The ASK Program, (Authors Specialist, and Knowledge), provides students with the opportunity to ask questions to an author or a knowledgeable subject specialist in the topic they are reading about in the novel. The program uses excellent children's literature, journal writing and ask questions via video conferencing to promote reading for comprehension and understanding.

An ASK session is designed for one classroom of students (30-35 students). We will be connecting a maximum of three classes per session to the program. Each session is 45 minutes to 1 hour long. Each teacher should complete their own individual registration so that they will receive the emails from me and the materials are shipped directly to them.

You must use e-mail if you wish to participate in this program. We use e-mail to confirm your participation, send reminders and to contact you with any changes with the programs.

ASK Programs are free to you but they are not free. The MISD pays a fee to our authors and specialists. Therefore cancellation after the materials have been shipped to you will result in your school being assessed a $40.00 fee. You will be notified by a "reminder" e-mail before the materials are to be shipped with withdrawal instructions and a deadline date to withdraw. If we don't hear from you by the withdraw date in the reminder e-mail, we assume you are participating in the program and the materials will be shipped to you. It is important to note we want your participation, not your money. We usually have a waiting list for these programs so that others can participate if you cannot.

To find out more about our ASK program go to: http://www.misd.net/distancelearning or you can view the ASK process on YouTube, a short 14 minute video at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=79JsJ_E9srY

If you would like to be on the Interactive Distance Learning Program Listservs (ASK, Gadget Works, and Interactive DL) you can register at the web site http://www.misd.net/distancelearning/subscribe.htm We will be using this to announce our programs and their availability with periodic updated schedules.

If you have questions regarding the schedule, books/materials, authors or specialists contact Denise Jobe at 586-228-3415 or djobe@misd.net

If you have questions regarding the video equipment, technology, software or bridging of the programs contact Brian Boudreau at 586-228-3422 or bboudreau@misd.net

Registration web page is www.misd.net/dl
"A Place Called Home: Michigan's Mill Creek Story" with author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
Date: November 18, 2019
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 11:00 am - 12:00 am
Grade Level: 3 or 4 or whichever grade studies Michigan History:
Picture book, 48 pages
AR Points 0.5, ATOS Book Level 5.7, AR Quiz #159244 EN
Genre – Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Michigan History, Historical Fiction
Subjects – Mill Creek Michigan, Lumber mills, Family, Economy, Revolutionary War-Michigan, Fort Michilimackinac, Fort Mackinaw, Mackinac Island, Great Lakes
Description: During the American Revolution, the Campbell family watched friends and neighbors move across the Straits of Mackinac to a new island home on Mackinac Island, while they stayed behind to await word of the need for a lumber mill. "There's a land not far from here, once cleared by the hands of soldiers for firewood, where maple sugar runs and a fine, swift creek flows," states patriarch Robert Campbell. When permission comes from the British government to begin building the mill, preparations begin in earnest.

"What Do Animals Do in Winter?" with an Educational Specialist from the Buffalo Zoo
Date: December 2, 2019
Session times are: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm and 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm
Grades: 2 - 3, picture book, 48 pages
AR Points 0.5; ATOS Book Level 2.7; AR Quiz No. 31032 EN
Genre - Nonfiction Informational
Subjects - Animals-Habitats; Winter-Habitats, Animal Life
Series: Discovery Readers
Description: This is a look at animals all over the world, from the Monarch butterfly who flies from Canada to Mexico, to reindeer and whales who also seek warmer climates. Colorful illustrations help make this serious subject fun and easy to understand for the young child. The students will learn about animal habitats and how animals get ready for winter. The animals listed below is what the focus will be during the video conference with the Buffalo Zoo. These animals at the Zoo help us to discuss strategies that animals use to survive cold weather (adaptations, hibernate, migrate): Arctic fox, Polar bear, River otter, Snow leopard, Tiger, Lynx, Spotted turtle, Reindeer, Japanese macaque, Red panda, Bald eagle.

