

JANUARY, 2021



## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### *Parent Newsletter*

Dear Dragon Families,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a great start to 2021. We welcomed our in-person students back on January 19. We are so thrilled to have our students back. We are doing everything we can to stay in-person and we continue to closely monitor the pandemic in hopes of adding time to our students being in-person for more of the school day. We sincerely appreciate your patience and understanding.

As we welcomed our students back, I felt compelled to remind staff of a few things. I feel compelled to do the same for our families. I often address the concerns that are being expressed by so many about the deficits students will demonstrate when they finally return to school and things around us settle down. This is a very legitimate concern; however, I urge you to take into account the past 11 months. Our students have been living in a global pandemic which is impacting all of us to some extent. Some of us have been impacted by only having to abide by the latest guidelines (wearing a mask, social distancing, etc.), while others have experienced the loss of family income, serious illness and even the loss of loved ones. As if the pandemic is not enough, now we add in what is happening in our nation regarding politics. When you truly think about the past 11 months, it is difficult for us, adults, to wrap our minds around these issues let alone try to process these things that are happening as a young person still developing mentally, emotionally, and physically.

In our anxiety and burden to "catch students up," we cannot miss this opportunity to meet students where they are at and acknowledge all of the things that they truly have learned during this unprecedented time. Learning does not and has not stopped even in a pandemic. Our students just have been focused on different things in addition to academics. Some have been focused on how to support younger siblings at home while their parents work, some have been focused on where their next meal is coming from, some have been forced to stay at grandma and grandpa's, some have been losing sleep at night worried that their parents may become ill, some are dealing with the loss of a parent or loved one due to COVID, etc. We have to carefully balance moving along in our curriculum with helping our students process what is happening in our world and supporting them with their specific situation and worries. Before we can "teach" and our students can "learn," we have to reconnect with our students. Our students need the adults in their life to help foster the skills (compassion, resilience, understanding, compartmentalizing, etc.) needed to get to the other side of all of these issues that are directly and/or indirectly impacting them. It is critical that we as educators and parents/guardians balance meeting our students needs socially and emotionally as well as academically.

Please know that we understand and recognize the stress that has been put on families during the past 11 months. You are doing the best you can each and every day to juggle this new reality. It is important to meet your families affective needs first. Working together, we will get through this and our students will be stronger in the end strengthening their skills of resilience and flexibility. Take time to reflect on the silver lining of this challenging time. Many families have had more time to reconnect with one another, children have had the opportunity to learn things being home that may have not otherwise occurred, and our students have learned many new technology and learning skills having to adjust to different learning modalities. We can find the positive in everything, if we just allow our mind to be open and reflect.

Thank you again for your continued support. We are Orion strong and Dragon proud.

Sincerely,

Heidi Mercer  
Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning



# FROM THE TEACHING & LEARNING OFFICE

## Parent University Update

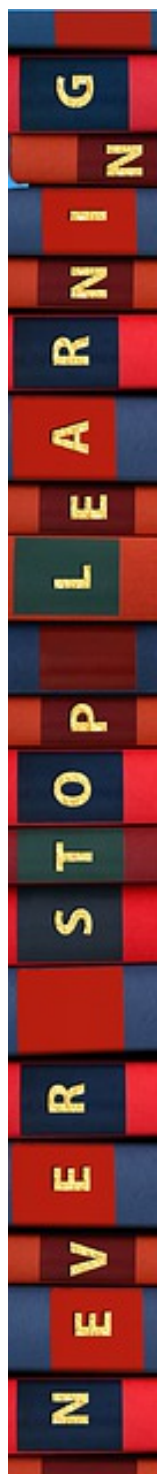
If you missed a Parent University Event you can find the recorded session on the district webpage: <https://www.lakeorionschools.org/teaching-and-learning/parent-university>.

