

#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.

## IN THIS NEWSLETTER:

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## MESSAGE FROM MR. BIRD

Hello Career Academy Families & Community Partners,

The school year is off to a great start and it's hard to believe a quarter of the year is behind us. Students have been working hard and getting great career experiences to bring purpose to their learning. This is the first year we have implemented asynchronous work days throughout the entire school year so the staff can have specific work time related to career experiences, 21st century skills, curricular implementation, and many other things. We appreciate your support and flexibility as a family to take part in this unique learning experience.

We also want to take this opportunity to recognize our very own, Jon Larson, for being named NEW Manufacturing Alliance Tech Ed teacher of the year. Jon was recognized on October 25th, during the NEW banquet. During Jon's acceptance speech he highlighted the partnerships he has established with local business and industry. We are grateful for these partnerships and the experiences they create for our students.

Go Mustangs,  
Tony Bird, LCCPA Principal



Mr. Larson was recognized at the Excellence in Manufacturing/K-12 Partnerships Awards event, receiving the Tech Ed Teacher award in the category of Career Pathway.

Career Exploration

Twenty-First Century Skills

CORE Education



# FACULTY VIEW FEATURING: JON LARSON



Jon Larson is the Technology, Manufacturing, and Engineering Teacher as well as the Skills USA Advisor at the LCCPA. Among the courses he teaches are: Metals Courses (welding/machining), Foundations of Manufacturing and Engineering, PLTW Engineering, Intro to Engineering Design, Principles of Engineering, and 8th Grade Tech Ed.

Everyday, Mr. Larson works hard to provide students with opportunities to learn, develop skills, or prepare them for future careers. For example, on Wednesday October 26th, he had the opportunity to take 40 sophomores to the Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing First Expo to provide a unique experience interacting with business partners.

Some of his other proud achievements include:

- Building bridges between the Little Chute school district and community business leaders as well as the Fox Valley Technical College for students to earn credit.
- Received recognition in the spring of 2022 for Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance (NEWMA) Career Pathmaker Tech Ed Teacher Award.
- Development and expansion of the Skills USA, Youth Apprenticeship, and Project Lead the Way Programs to give students opportunities and serve as a model for other schools.
- Two-time Herb Kohl Teacher Fellowship Nominee

Mr. Larson's teaching philosophy is guided in equal parts by a) providing students opportunities to grow and learn skills that will help them advance their careers; and b) protecting students' right to learn safely, and c) encouraging students to take healthy risks. By combining these three values, he has become highly respected amongst his students and peers by working tirelessly to create opportunities for students, giving them the skills to succeed, and encouraging them to take full advantage of their chances. He's particularly proud of Ryan DeGroot, Abby Robbins, and Cory Hudziak, who he says have been consistent top performers in tech ed and their Youth Apprenticeships.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Mr. Larson serves on the Homecoming Committee and helps build sets for the theater department. When he's not a teacher, Jon enjoys hunting, fishing, spending time up north, building projects, and of course, spending time with his wife and children.



# CAREER EXPERIENCES

## HEARTLAND BUSINESS SERVICES

On Monday, October 17, the Computer Science Essentials class went to Heartland Business Services for the first-ever computer science pathway career experience. HBS is a company that helps other companies with websites or other technical issues. Some of the services that they provide are securing backups of other companies' data, developing software solutions, and meeting with their customers about their IT infrastructure.



To begin our visit, the College Recruiter Abby Vandenberg gave us some background information about HBS. We learned about the background of HBS, including the company's history, office locations, and customers. We also learned about their core values: Performance, Respect, Innovation, Development, and Excellence (PRIDE). Abby also talked about how having a good LinkedIn profile is important for finding a job in IT. After this initial information, Abby gave us a tour of the building. One of the highlights of the tour was learning about their data center. There, we learned about the servers that HBS uses to store their customer's data as well as how they keep this data secure. After our tour, we went back to the meeting room to learn about IT careers from four different HBS employees.

During our meeting, we learned about a number of different career opportunities in Computer Science and Information Technology. For example, we learned about software and web application development as well as network engineering. In addition to learning about careers, our hosts also gave us advice about important soft skills required to be successful in computer-related careers. Some of these skills include time management, working and communicating with others, keeping your cool in uncomfortable situations, keeping your ego in check, and most importantly problem-solving. We also learned about the education required to enter computer science careers. While a four-year college is important to have, you can get a career in computer science with a two-year degree or even on-the-job training.

Overall, our experience at HBS was well worth our time. We got to learn the core values of what it means to be a Software Engineer and IT Specialist. We would like to thank our hosts at HBS for taking the time out of their day to help us learn more about what being an IT professional in the real world is all about.