"Science with Scarlett What Color Is It?" with author Gary Abud
Date: December 10, 2019
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 10:50 am - 11:50 pm
Grades 2 - 5, Picture book, 36 pages
Genre: Science, Informational Fiction
Subjects: Light, Vision, Color Spectrum
Description: This is an engaging new children's picture book that allows readers to follow the beautifully-illustrated Scarlett and her charming teddy bear assistant, Mr. Bear, all while learning about our incredible gift of sight and discovering how our eyes are able to see the world in color. The activities and lessons in this book provides children with a fun and interactive learning experience alongside Scarlett and Mr. Bear. As the story unfolds, readers will engage in a fun and fundamental interactive experiment that models how the eye sees color, by exploring how shadows form and the colors of light mix to make all the shades of the rainbow appear before our eyes.
“Fires in the Wilderness: A Story of the Civilian Conservation Corps Boys” with author Jeffery L. Schatzer
Date: December 16, 2019
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 10:50 am - 11:50 pm; 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm
Grades: 3 - 8, Chapter book, 170 pages
Genre: Historical Fiction, Adventure
Subjects: Great Depression 1929; Bullies; Wildfires; Maturation (Psychology); Polish Americans; Upper Peninsula (Mich.); U.S. Army; CCC: Franklin D. Roosevelt
Description: It’s the Great Depression, and times are hard. Children are starving. Families are scraping by on government handouts and the kindness of strangers. There is no work to be had and no money to be earned. Two brothers take action to save their loved ones they apply for jobs in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Through their work & struggles, the boys learn hard lessons about life & the importance of character, teamwork, and leadership. Fires in the Wilderness is an inspiring story that provides readers with a peek into the past through the eyes of an immigrant boy.

“Traders in Time” with author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
Date: January 17, 2020
Session time available: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Grade: 3 - 5 or whichever grade studies Michigan History; Chapter book, 200 pages
AR Points 5.0, ATOS Book Level 4.8, AR Quiz 81737 EN
Genre: Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Michigan History, Historical Fiction
Subjects: Fur Traders, Siblings-Rivalry, Brothers, Time Travel, Metis-Indian Tribe-Michigan, Odawa-Indian Tribe-Michigan, Great Lakes History-1796
Description: Two brothers, Chris and Nick, go on a time traveling adventure. With the help of a turtle warrior rock and their new friends, Meggie La Framboise and her assistant LeClarie, Nick saves Chris from the clutches of an evil trader named McDougal. But the boys' adventures have only begun as they flee from McDougal to an Ottawa Indian camp and then on to Mackinac Island. Traders in Time vividly portrays the variety of people involved in the fur trade and brings to life the sights, smells, and drama taking place along the shores of Lake Michigan and at Fort Mackinac in the late 1700's.

“A Polar Bear Journey”, “Ice Bear and Little Fox”, and a new book added for the higher level “Science Comics: Polar Bears Survival on Ice” This is with an Educational Specialist from the Buffalo Zoo
Date: January 24, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am – 10:30 am; 10:50 am – 11:50 pm; 1:15 pm – 2:15 pm
Grades: 3rd, Picture Books, Comic book for 4th Grade
All books will be used for the program, as appropriate for student level.
Genre: Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Science
Subjects: Science, Geography and Map Skills, Polar Bears, Hibernation, Arctic Circle, Zoo Animals
Description: These books will help your students learn about Polar Bears and animal life in the Arctic. Through these stories students will be introduced to the concepts of habitat, predator-prey, range and more. The students will be able to see live polar bears that live at the Buffalo Zoo.

“The Book of North American Owls” with Educational Specialist from the Troy Nature Center
Date: January 31, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Grades 3 - 6
Soft Cover Book, 64 pages
AR Points: 1.0; ATOS Book Level 6.7; AR Quiz No. 58193 EN
Genre: Non-Fiction, Informational
Subjects - Owls; North American, Science
Description: Everything you ever wanted to know about owls on the North American continent. Features the 21 specials of owls and all their vital statistics. Includes a detailed, illustrated glossary with maps showing residence and breeding ranges. "This is a balanced, entertaining, and informative selection. The second half of the book is a
pictorial glossary of owls that highlights each of the 21 species that live on this continent; it includes good range maps, specific behavioral and physical facts, and calls. The attractive drawings, clean format, and generous size contribute to this appealing treat for nature fans." School Library Journal