### Past topics for the 2020-2021 school year have been recorded and include:

- Academic Vocabulary (Grades K-8)
- Building a Culture of Literacy (Grades 6-12)
- Supporting Reluctant Readers (Grades K-2)
- Teaching Kids Cultural Competency (Grades K-12)
- Early Literacy (Grades DK-1)
- Reluctant Readers (Grades 6-12)
- Everyday Mindfulness (DK-12, Post-Secondary)
- More than Just Pressing Play: Ways Kindle Can Make a Difference in Your Child's Life (Grades K-8)
- Executive Functioning (Grades 3-5)
- Executive Functioning (Grades 6-12)
- Mathematical Foundations (Grades K-2)
- All About Microsoft Teams/Seesaw

### Upcoming topics for the 2020-2021 school year are:

- February 9 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
  - Don't Panic: Resources for Proofreading Your Student's Writing (Grades 6-12)
- February 23 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
  - Quick Tips for Supporting 2nd and 3rd Graders as They Make the Comprehension Leap into Longer Books (Grades 2-3)
- March 16 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
  - Help your child spell WELL! (Grades 2-5)
- May 4 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
  - Fun Summer Reading: Resources and the Latest Books (Grades 6-12)
- May 11 (6:30-7:30 p.m.)
  - Kindergarten Readiness (DK)





# DATA AND ASSESSMENT

*Missy Butki, Data Specialist/Instructional Coach*

## Spring 2021 Tentative Michigan State Assessment Windows

The 2019-20 school year certainly did not end the way any of us would have thought. Except for most of our WIDA assessments, no assessments were conducted last spring for the safety of our students and staff around the state.

While there is still uncertainty and ambiguity surrounding how the COVID-19 pandemic will continue to impact this year, a typical state assessment administration season is currently scheduled to resume in spring 2021 as required by state and federal law.

The office of Educational Assessment and Accountability (OEAA) is preparing for an administration of the M-STEP and other statewide assessments this spring as normal. At this time, we have not received any waivers removing the requirement to conduct state summative assessments in Spring 2021. We will continue to monitor state and federal assessment requirements and expectations as the school year progresses across Michigan and as COVID-19 responses evolve.

### **Summative tests for grades 3–8 include:**

- MSTEP English Language Arts (grades 3–7): computer adaptive test (CAT) with Passage-based Writing prompt (essay) at every grade
- MSTEP Mathematics (grades 3–7): computer-adaptive test (CAT)
- Science (grades 5 and 8): fixed-form online assessment
- Social Studies (grades 5 and 8): fixed-form online assessment
- PSAT 8/9 for grade 8: English Language Arts and Mathematics paper/pencil assessment

### **MME in grade 11 includes:**

- SAT with Essay: paper/pencil assessment
- ACT WorkKeys: paper/pencil assessment
- M-STEP Science: fixed-form online assessment
- M-STEP Social Studies: fixed-form online assessment

### **PSAT in grades 9 and 10 includes:**

- PSAT 8/9 for grade 9: paper/pencil assessment
- PSAT 10 for grade 10: paper/pencil assessment

### **MI-Access Functional Independence (FI) in grades 3-8 and 11 includes:**

- English Language Arts: Expressing Ideas (grades 3–8 and 11): provided as paper/pencil assessment only for all students, Accessing Print and Using Language (grades 3–8 and 11): fixed-form online assessment
- Mathematics (grades 3–8 and 11): fixed-form online assessment
- Science (grades 4, 7, and 11): fixed-form online assessment
- Social Studies (grades 5, 8, and 11): fixed-form online assessment

### **MI-Access Supported Independence (SI) & Participation (P) in grades 3–8 and 11 includes:**

- English Language Arts and Mathematics combined with student facing picture cards (grades 3, 5, 6, and 8): paper/pencil test booklet with online answer document
- English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science combined with student facing picture cards (grades 4, 7, and 11): paper/pencil test booklet with online answer document

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) Spring 2021 testing windows and dates for all summative online and paper/pencil assessments are included in this link.

