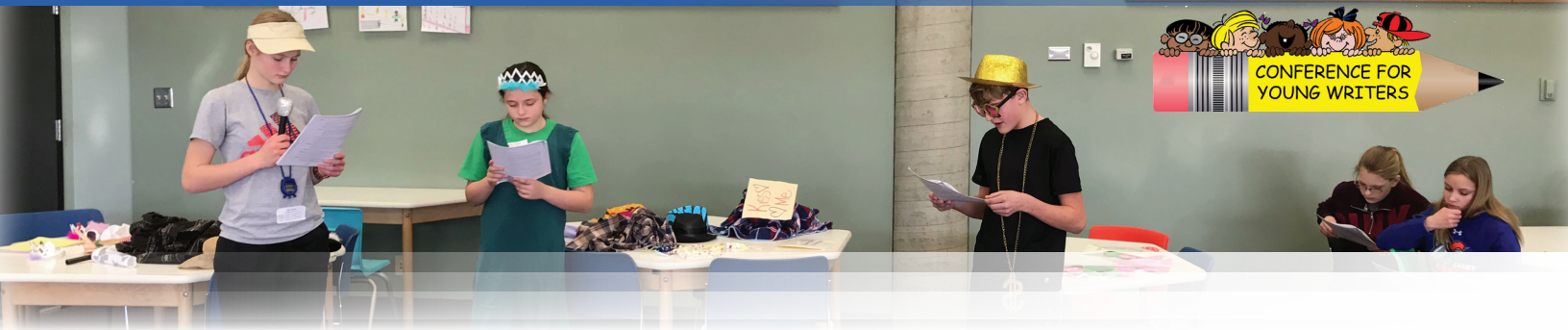


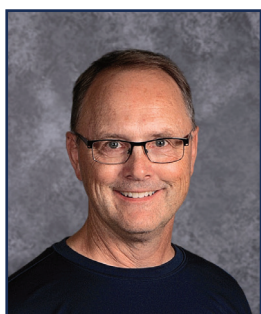
The Review Winter 2018



SOUTHWEST WEST CENTRAL SERVICE COOPERATIVE

SWWC

Education & Administrative Resources



By Tom Hoff
Career and Technical
Project Coordinator
tom.hoff@swsc.org



CAREER PATHWAYS

Launch Your Future Today



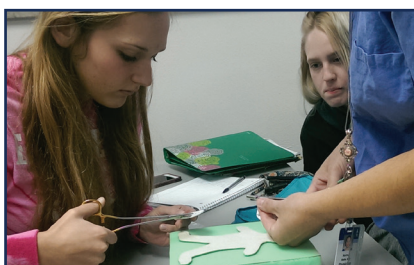
1420 E. College Drive
Marshall, MN 56258
www.swsc.org

LYFT HAS BEEN LAUNCHED!

Launch Your Future Today (LYFT) is a rural career and technical education (CTE) pathway initiative with the purpose of rebuilding CTE in southwest and west central Minnesota. In mid-January the application for partnerships to access LYFT Pathways funding was made available to the region. The goal of LYFT Pathways is for every secondary student in the region to gain marketable skills through meaningful CTE courses and opportunities which lead to further education and careers that match our region's labor market needs. LYFT seeks to launch new (or expand existing) CTE courses and opportunities for high school students through school district, college, business and agency collaboration. Funds will support CTE projects that are innovative, engage local/regional businesses, and equip all students to pursue a CTE pathway that best fits them. LYFT is funded through a \$3 million Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium Grant, which was passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2017. The legislative funding is scheduled to run through June 30, 2019 (with a possibility to extend the use of funds beyond that date).

At least two high schools must partner, and one of them must be a member of SWWC, the Mid-Minnesota Perkins Consortium, or the Minnesota West Perkins Consortium. The lead organization for the applying partnership can be a school district, service agency, non-profit or business. Applications for LYFT funds will be accepted on a rolling basis. The maximum request for funds is \$50,000. It is anticipated that 15-20 applications will be funded for projects beginning in the 2018-19 school year. Requests in excess of \$50,000 may be considered, but applying partnerships must contact LYFT staff for approval prior to submission.