“Balto and the Great Race” With an educational specialist from the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race Diane Johnson 
February 5, 2019
Session Times Are: 9:30 am until 10:30 am; 10:50 am until 11:50 pm
Grades: 3 – 5. Chapter book, 94 pages. AR 2.0; AR Quiz No. 31070 EN; ATOS Book Level: 6.3; Lexile® Measure: 870L.
Genre: Historical Fiction, Autobiography and Biography, Adventure. Subject: Sled Dogs, Courage, Bravery, Heroism, Disease and Illness Prevention, Balto, Nome-Alaska, Dog Sledding, Dog Racing, Diphtheria
Description: It’s 1925 in Nome, Alaska, and a tragedy strikes. Dozens of children in the remote town of Nome become sick with diphtheria. Without special medication, they will perish — and the nearest supply is 650 miles away. The only way to get the medication to Nome is by sled, but can the sled dogs get there in time? Heading bravely into a brutal blizzard, Balto leads the race for life!

“Just as Good: How Larry Doby Changed America’s Game” with author Chris Crowe 
Date: February 7, 2020
Session times available: 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Grade: 3 – 5, Picture book, 32 pages
AR Points 0.5, ATOS Book Level 4.9, AR Quiz 148948 EN, Lexile AD690L
Genre: Drama, Adventure, Historical Fiction, Biography
Description: It is 1948, and Homer and his dad are baseball crazy. Today Larry Doby and the Indians are playing Game Four of the World Series against the Boston Braves! Which gives a play-by-play narration capturing all the excitement of that particular game - and the special thrill of listening to it on the radio with family at home. Homer, a young African-American who was banned from a Little League baseball team because he was African-American. Homer was told that besides Jackie Robinson Negro ball players were worth “spit.” This game outcome reinforced to Homer that African-American people are just as good in baseball as anyone else can be.

“Train to Midnight” with author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos 
Date: February 10, 2020
Session times available: 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm and 2:00 pm—3:00 pm
Grades: 4 – 6, Chapter book, 179 pages
AR Points 5.0, ATOS Book Level 4.5, AR Quiz 81738 EN
Genre: Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Michigan History, Historical Fiction
Subjects: Underground Railroad, Fugitive Slaves, Slave Catchers, Family, Abolitionists, Time Travel, Traveling.
Description: Students will learn about life along the Underground Railroad by reading about the adventures of Malaika and her brother Sammy. The story follows these two brave youngsters as they escape slavery with the help of a Quaker couple and Daniel. The book leads them through Detroit to the Second Baptist church on Monroe.

“Mail by the Pail” with the Captain of the J. W. Westcott mail boat 
Date: February 13, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 10:50 am - 11:50 pm
Grades: 3 or 4, Picture book, 32 pages
AR Points 0.5, ATOS Book Level 4.2, AR Quiz 57946 EN
Genre: Realistic Fiction, Michigan History
Subjects: Great Lakes, Shipping Vessels, Postal Service, J. W. Westcott
Description: This book is a delightful factual story of how the men and women working on Great Lake freighters that sail on the Michigan lakes get their mail from a small boat named the J. W. Westcott II out of Detroit with the only floating zip code. Students will learn a lot about shipping and life on Great Lakes freighters.
“Mississippi Trial, 1955” with author Chris Crowe
Date: February 26, 2020
Session Times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 and 10:50 am - 11:50 pm
Grades: 6 to 12, Chapter book, 229 pgs.
AR Points 9.0, ATOS Book Level 5.5, AR Quiz 59706 EN; Lexile 870L
Genre: Historical Fiction, Contemporary Realistic Fiction, Drama
Subjects: Family Relations, Civil Rights, Racism, Murder, Mississippi, Till, Emmett 1941-1955
Description: While visiting relatives in Mississippi, Emmett Till, 14, spoke "ugly" to a white woman and was subsequently tortured and murdered. Two men were arrested and tried for this heinous crime, but in spite of substantial evidence, the men were found not guilty. Crowe has woven the plot of his novel around these historical events. Hiram, the fictional main character, who had lived with his grandparents in Mississippi as a child. Now 16, he returns to visit his aging grandfather, where he meets Emmett.