[https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Guide\\_to\\_State\\_Assessments\\_622260\\_7.pdf](https://www.michigan.gov/documents/mde/Guide_to_State_Assessments_622260_7.pdf)

Each building is working on a testing schedule and will communicate days and times when students are testing as the window approaches. Dragon Virtual students will be expected to come in person to take assessments with appropriate safety measures in place.



## ELA

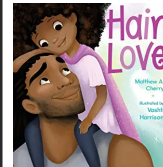
Beth Bruce, Kelly Day & Kate DiMeo, Instructional Coaches

# Building a Culture of Literacy at Home

"At its simplest, literacy is the way that we **interact with the world around us**, how we shape it and are shaped by it. It is how we communicate with others via **reading** and **writing**, but also by **speaking**, **listening**, and **creating**. It is how we articulate our experience in the world and declare, 'We Are Here!'" (NCTE Standing Committee on Global Citizenship, March 2020).

- **Create a home library** -- this does not have to be an elaborate bookshelf. Instead, it could just be a basket of books from the library.
- **Be a literacy role model** -- Let your kids catch you reading a book, watching the news, or writing in a journal.
- **Establish family reading rituals** -- Try to carve out 20 minutes a day for reading. Reading just 20 minutes a day can have a profound impact on brain development.
- **Read aloud together (or offer alternatives)** -- Try audio books and podcasts. Listen to them in the car on the way to practice, before bed, or during dinner.
- **Slow down and share stories with each other** -- Sometimes the power of a conversation can be even more valuable than reading.
- **Talk about current events** -- Have critical conversations about the media -- What makes a reputable source? Is the source biased?
- **Unplug... board games are making a comeback** -- Look for games that ask participants to use vocabulary, apply critical thinking skills, etc. (Codenames, Taboo, and Cranium are just a few)
- **Encourage reluctant readers** -- Let them follow their interests, try graphic novels, find characters who reflect your kid's experience, get techy (eBooks, audiobooks, podcasts), be a model and carve out time to read.

## From our bookshelf to yours...



*Hair Love*  
by Matthew Cherry  
Level: grades K-12 (*because we love it that much!*)



*The King of Kindergarten*  
By Derrick Barnes  
Level: grades DK-K



*Nick and Nick series*  
By Brandon Budzi  
Level: grades K-2



*Mananaland*  
By Pam Munoz Ryan  
Level: grades 3-5



*Class Act*  
(graphic novel)  
by Jerry Craft  
Level: grades 5-7



*The Fountains of Silence*  
by Ruta Sepetys  
Level: grades 8-12



*Patron Saints of Nothing*  
by Randy Ribay  
Level: high school



# ENGLISH LEARNER DEPARTMENT

*Jen Howe, EL District Coordinator*

## It's WIDA ACCESS Season!

All English Learners in grades K-12 will take the WIDA ACCESS for ELLs between January 27 and April 9, 2021. WIDA ACCESS monitors a student's progress in learning academic English, is administered online, and assesses the four language domains of listening, reading, writing, and speaking. If your child/children are attending in person, the WIDA will be administered during the school day. If your child/children are attending virtually, your child's EL teacher will contact you to schedule testing appointments.

Test results are available in the summer and are provided to families and classroom teachers at the start of each school year. For more information on WIDA click [here](#). Thank you for encouraging your children to do their best on the WIDA ACCESS and for your support of the testing schedule.

## LOCS Students Can Now Apply to Earn the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy

Michigan has joined approximately thirty states in recognizing bilingual students. The Michigan Seal of Biliteracy recognizes students who are proficient in English and an additional language. Universities may consider the Seal of Biliteracy for placement in language courses, and the Seal of Biliteracy also indicates to employers that students are entering the workforce with proficiency in more than one language.

Students who meet the Lake Orion High School ELA graduation requirements and demonstrate proficiency in an additional language can now apply to earn the Michigan Seal of Biliteracy. Students can demonstrate proficiency by a rating of Intermediate High on an approved language assessment or a transcript verifying study in another country. Applications are available from the high school counseling office. Students who earn the Seal of Biliteracy will be recognized at a departmental awards ceremony and will receive a certificate from the State of Michigan and a gold seal for their diploma.

