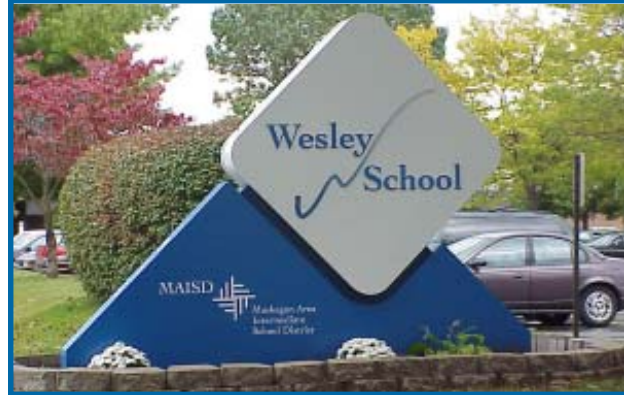


WESLEY SCHOOL

Independence Taught Here

Wesley School is a centralized special education facility operated by the Muskegon Area Intermediate School District (MAISD). Wesley School provides life skills training to eligible special education students ages 0 - 26 years of age. Students come from the 12 local school districts that make up the MAISD. Four adult transition centers are also in operation. Wesley School provides an opportunity for all students to learn in a safe, supportive environment.



2005 - 2006 Statistics

Enrollment:	179
Average Teacher Seniority:	13 years
Number of Staff Members:	98
Certified Teachers:	100%
Years of Operation:	37

Staff Members:

Teachers
Instructional Assistants
Speech Pathologist
Assistive Technology Specialist
Physical Therapist
Occupational Therapist
Registered Nurse & LPN
Work Study Coordinator
Behavioral Therapy Specialist
Adaptive Physical Education Instructor

Instructional Programs Based on Student Needs

Attendance at Wesley is based on the decision of an Individualized Educational Planning Team. It includes the student (if appropriate), his/her parent/guardian, the student's special education teacher, support staff that may provide services to the student, and representatives of the local school district. This team must recommend a student for placement in one of Wesley's special education programs. Each student's educational needs are carefully considered.

Programs are operated for students with moderate cognitive impairment, severe cognitive impairments, severe multiple impairment, and students who are autistically impaired. The severe cognitive impairments and severe multiple impairments programs operate year round, while the others are on a regular school year calendar.

Instruction emphasized at Wesley School includes skills that foster independence, develop daily living skills, and facilitate community interaction through the development of job skills, pro-social behaviors, academic skills, and leisure time activities. Success is measured by the achievement of annual goals and instructional objectives personalized for each student in their *Individualized Educational Plan*.

Emphasis is placed on providing opportunities for each student to learn in the least restrictive educational setting. To the extent possible, students are provided an opportunity to access the core curriculum, which is available in each student's home school district. Wesley School has its own Board of Education-approved curriculum for students unable to participate in the core curriculum.

Wesley School Staff Beliefs

- ✧ All students should be given the opportunity to learn and succeed.
- ✧ The goal for each student is to reach his/her potential.
- ✧ All students have value, worth, and the right to be treated with respect and dignity.
- ✧ All students have a right to privacy, their opinion, and personal safety.
- ✧ Students learn in different ways, at different rates, and at different times.
- ✧ All students have the right to have their individual needs addressed.
- ✧ All students have the right to have options.
- ✧ All students should have learning opportunities in a least-restrictive environment.
- ✧ All staff can create conditions for learning.
- ✧ All staff must prepare students for success in the global community.
- ✧ Learning is a lifelong process and occurs in many settings.

Staff participated in 40 training workshops during the 2005-2006 school year.

Transition Centers

The community-based Wesley Transition Centers provide **instruction and guided practice** for students ages 18-26 with moderate to severe disabilities. The goal of the program is to maximize each student's independence within the community. Students use the community classroom as "home base" as they participate in various **learning activities within the community**. Community-based vocational training, mobility skills, daily living skills, functional academics, socialization, and recreation are areas that are emphasized. Students use public transportation to access "physical education" at the YFCA, travel to work experience sites, and go shopping for necessary food items used to prepare lunches. **Specific goals** for each student's transition plans are developed by the student and his/her family in cooperation with the community classroom teacher and representatives from Community Mental Health, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, and other involved community agencies.

Activities

In 2005-2006 student activities included: a sock hop, a food drive, Singing Christmas Tree performance, Toys for Tots, hayride, and Spirit Week. Students also participated in an art exhibit at the Muskegon Museum of Art, Arts Festival Day, trip to Chicago on Amtrak, visit to Meijer Gardens, and fund raiser for a trip to the Brookfield Zoo. Many other study trips into the community were also taken by individual classroom groups. A prom is held each year and includes a complete dinner with Wesley alumni attending. This year over 300 attended the prom. Nine students received certificates of program completion.

Work Experience

The Wesley School **Community Work Experience Program** is designed to offer older students an opportunity to gain valuable work skills training at staffed work sites. The sites provide a very real atmosphere to work on skills necessary to gain competitive employment. Students can progress to opportunities for individual vocational training, food service training, Goodwill Industries, supported employment, and possibly competitive employment placements through Michigan Department of Career Development. Some of our **training sites** include: American Dollar, Benson Drugs, E & A Pitstop, Economy Market, Greek Tony's Pizza, Meijer, Inc., Nowak Machine, TOCA, Inc., Topo's, Village of the Oaks Living Center, and Westshore Lutheran School.



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For more information call (231) 773-9158 or visit: www.muskegonisd.org

We take great pride in our school. Please call to schedule a tour of our facilities.