

# LCCPA NEWS

Monthly Newsletter  
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#1 School in Appleton, WI Metro Area  
#4 Wisconsin Charter School  
#34 in WI High Schools  
#204 in Charter High Schools  
#1,222 in Nation Rankings



LCCPA is ranked #1,222 in the National Rankings. Schools are ranked on their performance on state-required tests, graduation and how well they prepare students for college.

## FACULTY VIEW- LAST 10 YEARS

Dan VanEperen



What a whirlwind 10 years can be? In my personal life, the last ten years has, without a doubt, brought for me the most change I will experience in my life; I got married, bought two houses, ushered in the birth of my four children, and now lived through a global pandemic (please let this be the end of my life-changing decade and not the beginning of the next!). Professionally, the change has been equally as profound, as my first baby, LCCPA, was born 10 years ago. And while it may seem somewhat crazy to put the beginning of this school on equal footing with the birth of my actual children, the similarities are striking.

When my kids were born, I had many sleepless nights worrying about whether or not I was doing the right things to nurture their growth; LCCPA was no different. I find myself frequently looking at my children, and wondering how they could have changed so much and grown up so fast without me truly appreciating the time spent on that change; LCCPA has been the same. I find myself frequently learning from my kids that some of the views of "good" parenting that I once held were maybe ill-informed, and that adapting to my kids would be an important step of being a good father; with LCCPA we have experienced these same growing pains, and have frequently been forced to adapt.

In the world of education, relationship building is one of the pillars of any successful teacher or school. However, one of the unfortunate things about building relationships with your students is that it takes a lot of time, and in the modern world of education that we live in, that time is all too often sacrificed for ACT and other standardized test scores. At LCCPA, we began with the motto of "Relationships, Relevance, Rigor." Those were to be the foundation on which our school would be built, and in that order of priority. And while it has grown increasingly difficult to achieve the depth of relationships with our students that we all want, the commitment from the staff has remained.

Now that we are 10 years into this, those relationships have allowed us to stay connected with our students as they have moved onto college, careers, weddings, and now kids of their own! More than any lesson or unit we could have designed, I believe that prioritizing culture and relationships has led to our students feeling more at home in school than they otherwise would have, and ultimately, that culture has also led to successes in other areas as well.

As I look to the future, I would echo the sentiments expressed by Mr. Volk in his initial letter. We are at a time where we could greatly benefit from reflecting on what turned this school from 3 white boards filled with ideas (some of them truly horrible ideas) 11 years ago to one of the premier charter schools in the state of Wisconsin. And while that reflection will likely lead to some changes, I am ultimately faithful that we will continue to press on with "Relationships, Relevance, Rigor" being our guiding principle, and any changes that use that motto as its rudder will ultimately lead to another decade of success for the students who take on the challenge of enrolling at LCCPA.





# YOUTH APPRENTICE EXPERIENCES

## INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

- Describe yourself
- Describe your career development path
- Describe your current career experience and what you learned from it
- Share advice with younger students on how LCCPA prepares you for life beyond high school
- Other interesting facts about yourself



## FOX VALLEY TOOL & DIE

I like to spend most of my free time outside of school working on projects for myself I love building things like tables and desks for me and my family to use. I have two siblings in my family my sister who is a senior and my younger brother who is going to be a freshman next year. The rest of my free time I spend hanging out with my friends and my cousins. Although this year that has been much more difficult. I also love spending my time watching movies or playing video games.

Everyone loves being able to get out of school and being able to spend time working in their career pathway. That is why I have spent my mornings working at Fox Valley Tool and Die, mostly training on a lathe.

I have been learning a lot about setting up and running a lathe and how to program them and fix them when there are issues. I have also been learning a lot about the different measurement tools they use.

In school, I like to spend time working on projects in the shop. I love to work on projects that I get to keep and use outside of school, like the desk I am building in my metals class. I am also taking AP US History and AP Language. These are both very challenging classes, but I am learning a lot of important information. I am the Vice President of our SkillsUSA chapter at Little Chute. This year we have had to be very creative in planning meetings and events, but SkillsUSA is always an excellent opportunity to learn career readiness skills. I am very interested in almost anything in the engineering and manufacturing pathway at LCCPA.