## Tips for Raising a Bilingual Child

In "Raising a Truly Bilingual Child," Perri Klass, M.D. provides insight into raising bilingual children. First and foremost, Klass affirms that early exposure to more than one language has many advantages including being able to correctly form the sounds of both languages. Klass also cautions that raising a bilingual child requires both exposure and effort.

Klass supports the recommendation of many pediatricians that parents should talk, sing, and read to their children as much as possible. Children need person-to-person exposure in both languages. Some other tips to support both languages include:

- having each parent speak a different language to the child,
- having each parent speak both languages to the child,
- involving caretakers who speak a second language to the child,
- speaking the native language with extended family, and/or
- sending the child to a "Saturday school" where the native language and target culture are emphasized

Parents should be mindful that it takes longer to acquire two languages than it does to acquire one, and that a child's mixing of languages does not indicate confusion. Encouraging a child to use and maintain both languages may not result in a perfect balance between languages, but knowing and being able to communicate in two languages is still an advantage and a gift to your child. To read the entire article, click [here](#).





# MATH DEPARTMENT

*Brent Cubitt and Emilie Schiff, Instructional Coaches*

## **When You Don't Know How to Help: Mathematics Resources for Parents and Guardians**

Information and resources for parents and guardians that explain mathematics instruction used today and provide suggestions for supporting their child's academic success.

Parents and guardians may notice that the homework and instruction their child receives in mathematics is different from what they remember when they were students. This is because math instruction has evolved over the years to adapt to advancements in technology and science, to incorporate results of research on student achievement in math, and to address high remediation rates in college. Adults may notice that the sequence of math topics is different, that more time is being spent on topics, and that students are being challenged to learn new skills and content. The reason for this is to help students develop numeracy—a conceptual understanding of how numbers work. Numerate students have developed a strong foundation that will help them excel when they study algebra, geometry, and other higher mathematics.

### **But how are parents and guardians supposed to support their child's learning if they're unfamiliar with the new ways of learning math?**

Parents and guardians can still support their child's learning in math. There are also a number of freely available online resources for parents and guardians to learn more about the math of today and ways to support their child's academic success:

#### **Videos**

- [Parents Supporting Mathematics Learning Video](#)

In this video, teachers and administrators give advice to parents and guardians supporting their child's learning in math. The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) and the Hunt Institute have produced a series of videos to enhance understanding of the mathematics that students need to succeed in college, life, and careers. Please view all of the videos on the [NCTM Teaching and Learning Mathematics with the Common Core](#) Web page.

- [Common Core Math Explained in 3 Minutes](#)

This article and video, produced by Vox.com, helps address many parent and community member concerns with Common Core math approaches. Unfortunately, the term "new math" is a misnomer; the math strategies suggested under Common Core have been employed in high-performing schools across the country for decades.

- [Khan Academy Common Core Math](#)

Here you will find interactive math problems aligned to every Common Core State Standard for Mathematics. Students can work at their own pace through grade-level "missions" and track their progress through personalized dashboards. All problems are accompanied by step-by-step solutions specific to each problem. Successful completion of missions is charted on a progress report on the student's dashboard while "coaches"—whether teachers, tutors, or parents/guardians—can see a student's progress with access through a class code or coach ID. Learn more about these resources from Khan Academy founder, Sal Kahn, in this [EdSurge](#) article.





# MEDIA CENTER NEWS

Melissa Kempski, Rebecca Lowe, Kat Montei - Media Center Specialists

## MAKERSPACE ACTIVITIES

Public libraries and school libraries alike are eagerly offering many makerspace activities. Makerspaces are collaborative workspaces inside a school, library, or other public space for the purpose of learning through creation. This hands-on learning helps with critical thinking skills and fosters innovation through experimentation. Learners today need flexibility, collaboration skills, adaptability, oral and written skills, information literacy, productivity, leadership, initiative and more. Through the creative play of a makerspace, students have the chance to practice all of these skills and more.

