Dear Academy families:

The beginning of a new school year is filled with hope and optimism. Teachers are reenergized and prepared to meet the learning needs of their students. Students are given a clean slate to begin a new year, make a personal commitment to their studies, and resolve to work to achieve a new set of learning goals. This is an exciting time of the year!

The better part of the last four weeks has been spent establishing a healthy school culture/learning environment and communicating this vision to both staff and students. In preparing for college, we need to work together to create a healthy school culture that will reduce anxiety, serve as a support system, and in turn improve performance. Academy staff is committed to a consistent approach in the classrooms, high academic standards, and to the equally important task of teaching students the attributes of good citizenship and character within the school community and beyond.

A vitally important part of this equation of success is a partnership of staff and parents/guardians to help educate all of our students. A supportive parent community can be a powerful force in helping a school achieve its goals. Your support at home sends a consistent message to the students of the Academy. It is also important for all of us to work together as problem solvers and communicators when issues arise.

The fruits of these efforts could not be more evident than during our United Way Day of Action. Academy students, parents, and staff spent the day organizing, cleaning, painting, doing yard work, demolishing, and beautifying a couple of homes on Front street at the “Habitat Rock the Block Extreme Makeover.” I cannot tell you how many times I have been stopped by different community members as they sing their praises about your student. Lynne Punnett, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity of Lenawee County said:

“The Habitat Care-A-Vanners are folks that travel the country volunteering with Habitat affiliates, and at the end of the day what they most talked about was how impressed they were with the Middle College students. They were eager to work, engaged, polite and just demonstrated an amazing spirit of cooperation and community. It renewed their optimism and gave them hope for the future”.

Thanks to everyone who participated for all of their hard work and commitment to living united. Collectively WE can make our community better. A special thanks to Academy parents Carmen Borton, Shelby Lightfoot, Dana Yakubesan, Louis Rebottaro, Corrina Troyer-Momenee, and Randy Ramirez Sr. for volunteering your day to be with us.

Looking ahead, please make note of the following important events on your calendar.

- October 3 –Friday, October 3, is our first credentialing meeting. Please take the time to review and celebrate your student’s progress and look for areas where you can help your student set goals for improvement. Students have been working extremely hard; it’s important to praise the effort put forth in each of their achievements and remind them how important credentialing is in transitioning to and remaining in college.

- October 23 & 24 – Parent-Teacher Conferences are scheduled at the LISD TECH Center, classrooms 1-3, on October 23 from 4:30-8:30 p.m. and at Jackson College on October 24 from 8:00 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Out of respect for everyone’s time, conference appointments will need to be scheduled. An invitation will be sent to the email address we have on file during the first week of October. Scheduling will be done on a first-come, first-served basis. A reminder of your appointment date(s) and time(s) will be sent via email the week before. If you have not received an appointment invitation by Friday, October 3, please call the Academy office to confirm your email address. This is a time when families can meet with their student’s teachers and understand the curriculum, expectations, and what to expect for student’s growth. However, if you have immediate questions or concerns, do not wait until conferences, please contact us immediately.

Finally, thank you for choosing the JC/LISD Academy as the place to educate your student. We will continue to build a healthy school culture and supportive learning environment that will help your student transition to a full time college status. This environment will also give students the opportunities to acquire the knowledge, skills, and experiences necessary to build meaningful and productive lives.

Warmly,
Jonathan Tobar, Principal
Well Rounded Corner….Gary Cripe, School Social Worker

Team Building Groups
First year Academy students will soon be participating in Team Building activities two times each month during their Teen Leadership class. Groups are presented with activity challenges that become increasingly more difficult as students progress through the year. The primary objective for these experiences is to provide students with the opportunity to develop success skills for college and career. The skill areas challenged through activities include:

* Critical thinking and Problem solving
* Collaboration and Leading by influence
* Agility and Adaptability
* Initiative and Entrepreneurialism
* Effective communication
* Curiosity and Imagination

These skills areas were all identified by hundreds of employers from across the country, and in different career settings, as essential to success in the workplace. Therefore, we feel they are important skills for students to be aware of and have opportunities to practice.

Please ask your students about these groups and what they are learning from them. Your support and encouragement in this initiative is important. Feel free to contact Mr. Cripe if you should have specific questions about our Team Building groups.

Students in the News
Civitan of Lenawee met the evening of August 28, 2014 to host Youth Delegates (and their families) who recently attended the Civitan Youth Leadership and Diversity Conference. This year’s Conference was held at Trine University in Angola, Indiana. Civitan sponsored seven local teens and were anxious to hear what the experience meant to them.

