Dual enrollment helps *students get ahead* on their college education

Abi Mitz of Pierson is dual enrolled at Montcalm Community College.

Students from 20 area high schools are getting ahead on their college education at Montcalm Community College this fall.

Dual enrollment at MCC allows students to take college-level courses while still in high school and receive both high school and college credit. Through dual enrollment, students can take up to 10 college classes, and their high school helps pay tuition and fees up to an approved dollar amount.

Dual enrollment at MCC continues to grow. In 2019, students from 22 area schools took 722 dual enrollment classes, up from 500 classes taken by students at 18 schools in 2018. Since 2014, students in 28 school districts have taken 3,283 dual enrollment classes.

The MCC Board of Trustees recognizes the value of dual enrollment and in 2017, the board approved an in-district tuition rate for all dual-enrolled students, including those who are attending from an out-of-district high school.

"This has been a great cost savings for the high schools and their students and has allowed for more schools and students to participate in the program," said MCC Recruitment Director Emily Carmey, who coordinates the dual enrollment program.

"The dual enrollment program ultimately allows high school students the opportunity to tailor their education to fit their specific goals, needs and schedule. Whether taking dual enrollment classes on campus, online or in their high school building, dual enrollment students are setting themselves up for success by accumulating college credits without accumulating debt," Carmey added.

In addition to offering classes on its Sidney and Greenville campuses, MCC delivers dual-enrollment courses at several area high schools, so students don't have to leave their high school to participate.

This year, mobile teaching stations have been implemented in some high school classrooms to provide all of the technology necessary to deliver a college-level class in a high school setting. The carts include a computer, document camera, 65-inch computer screen, DVD capability, wireless connectivity and conferencing hardware.

"The whole goal is engagement," said MCC English Instructor and Dual Enrollment English Coordinator Ben Stancil, who teaches MCC dual enrollment courses in several area high schools.

"In these dual enrollment scenarios at high schools, if it's not a live class and there's not a live teacher, schools aren't a big fan of it because students are just in a room or library somewhere without the interaction of being in a live classroom," Stancil said. "There just isn't a lot to encourage students and actively involve them in the class."

Schools participating in MCC's dual-enrollment program this year include: Algoma Christian School, Belding High School, Carson City-Crystal High School, Central Montcalm High School, Fellowship Baptist Academy, Fulton High School, Greenville High School, Ionia High School, Lakeview High School, Michigan Connections Academy, Michigan Great Lakes Virtual, Montabella High School, Niles High School, Portland High School, Portland Virtual, Saranac High School, Success Virtual Learning Center, Tri County High School, Vestaburg High School and West Catholic High School. ■

For more information

Visit **www.montcalm.edu/dual-enrollment**

Email Recruitment Director Emily Carmey at **emily.carmey@montcalm.edu**

Call 989-328-1277

"Whether taking dual enrollment classes on campus, online or in their high school building, dual enrollment students are setting themselves up for success by accumulating college credits without accumulating debt."

– Emily Carmey

Students from 20 area schools are earning college credits while still in high school through MCC's dual enrollment program. Pictured, from left, are Kyran Kain of Coral, Abi Mitz of Pierson, Derik Holmberg of Greenville, Rosa Sullivan of Greenville, Beemnet Milewski of Greenville and Emily Mutschler of Saranac.