### Traditional In-Person Makerspace Activities

<b>Legos</b>	<b>Strawbees</b>	<b>Ozobots</b>
<b>Board games</b>	<b>Sticker mosaics</b>	<b>Duct tape</b>
<b>3D printing</b>	<b>Knitting &amp; Sewing</b>	<b>Virtual Reality</b>
<b>Rubiks Cube mosaics</b>	<b>Collaborative coloring posters</b>	<b>Stop Motion &amp; Green Screen</b>

In the LOCS middle schools, students have the opportunity to visit the Media Center before and after school, during passing time, and during class with teacher permission. The Media Center may also be open during lunches. In addition to the "Traditional In-Person Makerspace Activities" during a traditional school year, the Media Centers offer a variety of programs and activities such as guest speakers, make & take projects, and we collaborate with the Orion Township Public Library for additional makerspace activities.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL MAKERSPACE CALENDAR

Monthly Makerspace themes and STEM challenges for middle school students.

<b>SEPTEMBER</b> What can you build with cardboard? <b>STEM Challenge</b> Build a structure that you can fit inside using cardboard scraps	<b>OCTOBER</b> Stop Motion animation using free Stop Motion Studio app or phone and the Windows Photos app. <b>STEM Challenge</b> Use Stop Motion to make a video explaining something you learned in school	<b>NOVEMBER</b> 3D printer using Tinkercad—students can export their projects and email the files to us to print (printing only available in hybrid scenario) <b>STEM Challenge</b> Design something to keep your desk tidy.	<b>DECEMBER</b> Hour of Code in Minecraft Education Edition (students have free access to download through their Office 365 accounts) <b>STEM Challenge</b> Coding challenges in Minecraft
<b>JANUARY</b> Origami <b>STEM Challenge</b> Create something that you would only find in cold weather	<b>FEBRUARY</b> Comic/Story creation with Make Beliefs Comix, Book Creator, Comic Life—possible collaboration with Art-- <b>STEM Challenge</b> Use Minecraft Education to design your comic/story setting	<b>MARCH</b> March is Reading Month—virtual book fair, possible author online visit, prize drawings for students who complete book reviews on Destiny or in Flipgrid or in GoSynth, possible guest readers	<b>APRIL</b> April is Poetry Month Month Goosechase/poetry readings via Teams meetings <b>STEM Challenge</b> Write a poem focusing on spring
<b>MAY</b> Draw.io-A free flow and drawing tool. Students can use this tool to create models and diagrams <b>STEM Challenge</b> Create a diagram of your home, school, bedroom, etc.	<b>JUNE</b> Frame by Frame Animation <a href="https://www.abcya.com/games/animate">https://www.abcya.com/games/animate</a> <b>STEM Challenge</b> Create a 10 frame animation of a firework releasing and exploding		

More information about Middle School Media Center activities can be found on the Middle School Media Center webpage at <https://www.lakeorionschools.org/resources/middle-school-media> or by contacting your middle school media specialist:

- Melissa Kempski, Oakview Middle School @ [melissa.kempski@lok12.org](mailto:melissa.kempski@lok12.org)
- Rebecca Lowe, Scripps Middle School @ [rebecca.lowe@lok12.org](mailto:rebecca.lowe@lok12.org)
- Kat Montei, Waldon Middle School @ [katherine.montei@lok12.org](mailto:katherine.montei@lok12.org)

# THE SCIENCE OF MINDFULNESS

Stephanie Harris, District Mindfulness Instructor & Oakview Art Teacher

## Just Breathe

Breathing is something we do automatically. In and out. We almost take for granted how important breathing is to our very survival. It's exactly that, critical to our very existence, yet we pay it no mind - until we do. In mindfulness, it begins with the breath.

Focusing on your breath is one of the quickest ways to lower the stress response in the body. By taking in that extra dose of carbon dioxide, our parasympathetic nervous system is activated, calming the amygdala, or our fight, flight, freeze response. The result of this voluntary action is a sense of safety, calm and relaxation.

