



News

Minnesota Association of Alternative Programs Newsletter
Bradley Jensen, Editor

Here is all the latest news from the world of alternative education in the state of Minnesota. You can also check out our [website](#) for more information.

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year

By Brad Jensen
President-Elect

To say this is going to be an interesting year is truly and understatement, but remember we are in this for our students and we are in this together. It is times like this that MAAP can really be your resource multiplier. Throughout our state alternative programs are approaching their challenges as they always have with innovation and ingenuity. However, we may not have all the answers for every challenge. This is where MAAP can be a “go-to” asset.

1. State wide, MAAP offers our school question database for schools to ask questions across the state and track various responses.
2. You have your regional directors to call on for regional needs or connecting with school in your area.
3. MAAP STARS is a great network of students who are the experts how alternative education can work for them.
4. MAAP 101 the quintessential one-day program for staff that are new to the world of alternative education.
5. MAAP Conference, whether in-person or virtual it consistently provides practitioners in alternative education cutting edge information and advances in our unique profession.

These are just a few of the benefits MAAP can bring to your program.

Use MAAP to assist you through these interesting times.

MAAP STARS UPDATE by Patti Haasch

2020 Springtime Awards

Despite not holding our MAAP STARS 2020 Spring Events Conference, we still accepted nominations for the end of the year awards. Our “MAAP STARS Advisor of the Year” was awarded to: Ray Ostfeld, STARS Advisor at Owatonna Area Learning Center, Owatonna.



Ray was nominated by his students. Some things they wrote about Ray are: “Whenever you are in need of someone to talk to or get guidance from, Ray always makes time to sit down and talk with you.” “Ray makes sure that our student voices are being heard and our

ideas are being brought into reality. There’s not a day where Ray is not smiling or laughing. He always puts forth a positive attitude...” Those involved with MAAP STARS know that Ray has contributed to our STARS program for many years. We thank him for his dedication to his students and STARS. Congratulations Ray!

Next Year’s MAAP STARS Plans

Much is up in the air about what the new school year will look like, but we have the dates for the three state-wide events sponsored by MAAP STARS. They are:

- October 7 & 8, 2020 Fall Leadership Conference @ Lake Beauty Camp (**CAN-CELED** due to the health and safety concerns)
- February 17, 2021 STARS Legislative Day @ the State Capitol
- April 8 & 9, 2021 STARS Spring Events Conference in Mankato

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Please keep these dates in mind as you plan your school year. We still want to have the STARS Legislative Day at the State Capitol, but we will wait until closer to February to determine exactly how that will happen. Keeping in touch with Legislators is always a good thing!

Students honored this year for “MAAP Student of the Year” are:

Students honored this year for “MAAP Student of the Year” are: Chavarious Harwell, Jennings Community School, St. Paul;



Parker Dircz, Knights Academy ALP, St. Michael;



Victoria Kocher, Minnesota Valley Area Learning Center, Montevideo.

The nominees were all outstanding in their accomplishments and each one received a plaque crafted and donated by MAAP STARS Advisor Tom Wendt, Stillwater ALC. Congratulations to each of these deserving students especially during these trying times!

Springtime MAAP STARS Help Needed!!

MAAP STARS is a totally volunteer group of committed people who help make the three state-wide events happen for our students. It truly “takes a village” to make the STARS events work. We are grateful for all of those who do volunteer!

Our needs for this coming year are mostly for the Spring Events Conference. Kip & Liz Sackett have been the Co-chairs of the Spring and they are stepping back from that role. We will need a designated Chair and co-chair to handle the overall planning and details for the Spring Conference. Another very important role we need to fill is the Coordinator of the Volunteer Judges. Since the conference will hopefully be held in Mankato for the very first time, this will be an especially challenging position; creating a new “pool” of judges.

If you are interested in helping us plan the Spring 2021 STARS Events Conference, please contact: Patti Haasch, MAAP STARS Chair, pjhaasch@yahoo.com 612-751-2490.

The Alchemist

Each year MAAP publishes a literary magazine of student writings and artwork. Deb Nelson, retired teacher from the Cass Lake ALC, is our Volunteer Editor. You can find The Alchemist

Electronic Library on the MAAP website under the MAAP STARS tab. Check it out! We would like to see students work submitted year ‘round. You can email entries to: alchemisteditor@gmail.com at ANY time. This is an excellent opportunity for students to show off their creative and talented skills plus they can say they’ve been published which will look good on any resume’.

MAAP Facebook Page – Be sure to join!

To find the latest information and see what’s happening with MAAP and MAAP STARS, please “like” MAAP’s Facebook page. The address is: <https://www.facebook.com/maapmn> to keep up on all the good stuff happening.

MAAP 101

MAAP is once again proud to present MAAP 101 on Friday October 30, 2020. MAAP 101 has been a valuable introduction to alternative education for new and relatively new practitioners. However, it is also a good refresher for veterans. Being in education is a demanding profession. Being in alternative education can be particularly challenging but can also be very rewarding. The goal of MAAP 101 is to help you network with other passionate professionals to gain skills and tools to help keep great people in this profession for a long time.

With the current state of affairs, the MAAP 101 Conference is needed now more than ever. It has been refreshing to hear others from MDE and traditional schools talk about the importance of building relationships and caring for the whole child once distance learning hit. This has been the rallying cry of MAAP programs for years! Please join us as we will be providing learning opportunities that will help keep you and your schools on the forefront of innova-



tive and flexible learning opportunities based on strong relationships.

Unfortunately, we are choosing to host MAAP 101 as a virtual conference this year due to the concerns of the current pandemic but we still anticipate engaging conversations and networking opportunities for attendees. Attending live sessions on October 30 will cost \$30/person. Recorded sessions will be available on the MAAP website following October 30 at a cost of \$15/person. Registration and presenter details will be coming shortly. Stay tuned and mark your calendars!

2021 MAAP CONFERENCE

By Brian Cashman

As with what seems like everyone else, your MAAP Conference Planning Committee is working hard to determine the best way to offer our Annual Conference in a way that continues the strong tradition of the conference while also being safe for our conference presenters, attendees, and partners. No matter the format, we know two things for sure:

1. MAAP and the Annual Conference is based on relationships and we will do our best to make sure that this person-to-person connection is honored in the conference planning process and the resulting conference format.

2. We have three really great keynote speakers confirmed and ready-to-go for the conference! They are listed below and you are more than welcome to learn more about them by going to their respective websites: Kelly Holstine

- 2018-2019 Minnesota State Teacher of the Year
 - Intersectional Equity Consultant
 - Adjunct Education Professor
 - Speaker & Writer/Author
 - Previous MAAP Breakout Present-

er For more information, go to: (<https://www.kellydholstine.com/>) Stacey Owens-Howard

- Educator
- Speaker
- Entrepreneur
- Author For more information, go to: (<https://creatinz.com/>)

Dr. Tommy Watson

- Speaker
- Coach
- Consultant
- Former University of Minnesota Football Player For more information, go to: (<https://www.tawatson.com/>)

As part of the Conference Planning Committee's preparation, we have asked for feedback on our conference format via survey from many of you. For those that have received a survey (or two, in some cases) and have responded – thank you very much. If you have not received a survey and wish to offer feedback as to our conference format for 2021, please reach out to me at bcashman@gced.k12.mn.us. Thank you for the critical role you play in the lives of the young people in your community.