To learn about the funding guidelines and answers to frequently asked questions go to www.LYFTpathways.org.





By Cliff Carmody
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SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION

Have you thanked a school board member recently? If not, February 19 -23 is School Board Recognition Week! This week provides a great opportunity to show your appreciation to those locally elected officials working on your behalf to provide a quality public education for all of our kids.



In case you didn't know, SWWC also has a governing board. The SWWC Board of Directors is a regional board providing leadership and governance to the administration at the service cooperative. Our bylaws state that SWWC is to be governed by a board of not less than six nor more than 15 members. In addition, the majority of the members of the board of directors shall be current members of school boards of school districts in full membership.

Currently, the SWWC Board of Directors is made up of 12 members; ten elected members representing our school districts and two appointed members representing our city, county and other governmental agency members. This elected board meets monthly to govern the activities of the service cooperative.

The SWWC Board has outstanding leadership and represents the needs of the region and its members with great purpose and judgement. I cannot say enough about the quality of our board! Representing all corners of the region, they come together as one body to provide strategic direction and governance with the best interest of the membership in mind.

We appreciate the work of the SWWC Board of Directors and want to say "THANKS" for their commitment to providing outstanding governance to our shared work!

Learn more about the SWWC Board of Directors by visiting www.swsc.org/board.

SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS!

The Review is published three times a year. We welcome submissions from schools -- so if you have good news to share, send it to us! If you have suggestions, comments or items for submission, contact Shelly Maes at shelly.maes@swsc.org.



/SWWCSC



@SWWC_SC



/swwcsc



/company/sw-wc-service-cooperative



/swwc_sc

HAPPENINGS AT NORTH CENTRAL LEARNING CENTER

The fall season at NCLC was busy with many activities. This year we've had the opportunity to explore PBIS. Students earn STARRS Reward Cards for going above and beyond in helping others and demonstrating their skills. Students then turn in their cards to enter drawings for prizes or privileges. Students enjoyed being involved in the drawings by announcing who the winners were and what they did. Some students saved their daily points for several weeks to earn a pizza party and invited other students, staff, and even a favorite bus driver. High school students worked on a proposal to earn a meal at a restaurant in Willmar, which included scheduling community transportation.

Each week, our students completed weekly football picks and won prizes for those with the best record. In October, we celebrated with our own dress-up week. One day we were sports fans and the next we were comfy in our PJs. We also had the opportunity to assist a local church in building a Carpet-Ball Table. Students were able to enjoy the table before it was delivered to the church - and they have requested we build one of our own!

November and December found us volunteering off-site as Bell Ringers for the Salvation Army. Students and staff enjoyed the indoor sites much better than the outdoor ones. We worked two-hour shifts at several sites including Wal-Mart, Cub Foods, JCPenney and Hobby Lobby. The Salvation Army let us know that during our shifts, we collected over \$300.

Students had the opportunity to make and send cards to our Troops. We received a thank you note and pictures of them enjoying the cards. The students were so excited to get this response!



This fall our high school students mentored our elementary students. They spent time together reading and playing games ... and learning how to take turns and accept not winning all the time. In December, they made ornaments out of wood with their pictures. Students wrapped them up and gave them to their parents as a gift. Also in December, students made gingerbread houses and had a Cribbage Tournament.

NCLC looks forward to more projects and more fun in the New Year, so stay tuned!



By Lori Dierks
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SWWC
**EDUCATIONAL
LEARNING CENTERS**

www.swsc.org/elc



By Nicole Lydick
Director
nicole.lydick@swsc.org



You can find more information on the Southwest Prairie RCE at
www.swsc.org/rce.

REGIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE NEWS

Meet **Mary Jenatscheck**, Principal Leadership Specialist at the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

This is a new position geared to support principals in all schools. The Regional Center Principal Leadership Specialists work with principals to increase their capacity and skills as school leaders. Support can look different depending on needs but includes: groups of principals coming together in an ongoing manner to be bedrocks of support for each other, one-on-one on-site coaching with principals, facilitating regional professional learning opportunities and partnerships, and supporting effective coaching of superintendents for their principals. Within these supports the work can be personalized for differentiated needs. The Principal Leadership Specialists base their work on key leadership practices each emphasizing a component of increasing student achievement.



Meet **Heather Giese**, Graduation Support Advocate at the Southwest Prairie Regional Center of Excellence

This is another new position for the Regional Centers of Excellence network across the state. This position was created to assist schools that are eligible for support based on their graduation rate.

Heather will serve as an advocate in our eligible schools, as well as be our team "expert" in High School graduation rate. Heather has been working with the three other Graduation Specialists in the state, along with the Department of Education, to improve the MEIRS System. They are working to create a resource of Evidence Based Practices which will be located on the MDE website to assist high schools with Continuous School Improvement. Heather is also working to create a tool kit for College and Career Readiness.



SWWC

March 11-12, 2018
Redwood Falls, Minnesota



**Register today! Find more information
at www.swsc.org/techconf!**

WAYS TO MANAGE YOUR HEALTHCARE EXPENSES

The SWWC Health Insurance Pool is a member-owned self-insured pool and claims are used to determine the increases needed for the group. The best way to minimize potential increase is to reduce claims to the group plan.

How can you reduce group claims?

Here are some suggestions:

1. Encourage those covered by the plan to choose the right level of care. Telemedicine is growing in popularity and is a good way to seek needed care but at a much lower cost. The Pool, along with BCBS, recommends Doctor of Demand which costs \$44/visit and can be counted towards the member's deductible. Find more information at www.doctorondemand.com
2. Participate in the Pool's wellness program. Healthy employees not only reduce claims, but they also are not missing their important job of working with our children. Contact Kari Bailey at kari.bailey@swsc.org for more information on the Pool's Live Well program.
3. Encourage those on the health plan to log on to the BCBS employee portal for resources that can help in choosing the right provider based on quality of care and cost and the pharmacy search tool. The MN Department of Health recently released findings saying the cost of procedures at Minnesota hospitals can have nearly an 8-fold difference in cost. They found the cost of a knee replacement ranged from \$6,186 to \$46,974 -- so it pays to check out different providers. www.bluecrossmnonline.com
4. Consider offering a consumer directed health plan if you currently do not offer one. A VEBA and/or HSA are great ways to encourage those on the health plan to become more knowledgeable in their health plan as well as financially invested. Contact me or your dedicated BCBS account manager for more information on consumer directed health plans.

When an employer is faced with an increase in their healthcare costs, many will increase the deductible. There are other ways to help minimize increase and should be considered as well, including:

- Make a medical network change
- Make a pharmacy network change
- Make a Rx formulary change

Please contact me or your account manager for more information on network or Rx changes.

LOOKING FOR MORE NEWS?

Visit www.swsc.org/news to read our current news releases and see our latest publications.

Visit www.swsc.org/newsarchive to read past issues of the Review, the Member Newsletter and our Annual Reports!



By Doug Deragisch
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www.swsc.org/livewell





By Andrea Anderson
Student Activities Coordinator
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YOUNG ARTISTS RECAP

The 24th Annual Conference for Young Artists, sponsored by the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council, was held on October 26, 2017, at SMSU in Marshall.

Nearly 940 K-8th grade students and chaperones attended the conference. The day started with Mike Bliss's magic tricks that kept students and adults guessing, laughing and wanting more. As one parent commented, "He had great energy - loved that he had the kids trying to figure out his tricks! I'm sure many will go home thinking about them."

