

CONNECTION

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COLLEGE, CAREER EXPERIENCES ON RISE AT LINCOLN

ENROLLMENTS GROW IN COLLEGE IN HIGH SCHOOL AND WORK-BASED PROGRAMS

Senior Lizzy Stuebs has a big head-start on her journey to St. Norbert College next fall, thanks to her participation in the Rising Phoenix and Youth Apprenticeship (YA) programs at Lincoln High School.

When she graduates this spring, she will have earned not only her high school diploma, but also a tuition-free Associate of Arts and Sciences Degree from the UW-Green Bay, Manitowoc campus that fulfills much of her general education college credits, and a two-year Youth Apprenticeship in computer science working in the Manitowoc Public School District technology department. She's one of four students this year juggling both Rising Phoenix and YA.



Three of Lincoln's 78 youth apprentices (left to right): Lauren Francl (standing), Daniel Kaufmann and Lizzy Stuebs.

"It prepared me on how to time manage my classes while having a job, participate in school activities, and maintain grades," Stuebs said. She plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in the computer science field with a minor in music, playing violin.

Whether students want to go straight into the workforce right after high school or attend a technical college or 4-year university, the MPSD is providing an increasing array of school-to-work and college preparatory experiences to help students succeed after high school. More students and families are taking advantage of them.

"We're constantly trying to add new things. Every year we try to add new opportunities for students and keep growing," said Bonnie Prosenyak, Lincoln's Youth Apprenticeship Coordinator. Newly launched this school year is a partnership with Lakeshore Technical College called College Here & Now, open to freshmen through seniors. Students can earn a technical diploma or associates degree in IT/web development, without ever having to leave the high school and with zero tuition costs to students and their families.

Cont'd on page 2

BOOMERANG CLUB TEACHES KINDNESS AND CHARACTER

Andrew Kaufmann remembers being a fourth grader and having high school students visit his class for "Boomerang Club." "It was always a fun day because you knew you were going to have a fun activity," he said.

Now Kaufmann is one of about 40 Lincoln Boomerang Character Club students who visit elementary classrooms to teach fourth graders how to build positive character traits. The curriculum was adapted from Iowa State University and the Manitowoc County UW-Extension and tailored to focus on the MPSD's six core values: relationships, compassion, collaboration, dedication, integrity and inspiration.

"It's designed around the concept that if you throw out kindness, it comes back to you - like a boomerang," said Melissa Heuvelman, a Lincoln High School counselor who advises the club.

Once a month, a trio of high school students visit each fourth-grade classroom and lead a lesson and activity around one of MPSD's core values. In one recent lesson about collaboration, Kaufmann and freshmen Rayna Schuh and Zylia Kleinfeldt had fourth graders compete to build the tallest tower. The catch: they could only talk

with their teammates the first five minutes and then they had to use only nonverbal communication.

Students write a reflection and bring a handout home to review with their parents. Each class has a "Catch Someone Being Good" box and students add notes when they see someone helping another student or teacher. The high school students read the notes and praise the good deeds.

"The kids just love it," Heuvelman said. "They're engaged. It's just really fun for the younger kids to have high school kids in their classroom."

Kaufmann was assigned to help his former - and favorite - Jackson Elementary teacher, Cynthia Behrendt. "I always see kids with bright smiling faces saying, 'Boomerang's here, boomerang's here.' We do our best to bring energy to each classroom lesson and make it exciting."

To join the Boomerang Character Club, students should contact Ms. Heuvelman at heuvelmanm@mpsd.school.

Cont'd from front cover

Sophomore Noah Laine is one of about 140 students enrolled in the first two courses, which are being taught by Lincoln educator Melanie Shimek in a new high school computer lab that LTC remodeled. Laine said the college-level IT courses have a tougher grading scale but Shimek has “done a really good job of making sure we all understand and have the resources we need.”

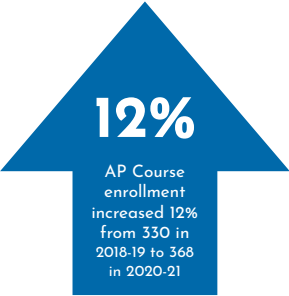
Shimek said students “have been nothing but successful. These kids are crazy intelligent.” Students who pursue IT fields will be in high demand and offered “very lucrative” salaries, she added. A bachelor’s degree in computer science can bring an average annual salary of \$115,000. Technology for remote working and automation in manufacturing all require “a programmer behind the scenes,” she said.

Next year Lincoln will be adding a third cohort of students in Rising Phoenix, which offers juniors and seniors an opportunity to earn an Associate of Arts and Sciences degree, again tuition free. Classes are held on the UWGB, Manitowoc campus but Lincoln works with students to create a schedule that allows them to also take classes at high school, such as music and foreign language.

