

#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.

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MESSAGE FROM MR. BIRD

Hello Career Academy Families & Community Partners,

Happy New Year to you and your families. We are quickly approaching the second semester and a lot of exciting things are on the horizon. We recently had potential eighth grade students in for a tour to see what LCCPA is all about. In addition, we had a parent informational meeting on January 16 to answer any questions that families had about the school. We are excited to welcome the class of 2027 and get them started on their journey.

Career experiences, mock interviews, and the partner breakfast are all approaching in the coming months and preparation is underway to make these events as successful as possible. Thank you for your continued support of the LCCPA and we are excited to see what 2023 brings for our students.

Go Mustangs,
 Tony Bird, LCCPA Principal



Career Exploration
 Twenty-First Century Skills
 CORE Education

Si necesita algunas partes del boletín trimestral traducido, favor de comunicarse con Sra. Kuna en su correo kkuna@littlechute.k12.wi.us o 920-687-6650.

FACULTY VIEW FEATURING: CHRIS CHOUDOIR



This season's staff spotlight is Chris Choudoir, one of the LCCPA's original founders and perhaps its most selfless teacher. His guiding principle is continuous self improvement, and it shows not just in his personality, but also throughout his career. Mr. Choudoir started as an Earth Science teacher focusing on inquiry-based learning, but as technology and his curiosity in how students learned evolved, he began to create more online learning platforms to facilitate what became a cornerstone of the LCCPA's way-of-life: work at your own pace learning. These days, Mr. Choudoir considers himself a learning coach mixed with a "leading" teacher and strives to help students guide their own personal learning experiences.

In fact, this approach is not only why Mr. Choudoir loves teaching here, but also helped inform the guiding principles of the LCCPA: relationships, relevance, and rigor. He enjoys the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with a cohort of students over multiple years while providing relevance through the coursework and career experiences and encouraging those students to take healthy risks and pursue rigor to achieve their personal missions.

When asked to discuss achievements he's most proud of, Mr. Choudoir preferred instead to sing the school's praises. He's particularly proud that the LCCPA has earned recognition as a "Distinguished Project Lead the Way (PLTW) School" and a U.S. News and World Report Silver Medal School. Even more so, Mr. Choudoir is pleased that he's been able to help establish partnerships with local business and healthcare professionals on behalf of our students academic and career goals. In the spirit of continuous self-improvement, he hopes to continue this quintessential work and grow our network of opportunities for students to explore various health science careers outside our four walls.

His compassion for his students shines in everything he does—he sets high expectations for all of his students, holds genuine and deep compassion for them, and is proud of how hard they work in service of their life goals. When asked to recognize individual students for their outstanding work, Mr. Choudoir praised every student who had ever persevered through working with him over the year, for that in and of itself deserves an award.

Outside of school, Mr. Choudoir enjoys watching his children participate in their activities—he spends most of his time at either a baseball diamond or basketball court both as a parent and as a coach. Recently, he has started playing the guitar and collecting used guitars. When asked to offer any closing thoughts, in true Ferris Bueller fashion, he said, "Life changes too fast to be known for one thing."



YOUTH APPRENTICESHIP SPOTLIGHT

RYAN DEGROOT

Ryan DeGroot, this season's Youth Apprenticeship Spotlight, is a senior at Little Chute Career Pathways Academy in the Manufacturing and Engineering pathway. He is currently employed at Team Industries in their Piping Engineering Department where he works with drawings provided by the engineers TI consults with and breaks them down into smaller versions (called spools) that are easier for the shop to use in order to manufacture their products. He also enters testing requirements and labor charges for the spool drawings he creates. Most of his work is for piping on naval vessels and oil refineries and is similar to what he hopes to do for his career, which makes this a great learning opportunity.



As a student, Ryan enjoys math, science, and problem-solving, which naturally led to an interest in engineering. After high school, he plans on attending a four year college to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. With that degree, he hopes to find a career where he can work both hands-on and with 3D modeling software. This goal for his future is what motivates him to work as hard as possible every day.

