



Michigan City
Area Schools
Opportunity ★ Excellence ★ Pride



CONNECTIONS

A report to our community from
Michigan City Area Schools

Summer 2026

A Message from the Superintendent

Mission

We are a diverse community of families, students, and staff who take pride in our schools, contribute positively to society, and prepare students for lifelong success.

Vision

Michigan City Area Schools: High expectations. Supported Students. Innovative paths to success.

Our Pillars are:



Culture and Environment



Student Voice and Opportunities



Educating the Whole Child



Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners



Clear and Consistent Communication

Greetings, Michigan City!

This fall, many of our elementary students created posters to encourage our football team before Homecoming. Their artwork reflects something we are fostering across Michigan City Area Schools: the "Wolfie Way" — a culture of kindness, encouragement, and connection.

Seeing the posters was a full-circle moment for me. As a student-athlete at Rogers High School, I never imagined I'd one day have the privilege of serving as superintendent of this district.

This year has felt like a homecoming in many ways. We celebrated our history through time capsule openings, Heritage Night, and alumni and staff recognitions. We also looked honestly at where we are and where we need to go. Through our Community Conversations, surveys, and our MCAS Ambassador Program, families and community members helped us reflect on student needs, district data, and opportunities to support our community.

As we plan for the future, we are exploring ways to better align our schools and resources so every student has access to safe, welcoming learning environments and strong opportunities for success.



On the cover

Michigan City High School's mascot, Wolfie, is pictured with Coolspring Elementary students MaKenzie Thomas, Lily Starett, Khalik Stowe, and Kurtis Oman. The students were among those in the school's "Wolfie Way Wednesday Spotlight" for being positive role models this year.



Guided by our Strategic Plan, we will continue this work next school year. I welcome you to subscribe to my monthly updates at the link on this page, and follow Michigan City Area Schools (and your neighborhood school) on our social media pages to stay engaged.

We are moving forward together — honoring our past while building what comes next.

Go Wolves!

Dr. Wendel McCollum
Superintendent

Sign up here for Dr. McCollum's monthly updates.



The Wolfie Way is a concept rooted in the MCAS 7 Habits of Character – respect, empathy, responsibility, accountability, perseverance, flexibility, and integrity – which were developed in 2023 with input from staff, students, and the community.

Schools now use Wolfie Way shout-outs to acknowledge examples of strong attendance, outstanding customer service, academic achievement, school spirit, and more. References to the Wolfie Way are common in morning announcements, newsletters, social media posts, and hallway posters.

Are **you** walking the Wolfie Way?



Student POV



Throughout this issue, we are featuring a Student Point of View relating to each pillar of our Strategic Plan. Watch for this icon to get a student's insight!

Pillar Spotlight: Culture and Environment



We will work to ensure that Michigan City Area Schools is a community that all members appreciate, celebrate, and are proud to be a part of.

Student POV

"This year, elementary teams got new uniforms for every sport. We really like the colors and the numbers on the back! Before, we played in t-shirts with our school name, but this represents us better. Sports are really important because they get you out of the house, teach you new skills, and help you make friends."

Gianna Harrison and Taylor Krachinski, Knapp volleyball and basketball teammates

Coming Soon: Barbara Jones Slater Event Center

Construction is underway on a new athletic complex at Michigan City High School!

The Barbara Jones Slater Community Event Center will feature a lighted track, turf soccer field, press box, bleachers, restrooms, storage, and a concession area. The complex will serve as a venue for high school teams, band practice, youth sports, special events, and more.

"This will be a space that serves generations of students, families, and community members for years to come," says MCAS Athletic Director Ben Bachmann.

"It's an investment in our students and community, and it aligns with our district's Strategic Plan."

Barbara Jones Slater, a former MCAS teacher and coach, is the youngest woman to win Olympic gold in track and field. She was part of the U.S. 4×100-meter relay team at the 1952 Olympics in Helsinki when she was just 15 years and 123 days old.

The \$13 million complex is financed through bonds and will not impact property taxes. Construction is expected to be completed in the fall.



A May 15 groundbreaking ceremony marked the start of construction for the new Slater Community Event Center.



