Nearly 350 teachers, aides, therapists and other instructional staff members returned to MOBOCES on September 3rd to kick off the 2019-20 school year. During the first of two Superintendent’s Conference Days, staff reconnected with colleagues and worked in their divisions to prepare for the start of classes on September 5th.

District Superintendent Jackie Starks focused on teachers’ impact on the students they teach and the successes of MOBOCES students and programs because of the dedication of our instructional staff.

“We have a team of passionate leaders and teachers with the desire to bring the very best opportunities to our learners and to make a sincere difference in their lives,” she said.

This year’s keynote speaker was Shadrack Boakye, who shared his story of growing up in war-torn Liberia and overcoming hardships after immigrating to the United States. He struggled in school and was unable to read, but his 8th grade English teacher took an interest in him, encouraged his writing and supported his goals. He is now an accomplished debate champion, public speaker, author, playwright and performer. He received a standing ovation at the end of his 45-minute presentation, and he received compliments and hugs afterward from many staff members who were moved by his words.

Photo of Boakye and staff above.

MOBOCES house band The Common Chords joined teaching assistant Tom Lemery for his annual infection control song, this year rewriting the lyrics to Chuck Berry’s “Johnny B. Goode.” They came back for a special performance celebrating Starks’ upcoming retirement – new lyrics to “Thank You For Being A Friend” by Andrew Gold.

The Alternative/Special Education team did a campus scavenger hunt during Superintendent’s Conference Days and shared this awesome photo!

Jackie Starks, District Superintendent, Shadrack Boakye, Keynote Speaker and Patty Vacca, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction.

WELCOME BACK STAFF

IMPORTANT DATES
Welcome, New Staff

Robin Browka
Teaching Assistant
Alt Ed Bldg
9/1/19

Shelby Coon
Data Processing
RIC
7/15/19

Nicholas Cooke
Science Teacher
Alt Ed Bldg
9/1/19

Bryan Rondeau
Information Security Analyst
RIC - 6/17/19

Nicki Cosimeno
Sr. Office Specialist
Special Programs
7/15/19

Marie Appler
Asst. Data Processing Coordinator
RIC - 6/17/19

Elizabeth Garofalo
CTE Teacher
Rossetti Center
9/1/19

Valarie Hopkins
Pre-K Teacher
Early Childhood
9/1/19

Kerwin Hughes
Special Education Teacher - Alt. Ed
9/20/19

Shelby Jones
Special Education Teacher - VVS
9/1/19

Lucas Miller
Motor Vehicle Oper.
Building Services
7/15/19

Krista Musacchio-Menendez
Teaching Assistant
Special Programs
9/1/19

Stephanie Emmerick
Teacher Aide
Early Childhood
9/1/19

Jessica Stoklosa
Special Education Teacher
Alt. Ed Bldg.
9/1/19

Amber Webb
St. Office Specialist
Staff Development
6/17/19

Stephen White
CTE Teacher
Rossetti Center
9/1/19

Kelly Young
Sr. Office Specialist
JD George
7/29/19

Matthew Knapp
Educational Technology Planning Specialist
RIC - 7/3/19

Erica Mazula
Sr. Office Specialist
RIC
6/24/19

Marissa Scherz
1:1 Teacher Aide
JD George
9/1/19

Jennifer Walligory-Lee
Educational Data Analyst
RIC - 7/1/19

NO PHOTO AVAILABLE

Mark Schoff
CTE Teacher - Electrical/HVAC
Rossetti Center
9/1/19

Ashley Esengard
Teaching Assistant
9/1/19

Hanna Thurston
1:1 Teacher Aide
McAllister
9/1/19

DID YOU KNOW
MOBOCES HAS A MOBILE APP!

It’s an easy way to access some of our most popular web pages and connect with us on social media.

Download it for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store.

INNerviews
BUSINESS OFFICE

Dental Coverage

During the month of November, there will be an open enrollment period to change your Dental Plan.

If you are currently enrolled in the Dental Low Option program and would like to enroll in Dental High Option, or vice versa, you may do so at that time. New coverage will become effective January 1. Contact Sherri Williams at 361-5534 for details.

Flex Spending Plan

Just a reminder that October 1st was the start of the plan year for the flexible spending plan. If you participated in the 2018-19 flex plan, all claims will be due for submission by November 30, 2019. Please contact Cheryl Fleming in the business office at 361-5513.