Ryan is grateful that the LCCPA has given him the opportunity to be more flexible with his schedule. This has allowed him the time to participate in the Youth Apprenticeship program both during his junior and senior years while still being able to earn all the necessary credits to graduate on time. The LCCPA has also given him a more focused path towards his goal of becoming a mechanical engineer. It goes without saying that Ryan particularly enjoys his Manufacturing coursework with Mr. Larson as well as his Machine Tool Jumpstart course for Fox Valley Technical College.

When asked about what advice he'd give to incoming freshmen, he said to take full advantage of what the LCCPA has to offer, especially the Youth Apprenticeship program and the specialized classes—regardless of what pathway they choose. For this, Ryan is a great role model given that his work with TI not only prepares him for his future, but also builds great networking relationships between the LCCPA and his/other businesses in the industry.

When he's not at school or work, Ryan is a three-year soccer and golf veteran for Little Chute. He also enjoys spending time outdoors, skiing in the winter, and wakeboarding in the summer. He is also Vice President of Skills USA.



JOB SHADOW

GISELLE D. -CHILTON HOSPITAL LAB TECH EXPERIENCE

Our science/PLTW teacher in the LCCPA, Mr. Choudoir, prompted us to search for a job shadow relating to an area of interest we have. I personally look forward to pursuing a career in the forensic science field as a forensic toxicologist or scientist, so I decided to inquire about a possible job shadow in a similar setting, such as a lab. I was able to obtain an opportunity at the Chilton Ascension Hospital with the lab supervisor, Kimberly Hernandez, MLS.



What captivated me the most was learning about how technology is progressing to help with Complete Blood Counts (CBC). For this procedure, specialized machinery utilizes a needle-like structure that pierces through the top of a sample and separates erythrocytes from leukocytes and platelets. The results can be used to report any “flagged” counts which can lead to a diagnosis of a particular disorder. Furthermore, after observing the behavior of the lab technicians, I came to the conclusion that in order to be successful in this field, it is essential to be communicative, level headed, and ultimately self-driven. I also appreciated the fact that everyone in the lab respected the organizational structure to maximize efficiency, and was surprised to learn that even in such a rural setting, tasks were fast-paced and varied. Towards the end, the lab techs allowed me to utilize their equipment and get a bit of practical experience in. I came to the realization that I truly felt as if I belonged in that type of ambiance.

I am appreciative to have had this opportunity, as it has made me more adamant and set on pursuing a career in which I’ll be able to eventually practice in the lab setting.

CAREER EXPERIENCES

INTERIOR DESIGN - CHARLI M.

On October 5th, Charli Meixl got to visit Keller Inc.--a construction and architectural company based in Kaukauna, WI--to learn about the process and everyday work of an interior designer. Throughout the day, Charli got to see how they set up meetings and their offices as well as how Keller works with other businesses. Specifically, she got to learn more about what interior design looks like at a professional business. She got to talk with some professional designers about how they come up with their ideas, how they converse with business owners, and the process of planning and drawing out their ideas on paper.



As a part of her experience, Charli also got to learn about some of the skills and education required to be successful as an interior designer. She saw the variety of online software designers use to digitally color code or develop drawings of buildings. In addition to creativity, she also learned how important it is to be a good communicator, be up-to-date on styles and trends, and to be versatile and mix-and-match based on clients’ wants and needs.

Charli has been thinking of being an interior designer for several years now, and when asked to reflect on how her visit fit with her academic and career goals, she said the experience helped confirm that interior design is a career she’d like to pursue. She is also looking forward to exploring all of the post-secondary education opportunities available to get her ready for her career.



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: RILEY SCHULTZ

Riley Schultz is currently in her senior year in the LCCPA and couldn't imagine her life as a high school student any other way. She initially chose to enroll in the charter school because the LCCPA carefully and deliberately prepares students for what's next. She thought it would be a perfect way to get a head start in pursuing a career in the health pathway; but what she didn't count on was just how much the LCCPA would change and challenge her—all for the better, though.