Schools, First Responders Drill for Student Safety

In partnership with the National Center for Integrated Emergency Response Training and local first responders, MCAS conducted a full-scale Safety Preparedness Drill at Michigan City High School in October, during Fall Break. Hundreds of participants took part, including MCAS staff, police and fire departments, emergency medical teams, volunteer actors, and observers.

The day included safety presentations, first responder training, armed intruder practice drills, and a tabletop reunification exercise. The event focused on strengthening communication and coordination between schools and emergency agencies.



"We continue to build on our safety practices so we're as prepared as possible to support students and staff in an emergency," says MCAS Assistant Superintendent Kristi Davis. "The lessons learned will help strengthen our response plans moving forward."

We are MC!

Fans of Elston, Rogers, and MCHS came together for an evening of great basketball and a celebration of their proud history on Heritage Night in February. Halftime festivities honored the 1966 Elston State Championship Boys Basketball team and Rogers Semi-State teams from 1979 and 1984-1987.



Community Conversations Shape Future for MCAS

This school year, Michigan City Area Schools welcomed families, staff, students, and community members to a series of five “Community Conversations” meetings focused on shaping the future of the district.

The meetings brought together hundreds of participants to review enrollment projections, building conditions, student needs, and long-term financial considerations. District leaders, along with representatives from Fanning Howey and Skillman Corporation, shared updates and gathered feedback on future facilities planning and grade-level configurations.

Initial discussion centered on opportunities and challenges presented by various middle school models (5–8, 6–8, and 7–8). Participants considered topics such as academic alignment, extracurriculars, transportation, staffing, and creating spaces to support adolescent learners.

The meetings also included updates on plans for the Slater Community Event Center and conversations about how MCAS can partner with the broader community to strengthen educational opportunities.

Based on feedback gathered throughout the process, a long-range facilities plan was drafted. Its key elements:

- A major renovation of the middle schools to serve all MCAS students in grades 5–8.
- Potential renovation to three elementary schools to modernize the buildings, which would accommodate grades K-4.
- Construction of a new K-4 school.

In some cases, other schools would be repurposed to support district and community needs.

In May, the School Board approved financing for these projects, which will be funded through capital improvement bonds and will not increase property taxes for residents.

District leaders emphasized that the approval marks the start of a longer planning and design phase, which will be guided by additional community input. No student moves are expected before the 2029-30 school year.



“Community feedback was essential throughout this process,” says MCAS Associate Superintendent Cathy Bildhauser. “These conversations helped us think carefully about the best path forward in creating state-of-the-art learning environments for our students. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to share ideas, ask questions, and help shape an exciting future for our district.”

For more information, visit [EducateMC.net/community-conversations](https://www.educatemc.net/community-conversations).

Did You Know?

Three-quarters of the MCAS fleet of 55 buses are powered by propane, which held at just \$1.49 a gallon this school year. Look for the green Blue Bird logo to spot them!



Wolves Athletics Building Momentum Districtwide

This school year brought exciting growth and improvements for the Michigan City High School Athletic Department. More than 400 student athletes competed in 23 IHSAA-sanctioned sports while also meeting high academic expectations in the classroom.

“We always promote the ‘student’ first in student-athlete,” says MCAS Athletic Director Ben Bachmann. “Sports teach life skills like leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and accountability that students carry with them long after graduation.”

This year, the department launched a new website, [GoMCWolves.com](https://www.gomcvolves.com), and expanded its outreach through Facebook, Instagram, and X. The district also continued strengthening its athletic feeder system by adding elementary boys and girls volleyball programs and middle school boys

volleyball. New uniforms were provided to every elementary school team.

Athletic facilities also received a number of updates, including new championship banners, an LED scorer’s table, refreshed locker rooms, resurfaced upper gym floors, upgraded trophy displays, and improvements at Ames Field.

A special highlight: The wrestling program celebrated a milestone, as sophomore Charlie Barnes and senior Lucas Nelson (above) became the first Wolves in 19 years to qualify for the IHSAA state competition.



Honoring a Legend

Warren Foster (below, center) recently received a Distinguished Service award from the Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

Foster has been a member of Elston and MCHS Football “chain crews” since 1964 and has never missed a game!