The rest of the day was filled with students attending hands-on sessions such as print design, pottery and clay, magic, bucket drumming, cartooning, painting, creating origami, drawing, even becoming a Zombie during a theatrical makeup session and so much more.

Here are a few comments from students about their day:

"I got to learn about watercolor and how to blend colors"

"I learned what Zentangle is"

"That there are many styles of hand-lettering"

"To never give up and keep trying"

"Follow your dreams"



Check out the photos on our website to see how much fun the students had learning more about the arts.



Congratulations to all
Junior High Knowledge Bowl
teams on a GREAT season!

Region 6 Subregional

First: GSL Silver
Second: GSL White
Third: Hutch Black

Region 8 Subregional

First: JCC 1
Second: MCC 4
Third: Mountain Lake Emerald

Super Regional

First: GSL Silver
Second: Minneota Blue
Third: MCC 4



SCIENCE AND NATURE ON MAY 9

Join us on May 9 for SWWC's Science & Nature Conference. The conference will be held at SMSU and will feature Mike Billington and his birds from the U of M Raptor Center. Students in grades K-8 will experience a variety of science related topics such as rocket building, science magic, crime scene investigation, STEM and much more.

Watch for more details coming soon at www.swsc.org/sn.



YOUNG WRITERS RECAP

Seventeen presenters shared their talent and knowledge with students in grades 3-8 on a wide range of writing styles. They shared ways to generate ideas, how to create characters, how to hook your reader, theater, using your five senses, matching a reporter story to the photographer video and photos, and so much more. Encouraging students to write fiction, fantasy, truth, personal adventures, poetry, creating characters, etc. is quite rewarding.

There were 660 students and their chaperones at the 26th Annual Conference for Young Writers on January 3. Author Lisa M Bolt Simons began the day teaching the whole group about STP - Skills, Teamwork and Persistence - by having students from the audience participate in her learning activities.



One presenter shared how she connected with one student saying, "One student wanted to share her poem with me personally. Her facial expression and enthusiasm indicated she was proud of her writing and eager for readers." She also shared how this event has impacted her personally. "I felt like I expanded my understanding of how I, as a writer, can serve my community. I learned how to facilitate a "creative" classroom that fosters imagination and depth."

More fun photos are on our website and our Facebook page.





By Shareen Neumann
Sales and Marketing Specialist
shareen.neumann@swsc.org

CPC PARTNERS WITH NJPA TO ADD NEW VENDORS

We are pleased to announce that the Cooperative Purchasing Connection (CPC) is now able to offer select National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) contracts in addition to our current list of contracts. We have partnered with NJPA to offer contracts that complement CPC solicited contracts, and NJPA will offer select CPC contracts in their region.

This partnership gives you more buying power and more choice in the contracts you can use to save time, money and bring value to your organization. Plus, all of the contracts have been awarded through the required competitive process.

You may contact any of the CPC or NJPA vendors directly to meet your needs. If you are already using a vendor listed, or will be for the first time, simply ask the vendor to give you the CPC or NJPA contract pricing.

Every time you use a service cooperative contract listed in our catalogs, you are contributing to the direct regional programs you receive from SWWC!



Find more info at www.swsc.org/cp.



For more information, visit
ics-consult.com/services/coop-partnership/

To arrange a consultation with ICS,
contact Doug Deragisch at
doug.deragisch@swsc.org.

FJJ IS NOW ISC CONSULTING

By Eryn Sorenson, ICS Consulting

ICS Consulting, Inc. (ICS) is a firm that specializes in providing customized planning and project-related consulting and representation services. With over 100 years of combined experience in the industry, the core team members at ICS have worked together for the past 12 years providing planning and project-related representation and management services to clients throughout Minnesota and the upper Midwest.