After taking introductory courses like Principles of Biomedical Science (PBS) and Human Body Systems (HBS), Riley realized quickly that the health pathway wasn't for her. With support from her teachers, especially Mr. Volk, she explored courses in other subjects to try and gain some perspective. Eventually, she settled on the Human Services pathway. The turning point for her was getting the chance to be a student teacher. From this experience, Riley got to bond with the students and the teacher, learn how to observe and assess reading comprehension, prepare and teach her own lessons, and reflect on feedback to adapt her instruction for the next week. From there, she fell in love with teaching and now plans to be a 3rd grade teacher so she can make a difference in people's lives.

When asked about anyone who has been influential, Riley is thankful for all her teachers for their brutal honesty and pushing her to believe in herself. She expressed that without these teachers and without the LCCPA's unique way of working around her schedule, she wouldn't have taken the important risks necessary that opened up opportunities such as the Early College Credit Program or jumpstarting the next chapter of her life by taking on-campus classes at UW Oshkosh. She praised Mr. VanEperen in particular for always being there to support her and to help pick up the pieces and put them back together again, no matter what. He always encourages his students and believes in them, even when they don't.

Riley looks forward to next year as she plans to attend the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire to pursue a degree in Elementary Education. When she's not a student, Riley spends her free time on the basketball court as a team captain. After practice, she enjoys spending time with her mother. "I know it's crazy," Riley said, "but she is my best friend." Riley is very family oriented and has mentioned that they are the reason for who she is today. Friends were also a big part of what she does in her free time; Brynn Morrill and Caleb Kliner she mentioned have been there since the beginning: "we went through the LCCPA together and will leave together."



STUDENT SPOTLIGHT WHERE ARE THEY NOW?: JACOB SCHMIEDER



Jacob Schmieder, this season's featured LCCPA alumni, is currently a first-year medical student at the University of Toledo where he has earned a Dean's scholarship. Previously, he earned his undergraduate degree at Iowa State University in Biochemistry and an MS in Mechanical Engineering. He spends most of his time studying for his medical school exams while taking advantage of a dual degree program to earn his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering; but he also gets to work with patients from time to time. What he enjoys most is transferring his love for making things over into his work and research centered around wearable technology that can give medical professionals a tool to assess an individual's health. He hopes his work can explore how various underutilized technologies can be used to help provide such critical information in medicine.

One of the biggest challenges he cites of a four-year college is time management. The class structure is very different: notably the prevalence of lectures and lack of activities in class force the work of understanding to be done outside of class. Jacob believes the structure

of LCCPA did a great job emulating this—having work-at-your-own-pace courses and careful scheduling prepared him to work better outside of class. He also has used plenty of what he's learned in the PLTW coursework, citing the experiments that he did in class are still relevant in medical school and often used as diagnostics. Perhaps one of his most fun experiences has been volunteering for an "Amazing Race style event for teams of medical professionals to navigate wilderness medicine. At his station, teams had to amputate a fake leg with tools most of them hadn't used before.

When asked to reflect on how his experiences in the LCCPA shaped him, Jacob cited the career experiences as most formative in determining his career path. After working in the engineering path, he knew that he didn't want to do manufacturing, but nothing really stuck out as an "I can do this for the rest of my life" experience in health sciences either. As a result, he kept searching in college and found a path that allowed him to get to do both. Without exposure to those career experiences in the LCCPA, he said he'd likely have ended up in a manufacturing facility and wouldn't have found the satisfaction he has now. The important lesson through those experiences wasn't finding what he wanted to do, but rather finding what he didn't want to do.

His advice to current and future LCCPA students is to "take advantage of your ability to explore your future." The LCCPA, he said, gives its students nearly limitless resources and experiences pertaining to post-secondary academic and career goals. The teachers and alumni also have networks that students can and should utilize. "Odds are," he continues, "you won't ever have as much direct influence on your education as you do now. Most programs are pretty standard regardless of what kind of post-secondary education that you pursue, and you can only vary their formula so much. At the LCCPA, you can do a whole lot more so take advantage of those resources while you can."