"Professor Tuesday’s Awesome Adventures in History, Book Three: The Underground Railroad" with author Jeffery L. Schatzer
Date: February 28, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 11:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm
Grades: 3 - 5, Chapter book, 208 pages
Genre: Historical Fiction, Adventure
Subjects: Time Travel, Underground Railroad-1800's, Slavery, Abolitionists, Friendship, Courage, Team Work, Histories-Genealogical
Description: Jesse and Tamika want to learn about how slaves escaped to freedom along the western route of the Underground Railroad. However, there is sometimes danger in the past! Professor Tuesday wonders how he will keep them safe as they explore history in his magnificent Tuesday Teleporter until he gets a crazy and wonderful idea. But, do the two classmates have the courage to witness the terrors of slavery and the frightening run to freedom? They are able to go back to various times of the 1800's to find out the information needed for a school project and so Tamika can find out about her family history.

“The Story of the Curse” with an inspiring 11 year old author, Darien Belcher Jr.
Date: March 6, 2020
This program is only for 30 minutes with 2 classes per session
Session times are: 9:30 am – 10:00 am and 10:15 am – 10:45 am
Grades: 2, 3 & 4; Picture Book, 38 pages
AR N/A; Lexile N/A
Genre: Fantasy, Fiction, Graphic
Subjects: Super Heroes, Friendships, Evil Witches, Super Powers, Curses/Spells, Action/Adventure
Description: Join Lego Boy and Superhero friends as they set out to remove the curse that was put on the people who were once free. The Superhero friends will work together to beat the bad guys: Powerful Paw-Paw, Slimey Boy, and Crabby Boy. Will the Superheroes remove the curse or will the bad guys defeat them?

“Watch Out.... Storms Ahead! Owlie Skywarn’s Weather Book”
Students will be asking questions to an educational specialist from the South Eastern NOAA Meteorology Office in Whitelake, Michigan.
March 09, 2020
Session Times Are: 9:30 am until 10:30 am and 10:45 am until 11:45 pm
Grades: 1 – 3. Picture book. Description: This is a 44-page worksheet book incorporating all the fragments of the 'Owlie Skywarn's Weather Book' series. The book includes chapters about all-weather circumstances with quizzes and storm worksheets along with Weather Hazards, Weather and Weather Warnings, Fill in the Blanks, Crossword Puzzle. The book has a couple of empty pages for the notes, an answer sheet to all activities, and a resources page with some weather-related web links. You will receive 35 copies for the students to use and keep.

"Kids Everything Weather" by Kathy Furgang
Students will be asking questions to an educational specialist from the South Eastern NOAA Meteorology Office in Whitelake, Michigan.

March 09, 2020
Session Times Are: 12:45 pm until 1:45 pm and 2:00 pm until 3:00 pm
Description: Weather can be wild, freaky, and fascinating! How does it all happen and how do we know what we do? All kids need to know about weather, and all of its power will be found in the pages of this colorful, energetic, and accessible book. Packed with fun facts and amazing photographs and an in-depth look at these amazing natural phenomena's.

“Journey Back to the Lumberjack Camp” with author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
Date: March 10, 2020
Session times available: 10:45 am - 11:45 am and 12:45 pm - 1:45 pm
Grades: 3 - 5 or whichever grade studies Michigan History; Chapter book, 170 pages
AR Points 4.0, ATOS Book Level 4.5, AR Quiz 81732 EN
Genre – Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Michigan History, Historical Fiction
Subjects – Lumberjacks, Lumber Camps, Bullies, Time travel, Great Lakes Lumber Era, Michigan History-1870
Description: This dream-quest adventure follows Gus McCarty from present day middle school back to the lumbering days of Michigan. This is a humorous tale of a young man’s adventures with rough lumberjacks named Moonshine and Rat-hole Andy and life in a lumberjack camp. Students enjoy learning about life in the camps and the lumberjack vocabulary.

“Night of the Twisters” with a Meteorologist / Educational Specialist from the NOAA Weather Office
Date: March 16, 2020 with the same times as below
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 10:50 am - 11:50 pm
Grades: 5 - 6, Chapter book, 153 pages
AR Points 4.0, ATOS Book Level 4.7, AR Quiz #628 EN, Lexile 790L
Genre: Science Fiction, Adventure, Action, Drama, Realistic Fiction
Subjects: Culture and Diversity, Character and Values, Friends and Friendship, Tornadoes, Grand Island Nebraska, Survival, Responsibility, Choices & Consequences
Description: Night of the Twisters is based on a true story of the night that nine tornadoes struck Grand Island, Nebraska in 1990. This fictionalized account follows three children as they struggle to survive the tornadoes. It is a fast moving story that your students will enjoy.