Youth Apprenticeship student and employer participation is expanding, thanks to strong community partnerships and the work of Lincoln’s School-to-Work team. The team also partners with CESA 6’s YA program. YA is a great choice for many students to get training to enter the workforce in manufacturing, construction and other trades. But it also is a growing choice for college-bound students pursuing early exposure to and training in health sciences, marketing, finance, engineering and other careers. No matter the path, YA helps students learn what they like and dislike and save time and money.

Senior Lauren Franci narrowed her focus after enrolling in YA, becoming a Certified Nursing Assistant and working at Rivers Bend and Aurora Medical Center. “I had the unique opportunity to work with and hold a precious newborn baby,” she said. “That moment solidified my decision to become a pediatrician. Helping children grow up healthy and strong to have a successful journey into adulthood would be so rewarding.”

Senior Daniel Kaufmann is in his second year of YA in finance, working at UnitedOne Credit Union. He attends four classes at Lincoln in the mornings before going to the bank from 12:30 to 5 or 7 p.m., averaging 25 hours a week. He started as a teller his junior year before being given greater responsibilities with bank finances and accounts. He plans to pursue a business administration degree at Lakeland University. “YA is a great program and it can help get people out of their comfort zone.”



More businesses are offering YA opportunities to build that employee pipeline. “YA has consistently helped us find high-quality young people to bolster our organization,” said Jay Williams of Manitowoc Marina. “Whether they stay here or move on, the value they bring is enormous and the lessons they take away are crucial.”

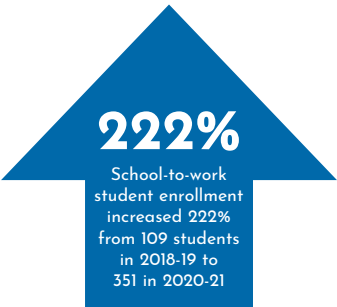
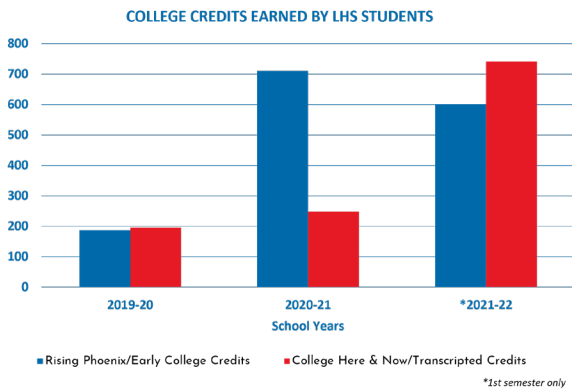
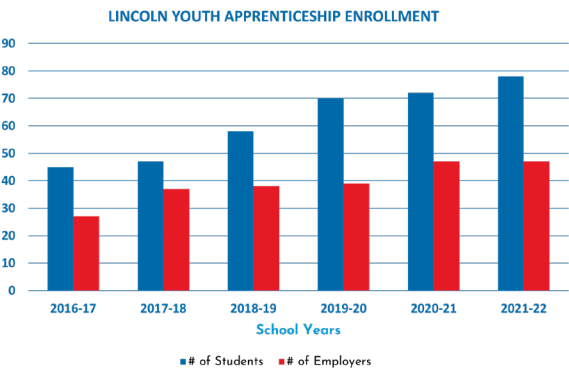
Morgan Tienor at Bartow Builders said students “gain invaluable knowledge from our most experienced employees.” Amanda Linsmeier of Vogel Family Farm aims to teach students the value of hard work. “We love the YA program,” she said. Prosenyak, Lincoln’s YA Coordinator, said Lincoln is committed to help every student find their post-secondary path. “The path to a successful career isn’t one-size fits all. It’s great that we provide so many opportunities to students!”



MARK HOLZMAN
MPSD Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE

Looking back at this school year I am proud that we have kept our schools open for in-person student learning. This was possible thanks to the great and continued resilience and collaboration of our staff, students, families and community. Our kids are learning, and we are teaching them how to become college, career and community ready. Our youngest students are back exploring the wonder of our School Forest. Students are creating award-winning artwork and performing band, orchestra and choir concerts again for our community. Several of our winter sports teams and athletes competed in state tournaments and some have signed to continue playing at the collegiate level. Our students are taking advantage of a growing number of college preparatory and school-to-work opportunities. They have performed acts of charity, showed kindness toward each other and raised money for local causes. I am proud of our students and staff for their accomplishments and excited about next year. We are committed to do everything we can to support the growth of every student in our district and we are grateful for our community support.



MPSD CELEBRATIONS

STAFF SPOTLIGHTS

LINCOLN TEACHER WINS EDUCATION IMPACT AWARD



Congratulations to Michele Foss, Lincoln High School family consumer science teacher, winner of the 2021 Education Impact Award from The Chamber of Manitowoc County! Foss was one of 13 people nominated, including nine other MPSD educators.

