



Good News Highlights: Michigan City Area Schools

February 2020

★ Michigan City High School's **Graduation Rate** is at an all-time high 94.4% for the Class of 2019. (Up from 75.2% in 2010.) This is above the State graduation rate and that of several neighboring districts. In 2019, 95 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 2018. (Up from an "F" in 2011.)

★ In 2019, MCHS students earned **3,256 Dual Credits** through agreements with Purdue, Ivy Tech, Ball State and Vincennes. (Up from 543 credits in 2010, 500% increase!)

★ All students in grades 4-12 are issued **Chromebooks**. At MCHS, a team of students provides tech support and repairs the devices. 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.

★ In 2019, MCAS instituted **eLearning Days**, which provide an opportunity for students to log on from home to complete assignments. eLearning is used on days when teachers and staff are engaged in professional development and also in the event of inclement weather.

★ 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 402 in 2019; 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 the "P.A.C.K." Academy. Each has dedicated counseling and administrative support to serve students at a personal level. The high school's Early College program is among the first in the region to obtain certification.

★ Michigan City High School currently offers 18 Advanced Placement (AP) classes. It was named AP TIP-IN School of the Year in 2018, and was one of only 19 schools in Indiana named to the **2017-18 AP Honor Roll**. A partnership with the University of Notre Dame provides AP student conferences, teacher training, and other supports.

★ The **Compressed Air Academy** launched in 2019 at Michigan City High School. The program is the first of its kind in the nation, providing students with dual credits, certifications, and internship opportunities. It was created in partnership with five compressed air and vacuum companies in the region, and has been certified as an Indiana State Earn and Learn program.

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

★ In Fall 2019, MCAS launched the **Michigan City Virtual Academy**, an online option for students in grades 9-12. In addition, alternative high school programming is offered through **Pathways** at Elston. Juniors and seniors in the Pathways program attend classes both in-person and online, and also work or attend career-tech classes at A.K. Smith.

★ MCAS offers a robust “**Project Lead the Way**” program, K-12. At MCHS, tracks include Engineering, Biomedical Science, Civil Engineering & Architecture, Computer Science and Software Engineering, and Computer Integrated Manufacturing. Barker Middle School was named a 2018 **PLTW Distinguished School**; Lake Hills Elementary and Krueger Middle School also offer PLTW.

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

★ MCAS has received the **Indiana Governor’s Award for Environmental Excellence** three times: for its districtwide solar and LED lighting project (2019); for a partnership involving MCHS Early College students, nonprofits, and the Michigan City Parks Department (2018); and for environmental science programming at Krueger Middle School (2013).

★ MCAS students uses **Naviance**, an online tool for comprehensive college and career planning. A K-12 College and Career Coordinator joined the district’s administrative team in 2017.

★ MCAS partners with Horizon Bank on **financial literacy**. Horizon’s “Wolves Branch” opened in the high school cafeteria commons in 2013, and employs six high school students as tellers.

★ MCAS has established two **magnet schools**. Lake Hills Elementary is a magnet school for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), while Pine is a magnet school for the 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.