- Mr. Volk (LCCPA Lead Teacher & Head of Computer Science Pathway)
- Ronald Gomm (LCCPA Sophomore)
- Josh McDonald (LCCPA Sophomore)
- Alex MacDonald (LCCPA Sophomore)



# CAREER EXPERIENCES

## HUMAN SERVICES & EDUCATION

On September 27th Little Chute High School and Little Chute Career Pathways students had the opportunity to go on a career experience in the Human Services and Education fields. This event was held at the YMCA in Appleton Wisconsin, in this event we heard from about 9 different organizations and schools such as:

- University of Wisconsin Green Bay
- Nami
- Fox Valley Tech
- YMCA
- Harbor House
- United Way
- DVR and more.



We went around the gym listening to what these people do in their organization or school as well as what their mission is. One thing we learned about was how Nami couldn't work without United Way and its funding, as well as how not just those two work together but how they all do. The YMCA also told us about a great program that they run with the youth apprenticeship for early education experience and we heard similar opportunities for others as well as volunteer opportunities. Overall this was a great experience for all students that attended as we learned about future careers and career opportunities that lie ahead.

—Kayla DeGroot (LCCPA Sophomore)

# CAREER EXPERIENCES

## HOSA REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

On Thursday October 20 2022, a group of HOSA members attended the Fall Leadership Conference that was hosted at the University of Wisconsin at Stevens Point. Throughout the conference we learned about many different careers that are involved in healthcare. Some of these careers include:

- clinical laboratory science
- athletic trainer
- childhood healthcare
- social worker.

We also got to learn more about each career in breakout sessions. We learned about what each profession does, what it takes to be successful, and what kinds of courses we need to prepare for these jobs.

One takeaway we had was just how much it takes to be in these different healthcare fields. We were inspired by how much work, training, and dedication healthcare workers have. Throughout this trip we also learned that healthcare is more than just looking at scans or trying to fix injuries. Healthcare can also be about walking a child through a procedure she or he might need, it could be just checking in on a patient after their injuries in a school setting, or it could be as simple as helping someone with what they are eating and what foods they can eat while being on their medication.

All in all, we had a great experience and we're excited to pursue these careers even further.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: LOGAN MAASS

Logan Maass is currently a Senior in the Medical Pathway of the Little Chute Career Pathways Academy. She has been active in Volleyball, National Honor Society, LCCPR, Forensics, and other activities throughout her four years and has served as a leader amongst her peers in both her academics and character.

Logan's post-secondary goals center around going into Speech Pathology so she can help students with speech disorders communicate effectively. She grew interested in this field through her work as a teacher aid in the Special Education department and found that she loved working with special needs students. She is inspired by the individuals she works with because of their optimism and describes them as loving and full of joy.

Some of the LCCPA experiences Logan feels helped shape her were Mr. Volk's seminars for putting her miles ahead in her skills and confidence with presentations, interviews, and talking with professionals.

She's also grown a lot from the real-world experiences LCCPA has offered and learning to overcome the struggles of the work-at-your-own-pace model. She cites Mr. Choudoir specifically as inspiring her to be her best. She appreciates Mr. Choudoir for pushing her to be her best, to go out for the career experiences, and is always willing to go the extra mile for his students. Logan cites these as helping her learn her most important lessons in life, including that hard work is its own reward.

Lastly, when given the opportunity to share some advice to younger students in the LCCPA, Logan emphasized how important dedication and willingness to pursue success is. "Don't wish for it, work for it," she says with pride. "If you never go out for something, you'll never get it."



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: ABBIE BOTZ

Abbie Botz, LCCPA Alum, is currently a Physician's Assistant in the Trauma & Acute Care Surgery at St. Mary's Hospital in Madison, WI. This line of work has her assisting in surgery, seeing patients in the hospital, and conducting post-operative/wound care check-ups with them in the clinic. She enjoys that every day is different and working directly with/caring for patients, but acknowledges a tough part of her job is always being prepared for whatever emergency that comes through the door.

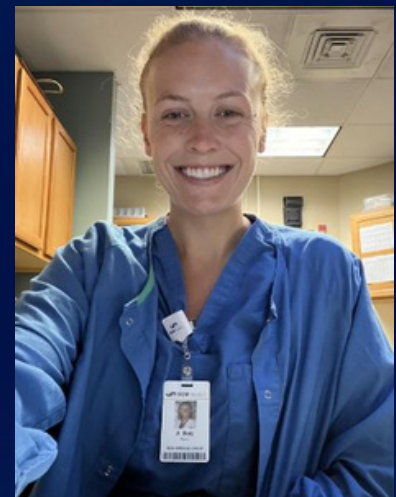
Her biggest challenge on the job so far has been the learning curve, having only started just over a month ago. However, she's making the most of it by soaking up all the information she can. Some of her highlights include treating a wide variety of medical conditions, assisting in life-saving surgeries, and getting the chance to hear the gratitude from her patients.