Now, his son and grandson are also part of the chain crew. Foster has also been the Boys Basketball official scorer for Elston and MCHS since 1989, and he’s been a licensed IHSAA Official since 1969. Congrats to a legend!



Music Programs Hitting all the Right Notes

It was a record-breaking year for MCAS student musicians! A few highlights:

- The MCHS Choir earned the All-Music Award from the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) for the first time in school history.
- The MCHS Concert Band and Wind Ensemble earned golds at the ISSMA Organizational Festival – in performance *and* sight reading. The Wind Ensemble earned gold on music of the highest difficulty.
- Students from Krueger, Barker, and MCHS earned an impressive 87 gold medals at ISSMA contests this year.
- Barker Middle School was awarded the inaugural “Excellence in Community Involvement” award by the Indiana Music Educators Association for its six-concert series at The Elms (formerly Rittenhouse). Students also spent time with residents, making meaningful connections after each performance.
- The MCHS “Howlin’ Horns” pep band delighted fans at Bethel University and



Calumet College basketball games.

- The MCHS Jazz Band performed at Valparaiso University’s popular Jazz Fest in April. A new jazz vocal ensemble from MCHS (above) competed for the first time at the ISSMA Vocal Jazz contest, scoring gold ratings from all three judges.

Greetings from 1976

This spring, alumni from Pine Elementary and Barker Middle School stepped back in time as 50-year-old capsules buried at the schools during America’s 1976 bicentennial celebration were opened.

Students, alumni, staff, and community members gathered for each occasion; former Barker teachers Barb Healey and Ree Sloan, and Pine teacher Jay Wort even returned to celebrate and reminisce. The time capsules both proved difficult



Barker’s time capsule (left) and former Pine classmates with their kindergarten self-portraits.



to open, having been sealed inside plastic containers, wrapped in protective sheathing, and encased in concrete.

Inside each were snapshots of school and community life from 1976: newspapers, photos, yearbooks, student artwork and essays, athletic jerseys, bicentennial coins, and more. Barker’s capsule included a hall pass paddle signed by students in Jerry Karstens’ class; Pine’s featured a cassette tape greeting from former principal

Bicentennial time capsules unearthed at Barker and Pine rekindle memories of the past and reunite long-lost friends

Robert Raisor that was played during the ceremony, to the amazement of all in attendance.

Both schools plan to bury new time capsules this fall to honor America’s 250th birthday, with directions for them to be opened in 2076.

An online gallery of items in the time capsules can be viewed this summer on the Barker and Pine websites.

Coolspring’s “Mom” is Indiana’s ESP of the Year

Beloved Coolspring secretary Kathy Schroll was honored as Indiana’s Education Support Professional of the Year during a surprise school assembly on May 12.

Schroll has been a welcoming presence at Coolspring for nearly three decades and is “a mom to over 300 students and staff,” according to Missy Burklow, MCESP Co-President, who nominated her for the award. She is known for mentoring



colleagues, volunteering at school and district events, and greeting every student by name.

CONGRATS to our Teachers & Employees of the Year!



Cindy LoGreco
Elementary Teacher



Ashley Koza
Secondary Teacher



Shelly Malott
Support Staff



Brooke Cisar
Food Service



Alexis Vigil
Transportation

We are grateful to Comcast and the Michigan City Chamber for sponsoring this program, which is now in its third year.

Visit educateMC.net/TOY-EOY to learn more about the winners.

Pillar Spotlight: Student Voice and Opportunities

We will ensure that students' voices and choices are reflected in decisions made throughout the district by committing to getting their feedback on a consistent basis.

Student POV

"Serving on the Student Leadership Advisory Board has allowed me to use my voice to create positive change in our schools. This year, we met with elementary students, discussed ways to improve school culture and student experiences, and advocated for facility upgrades. It's rewarding to work with pillar teams on ideas that can benefit students across the district."

Grace Fulford, Michigan City High School senior

Food for Thought

Students across MCAS had a chance to help shape cafeteria menus this year through a series of taste-testing events. From Mexican fruit cups and sour raisins to shelf-stable yogurt and breakfast pizza, they sampled a variety of new items and shared honest feedback.