Services include owner's representation, construction management, program management, technical services, LTFM or 10-year planning, pre-referendum assistance, community engagement facilitation and facility assessments. Through decades experience, our team members have become extremely proficient in the facilitation and coordination of a school district's facilities planning process. We develop solutions and options and consider all costs for meeting facility needs including education, programmatic and operating needs. In addition, ICS works with districts to provide information regarding Energy Conservation Analysis, Educational Adequacy, Utilization Capacity, Site Analysis, Cost Estimates and Code/Occupancy/Safety Compliance. ICS provides a customized deliverable for districts in order to provide the most comprehensive and thorough recommendation for future planning.

ICS and Foster, Jacobs, & Johnson, Inc. (FJJ) have merged and will continue to provide professional services to the K-12 market. The FJJ team is not changing, simply the name is. With over 80 employees across 5 locations, we have the support and resources to even further develop our relationships and stay on the forefront of industry trends.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION 2017

Congratulations to our winners!

Nature and Landscapes

First: Carter James, Mt. Lake Christian

Second: Jonas Rutsch, YME

Third: Casie DeKruif, RCW

People

First: Jade Rohrbauck, Worthington

Second: Abi Fest, HL-O

Third: Cheyenne Schaffer, HL-O

Elements of Design

First: Jade Rohrbauck, Worthington

Second: Karina Mendez, Worthington

Third: Zadok Ford, Mt. Lake Christian

People's Choice: Jonas Rutsch, YME



BUILDING COMMUNITY: THE EXPERIMENT

By Megan Field, Director of Communication

At New London-Spicer Middle School, our students begin their day in R.A.P.P (Relationships between advisors, peers, and parents) which focuses on emotional and social development. Our R.A.P.P teachers and social workers are always looking for fresh ideas, and new ways to build and support healthy relationships among our student population.



Inspired by a Ted Talk video that referenced a community with a chalk wall for shared feedback, Social Worker Liz Kruger's wheels began spinning. Bouncing the idea off a colleague from Chicago, she formulated a middle school version of this "community experiment" and with Principal Perry's approval, the idea became a reality.

Using a simple framed chalk board and a variety of colored chalk, the team composed questions for the remainder of the school year. The experiment began upon return from winter break. The questions focus on building community within the middle school and has the goal of allowing anonymity in communication while simultaneously creating opportunities to see others' thoughts and feelings.

Thus far, it has been great to see the things that the students and staff are writing. Some answers are thoughtful and others off the cuff and funny - which make the boards dynamic and real! Our staff recognized going in that some answers may be shocking, but felt it would be important to allow students to see authentic feelings of their peers and help reduce feelings of isolation. It should be noted that the boards are closely monitored and anything inappropriate is removed. Questions are scheduled to change every two weeks but with the success of the first questions, we may need to change it up more often!

What's with the chalk boards?

The chalk boards located in the 5th and 8th grade hallways are a way to anonymously learn about the people in our building. Students, staff, parents, and community members are invited to answer the questions written here. Approximately every two weeks a new question will be asked. Take some time to add your answer and see what others are thinking and feeling!

Anything inappropriate will be removed.

Remember *ROAR*.

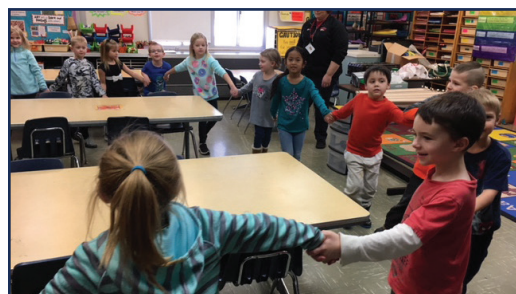
RESPECT other's thoughts

take *OWNERSHIP* for your words

have a positive *ATTITUDE* toward the activity

be *RESPONSIBLE* with property and materials





ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE AT LQPV

By Maureen Heinecke, Principal

"The Science of Sound" was the focus January 8-12 at Appleton~Milan Elementary School. Ross Sutter, musician, performer, and arts educator, was at the school working with students learning all about "The Science of Sound".

