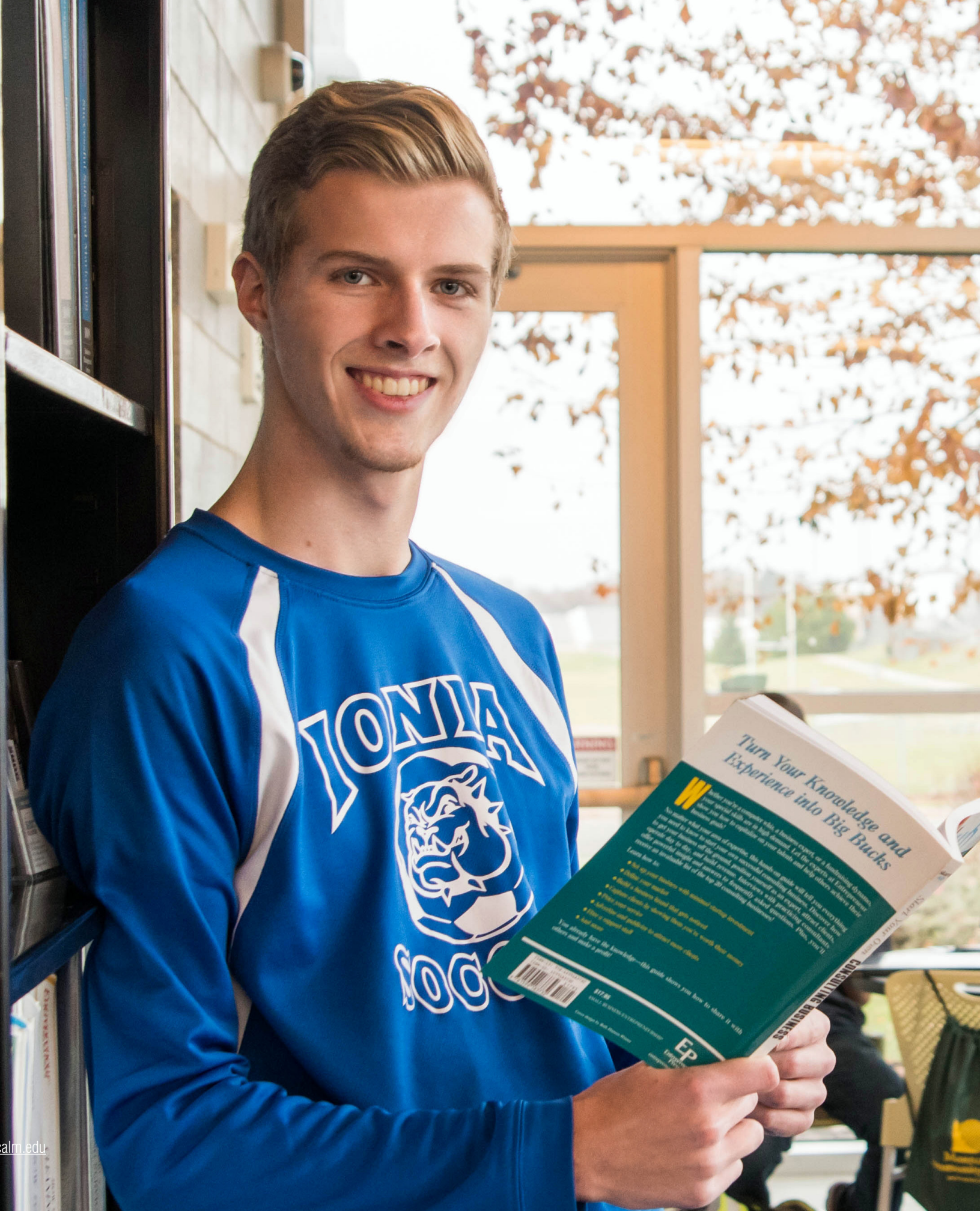


**“It has
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*— Owen Sweeney
is a 17-year-old
dual-enrolled student
from Ionia High School*



GET a JumpStart on COLLEGE with DUAL ENROLLMENT

When Owen Sweeney graduates from high school this spring, he will have completed enough college credits to be well on his way to earning a college degree, too.

