



Good News Highlights: Michigan City Area Schools April 2018

★ Michigan City High School's **Graduation Rate** is at an all-time high 90.3% for the Class of 2017. (Up from 75.2% in 2010.) This is above the State graduation rate and that of several neighboring districts. In 2017, 92 graduates earned either an Academic or Technical Honors Diploma (or both).

★ Districtwide, students are showing growth in achievement. Michigan City High School received a grade "**B**" from the Indiana Dept. of Education in 2017. (Up from an "F" in 2011.)

★ In 2017, MCHS students earned **3,500 Dual Credits** through agreements with Purdue, Ivy Tech, Ball State and Vincennes. (Up from 543 credits in 2010, a 545% increase!)

★ All students at Michigan City High School are now issued **Chromebooks** for use at school and at home. A team of students has been trained to provide tech support and repair the devices. In Fall 2018, this "1:1" program will expand to provide Chromebooks to all middle school students. This is part of a districtwide, \$10 million 1:1 technology initiative, funded in part by the Michigan City Redevelopment Commission and City of Michigan City.

★ Participation in **Career & Technical Education programs** at the A. K. Smith Career Center in Michigan City has doubled since 2010. (Enrollment rose from 195 in 2010 to nearly 400 in 2017; over half of these students are from Michigan City High School.)

★ Michigan City High School has reorganized into four "**small learning communities**": Honors College, Early College, Core Academy, and Foundations Academy. Each has dedicated counseling and administrative support to serve students at a personal level. The high school's successful Early College program will graduate its "legacy class" in June.

★ Michigan City High School is among just 19 schools in Indiana named to the **2017-18 AP Honor Roll** for outstanding progress in Advanced Placement. Currently, 16 AP courses are offered at MCHS and AP Spanish and AP Computer Science will be added in Fall 2018. A partnership with the University of Notre Dame provides AP student conferences, teacher training, and other supports.

★ In February, MCHS received the 2018 **Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence**. This is Indiana's highest award for environmental programs; it recognized a partnership involving MCHS Early College students, nonprofit organizations, and the Michigan City Parks Dept. in ongoing research and restoration work. In 2013, Krueger Middle School also received the **Governor's Award** for its environmental science programming, which engages students in hands-on research and activities on trail systems across its campus.

★ MCAS offers a robust “**Project Lead the Way**” engineering program, K-12. At MCHS, tracks include Engineering, Biomedical Science, Civil Engineering & Architecture, Computer Science and Software Engineering, and (thanks to a grant from ALCOA) Computer Integrated Manufacturing. Barker Middle School was named a 2018 **PLTW Distinguished School** based on student success in PLTW “Gateway” courses: Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, the Science of Technology, Green Architecture, and Energy and the Environment. Lake Hills Elementary and Krueger Middle School also offer PLTW tracks.

★ Two MCAS schools, Lake Hills Elementary and Barker Middle School, have earned five-year **STEM Certification** from the Indiana Department of Education.

★ MCAS installed **solar arrays** and upgraded LED lighting at seven buildings in December 2017. The arrays represent the largest solar installation at any school district in Indiana and are expected to generate \$23 million in energy savings over 30 years. A solar energy curriculum engages students across the district.

★ MCAS now offers **Naviance**, an online tool that enables students to conduct comprehensive college and career planning. A K-12 College and Career Coordinator joined the district’s administrative team in Fall 2017.

★ MCAS has partnered with Horizon Bank on **financial literacy**. Horizon opened a “Wolves Branch” in the high school cafeteria commons area in 2013, employing six high school students as tellers.

★ MCAS has established two **magnet schools** at the elementary level. They are called “magnets” because they attract students with similar academic interests, like a magnet, from outside their attendance boundaries. Lake Hills Elementary is a magnet school for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), while Pine is a magnet school for the Visual and Performing Arts. Both schools offer after-school enrichment and involve numerous partners based on their themes.

★ High-ability elementary students are placed in “cluster” classrooms at each elementary school (grades 1-3). Multiage **Gifted and Talented** classrooms (grades 4-6) serve students from across the district at Joy, Knapp, and Springfield Elementary Schools. Both middle schools and MCHS also offer program tracks for high-ability students.

★ The MCAS Student Support Services Department (formerly Special Ed) has embraced a **co-teaching model**, providing added support to students in the regular classroom setting. Specialized services are provided to students with a broad range of physical and mental health needs.

★ Thanks to grants received in 2017 from the Lilly Endowment, the Indiana Department of Mental Health, and the LaPorte Hospital Foundation, MCAS has placed **Social Workers** and social work interns at schools to help meet students’ social and emotional needs. MCAS counselors and social workers have also received additional training to support families and students.