The Chamber applauded Foss’ work preparing students for health science and child care careers. Students in her child care classes run a play school program at Lincoln for preschool children. Foss is developing an Elementary Teacher’s Aide class to give students a more in-depth experience working with elementary teachers. She also coaches the Two Rivers’ girls and boys swim teams and formerly served as an assistant coach for the YMCA swim team and managed the Two Rivers Family Swim Center. The Chamber said: “Michele is passionate about what she does and nothing makes her happier than seeing her students become valuable members of the community.”

RETIRED TEACHER HONORED FOR SERVICE TO THEATER

William Hansen, who retired from MPSD in 2021 after 33 years teaching speech and theater, received the Wes Teply Community Service Award in the Arts. Thank you, Bill, for all you have done for local arts and theatre organizations!

DID YOU KNOW? MPSD HAS 13 NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS

The Manitowoc Public Schools are proud of its educators, many of whom have become National Board Certified over the years. Recognized as the gold standard in teacher certification, the National Board believes higher standards for teachers means better learning for students. MPSD’s current National Board Certified educators include: **Lisa Bodwin**, Washington Middle School English teacher; **James Bukowski**, Washington Middle School librarian; **Jill Cavanaugh**, Monroe Elementary teacher; **Rachael George**, Lincoln Social Studies teacher; **Brenda Heideman**, Franklin Elementary teacher; **Tammy Hyler**, Wilson Middle School Special Education teacher; **Kevin Kiel**, Wilson Middle School Science teacher; **Sandra Maedke**, Franklin Elementary teacher; **Michelle Preussler**, Riverview Elementary Learning Community teacher; **Tiffani Schley**, Jefferson Elementary School counselor; **Carl Sieracki**, Lincoln High Social Studies teacher; **Deanne Stokes**, Lincoln High School English teacher; and **Jessica Swemke**, Lincoln High Spanish teacher.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHTS

STUDENT EARNS CITIZEN OF YEAR AWARD



Lincoln senior Lia Haile was honored with the Manitowoc Police Department Citizen of the Year Award for her years of “phenomenal” community service that included helping the police department with its annual “10 Most Wanted” food drive.

WRESTLER TAKES 5TH AT STATE



LHS Wrestler Gryffin Jonas earned 5th place at State in Division 1 at 285 pounds. He finished his senior year with a 44-5 record. His coaches say Gryffin was one of Lincoln’s toughest and hardest working wrestlers.



THEATER, BAND PRESENT WONDERFUL TOWN

Congratulations to the cast and crew who presented the musical *Wonderful Town* in February. Many students were involved as actors on stage, in the pit band, as stage hands and on the lighting, sound and construction crews.

DANCE TEAM PLACES AT STATE



The Manitowoc Lincoln Dance Team took 5th Place at State in Division 1 Pom and 6th Place in D1 Hip Hop. Kalina Chiu, Julia Feest, and Kate Nolden also qualified to compete at State with solo routines.

GYMNASTICS WINS CONFERENCE CHAMPIONSHIP



The Lincoln Gymnastics team won the Eastern WI Conference Championship and earned a WIAA runner-up finish at the sectional to compete at the WIAA State Team Championship in Wisconsin Rapids.



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Enjoy Student Artwork at Museum

Through April 3, the Rahr-West Art Museum will be filled with art created by MPSD students from kindergarteners to high school seniors. The creativity and talent of our students is amazing - come see for yourself! Thank you to our dedicated MPSD art teachers who installed about 800 pieces of art. The community also can enjoy local billboards showcasing our elementary, middle and high school art contest winners.



Nominate an Athlete for Lincoln Wall of Fame

We want to honor our Lincoln alumni, coaches and athletic contributors! Submit your nominations for the Ships Athletic Wall of Fame. We are seeking those who have distinguished themselves in athletics on the state, national and/or international levels and have represented Lincoln and its community as positive role models for future generations of athletes. Nominees must have graduated five or more years ago, coaches must have coached in the district for at least 10 years and contributors must have given at least 10 years of positive service to Lincoln Athletics. Complete this form - bit.ly/Ships-Wall-of-Fame - and submit it to the Lincoln Athletic Department, 1433 South 8th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220. #ShipsPride #GoShips

Dresses, Suits Available for Prom, Graduation

Did you know that Lincoln High School loans out dresses and suits to students for prom and graduation? The attire is free to borrow but students do need to get it dry cleaned before returning it. Interested in this great deal? Inquire at the school store/coffee shop or contact Mrs. Mulhaney at Lincoln!

Vote April 5 in School Board Elections

MPSD residents will vote April 5 to elect three members of the seven-member Board of Education. There are six candidates: incumbents Lisa Johnson, Dave Nickels and Meredith Sauer and newcomers Matthew Phipps, Matthew Spaulding and Tony Vlastelica. Early and absentee voting is available; check with your local government clerk's office or myvote.wi.gov.



Register for Summer School

Summer School registration will be online this year and classes will be in person. Families, watch your email and the MPSD website for details on how to register in the IC parent portal and view the catalog. There will be wellness/athletics, enrichment and academic opportunities plus orientations for middle and high school. We are looking forward to the best year of MPSD Summer School yet!

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