GRANT NEWS

$100 grant to expand Farm to School Program

Congratulations to MOBOCES on their $100,000 grant to expand the local Farm to School program, with partners Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES, Herkimer-Fulton-Hamilton-Oneida Boces, Cornell Cooperative Extension of Oneida County and 31 local school districts! Lisa Seitz, Grants writer for MOBOCES wrote the proposal. Tiffany McConn, Farm to School coordinator, Hollie Ackerman, School Lunch Manager for MOBOCES and Kate Dorr, Assistant Director for the OHM BOCES Nutritional Food Services will be contributing their time and expertise to the project. LINK TO THE STORY HERE

Take a Class This Fall!

The new BCCE Course Catalog is out! The new lineup features more than 20 new courses, including many at the new Rome ACCESS Site. Look for a printed catalog around campus or search for classes online at www.moboces.org. Programs, Adult and Continuing Education. Including: New: Estate Planning Workshop on October 15 from 6-8 p.m. at Rossetti (Forum). No cost.

DS SEARCH UPDATE

As you’re aware, District Superintendent Jackie Starks will retire on December 1. Steve Todd, the District Superintendent of Jefferson-Lewis BOCES, is serving as the search consultant to help the Board of Education identify Jackie’s successor.

The search process is currently underway. DS Todd held a series of meetings with internal and external stakeholders to seek feedback on traits and qualities they would like to see in their next leader. Great care was taken to ensure that all stakeholder groups in the organization were represented during this feedback process.

Applications from interested candidates were due October 1. Upon the endorsement of the State Education Commissioner, the Board intends to select a new DS by the December break.

Mrs. Sandy Sherwood, District Superintendent of Herkimer BOCES, will serve as our interim DS following Jackie’s departure on December 1.

Water fun at the Extended School Year program on August 8th. Students enjoyed water slides and a bouncy house.
This summer new bus drivers from 11 school districts spent the week with MOBOCES transportation leaders completing their 30-hour basic training in state regulations, vehicle safety and more. Frank Slawiak, Transportation Supervisor with leaders, shown in photo. Additionally, workers provide ongoing bus maintenance to keep the buses safe on the road. Please do your due diligence and watch out for students as they get on and off the bus. Keep the roads safe and obey bus safety rules when driving.

Snow Closings

If you have not already done so, please ensure your contact information in the School Messenger notification system is accurate so you can be notified about snow closings and weather delays: Please refer our webpage (https://www.moboces.org/for_staff/staff_links/snow_closings) about our procedures and the media outlets where you can find updates as well.

When the television or radio station indicates that the Madison-Oneida BOCES is closed, it means instructional programs only (Career and Technical Education, Alternative and Special Education). As always, all administrative personnel and support staff are expected to report to work, regardless of location. Staff may use vacation or personal time in these cases, but must contact their supervisor to exercise this opportunity.

If the weather is so severe that the District Superintendent directs the closing of the entire campus, the TV and/or radio message will be changed to "Madison-Oneida BOCES Plan B." That means NO staff is to report.

Winter Parking Notice

The Building Services department would like to remind all employees that there is no overnight parking on campus during winter months.

If a situation arises where you do need to leave your vehicle overnight, please call the office at 361-5750 between 7 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. and someone will advise you where to park. After 3:30 p.m., please call 315-361-5603.

If the car interferes with snow removal, it will be towed away at your expense.

Risk Management Office

BOCES Safety and Security Reminders

As the new school year begins, we want to provide staff with some safety and security reminders:

- Always wear your BOCES identification badge
- Always keep external doors closed and locked
- Report any safety or security concerns to your Program Administrator
- Periodically review your S-H-E-L-L Quick Reference Card

S-H-E-L-L

- Shelter-in-Place; Severe Weather
- Hold-in-Place; Short Term – limit corridor movement
- Evacuation; Know your exit routes and assembly area
- Lock Out; Threat Outside
- Lock Down; Threat Inside

Fire Safety

- Limit the amount of combustibles (e.g. paper) on classroom walls
- Do not hang materials from light fixtures
- Keep classroom emergency egress windows clear and unobstructed
- Do not use multi-plug adapters or extension cords in lieu of permanent wiring
- Do not cover door vision panels
BOCES CONSORTIUM OF CONTINUING EDUCATION (BCCE)

Madison County ACCESS Site

Madison County Adult Literacy/High School Equivalency Prep program is now located at the Madison County Career Center in Wampsville. Dawn Post is the Instructor/Case Manager and the center. There are classes in literacy and preparation for the Test Assessing Secondary Completion (TASC), the new New York State high school equivalency (HSE) diploma exam. The HSE instructors provide resources and instruction necessary for TASC™ success. The new location allows BCCE the benefit of sharing space with other partners including, Staffworks, Department of Labor, Acces-VR and Workforce Development.

