

MPSD EXPANDS COMPUTER SCIENCE OPPORTUNITIES

With information technology jobs in high demand, Manitowoc Public Schools are boosting computer science courses and clubs to prepare students for these promising careers.

Students are responding by filling Lincoln High School's computer courses and taking advantage of youth apprenticeships.

"What excites students is the reward of solving huge problems with their mind," Lincoln High School teacher Melanie Shimek said. "They find a significant satisfaction in writing code and getting it to work. These students are insanely smart."

Shimek compared her Computer Science Principles course to learning 13 foreign languages. "We learn 13 different computer languages in a year," she said. "It is intense and extremely rewarding."

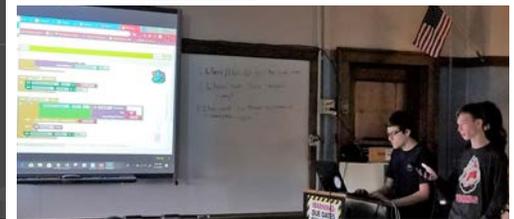
According to the New IT Alliance in Appleton, IT jobs are expected to grow by 13%, leaving about 3,000 new IT positions in northeastern Wisconsin unfilled by 2021. More than 90% of high school graduates find a job, and an associate degree in computer science can lead to careers with a median salary of \$60,000.

"The market is saturated with jobs and my students love to see the security in their future," Shimek said.

Shimek added a Programming and Video Game Design course and is interested in adding Cybersecurity in 2020 when it comes out with Project Lead the Way. She also hopes to recruit more female students to the STEM-related career pathway.

Youth Apprenticeship Opportunities

MPSD offers students real-life experiences in computer science through the Manitowoc County Youth Apprenticeship (YA) Program. Juniors and seniors work



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- Lincoln High School IT Teacher
 Melanie Shimek



SUPERINTENDENT MESSAGE:

Did you know that Manitowoc Public Schools continue to be a leader in high school participation in advanced coursework?

We are proud that MPSD is small enough to provide students personal attention but large enough to offer a full range of college and career preparation programs. Our high school students last year enrolled in 212 Advanced Placement (AP) courses and 162 International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. They also earned more than 376 college credits and 512 advanced standing credits. Thank you to our students, staff and families for continuing to challenge themselves and try new opportunities.

New Rubick Field Unveiled, Usage Jumps

I also want to again thank the community for its generous support by passing our April 2018 district operating referendum and raising \$900,000 in private donations to renovate our historic Rubick Field. The new field was unveiled in August, and usage since has more than doubled, from 62 hours in fall 2017 to 150 hours this fall. Come see the changes! Our student athletes are enjoying the new safer turf, bleachers, lights and other amenities.



In September, MPSD hosted safety training in coordination with the state Department of Justice Office of School Safety for educators, administrators, law enforcement officials and state administrators. The training was facilitated by John Michael Keys, a nationally renowned adviser of safety response protocols. The MPSD, in coordination with the Manitowoc Police Department, has decided to implement this safety response protocol during the 2018-2019 school year to improve the education and awareness of our staff and students.

Safety Grants Fund Improvements

MPSD was awarded about \$520,000 in school safety grants, which the district is using to increase security measures and equipment, add a visitor management system at all 11 school buildings, make changes to our elementary schools' entrances, and fund student mental health and wellness programs. We know that positive student relationships support safe schools and we will continue to work to build lasting relationships with our students and families.

In November, our Board of Education approved a budget that lowered the school district property tax rate by 14 cents from \$8.04 per \$1,000 of equalized home value to \$7.90. About \$400,000 of district fund balance will be used toward debt payment, as part of a district plan to be debt-free by 2024.



We hope you had a chance in December to enjoy our holiday concerts and school events. Let's make the second semester and 2019 a great one!

Mark Holzman
MPSD Superintendent

Advanced Coursework Grades 10-12 2017-2018 School Year

512	Advanced Standing Credits	376	Transcribed College Credit
162	International Baccalaureate (IB) Courses	49	Youth Apprenticeship Students
212	Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	30	Youth Options Students



Lincoln Joins Big Brothers Big Sisters to Help the Littles

Lincoln High School students have teamed up with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Manitowoc County to make a difference in the lives of elementary school students. High school students are having a huge impact as they spend time with elementary students through the new partnership.

MPSD Employees Donate \$8,500 for Scholarships

Employees at Manitowoc Public Schools have donated \$8,500 to launch a MPSD Employee Scholarship Program. Four \$1,500 scholarships will be awarded to graduating seniors, based on financial need, academic merit and school/community engagement. The remaining \$2,500 will be used to support district students whose financial circumstances may not allow them to participate in co-curricular or enrichment learning opportunities.



Jefferson Makes Buddies at Felician Village

Students from Jefferson Elementary were paired with a buddy at the Felician Village. They visited the home, talked and worked on crafts together, raising the spirits of all involved.

for Manitowoc Public School District, Valders Area School District, Manitowoc Public Utilities and UnitedOne Credit Union.



In Manitowoc schools, YA students answer work orders, help teachers and students set up devices, repair chromebooks, set up computer labs, troubleshoot issues with computers, laptops, Smartboards and other devices, and more.

Lincoln junior Owen Opichka joined YA due to his love of technology. "When I was a child I enjoyed LEGOs, then I built my own computer, and my interest in technical things has increased from there," he said.

He helped Valders schools roll out Chromebooks to all students and create processes to more effectively run the technology department.