I try to learn everything that I can about engineering and manufacturing jobs because I still haven't decided what I want to go to college for. That is why I chose to work at Fox Valley Tool and Die. I can observe many different jobs that I might like to do in the future, and I learn new things in the process. I also try to pack my schedule full of as many shop classes as possible because I always learn new and useful skills in those classes. This year I am taking two metals classes and the Fox Valley Technical College Machine Tool class.

The best advice I could give to the incoming and current freshmen is to always stay on top of your core academic work. The more you can get ahead in classes like Humanities, Science, and Math, the more chances you will have to work on the things that help you move towards your career. Being ahead in core classes makes it easier to go on career experiences, take more classes, and eventually work during school hours. I think that staying ahead is the easiest way to prepare yourself for your future career. I am very excited to spend the rest of this school year in the shop at work and school.





# YOUTH APPRENTICE EXPERIENCES CONT.

My name is Gracie Thiel and I am a senior at Little Chute Career Pathways Academy. I am also a Customer Experience Representative at BMO Harris Bank through the Youth Apprenticeship program, and an active member in many clubs and organizations. Outside of school and work, I enjoy walks with my dog, spending time with friends and family, doing hair for any event, and exploring my faith. My high school journey has led me to amazing places, and I am grateful to share that journey.

My first two years in high school I worked extremely hard on my schooling, and was able to finish most of my high school required classes. This meant I would be able to take college level courses my junior and senior years. I have taken many Advanced Placement courses, but this year I have decided to take courses through Fox Valley Technical College and UW-Oshkosh related to the business field. These courses have pushed me in my academics and I am able to take what I learn from them and apply them to my work experience.

Furthermore, while education is very important to me, a part of being in high school means combining my academic achievements with career exploration. I came into high school wanting to be a nurse, but quickly realized blood and needles weren't my thing. I decided to switch pathways my sophomore year. From there, I began taking business courses and going on career experiences. I had finally found a career path I genuinely enjoyed.

It was around that time that a group of LCCPA students and myself started LCCPR, an organization that teaches hands-only CPR to the community. I was nominated to lead the organization as president, and through that I found a passion for leading others, and public speaking. I knew these were skills I wanted in my future career but I needed a starting point. That next summer I was working with a branch manager at BMO Harris Bank to set up an account and I asked if they offered internships for high school students. I would be lying if I said I was not nervous to ask a very successful person if she would take a chance on a 16 year old, but I took the chance. She went on to say there was nothing set up at the time, but if I were able to set something up she would love to take me on. From there, I created an apprenticeship through BMO Harris Bank where I continue to work as a Customer Experience Representative. My job is also partnered with the Youth Apprenticeship program where I earn high school credits for my work experience.

I have been at BMO Harris Bank for a little over a year now, and they have become like a family to me. I have learned so much through my job including leadership, problem solving, teamwork, customer relationships and so much more. On top of these skills, I have found a passion for helping others achieve financial success. I have taken a lead in customer experience at my branch, continually go beyond sales goals, and more importantly have gained knowledge in an amazing career field. I work with phenomenal people at BMO and the YA program who continually push me to be my best, are always showing me ways I can grow, and help me balance school and work. I could not be more grateful for these mentors as they have continually supported me.

All in all, through my work experiences and my academics I have learned to balance so much and still achieve success. My advice to younger students is to take healthy risks and the path that is best for you. Don't look at bad experiences as failures but instead as opportunities to grow. My journey has been full of what most would call failures, but they got me to where I am. Being a nurse wasn't the right path for me, but if it wasn't for that experience I would have never gotten the opportunity to lead an incredible team to teach over five-hundred community members in hands-only CPR, or learned how much I love helping others with their finances. Life has so many challenges, but remember, there is so much beauty and opportunity in that. I want to extend a huge thank you to my managers, co-workers, family members, teachers, mentors and anyone who has supported me through my journey. I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for all of you.







# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

HANNAH RAMBO

Our first **“Where Are They Now?”** feature student is Hannah Rambo. Hannah graduated from LCCPA in 2016. She is currently finishing up her Bachelor of Science in Education at UW Oshkosh after two years at UW Stevens Point. After graduation in May, Hannah will be pursuing a position as an elementary school teacher with the possibility of attending graduate school to become a Reading Specialist. Hannah is a perfect example of a student that charted her own course while at LCCPA. While she started out in the Health Science pathway, she found out through her coursework and career exploration that her passion lies in education. We asked Hannah to reflect on her journey from LCCPA to pursuing the career of her dreams.

### **What advice would you give current LCCPA students about being prepared for a college education?**

My biggest piece of advice to current students is to start thinking right away about what you want to do after high school. I spent a ton of time looking into different careers and job shadowing, and I still wasn't sure what I wanted to do when I graduated. It's so hard to make that decision at such a young age! If LCCPA hadn't pushed me to figure out what I wanted to do, I have no idea where I would be right now. I might've ended up in teaching, but I think it would've taken me much longer to figure it out!

### **How does the career you are working in/pursuing now compare to the career you THOUGHT you would be working in/pursuing when you left LCCPA?**

To be completely honest, the career I am pursuing now is not what I thought I would be doing when I graduated from LCCPA. I had been part of the health pathway, so at the time that I graduated, I was planning to attend Carroll University and become a nurse practitioner. The summer before I left for college, I realized that my heart was not set on nursing. I was interested in healthcare, and I definitely wanted to work with children. I decided to pursue speech language pathology at UW Stevens Point instead. For two years I took speech classes and was on track to graduate. I remember thinking that I was content with what I was doing, but I didn't love speech as much as most of my classmates did. Eventually, I was required to take an education course so that I could work in a school as an SLP. I absolutely loved it. I also became a tutor for a local 9th grade student, and I couldn't stop thinking about how motivated I was by teaching. At the end of my sophomore year, I made the decision to become a teacher. Looking back, although teaching seems very different from nursing, I always knew that I wanted to make a difference in the lives of children. Both careers would have allowed me to do that, but education is just a better fit for me.

### **What advice would you give to our current students regarding their career journey?**

My advice to current students is to think early and often about what you want to do after high school. It's also important to really reflect on what you enjoy doing and try to figure out if there is a career that fits with your interests. The career focused pathways at LCCPA are super helpful, but don't be afraid to keep your mind open to other possibilities. This might seem like common sense, but when you are job shadowing it's important to picture yourself actually doing that career when deciding if you would like it or not. No matter what the career is, observing will never be as enjoyable as actually doing it.

### **Are there any particular partners/people/events that made a big impact on helping you become the person you are today?**

My LCCPA teachers! 😊 I think they really emphasized the importance of finding a career that makes you happy. If I had not taken that seriously, I would be nowhere near where I am today. I also had so much support from family and friends, and it was helpful to get their advice throughout the whole process. In hindsight, it's so easy to see that teaching is where I should have ended up all along. I have always loved school and learning, and teaching is a way for me to continue doing those things. I am thankful for all the partners and professionals who spoke with us and allowed us to shadow them. Even if it was crossing something off my list, they helped me to continue taking steps in the right direction!

### **Given your experience since graduating from LCCPA, what do you see as the most important 21st-Century Skills to be successful in college and career?**

It's hard to pick skills that are most important, because all the 21st century skills that we learned about have been helpful to me in some way. Given what's happening in education right now, it's been super important for me to have the technological skills necessary to teach in a virtual format. LCCPA exposed me to the different ways that technology can be used in a professional setting, and my knowledge of technology has continued to grow throughout college. In terms of self-directed learning, when you are in college, you don't have someone checking up your productivity all the time. It was very helpful to start college having experience with self-directed learning. These skills help me to stay organized and on top of my responsibilities in college, and they will continue to be important in my career as a teacher.



# HIGHLIGHTS

## LCCPA Q&A

Join the LCCPA  
for a VIRTUAL informational  
meeting for perspective 9th  
graders on

January 19th, 6:00-7:00 pm

**Google Meet Link** →



Informational  
video coming  
soon!

# THANK YOU

FOR BEING A SOURCE OF STRENGTH IN MY LIFE!

**THANK YOU TO ALL THE  
PEOPLE THAT SUPPORT  
LCASD STUDENTS, THIS  
YEAR, AND EVERY YEAR!**

**CHECK OUT  
THE VIDEO**