The MCHS Student Leadership Advisory Board even convened a focus group, trying multiple products at one time — including coffee-flavored milk, breakfast egg rolls, and spicy chicken biscuits.

"We value direct feedback from our customers," says MCAS Food Service Director Britney Rodriguez. "Our goal is to make sure students are eating meals that fuel their brains for learning."



Student taste-tester favorites included breakfast smoothies, buffalo ranch fava bean crisps, flavored sunflower seeds, and breakfast bars. Students also enjoyed customizable sandwich and salad bars, which were introduced at Barker and MCHS this year.

Each week, MCAS serves about 28,500 school meals, which are free for all students.

Honoring Commitment



This year's Graduation ceremony was a bit more colorful, thanks to advocacy from the MCHS Student Leadership Advisory Board.

Previously, graduates could earn just one cord to recognize their involvement in activities beyond the classroom. Beginning with the Class of 2026, students may now earn up to five cords for extracurriculars, including fine arts, academic teams, enrichment, service, and leadership.

Students Motivating Students



MCHS Cheerleaders aren't just supporting athletic teams on the sidelines. This year, they visited Springfield Elementary (left) and other schools to motivate students to do their best on ILEARN, Indiana's statewide assessment for grades 3-8.

High school students also created short videos to encourage second- and third-graders taking the IREAD exam. And for the second year, the MCHS Student Leadership Advisory Board and Student Government

members welcomed elementary and middle school student council members to their student-led leadership summit at the high school.

The encouragement didn't stop there.

Athletes, JROTC cadets, band members, and choral students also spent time in schools this year mentoring younger students and promoting involvement, teamwork, and school pride.

Pillar Spotlight: Educating the Whole Child

We will provide students with resources that will support their emotional and mental health needs, including increased social-emotional resources.



Student POV

"In our morning meeting, we learn to be kind to people. That means sharing toys and taking turns on the slide. If I feel sad, I talk it out with a grown-up."

Asher Willis, Little Wolves Early Learning Center student

"It's important for children know it's okay *not* to be okay. We practice breathing and have a 'cozy corner' with manipulatives they use to explain their feelings."

Shirley Garner, Little Wolves teacher

A Check-In for Emotional Wellness

MCAS is expanding its focus on student well-being through the use of WellCheq, a digital check-in tool now available for students in grades 2-12 across the district.

Each morning, students can use their Chromebooks to answer two simple questions about how they are feeling, using emojis and a 1-10 rating scale. They can also request support for themselves — or even for a friend — with the click of a button.

When a student asks for help, notifications are sent to a school support team that may include counselors, administrators, success coaches, and teachers. Staff members then follow up personally to offer support, resources, or simply a listening ear.

"WellCheq has helped us move from reacting to student needs to identifying concerns early," said Kristi Davis, MCAS Assistant Superintendent. "By making this



part of the daily routine, we are creating a culture where every student feels seen, supported, and connected."

Families Enjoy a Night Out with Wolfie



Families, fun, and a furry mascot took over Barker Middle School in April for the district's first-ever Wolfie's Night Out!

Organized by the Educating the Whole Child pillar team, the free event brought together students, families, and community partners for an evening packed with games, activities, and connections. Families also explored helpful resources, programs, and

summer opportunities designed to support student learning and well-being.

The fun is just getting started. MCAS plans to host more Wolfie's Night Out events next school year, including a themed evening focusing on career exploration.

Be a Mentor!

MCAS partners with Family Advocates on the "Wolf Pack Leaders" mentoring program.

Mentors meet with students for an hour each week to help them set goals, problem-solve challenges, and celebrate successes. For details, email alower@lpcasa.com, call (219) 324-3385 or visit lpcasa.com.



That's My Crew

Building on its success in elementary and middle schools, ten MCHS classrooms piloted "Crew" this spring. Crew is a relationship-building practice held during morning advisory, where students take part in activities centered on supporting one another academically and socially. The successful pilot will expand to 20 classrooms next school year.