While being a med student takes most of his time, Jacob is still very intentional about making time for all of the other things that he loves. He still plays the trumpet after 5 years in the Iowa State University Cyclone "Varsity" Marching Band and is excited to get involved with jazz again next semester. He also still enjoys using his 3D printer and other tools to make things for others. Jacob also enjoys spending time reading, especially Star Wars (he recommends the Thrawn trilogy if you share this passion—it's incredible!).



LCCPA TRIVIA

1. Which of the following is NOT a foundational principle of the LCCPA?
 - a. Relevance
 - b. Responsibility
 - c. Relationships
 - d. Rigor
2. What does WAYOP stand for?
 - a. Walk at Your Own Path
 - b. Work at Your Own Pace
 - c. Worthwhile Attributes Yield Outstanding Products
 - d. What About Yahtzee Oblivious Pirates?
3. Which LCCPA staff member has been teaching at Little Chute the longest?
 - a. Mr. Larson
 - b. Mr. Boland
 - c. Mr. Volk
 - d. Mr. Patzner



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

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.

School Governance Councils provide an unprecedented opportunity to craft a productive collaboration to support student success. The intent of councils is to enable parents, school staff, students (where appropriate), and community leaders to work together to improve student achievement.

If you are interested in becoming a Governance Council member please fill out the membership application. If you have further questions you may contact the Council's administrative assistant, Katie Kuna through email or phone at 920-687-6650. or our GC president, Carl Rambo at crambo@littlechute.k12.wi.us



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

February 6, 2023 ★ March 6, 2023 ★ April 12, 2023 ★ May 1, 2023 ★ June 7, 2023



HIGHLIGHTS UPCOMING DATES & HELPFUL TIPS

Past & Upcoming Important Dates:

- 1/25: LCCPA Asynchronous Wednesday
- 2/1: SkillsUSA Chapter Meeting
- 2/6: Governance Council Meeting
- 2/8: PLTW/MI-UW Stevens Point Visit
- 2/9: HOSA Whole Group Meeting
- 2/16: New Perspectives Senior Living (Freshmen) Visit
- 2/22: LCCPA Asynchronous Wednesday
- 3/2: SkillsUSA Chapter Meeting
- 3/6: Governance Council Meeting
- 3/8-10: WTEA (Wisconsin Technical Education Association) Conference
- 3/9: HOSA Whole Group Meeting
- 3/14: LCCPA Mock Interview Day

Thought of the Day:

At the LCCPA, one of our values is not being afraid to take healthy risks. We encourage our students to take healthy risks every day because doing so helps us learn, grow as human beings, and accomplish our goals. What goals do you have that you're putting off? What items on your to-do list intimidate you? Is there something you feel needs to be said, but you're worried about what the other person will think? What are you going to do today to better yourself?



Resume/Application Tips:

- **K.I.S.S.** Keep it simple, silly! Well, at least down to a single page (not double-spaced). Unless you've had a career that has spanned more than a decade and you've had extensive responsibilities and experiences at your previous job(s), there's no reason your resume should be any longer than a page.
- **K.I.S.S. pt. 2.** Along with the length of the overall document, keep the content of your writing and bullet points quick and efficient. Focus on key words, active verbs, and straight-to-the-point language.
- **Drop the Objective.** Back in the day, it was very common for applicants to put an "objective" statement near the top of their resume to declare what their goals were for submitting this resume. But, it's obvious, isn't it? You're submitting a resume to be considered for the job in question. Modern hiring managers think so too. Save some precious "real estate" by focusing more on your accomplishments, responsibilities, and qualifications.
- **Formatting is important, but also not.** What I mean is it matters little what overall style, structure, or approach you take (so long as it is professional and presentable), but what does matter is that you're consistent. Have a period at the end of some bullet points but not others? Different number spaces between sections? Bold one job title but italicize the other? It usually doesn't matter which way you go, just choose one and apply it throughout.
- **ProofreadProofreadProofread!** Remember: hiring managers are often sifting through dozens, sometimes hundreds of resumes. Sometimes they're comparing many individuals with similar qualifications. Regardless, they're always looking for quick and easy reasons to eliminate someone from the candidate pool to make the search easier and quicker. You don't want your chance blown away because of a simple typo.