Ross began his career as a child singing in church and school choirs. He sang all the way through college earning a degree from Luther College in Decorah, Iowa, with the plan to be an elementary music teacher. His career path took a different turn.

Ross studied different types of music and musical forms while travelling throughout Europe with the focus on Scotland, Ireland, and Sweden. He now works through the COMPAS program and the Minnesota State Arts Board. With the success of his instrument building workshops, Ross has become a highly sought after artist. While at Appleton~Milan Elementary, Ross worked with 4th grade students making dulcimers and with 3rd grade students making whistles. The Kindergarten through 2nd grade students learned about numerous instruments using a Musical Zoo format.

On Friday, January 12, the 3rd and 4th grade students performed songs they learned on their handmade instruments. Community members attended the performance along with staff and students.

Funding for this residency was largely through a grant from the Southwest Minnesota Arts Council (SMAC). Monies for this grant are made possible by the voters of Minnesota thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund and by an appropriation from the Minnesota State Legislature with money from the State's general fund.

BREAKOUT EDU AT CEDAR MT

By Alissa Steve, Technology Integration Specialist

Students from Cedar Mountain Elementary, Middle, and High School have been participating in Breakout EDUs in their classrooms. Breakout EDUs are similar to an "Escape Room" as clues and resources are given to the students in order for them to breakout/open a locked box.

There are many different themes and subject areas for a Breakout EDU. All Breakout EDU games require students to use the 4 Cs - critical thinking, collaboration, creativity and communication. These skills help prepare students for future jobs and allow them to attain higher level thinking. The students at Cedar Mountain are having a blast with these immersive learning games!

More Breakout EDU pictures on next page.



INDUSTRIAL TECH AT BENSON HS

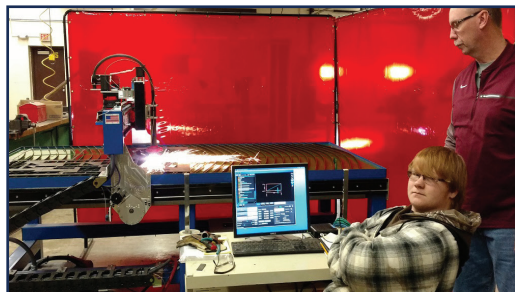
By Mike Knutson, Principal

In the spring of 2017, Case-IH donated \$25,000 to the Benson High School Industrial Technology Department. One of the stipulations of the donation was that we purchase a Computer Numeric Control (CNC) plasma table.



In the manufacturing industry, plasma tables are used to create/design a part, reproduce identical parts, cut new parts or recreate parts. One of the issues that rural America faces is having qualified employees for running their business. Case-IH is working with our Industrial Technology Department to help develop future employees through internship programs and by developing skills needed by providing our school with current technology being used in industry. The CNC plasma table utilizes/develops student skills in Auto Cad drafting, Computer Graphics, and G-Code file transferring.

Doug Manzke, BHS Industrial Technology Instructor, and many of our students have spent countless hours learning how to operate the new CNC plasma table. We have students coming in before school, staying after school and/or utilizing their study hall time to work on designing, cutting and finishing a wide variety of projects on the plasma table. Our next step is to work toward further industry partnership or retail through a possible Research, Design and Development class which would allow our students to develop more specific skills necessary for 21st Century careers in rural America.



Benson High School is very grateful and appreciative of our current partnership with Case-IH and look forward to expanding the possibilities with Case-IH and other businesses in our community.



LOOKING FOR UNIQUE GIFTS?

Two of our educational learning centers have student-run businesses. The students take great pride in their work, so if you are looking for a unique gift ... or are in need of items for a group event, contact them!

SWWC
GLASSY TREASURES
& DECOR

Located at Red Rock Ridge Learning Center
507-831-6935 www.swsc.org/glassy



WINTER PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CATALOG



Looking for training or a specific workshop?
View our [PD Catalog](#) or visit www.swsc.org/workshops
for a full list of offerings!