Pillar Spotlight: Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners



We will provide all students with the tools, resources, and support they need to experience success in school, meet their goals, and reach their full potential.

Student POV



"With the help of my teachers in the Pathways program, I was able to make my dream come true and graduate a year early, with the Class of 2026. I am now working for a nursing home and earning my CNA license. Pathways is perfect for kids who are going through something in their personal lives but still want to be in school. With hard work and determination, anything is possible!"

Ke'asia Nuttall, Pathways non-traditional program graduate

Teacher Cohorts Add Up for Math Success

What started with one group of Pine Elementary teachers is now helping students across MCAS in math.

During the 2024-25 school year, several Pine teachers met before school as a group to focus on a single goal: helping their students grow in math. Each week, they reviewed math fluency and comprehension data together, then adjusted lessons and support based on what students needed most. Students also tracked their progress, giving them a clear picture of how they were improving.

"Teachers saw students become excited about their own growth and the growth of their classmates," says MCAS Math Specialist Mike Maesch. "By checking in every week, achievement really took off."

As student scores climbed, Pine teachers moved beyond basic skills to spend more time on higher-level math standards. Their success quickly caught the attention of other educators across the district.



This school year, similar math cohorts expanded to Joy, Coolspring, and Lake Hills. With guidance from Pine teacher Liz Schreeg, teacher leaders at each school began meeting weekly to study student progress and share ideas.

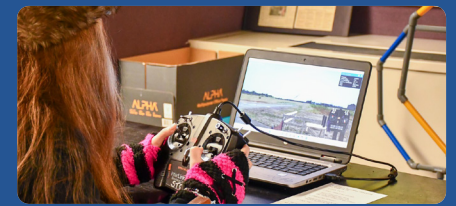
The results have been impressive. Students saw significant growth in math fluency and computation, and many cohort classrooms scored well above the state average on ILEARN checkpoint assessments.

Fourth-grade teacher and Joy cohort leader Paige Oberholtzer says the impact on her students has been dramatic. "They liked knowing where they stood and seeing their progress each week," she says. "That sense of ownership led to stronger engagement and investment during math instruction."

The approach worked so well that Pine plans to launch a language arts cohort next year, with a similar focus on "progress over perfection."

STEM-Tastic!

Several schools (including Barker Middle School, below) held popular STEM Nights for students and families this year. Drone demonstrations, slime, and hands-on experiments brought creativity and learning to life! In May, Google also sponsored a free Saturday STEM Day at Barker, open to all families and students in grades 4-8.



Reading is Their Jam

In October, Lake Hills third graders welcomed the NCAA Fan Jam tour for a fun-filled celebration of reading. Students got to do literacy cheers, shoot hoops, test their vertical, and write cards wishing their favorite college teams luck. They also got to pose for pictures with the NCAA Men's Basketball championship trophy!



Work-Based Learning a New Option at MCHS



A new work-based learning internship program is giving students the chance to explore careers while earning school credit and building real-world skills. The program is one element of MCAS's K-12 college and career continuum, designed to prepare students for life after graduation.

This year, MCHS students completed internships with Reins of Life, South Shore Public Relations, Crowel Agency Insurance, Restore Dental Arts, the MCAS Communications Department, and Franciscan Health's MCHS Athletic Trainers.

More businesses have already signed on to host interns next school year. (Companies interested can contact Michelle Gregory, m.gregory@mcas.k12.in.us.)

MCHS senior Audrey Poston interned at Reins of Life, where she assisted with equine-assisted therapy lessons, horse care, and participant support. She said the experience helped her build confidence and communication skills while working with people of all abilities, something that will be invaluable as she pursues a career in forensic science or victim assistance.

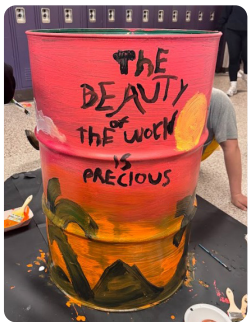


MCAS Assistant Superintendent Kristi Davis sees the program as a win-win for students and employers. "Students gain hands-on experience in areas they may want to pursue, while employers mentor students and help build a future workforce," she says.