The easiest and quickest way this can be achieved is to simply pay attention to our breathing. Notice the inhale and the exhale. Pay attention to nothing else. If distracted, make a conscious effort to go back to paying attention to the inhale and exhale. Try this for 5 seconds, then 30 seconds, and so on until you begin to notice a difference in your heart rate, the tightness in your neck or chest, and/or the knots in your stomach. This can be done standing, sitting down, while resting, or in the middle of a tense moment.

### 101 Ways to Breathe

While simply paying attention to the act of breathing deeply to regulate the nervous system, a more learned, systematic approach can take self-care to the next level.

*5 Finger Breathing or Take 5* - Concentrate on taking five slow, deep breaths while focusing on the action of tracing up and down the fingers of one hand. Use each finger to represent a full round of inhale and exhale. Repeat as necessary.

*Square Breathing* - Use a rectangle or a square, such as a window, as a reference, inhale for four counts, hold breath for four counts, exhale for four counts, hold for counts, and repeat the "square" as many times as needed.

*Grounding* - There are many grounding techniques in mindfulness. Simply focusing on the in-breath and the out-breath is one that can be used repeatedly. Notice how the quality of the air feels as it enters the nose and then notice how it feels as it exits. Return to that sensation when the mind begins to drift.

### Breathing Benefits

Overall, mindful breathing helps your mind and body function at its best. Studies have shown that mindful breathing can be used to decrease anxiety, relieve insomnia, boost energy, enhance memory, and lower blood pressure. The most convenient aspect of using our own breath as a way to lower the stress response is accessibility. Our breath is with us always which also allows us to start over at any time. Important note: mindfulness is a practice, a journey. Enjoy it.

Contact me at [stephanie.harris@lok12.org](mailto:stephanie.harris@lok12.org) or visit the Mindfulness resource page for lots of great information and video practices at <https://www.lakeorionschools.org/resources/mindfulness>.

**Follow me on Twitter @LOmindfulness**







# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

*Andrea Brook, Jamie Kimber, Pam Moreman, Instructional Coaches*

## Inspired Tips and Tricks for Guiding Your Child's Learning

"If you can light the spark of curiosity in a child, they will very often learn without any further assistance. Children are natural learners." -Ken Robinson, author, speaker and international advisor on education.

This school year, you may find yourself supporting your child's learning more than ever before. Depending on your approach, this task may prove to be to extremely rewarding or challenging, fun or stressful, enjoyable or overwhelming. To help make this a positive experience for you and your child, consider trying out different approaches as you work together:

- **Facilitator**- Lead your child to discover on their own, while providing them with guidance. Remember, you are not there to do it all for them, but your support is essential.
- **Mentor**- You won't have all the answers, and its OK that your child knows this! Use these moments as opportunities to learn together. Describe to your child a time you had to figure something out- the steps you took, what worked and what didn't. This provides valuable guidance.
- **Guide**- You don't have to be the expert on everything. Work with your child to figure out which questions they need to ask to move forward in their learning. Asking questions and defining problems are important skills that students work on in all grade levels. Encourage your child to keep asking questions to pinpoint what they need to know or be able to do in order for their learning to progress.
- **Influencer**- When your child has a new idea, do you acknowledge it? In his book, [Creative Schools](#), Ken Robinson argues that curiosity and creativity are more important than ever, and that we can help foster these qualities in our children. As influencers, we have the power to draw out our child's love of learning by praising their outside-the-box thinking and innovative ideas.
- **Motivator**- By keeping a positive attitude and relating the struggles back to the benefits in the long run, the more likely it is that your child will see the big picture and be willing to keep trying.

Despite its challenges, this year presents a unique opportunity for parents to teach their children the skills they need to face and overcome difficult challenges. By adjusting our approach, we can create an environment that fosters independence, grit, and a love of learning that our children will carry with them for a lifetime.

