



Battle Creek Rotary Club Newsletter: The RotoScoop Week of April 19, 2021

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July 2020-2021

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BCPS STEM Innovation Center TaShaune Harden, Principal Nathan Hunt, BCPS Communications Manager

Five years ago, the Battle Creek Public School (BCPS) system sought transformative change to better meet the needs of students, families, and the local community. One of the results emerging from this effort is the Stem Innovation Center, a middle school located in the eastern wing of BC Central High School on Van Buren St in downtown Battle Creek. A STEM school focuses on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. The philosophy of STEM schools is to engage students in these subjects at a much younger age and encourage them to think differently; To ask questions but also to try to find answers in an active way.

BCPS developed a curriculum that blurred the lines between subject matters encouraging English and History skills while working on an engineering problem. Flexible seating offers an alternative to the traditional “Sit and get” or lecture-based learning method. Students frequently work in groups and benefits from opportunities to interact with people working in STEM fields such as a NASA engineer and a Pfizer scientist. STEM students go to the Outdoor Education Center at Clear Lake once a week where they use the ropes course, collect field samples and again, work in groups to understand the natural environment.

Along with the STEM Center, BCPS has made many improvements with the support of a WKKF grant starting in 2017. The district sought to provide every student, in every school with a world-class career-, college- and community-ready education. Thorough racial equity, community engagement, and excellent curriculum and facilities many changes and opportunities have emerged such as:

- Early childhood education
- Full day Kindergarten
- Early literacy programs
- Career academies
- Partnership with Grand Valley University
- Classroom Libraries
- Fremont International Academy
- Increased teacher retention
- Health Care Stimulation Labs
- Increased student engagement through 2000 Chrome laptops
- Partnership with Grace Health
- Increase emphasis on relationships with students and parents
- Seeing every student by name, need, and strength



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Announcements

Welcome: Chris Allkins, Recruiting Manager for On Staff USA. Chris is joining our club with Kathy Gallagher as his sponsor.

Leadership Opportunities: A chair for the Student of the Month Committee is still needed to coordinate this monthly event with area schools. Rod Auton has agreed to serve as the Chair of the Grants Committee.

Volunteer Opportunity: Earth Day In conjunction with the City of Battle Creek's Linear Path Clean-up, please join Rotary for a clean-up day at Irving Park. We will focus on litter pick-up. Bring water, work gloves, and friends, and meet in the parking lot by the statue. Rain or shine. Call Jill at 928-830-2723 if you have any questions.

Membership Minute: Invite a potential member to the Linear Park Clean up this Saturday, April 24th. Let them see BC Rotarians in action!

Protecting all Children Month: Several Rotary members stepped up and made pledges to donate to The Child Abuse Prevention Endowment Fund for Calhoun County. Rita McPhail, President of the Fund shared her goal of bringing the Fund balance to \$100,000 in honor of Child Abuse Prevention Month. To reach our goal we need \$856.89 by the end of April. No gift is too big or too small. Find out more about the Fund at <https://beforeanychildisharmed.org> and donate via this website as well. Checks may also be sent directly to the BCCF because it holds and manages the Fund. Another way to support the Fund is by helping us with printing for donor envelopes. Contact McPhail at info@beforeanychildisharmed.org if you can help.

New Grants Approved: \$500 to Battle Creek Academy for Interactive Chicken Coop and \$500 for First Congregational Church for Fremont Garden-Fresh food access.

Newly named BC Rotary Hero is Kathy Gallagher! Gallagher will be recognized as a Rotary Hero at the District Conference on May 20-21, 2021.

Upcoming Programs and Events

4/26/2021 Growing the WMU School of Aviation
Tom Thinnis 5/3/2021

5/3/2021 Oh me, oh my, the Roads!
John Midgley, Managing Director, Calhoun County Road Dept

Contact Karla Fales if you have any ideas: KFales@carewellservices.org