on and off the court. "I want them to realize what it is to be a part of something that is more than themselves," Gill said.



**Dr. Robert Rando,**  
Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach

New girls' coach Dr. Robert Rando wants his players to know that their performance on the court is not what will—or should—define them in their lives.

Rando's name might be familiar to some, as he has been an area dentist for the last 30 years, practicing at Rando DDS, PC and Hanover Family Dentistry. He's also coached basketball for 28 years, and has a couple of state championships under his belt at the 7th and 8th grade levels. Until last August, he owned the Rando Activity Center in Jackson.

Having worked in the area for so long, Rando already knows many members of the team and the community. He credits his own success in life to the skills he learned while playing sports in his youth.

"If I can relay those types of learnings, those situations, on the basketball court and in practice and what [the players] do for community . . . we've been successful," Rando said.

## Board of Education

Aaron Strouss .....	President
Chriss Adams .....	Vice President
Jean Dobbins-Miller .....	Treasurer
Tasha Thurman .....	Secretary
William Brigham .....	Trustee
Steve Sinden.....	Trustee
Tony Brooks .....	Trustee

## Contact Us

Administration Building .....	517.524.8850
Food Service .....	517.990.3603
High School Office .....	517.524.8384
Middle School Office .....	517.524.8854
Elementary Office .....	517.524.6650

## Upcoming Events

Mar. 5.....	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar. 9.....	No School
Mar. 13.....	End of 3rd Marking Period
Mar. 16.....	Regular Board Meeting
Mar. 25 (6:00 PM).....	Kindergarten Parent Meeting
Mar. 27 – Apr. 3.....	Spring Break – No School
Apr. 10.....	Good Friday – No School
Apr. 14 (12:00 PM to 4:00 PM)...	Kindergarten Roundup (Appt. Only)
Apr. 15 (12:00 PM to 4:00 PM)...	Kindergarten Roundup (Appt. Only)
Apr. 20.....	Regular Board Meeting
May 2.....	High School Prom
May 18.....	Regular Board Meeting
May 20.....	Seniors Last Day
May 25.....	Memorial Day – No School
May 31.....	High School Graduation
June 5.....	Last Day of School (half-day)

Check out our website!  
[www.concordschools.net](http://www.concordschools.net)



Keep Up On Twitter!

Superintendent .....	@DanFunston
Concord High School .....	@ConcordHS
Concord Middle School .....	@ConcordMS
Concord Elementary Schools .....	@ConcordEL
Concord Athletics .....	@ConcordAthletics



Concord Community School District  
405 S Main St  
PO Box 338 Concord, MI 49237

## School-Linked Health Center Gets Grant for Vaccine Purchase

Persistence paid off for the Concord School-Linked Health Center, and the students of Concord schools stand to benefit.

The center offers a number of services, including well-child visits, acute care for minor illnesses, specialist referrals, physicals, pregnancy testing, mental health counseling, health education, screenings for hearing, vision, and high blood pressure, as well as testing and counseling for sexually transmitted diseases and counseling for weight loss and smoking habits. One thing it has not been in a position to offer, however, is vaccines. That will all change in late February or early March, thanks to the approval of a grant from the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan Foundation, to fund the purchase of private vaccines.

The center wrote five grants before this one for \$15,000 was approved, said Cindy Magness, Nurse Practitioner-Certified Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Primary Care.

The federal government will match the center's private vaccine stock under its Vaccines for Children program. But vaccines are expensive, and the center is a not-for-profit organization without funds necessary to purchase the vaccines. The BCBSM Foundation grant was crucial to getting the private vaccine stock necessary to obtain a vaccine supply from the federal program. Magness said the center will offer all vaccines that are mandatory for school attendance.

"We believe that if we provide this service to youth in our community and surrounding areas, our immunization rates for this area will increase," Magness said.

Currently, the center has to send patients to the Health Department for vaccinations. This can be difficult for parents who work or do not have reliable transportation. Magness hopes that having vaccines available at the School-Linked Health Center will make it easier for parents to get their children vaccinated.

Concord School



Linked Health Center

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