Students Step Up to Help the Community



For the fifth year, MCAS elementary and middle school students took part in Better World Day – now known as Better World Week. During the May event, schools across the district conducted student-led service projects tied to the curriculum. (At



Barker Middle School, students gave some of the city's trash cans a colorful coat of paint, with important messages about cleaning up the environment!)

But serving others wasn't just a once-a-year event. Students from organizations such as the MCHS Helping Hands Club, JROTC, Student Government, the National Honor Society, and Athletic teams pitched in to assist with numerous community projects, from helping with community gardens to sprucing up Striebel Pond.

In December, schools once again competed to collect nonperishable food for the Salvation Army of Michigan City. The winner this year was Pine Elementary, which collected 4.5 pounds per student. Altogether, nearly 2 tons were collected through the effort.



Lessons at the Lake

From the sandy shores of Lake Michigan to the trails of the Indiana Dunes, MCAS students are learning science through hands-on experiences outdoors. This year, fourth graders from several elementary schools and MCHS biology students participated in field trips led by educators from the Dunes Learning Center. Students explored dune trails, learned about local plants, animals, and geology, and took part in interactive activities and team-building games at Indiana Dunes National Park. It's a partnership that helps students connect classroom learning to natural resources in their own community!

Partnering to Benefit Students with Autism



This school year, MCAS launched a new partnership with Paladin to assist students with autism and other behavioral needs. At Knapp Elementary, Paladin behavior support specialist Kaley Cargile (below, right) works alongside GOALS classroom teachers like Azania Farmer (left) to help



students in grades 2-5 build academic, social, and coping skills.

The GOALS classroom provides a life-skills focused setting for students as they work toward transitioning into general education classrooms. Cargile observes behavioral challenges, helps teachers develop intervention strategies, and works one-on-one with students through role playing and other activities.

"Paladin supports many of our students following their graduation, so this partnership helps build relationships early with students and families," says MCAS Director of Special Education Val Beglin.

Did You Know?

The Great Lakes Virtual Academy is a non-traditional program for grades 9-12, and learning takes place at home. But it's actually part of MCAS, with certified teachers available to support! For info, visit EducateMC.net/GLVA.



Pillar Spotlight: Clear & Consistent Communication



We will ensure that information is easily accessible and that all members of our community feel that their voices matter.

Student POV



"The Ambassador Program gave me a deeper understanding of our district and the people who make it all work. Learning alongside community members with different perspectives made it a truly unique experience. As a student, being included helped me feel connected, proud, and excited to share the positives!"

Camden Hernandez, Michigan City High School junior and Ambassador Program participant

A Golden Opportunity for Seniors



MCAS schools for residents age 65 and up who live within the district boundaries.

From football games and swim meets to concerts, plays and band performances, Gold Card holders can enjoy events taking place throughout the school year. The program is ideal for grandparents, alumni, and community members who enjoy supporting Wolves students and activities.

Seniors interested in receiving a Gold Card can visit the MCAS Administration Building, 408 S. Carroll Avenue, during business hours with a valid ID and proof of residency.

MCAS is introducing a new way for senior citizens to stay connected to the schools and community they love: a Michigan City Area Schools Gold Card.

The card provides free admission to home athletic and performing arts events at all



Pride of the Pack

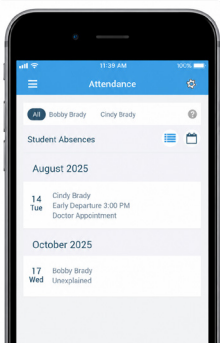
"Pack Pride" is a new monthly MCAS employee spotlight, which was created to recognize and celebrate outstanding individuals who make our schools a great place to work and learn. Read all of this year's spotlights at educateMC.net/PackPride.

Communication Tools Expanding

Michigan City Area Schools adopted several new communication tools this school year that make it easier for families and schools to stay connected.

The district now uses **SchoolMessenger** for ongoing and emergency notifications.

This service handles calls, emails, and text messaging, sending important updates directly to families' phones. Parents can opt in to receive texts using instructions on the MCAS website.



