

## Early College

Early College accepts up to 45 students per year, and students must apply for admission to the program during their sophomore year of high school the spring prior to enrolling. Each participating school is allotted seats based on its total school headcount.

### Participating schools

- Belding Area Schools
- Carson City – Crystal Area Schools
- Central Montcalm Public Schools
- Flat River Academy
- Greenville Public Schools
- Ionia Public Schools
- Lakeview Community Schools
- Montabella Community Schools
- Tri County Area Schools
- Vestaburg Community Schools

### Benefits

- Earn a high school diploma and up to 60 college credits, tuition free.
- Reduce time in college by one year if an associate degree is earned.
- Successfully transition to a college environment.
- No tuition or fees paid by the students or their families.
- Potential savings of \$25,000 to \$50,000 (if a student planned to attend a university and live on campus).
- Student may still participate in activities at their home school such as athletics, performing arts and clubs.

### Parent information meetings

Early College Director Shannon Tripp visits all participating high schools each spring and offers multiple informational meetings so students and their families can learn more about the program. Applications are available at the informational meetings, in guidance counselor offices at participating high schools and online at [www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege](http://www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege), though attending an informational meeting is highly recommended.

### Information nights include:

- Tues, Feb. 12 at 6 p.m. at Ionia High School
- Tues, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at Carson City High School
- Mon, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m. at Greenville High School
- Tues, Feb. 26 at 6 p.m. at Central Montcalm High School
- Thurs, Feb. 28 at 6 p.m. at Lakeview High School
- Wed, March 6 at 6 p.m. at Vestaburg High School
- Thurs, March 7 at 6 p.m. at Montabella High School

### Eligibility

To be eligible to enroll in the 2019-2020 academic year, the following criteria must be met:

- Students who, as of Nov. 2018, are 10th grade high school students (home school, parochial, private or charter school students are also eligible.)
- Students must be residents of the State of Michigan.
- Students must be at least 14 years of age by Aug. 1, 2019.
- Students may not be in the United States under a J-1 Visa.

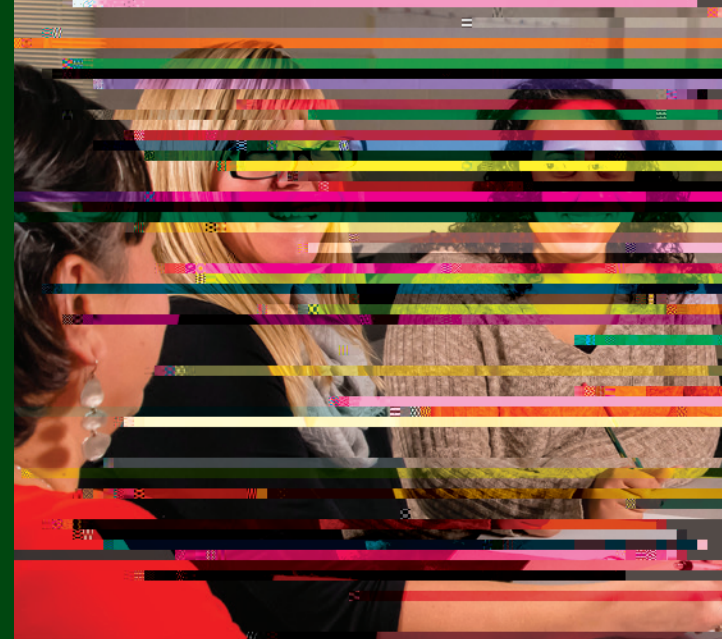
### To apply

Applications are due April 12 for the 2019-2020 academic year. Applications are available at the parent information meetings, in guidance counselor offices at participating high schools and online at [www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege](http://www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege), though attending an informational meeting is highly recommended.

If the number of applicants exceeds available seats, a lottery system is used to select participants.

### For more information:

- Visit [www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege](http://www.montcalm.edu/earlycollege)
- Email [earlycollege@montcalm.edu](mailto:earlycollege@montcalm.edu)
- Call Shannon Tripp at 616-225-5706



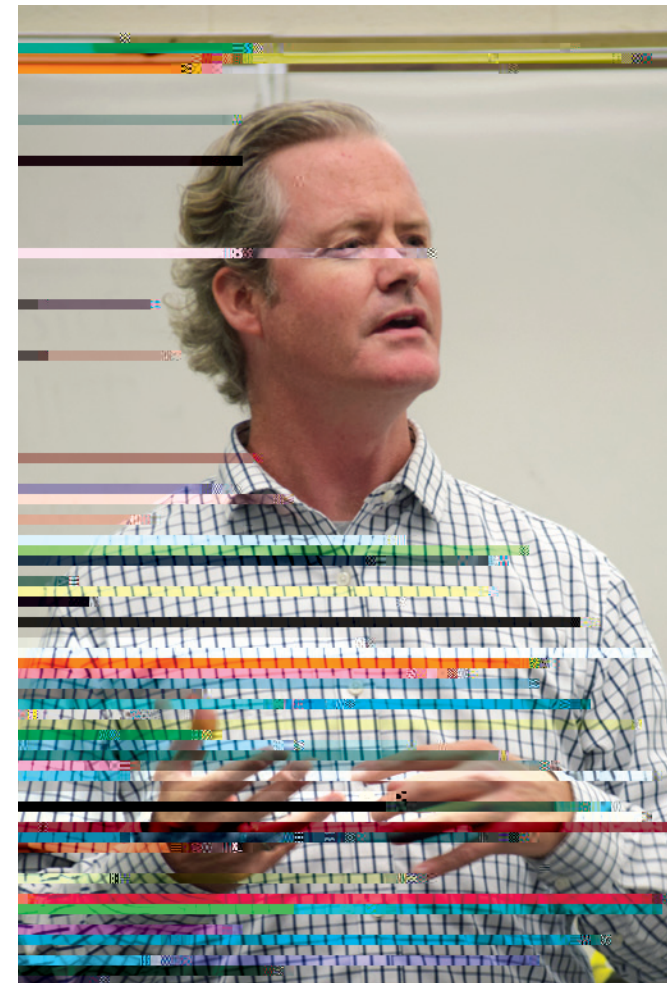
“We know that we have kids who have a lot of trauma in their childhood,” Tripp said. “ is an anonymous questionnaire that we’re using to try to find a way to help them. With trauma, we find there is a real lack of resiliency. Often, when something gets hard, students back off and run away from it. So, we’re trying to figure out how to help them push through their challenges.”

“What we keep finding is it all comes back to building relationships, so they have that relationship and support to be successful in the program,” Yonker added.

It’s another way in which mentoring fits into the equation. Each student is paired with a mentor – one of the three full-time instructors – at the beginning of the academic year, and they meet regularly to touch base.

“A lot of the conversations that are had are about academic difficulty or academic success, but they also learn a lot about the students outside of school,” Tripp said. “They learn a lot about what some of their struggles and difficulties are so we can help with things that maybe are road blocks to getting them here and being successful. We wouldn’t get that information if we didn’t have these mentor-mentee relationships.”

“I think another important role that our instructors play is providing that positive adult role model,” Tripp added. “It’s not that all of our students need that, but they know it’s available if they do.”



# ben stancil

## Instructor ‘sells’ English skills to area high schoolers through dual enrollment program