Abbie has endured a long and difficult road to reach her career goals. After graduating from the LCCPA in 2015, she faced extensive post-secondary education; she earned her Bachelor's of Exercise Science and Master's of Kinesiology at Michigan Tech, then went to Physician's Assistant school at UW-Madison, graduating in the spring of 2022.

In reflecting on her time in the LCCPA and how it has shaped her today, Abbie said that the curriculum allowed her to work at her own pace and fully immerse herself into interesting topics. She also credits her training in the 21st century skills that helped make her undergraduate and graduate studies (as well as her current career) easier. Lastly, she cites the support of the faculty and being pushed to be her best every day as one of her more significant experiences in the LCCPA.

When asked if she had any advice for current LCCPA students, she emphasized how important it is to keep an open mind, even when something doesn't seem a good fit. She said, "You never know when an opportunity is going to come along that will change your mind and impact your life."

Outside of medicine, Abbie enjoys reading, exercising, baking, up north, and of course, spending time with family and friends.



# LCCPA TRIVIA

1. Which career pathway is the newest to the LCCPA?
  - a. Health and Human Services
  - b. Manufacturing and Engineering
  - c. Education
  - d. Computer Science
2. In what year was the LCCPA founded and what was the size of the first class?
  - a. 2009; 8 students
  - b. 2011; 20 students
  - c. 2013; 27 students
  - d. 2010; 13 students
3. How many LCCPA staff members have some form of musical talent?
  - a. 7
  - b. 2
  - c. 4
  - d. 1



**FUN FACT.**

Answer Key: Question 1 : d Question 2 : b Question 3 : c

## GOVERNANCE COUNCIL

TONY BIRD- LCCPA PRINCIPAL

Little Chute Area School District hosts two charter schools, Flex Academy and Little Chute Careers Pathways Academy and collaboratively they are supported by the Governing Council. This Council meets monthly and agendas and minutes can be found on the LCASD website.

This year our format includes a specific focus that both charter schools will present each meeting. September's focus was supporting students and families for a new school year and October's was marketing. In November we will focus on student achievement data, reporting statewide and district assessments. The LCCPA is very proud of its students and staff and look forward to reporting our academic progress to the governance council.

We are currently open to adding interested community members to our Council. If you have any interest in being part of our Governance Council, contact our GC president, Carl Rambo, [crambo@littlechute.k12.wi.us](mailto:crambo@littlechute.k12.wi.us)

These meetings are open to the public. Here are the remaining meeting dates:

- November 7, 2022
- December 5, 2022
- January 4, 2023
- February 6, 2023
- March 6, 2023
- April 12, 2023
- May 1, 2023
- June 7, 2023



# HIGHLIGHTS UPCOMING DATES & HELPFUL TIPS

## Upcoming Important Dates:

- 11/7: Governance Council Meeting
- 11/10: HOSA Meeting
- 11/21-25: LCCPA Fall Break
- 11/30: Asynchronous Work Day for LCCPA Students
- 12/1: SkillsUSA Chapter Meeting
- 12/8: HOSA Meeting
- 12/14: Asynchronous Work Day for LCCPA Students
- 12/23-30: LCCPA Winter Break
- 1/4: Governance Council Meeting
- 1/5: SkillsUSA Chapter Meeting
- 1/12: HOSA Meeting

## Skills USA April 2022 Competition Highlights

We came home with 6 top 10 finishes including 2 medal winners:

- Emma Fritsch 3rd - Job Skill Demonstration
- Jacob Melendrez 1st - Facilithon

Jacob Melendrez took 3rd in Facilithon(Facilities Management Competition) at the Nationals Competition



## Resume/Application Tips:

- When applying for a job, college, scholarship, or just given the opportunity to boast of your achievements, do so in a way that shows you take ownership of your achievements. By doing so, you come across as more authoritative and action/results motivated which is appealing to people reviewing your resume or application. To do this, consider the following:
  - Organize your writing by starting with your WHY (your beliefs or values), then discuss how that informs your HOW (your process/what you do), and conclude by discussing your WHAT (the outcome and how it connect with your "why").
  - Use active voice when writing; avoid using helping verbs to talk about what you've done.
  - Use concrete examples of times you've succeeded or overcome challenges.
  - When describing a challenge or a failure, always end by talking about what you've learned or how you're getting better.
  - When describing teamwork, never discount the work of others, but focus on your role/contributions.

## Thought of the Day:

- The LCCPA is founded on three principles: Relevance, Relationships, and Rigor. How do you take ownership for these values in your own academics or your own life?
- What are three values you try to live by? How do you show others that these are the things you stand for?