MCAS also launched **SafeArrival**, which gives parents more ways to report absences: by phone, text, online portal, or by replying to automated calls. Families can submit planned absences far in advance or quickly excuse an absence afterward.

"This is much more convenient for parents and streamlines the process for staff," says MCAS Director of Technology Kevin McGuire. "It allows us to more accurately report attendance and helps ensure all students are accounted for and safe."

A new discipline referral system, **simplidiscipline**, has also been adopted.

It allows staff to document both major and minor infractions, and also to note positive student behavior. Families are informed through automatic, translated notifications.

Are YOU a Legacy?

Did you attend MCAS as a student? We want to hear from you! Visit EducateMC.net/Alumni to read about some of our alumni and tell us what you've been up to. We want to share your inspiring story!



Ambassador Program Gives Community Members an Insider Experience

The first year of the MCAS Ambassador Program is officially in the books!

In April, 26 Ambassadors completed the new program, a series of seven interactive workshops held once a month on Thursday mornings. In keeping with the district's commitment to student voice, four high school students also took part.

"We designed each session to give participants a behind-the-scenes look at district services, finances, curriculum, instruction, and more," says MCAS Director of Communications Megan Daurer. "The goal is for community members to meet district leaders, ask questions, and share what they learn with others."



A LaPorte County CTE student in the Precision Machining classroom demonstrates equipment for Ambassadors.



Participants especially enjoyed the program's hands-on activities, which included evacuating a school bus, assisting with lunch prep in the cafeteria, and using technology in a school makerspace. Student and teacher panels, classroom visits, and even a boiler room tour gave Ambassadors a closer look at district operations.

The final session featured a "shadow" experience, where Ambassadors paired with principals to tour schools across the district. The day concluded with a presentation on MCAS Athletics in Heritage Hall, lunch provided by MCAS Food Service, and a celebratory "signing day," where participants received certificates autographed by Wolfie.

"I loved learning how our school system is

set up and getting a closer look at things," says Ambassador Shondra Fields-Wade. "I now know what government funding helps with, how much it takes to run efficiently, and that everyone plays an important role in making it work."

Community members who are interested in joining next year's program must apply by August 1. To maintain a personalized, hands-on experience, participation is limited to 25. Preference will be given to those living within MCAS attendance boundaries, though having a student enrolled at MCAS is not required.

Interested in the Ambassador program?
Apply here by Aug. 1:
[EducateMC.net/Ambassador](https://educateMC.net/Ambassador)



Coming Next Fall: No Phone Zones

Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, MCAS will have new expectations for students' use of personal electronic devices during the school day, in order to comply with a new Indiana law.

Devices such as cell phones, smartwatches, earbuds, tablets, gaming devices, and

personal laptops must remain off and stored in a backpack or locker during the school day. This will apply from arrival until dismissal, including passing periods and lunch.



"We're hopeful that this new law will have a positive impact on learning and the overall environment by cutting down on distractions," says MCAS Assistant Superintendent Kristi Davis.

Students will be encouraged to leave their devices at home whenever possible. Exceptions may be made for documented medical needs, IEP or Section 504 accommodations, or emergencies.

Did You Know?

MCAS continues to benefit from its investment in energy efficiency and solar power. Our district has saved \$5.3 million in energy costs over the past seven years!



Our School Rocks!

Want to learn all about a school? There's nobody better to ask than a student who goes there!

This year, students across MCAS (including the duo from Edgewood, above) hosted short video tours that highlighted what makes their schools unique. Follow MCAS on Facebook @educateMC to watch them.

Michigan City Area Schools
408 S. Carroll Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360

EducateMC.net
(219) 873-2000



114

Academic and Technical Honors Diplomas



3,542

College Credits Earned (Saving families \$760,000+!)



485

Advanced Placement (AP) classes completed

22

Number of Graduates with 4.1 or Higher GPA

10

Number of Graduates with 4.36 or Higher GPA

70

Early College Program Graduates

29

Graduates Earning the Indiana College Core



2,000+

Hours of Community Service

10
All-DAC Student-Athletes



8
Students Entering the U.S. Armed Forces

25 All-DAC Academic All-Conference



8
Student-Athletes Signed to Play on College Teams