“The Adventures of Joe-Joe Nut & Biscuit Bill, Case #2; Mineral Mischief” with author Renee Hand
Date: March 23, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am and 10:50 am - 11:50 pm
Grades: 3 or 4; chapter book, 74 pgs. AR Points NA
Genre – Fantasy, Adventure, Mystery
Subjects – Rocks & Minerals, Rock Collecting, Mystery, Bullying, Detective Stories
Description: What would you do if you were surrounded by six scary lions, each the size of a motorcycle? That’s the predicament in which Joe-Joe Nut finds himself as this book opens. After he and his partner, a duck named Biscuit Bill, solve that problem, they receive another call. Someone has stolen Maple Moo’s rare and valuable gemstone made up of benitoite and neptunite. In addition to the fascinating story and the mystery element which will easily hold the reader’s interest, there is a lot of information about rocks and minerals embedded into the text, plus several pages in the back with further material about different kinds of rock, a glossary, suggested experiments, and the rock cycle chart.

“A Faraway Home: An Orphan Train Story” with author Janie Lynn Panagopoulos
Date: March 31, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am—10:30 am and 11:00 am - 12:00 pm
Grades: 3 -5, Chapter book, 198 pages
AR Points 6.0, ATOS 5.6, AR Quiz No. 159185 EN
Genre: Realistic Fiction, Adventure, Michigan History, Historical Fiction
Description: This heartfelt story begins on the streets of New York City in 1854 where thousands of homeless children, immigrants and natives are fighting to survive "just one more day". Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, made a plan to rescue the children by getting them out of the city to loving rural homes in America's growing Midwest. The first location to accept these homeless children is Dowagiac, Michigan, a railroad whistle-stop on the track-line to Chicago.

Various Books - ASK programs with author Johnathan Rand on April 17, 2020
Because of the amount of books that I have on hand each session will be a different book
Session One: 9:30 - 10:30 will be “Freddie Fernortner #3: A Haunting We Will Go”
Grades 1st and 2nd; Chapter book, 96 pages; ATOS 3.2
Genre: Action and Adventure; Mystery, Fiction. Description: When Chipper explains that a haunted house might be nearby, they decide to investigate. Just what is the mysterious shape in the window? Floors creak. Doors slam. It must be haunted! Join Freddie, Darla, and Mr. Chewy as they bravely explore the ruins of a haunted house in the woods.
Session Two: 11:00 - 12:00 will be "American Chillers: New York Ninjas"
Session Three: 1:15 - 2:15 will be "Michigan Chillers: Mackinaw City Mummies"
Grades: 3 – 6. Chapter book, 200 pages. AR Points 3.0; ATOS Book Level 3.8, AR Quiz No 73506 EN. Genre: Fiction, Mystery, Fantasy. Subjects: Adventure-Danger; Myths; Science Fiction

"A Cool Summer Tail" with an Educational Specialist from the Buffalo Zoo
Date: May 27, 2020
Session times are: 9:30 am - 10:30 am; 11:00 am - 12:00 pm; 1:15 pm - 2:15 pm
Grades 2 - 4, Picture Book, 32 pages
AR Points 3.4, Lexile: AD700L
Genre: Informational Text, Nonfiction
Description: How do humans stay cool in the summer? A Cool Summer Tail tells us about all of the different ways that animals and humans alike are able to stay cool in the hot summer sun. The animals listed below is what the focus will be on for the video conference with the Buffalo Zoo. These animals at the Zoo help us to strategize that animals use to stay cool (use water, dust baths, shade, burrows, adaptations, etc): Lion, Giraffe, Poison dart frog, Meerkat, Lizard (example: blue tongued skink), Tortoise or river turtle, Gorilla, Rainforest birds (examples: roseate spoonbill, scarlet ibis, and parrot), lesser hedgehog tenrec, Two-toed sloth