Adapted from [FIRST at Home: Improving Life Skills with Core Values](#)





# SPECIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

*Julie Gutman, Special Education Director*

*As we continue through this unique school year please reach out if you need resources from any of our team members in the Special Education Department and at your building. All buildings have staff that are specialized and can offer strategies for any struggling learners. You can get connected by speaking to your principal or contacting me. We strive to collaborate and support all students.*

*Sincerely,  
Julie Gutman,  
Director of Special Education and 504 Coordinator  
[julie.gutman@lok12.org](mailto:julie.gutman@lok12.org)*

## **Great Resources to Explore**

*District-Wide Resource: Learning Ally*

Lake Orion Community Schools continues a partnership with Learning Ally to support students in grades 2nd -12th who could benefit from audio books to support their reading. Learning Ally is the largest library of human-read audiobooks, including literature, popular fiction and curriculum-aligned titles giving every student equitable access to grade-level content. The audio books can be accessed from a smartphone, iPad/tablet, or computer and students can have up to ten books on their personal bookshelf. The books include word highlighting to allow readers to follow along while listening to a human voice, increasing engagement, memory and comprehension.

Your child may be eligible for this resource, contact your classroom teacher for details. To learn more visit: <https://learningally.org>

## **The Michigan Learning Channel**

Visit <https://www.michiganlearning.org/> for tutorial videos on all subjects. Teachers, parents, and all caregivers now have a partner in education. The Michigan Learning Channel has commissioned new lessons in math, social-emotional learning and health and fitness, all of which are available now. This is a great resource to review any content with your child.

## **Michigan Virtual/Michigan Cares**

Visit <https://michiganvirtual.org/sel/michigan-cares/> to access hundreds of *FREE* K-12 digital lessons on mental health and social emotional well-being with the Michigan Cares Portal.

## **Steps to take if your child is struggling...**

- Meet with your child's teacher or counselor.
- Share your concerns and ideas. Develop a plan for working together. •Share information you have from outside sources. School personnel welcome input from family doctors, tutors, private therapists, etc.
- Talk with the principal. Often he/she can work with parents and teachers to come up with helpful new strategies or mobilize additional resources. You may wish to request a Student Support Team meeting involving one or more of your child's teachers.
- Questions about services to preschool aged children may also be addressed to the Special Education Office.

**For evaluations of infants and toddlers (ages 0-3) call: Early On Oakland (248) 209-2084 or Toll Free (866) 456-2084**



## Career Readiness and EDPs

In 2019, the State of Michigan introduced the Michigan Career Development Model K-12. However, here in Lake Orion, we have done so many great things which already align with their plan/model. From Economics and Business Fairs at the elementary to Wayne State University STEM field trips at the Middle School, plus internships and senior interviews at the high school, our students are exposed to many amazing opportunities that encourage our students to be career ready.

In September 2019, the middle schools and high schools were introduced to Xello, an engaging web-based program that helps students build the skills, knowledge and plans to be future ready. Additionally, the program is used for scheduling students for the following school year, and helps build conversation where students better understand themselves, their future career options, and the 21st century skills they will need to be successful. This year, we are excited to open this program up to our K-6 students!

Through part of the Michigan Merit Curriculum legislation (MMC P.A. 141 of 2007), all students are required to develop an Educational Development Plan (EDP) as part of their talent portfolio. EDPs are considered "live documents" that are updated yearly based on a student's changing interests, passions, talents, and educational focus.

At the elementary level, Xello will work on introducing students to different career pathways through investigative play and critical thinking while building a solid foundation for future success. EDPs primary focus at the middle and high school levels is helping a student develop their career goals and an action plan for achieving them, while at the same time allowing students to be more career aware as they explore career pathways, and assess careers they may be interested in.