The Center is located at:
133 North Court Street
Wampsville, New York 13163
(315) 363-2400

THE PRINT SHOP
Print Management System

Don Philhower, print shop manager, trains MOBOCES clerical staff (photo left) on the new online print management system called Print Shop Pro. All print jobs will now be ordered through the easy to use online system. This software, which has been tested in house for the last eight months was rolled out to its customers on July 1, 2019. The Print Shop has met with the Business officials, and are currently hitting the road to demonstrate and train at each of the component school districts. (Don with Nick Panuccio, Business Official at Canastota CSD).

With Print Shop Pro customers can place orders online with unmatched simplicity and ease of use. Customers are able to check order status online, as well as pull reports of prior orders by fiscal year or month, including orders that are completed, pending approval and in-production all without having to call the print shop.

Comprehensive Dashboard
Print Shop Pro will enable complete visibility into the shops entire Workflow. With Print Shop Pro, printing will be able to easily identify the status and location of any job including new orders, orders in production, orders pending approval, completed orders and outstanding quotes.

Store
Print Shop Pro also has a store. Customers can now order non-printed items online. We have a large selection of paper in assorted colors and weight. We also have envelopes, boxes and other printing related items.

To sign up visit: https://mobpsm.moric.org/PSP/app/PSP_Start.asp

FLU IMMUNIZATION CLINIC
October 10, 2019
2:30 – 5:00 p.m.
ROSSETTI COURTYARD

If you are enrolled in the Madison-Oneida BOCES health insurance through Blue Cross/Blue Shield and would be interested in a free flu immunization clinic. It will be held at the BOCES Verona campus on October 10th from 2:30-5 p.m. Please notify your supervisor as soon as possible but before October 2nd. You would need to bring your BOCES health insurance card (Blue Cross/Blue Shield card) to the clinic with you.

For those who are not enrolled in the Madison-Oneida BOCES health insurance (due to choice or ineligibility), you can find information about immunization clinics at: www.healthymadisoncounty.org and/or http://www.ocgov.net/health. Also, certain pharmacies, such as Rite Aid, Walgreens and Kinney Drugs may offer the vaccine.
On July 17-18 more than 150 educators and administrators from the MOBOCES region and beyond participated in this year’s CNY Education Conference, an annual two-day summer professional development opportunity hosted by Staff and Curriculum Development. Workshops and speakers this year focused on developing positive relationships with students to improve achievement and success.

The Day 1 keynote speaker, Charlie Applestein, is the author of “No Such Thing As A Bad Kid” and spoke about theories and techniques to reach at-risk youth. The Day 2 speaker was Tom Varano, who intersperses personal stories about human connections with speed painting demonstrations.

Over the two days, conference participants rotate through five workshops on different behavior management and relationship-building topics. Sessions included: Applestein discussing at-risk youth; MOBOCES Alternative Education Principals Tonia Davis and Owen Maranville discussing Restorative Justice practices (photo below); Colleen Zawadzki, of Discipline with Dignity, discussing motivating and managing disruptive students; author and speaker Stanley Leone discussing relationship building and the effects of stress on the brain; and Central Regional Partnership Center experts Darcy Burns and LaDonna Richardson, along with school social worker Tracy Largett, discussing creating a classroom community to address challenging behaviors.

The MOBOCES Staff and Curriculum Development division partnered with two neighboring BOCES to offer its first regional Building Capacity Turnkey Training on July 25th at Vernon Downs. It is one of the few collaborative multi-region trainings on Next Generation Learning Standards in the state.

The three-BOCES workshop (MOBOCES, Herkimer BOCES, Oneida-Herkimer-Madison BOCES) drew about 160 educators from across the Mohawk Valley and provided them with the tools to train their own in-district colleagues on NYS Next Generation Learning Standards. Staff development teams who helped coordinate these turnkey trainings include: Ed Rinaldo, Jon Cornue, Maria Papa and Jody Popple from MOBOCES; Ann Turner, Wendy Bunker and Amy Lamitie from Oneida BOCES; Sarah Trunfio, Jon Griffith, Sheri Perry and Jennifer Stanton from Herkimer BOCES; and Amy Konz from MORIC.

Director of Staff and Curriculum Development, Ed Rinaldo, said this model of regional turnkey trainings is likely to become more common.

“This is one more way our three BOCES can work together to create more opportunities for teachers in our regions,” he said.
The CTE team literally had on bells and whistles when students arrived on September 5. This celebration has become an annual tradition for staff!