"I enjoy helping people fix their problems and getting to know the other staff," Opichka said. "I also enjoy working on the software side. At Valders I've helped program microcontrollers to auto enroll our Chromebooks, which is a huge timesaver. I also took a programming course at LTC. I like the problem-solving aspect of programming and that I could use programs to help people solve problems in the future."

An apprenticeship at MPSD helped confirm Lincoln senior Nick Michaelson's interest in IT careers. "Before I took on the apprenticeship, I did not have a very good idea of how the technology in a public school system worked," Michaelson said. "Now I have learned so many cool 'behind the scenes' things that I would not have known otherwise."

Elementary and Jr. High Coding and Robotics

Interest in computer science is also growing at the junior high school level, where Shimek teaches App Creators and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. At the elementary schools, students are introduced to computer science skills. All MPSD elementaries and the Riverview Early Learning Center have coding kits with a variety of resources to engage learners in coding. Students have created Code Clubs at Madison and Jackson Elementary Schools.



Technology skills also are used by Robotics Clubs at Lincoln and other schools. A Wilson robotics team used mechanical, field build, programming, CAD and design skills when students competed at the Duluth Northern Lights Regional competition in March 2018. They won the Engineering Inspiration Award and advanced to the World Championship in Detroit, where they won the Imagery Award.

CELEBRATIONS

Follow us on Facebook to see all of our achievements and celebrations! facebook.com/ManitowocPublicSchools



LHS Sophomore Plays in National All-Star Game

Lucas Smith, a sophomore at Lincoln, was chosen to participate in the first ever Miracle League National All-Star game in Findlay, Ohio in September. Luke represented the Miracle League of the Lakeshore. What an awesome opportunity!

MPSD Earns Communication Awards

The Manitowoc Public School District won three awards for its communication and community

engagement efforts from the Wisconsin School Public Relations Association (WSPRA) at its fall conference. The Spectrum Awards recognized the district's MPSD Connections community newsletter, April 2018 referendum campaign and "Did You Know?" social media campaign to raise awareness of district achievements and benefits.

Students Named All-Conference Athletes

Congratulations to Lincoln's fall All-Conference Athletes: Cross Country - Max Bailey, Sam Jacobson, Libby Meyer and Breanna Reinhart; Football - Shea Grosssheusch, Davis Heinzen, Tanner Wigand, Harley Wittmus and Malcome Young; Boys Soccer - Evan Clark, Josh Gutman, Vince Kelly, Billy Kronschnabel, Gavin Maurer and Jack Nolden; Girls Swim - Mia Strazny; Girls Tennis - Delaney Brockman, Jenna

Piaskowski, McKenna Pleuss and Allison Verbauwheda; and Volleyball - Lauren Borchardt, Katie DiRaimondo and Paige Franz.

Shopko Honors Monroe Backpack Buddies

Monroe Elementary fourth grader Jaylee Ziemer and three friends created "Backpack Buddies" to donate toys and personal items to children entering the foster care system. The group annually has helped about 80 children in our community. Jaylee was recognized at the Oct. 15 Green Bay Packers game as a ShopKo Kick-Off Kid for her compassionate service.





Manitowoc Public School District
2902 Lindbergh Drive
Manitowoc, WI 54220

OUR vision

- Inspiring Education
- Empowering Community
- Unleashing Potential

EnROLL toDaY

ENROLL YOUR STUDENTS IN MANITOWOC!

4K and Open Enrollment Start in February

Do you have a child who is 4 years old or will turn 4 by Sept. 1, 2019? Do you live outside the Manitowoc Public School District but want to attend our schools? We welcome you!

Open Enrollment

Your child can thrive in Manitowoc schools, where we provide a full range of curricular and co-curricular opportunities with personalized attention and learning. If you live outside of the Manitowoc Public School boundary but wish to attend our schools next fall 2019, you can complete and submit a state Open Enrollment form between Feb. 4, 2019 and April 30, 2019. There is no tuition cost. Parents must provide transportation. Learn more about our neighborhood schools at manitowocpublicschools.org and find an open enrollment form at dpi.wi.gov/open-enrollment.

4-Year-Old Kindergarten

Learn about our FREE 4K and wraparound care options by attending our 4K Open House on Sunday, Feb. 10, 2019 at four locations: Riverview Early Learning Center, Lakeshore Child Care Center, Head Start and YMCA. Registration for 4K will be held Feb. 11-15, 2019 at the Riverview Early Learning Center, 4400 Michigan Ave., Manitowoc. Visit www.manitowocpublicschools.org/services/4k to learn more about our 4K program.



Photos courtesy of the Spirit of the Rivers Facebook page

Alumnus Creates Legacy Landmark

A new landmark showcasing Manitowoc's heritage will be enjoyed for generations to come and residents have 1960 Lincoln High School alumnus R.T. ("Skip") Wallen to thank for it.

Wallen, an internationally known sculptor and wildlife artist, created the "Spirit of the Rivers" bronze monument installed last fall at 4815 Memorial Drive, Two Rivers. The lighted 30-ton sculpture features a 10-foot tall Native American couple foraging a 20-foot tall birch bark canoe and being greeted ashore by an elder.



Wallen, 76, was born and raised in Manitowoc and his mother was a secretary for the School Board. After graduating from Lincoln and UW-Madison, Wallen moved to Alaska where he worked as a wildlife biologist and famous artist. Read more at spiritoftherivers.org.



STAY CONNECTED - #ShipsPride



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CONTACT OUR SCHOOLS: manitowocpublicschools.org/schools

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