Emily Francoeur said “I learned so much about other people at the Conference. We all go through different situations and have different backgrounds. Everyone has some type of struggle in life; some are so good at hiding their struggle so you would never know. We all have strengths and weaknesses, and together we make a pretty good team. We all have a voice that can make a change, whether it is at home, at school, in our town, city, country, or world. All it takes is for us to DO something instead of just talk about it.”

Samantha Payne thanked the Club members for sending her to the Conference and indicated the week was one of the best in her life. She said “Never have I been so inspired to make a difference in the world. Each day of the Conference I could sense a mental and emotional change within me. I learned to stand up for others who are in need…I have a voice and need to use it. There are no boundaries to what I can accomplish…”

For more information about Civitan of Lenawee and the Civitan Youth Leadership and Diversity Conference contact Sue Stange at Sue.Stange@lisd.us or call her at 263-1604.

Delegates included: Samantha Payne and Emily Francoeur, from JC/LISD Academy; Shawnee Halsey, from Lenawee Christian; Kassie Anderson, Kyle Laktos, Mackenzie Ream and Kaylee Benge from Sand Creek High School.
Biology
We have been learning basic scientific concepts of mass, volume and matter. More recently the students have been learning about the four groups of biomolecules (proteins, lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids) that make up all living things. Test 1 is next Wednesday.

Chemistry
Chemistry students have had a review of basic measurement skills and concepts of mass, volume, and density. This week we began atomic structure and various patterns that can be observed on the periodic table.

In English 9 & 10, students will spend 20% of their class time (one day each week) working on a project they design. This will be called their 20 Time project, and it will give them an opportunity to practice skills related to planning, researching, presenting, and writing for an authentic audience. So far, students have chosen a topic, written their goal statement, and composed a reflection essay on what they have chosen. They are now in the process of creating a website where they will post weekly blog updates throughout the semester.

In Algebra 2, we have reviewed and strengthened important skills from Algebra 1 so that students have a strong foundation for the year. We are excited to get started on new content, engage in group activities, and start our first project in Chapter 2.

Check out our class website – classwithkuhn.weebly.com – for more information and updates on our classes.
Student Life
I am so glad you have chosen to come to the JC/LISD Academy! Students have started working on an educational plan to complete their Michigan Merit Curriculum and earn an associate’s degree and/or credits that can be transferred to a four year university. Pre-planning for a post-secondary experience beyond an associate degree is important and it is never too early to begin.

Mark your calendar and plan on attending COLLEGE NIGHT on Thursday, October 16, 2014 at the Siena Heights Field House. Representatives from 75 colleges, universities & financial aid institutions will be on hand to answer every question imaginable from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Returning and newly credentialed students will have the opportunity to meet with JC staff and myself to determine what courses to enroll in for the winter term. An invitation will be sent to the email address we have on file during the last week in October to schedule appointments.

- Returning students advising dates: November 10 or 11, 2014
  30 minute appointments during the times of 8:00 a.m. - noon or 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
- Newly credentialed student advising dates: November 12 or 13, 2014
  30 minute appointments during the times of 8:00 a.m. noon or 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.
  Parents should attend

Best wishes for a great school year. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions or concerns.

Mary Tommelien
517-265-1672 or 
mary.tommelein@lisd.us

Phi Theta Kappa is the largest international honor society for Community College students, offering $37 million in scholarships! To become a Phi Theta Kappa member, you need to have completed 12 credit hours and have a GPA of 3.5 and above. Informational sessions are available at JC@LISD TECH on the following dates:

- Friday, October 3, 2014  11:30 AM - Noon Near Main Office
- Thursday, October 9, 2014  9:30 AM - President’s office Room 123
- Thursday, October 23, 2014  11:00 AM - Room 211

Benefits include:
- A global network of fellow scholars
- Scholarships for Two and Four Year Colleges
- 24/7 Transfer Help
- Exclusive Professional Development Plan
- Leadership Opportunities
- Opportunity to participate in service learning and research projects: Honors in Action and our College Project

Recognition of Your Phi Theta Kappa Memberships:
- Gold key Membership Pin
- Membership Certificate
- Membership Identification Card
- Distinctive Graduation Regalia
### Calendar of Events

**October/November 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 3, 2014</td>
<td>Credentialing</td>
<td>No School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, October 23, 2014</td>
<td>Evening Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>Watch for email sign-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, October 24, 2014</td>
<td>Morning Parent Teacher Conferences</td>
<td>No Students</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday, November 10, 2014 - Tuesday, November 11, 2014</td>
<td>Returning Students JC Advising</td>
<td>Watch for email sign-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday November 12, 2014 - Thursday, November 13, 2014</td>
<td>Newly Credential Student JC Advising</td>
<td>Watch for email sign-up</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, November 14, 2014</td>
<td>Credentialing</td>
<td>No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, November 26 - Friday, November 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Holiday Break</td>
<td>No School</td>
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