The 17-year-old Ionia High School senior has been taking classes at Montcalm Community College through the institution's dual enrollment program. By the time he graduates from high school, Sweeney expects to have also completed 36 college credits.

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.

Sweeney said he learned about dual enrollment last year.

"I was running through classes to take at my high school, and I was kind of limited on my options," he said. "I had already gone through most of the core classes, but I came across an English class that was going to be offered on our campus during regular school hours. My dad delved into it a little more and found out about the dual-enrolled classes offered through MCC. We both agreed that it sounded like a good idea."

Before registering for classes at MCC, Sweeney checked to be sure the classes he enrolled in would transfer to Grand Valley State University (GVSU), where he intends to pursue a bachelor's degree in business.

"I wanted to take advantage of the opportunity and get ahead with some of the core classes that I would have to take at the college level," he said. "It has been a big cost savings – I haven't had to pay anything out of pocket."


Gabe Platte, of Ionia, is also taking advantage of dual enrollment through MCC.

The 18-year-old homeschool student decided to enroll in Portland Virtual School this year to complete his senior year of high school.

"I chose to participate in MCC's dual enrollment program because I felt it was a good way to fulfill transfer credits that I could use toward a four-year degree," Platte said.

However, after completing his first semester at MCC, Platte's plans have changed. He is working toward earning an associate degree from MCC in Computer Information Technology Management and then he plans to enter the workforce.

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“Whether taking dual enrollment classes on campus, online or in their high school building, dual enrollment students are...accumulating college credits without accumulating debt.”

— MCC Recruitment Director
Emily Carmey

Students from 18 schools are dual enrolled in classes at MCC this spring. *Pictured in front, from left, are Catlynne Decker, Lakeview; Regan Wester, Central Montcalm; Gabe Platte, Portland; and Rachel Stoudt, Carson City. In back, from left, are Owen Sweeney, Ionia; and Johnathon Letourneau, Greenville.*



“While working, I intend to save money and be able to pay out of pocket for classes to continue my education in graphic design,” he said.

Like Sweeney, Platte realized he could get a jump start on college while still in high school by dual enrolling in classes at MCC. Plus, he likes the college atmosphere.

“One of the things I have enjoyed about dual enrollment is that I have had the opportunity to meet students and staff of different ages and with different beliefs and life experiences, which would not have been possible in a traditional high school environment,” he said.

Sweeney said he appreciates the transition from high school to college, too.

“It took me a little while to adjust,” he said. “I’ve always been naturally good at high school classes – I worked hard, but I didn’t have the work ethic that I have now.”

Dual enrollment at MCC continues to grow. Last fall, 262 high school students enrolled at the college, up 19 percent from the previous fall semester. This semester, 249 students are participating in the college’s dual-enrollment program, an increase of eight percent from last spring.

In 2017, the MCC Board of Trustees approved an in-district tuition rate for all dual-enrolled students, including those who are attending 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.

For more information:

Visit www.montcalm.edu/dual-enrollment
Email Recruitment Director Emily Carmey at emily.carmey@montcalm.edu
Call 989-328-1277

Schools participating in MCC’s dual-enrollment program this spring include:

Carson City-Crystal High School
Carson City-Crystal alternative
Central Montcalm High School
Cedar Springs High School
Creative Technology Academy
Douglas Welch High School
Fellowship Baptist Academy
Flat River Academy
Fulton High School
Greenville High School
Ionia High School
Lakeview High School
Montabella High School
Niles High School
Portland Virtual School
Success Virtual Learning Center
Tri County High School
Vestaburg High School

In the past, students also have participated from Alma High School, Belding High School, Lowell High School and Saranac High School.