While the academics we teach our students are extremely important, career readiness focuses on skills people need to be successful in the real-world work environment. Therefore, by fostering these skills early on, we know our students will be far more prepared for their post-secondary future. With Xello, your student will:

- **Build Self-Knowledge** - Define their interests, skills, preferences, and aspirations so they can explore the opportunities right for them.
- **Explore Options** - Learn about career possibilities and educational pathways by exploring rich, engaging content and lessons.
- **Create a plan** - Your child can create dynamic actionable plans that outline the steps needed to achieve school, career, and life goals.
- **Learn & Reassess** - Interactive lessons help your child develop age-appropriate skills and knowledge for success in school and beyond.

### Parent Involvement

You are encouraged to explore Xello with your middle or high school student by logging in together. Your child can log in to his or her account via desktop or mobile device to share what they have learned about themselves, the world of work, and their future options.



# TECHNOLOGY & CAREER READINESS

*Craig Schoon, Instructional Technology Coach & Rosa Everitt, Career Readiness, HS*

## Career Readiness and EDPs Continued

### Safe and Secure Environment

We take data protection and privacy very seriously, and so does Xello. The program complies with legal requirements for safety and security outlined in the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). That means advertising is not displayed within Xello, nor is data used for commercial purposes. Xello is also a signatory of the Student Privacy Pledge, requiring them to uphold strict standards for safeguarding student privacy regarding the collection, maintenance, and use of student personal information.

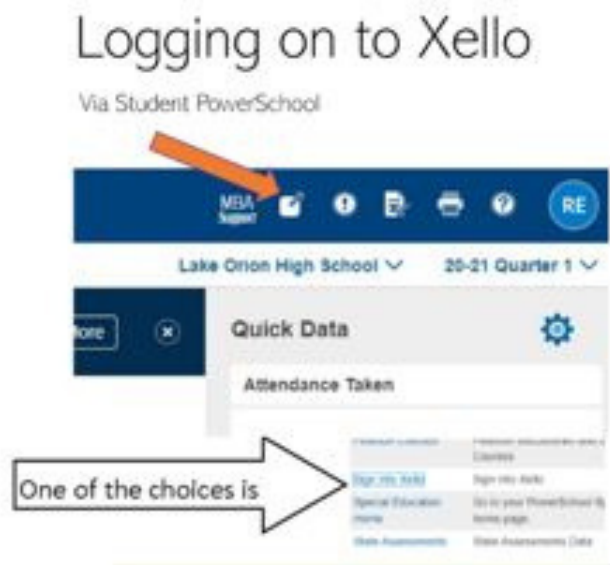
To learn more about Xello and the student experience, please visit <https://xello.world/en/>. We hope you are just as excited as we are about this new program and making every student future ready.

Students will use their five digit student number as part of their username.

Username: LOCS-XXXXX

Password is their birthdate: example 01/01/2021

Middle School and High School students can also log in through PowerSchool:



For more information, please contact Rosa Everitt, the K-12 Career Readiness/CTE Coordinator at Lake Orion High School at [rosa.everitt@lok12.org](mailto:rosa.everitt@lok12.org).

Resources:

[Xello K-2 Resource](#)

[Xello 3-5 Resource](#)

[Xello 6-8 Resource](#)

[Xello 9-12 Resource](#)



# Virtual: Parenting Book Discussion with LOCS

Thursday, March 11 | 7 pm



## Ready or Not

Preparing Our Kids to Thrive in an  
Uncertain and Rapidly Changing World

**Madeline Levine, PhD**

*New York Times* bestselling author of  
*The Price of Privilege* and *Teach Your Children Well*

Join Assistant Superintendent Heidi Mercer and Librarian Kathleen Kwiatkowski as they lead a virtual discussion of the book ***Ready or Not: Preparing Our Kids to Thrive in an Uncertain and Rapidly Changing World*** by Madeline Levine, PhD. Contact the library to get your copy of the book anytime in February.



**Register online at [orionlibrary.org/calendar](https://orionlibrary.org/calendar).**



**Orion Township Public Library**

825 Joslyn Road, Lake Orion, MI 48362

Adult Services  
(248) 693-3001  
[orionlibrary.org](https://orionlibrary.org)