



Marshall Community  
Credit Union

## MCCU Donates Funds to Fremont International Academy

Marshall Community Credit Union recently learned of a need for Spanish/bilingual books at Fremont International Academy, which is part of Battle Creek Public Schools in Battle Creek. Fremont International Academy is an International Baccalaureate candidacy school focused on providing students with a globally based educational experience.

Fremont International Academy is the only one of its kind in Southwest Michigan. As such, the school has been working hard to ensure the students there receive that globally based education. “The 2020-21 school year is our second year being open,” said resident Spanish teacher, Jessica Swisher-Zimmerman. “In that time, I’ve recognized the lack of Spanish and bilingual books to use as curriculum supports and resources for our students,” she continued.

Research shows that children who are bilingual, score higher on standardized tests, are capable of paying attention longer than monolingual students, and make more money over the course of their careers. There is also research demonstrating that having a variety of books representing different languages and cultures increases student’s motivation for reading. Which is imperative, as Michigan currently scores 48<sup>th</sup> out of 50 states on reading achievement, and achievement will only improve through motivation.

“At MCCU we are currently assessing the impact we are having on our diverse communities,” said MCCU Financial Education Coordinator, Andrea Tucker. “So when we heard about Fremont International Academy, and what they were doing to try to bring a bilingual literacy exposure to their students, we had to be a part of it,” Tucker continued.

MCCU recently donated \$750 towards the purchase of several Spanish and bilingual books for the school’s library. “Our plan is to allow students to be able to check out these books to take home, after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. In addition, they will be resources our classroom teachers can utilize and will continue to serve more students as our school expands to include 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the upcoming two years,” Swisher-Zimmerman said.

Marshall Community Credit Union is a federally insured full-service financial institution with offices located in Marshall, Battle Creek, and Coldwater. For more information on products, services or membership, please contact 269.781.9885 or visit [marshallcommunitycu.com](http://marshallcommunitycu.com).

*Photo Caption: MCCU donated \$750 to Fremont International Academy to help purchase Spanish and bilingual books for their library. In the photo (L-R) are MCCU’s Financial Education Coordinator, Andrea Tucker, Fremont’s Spanish teacher, Jessica Swisher-Zimmerman, Fremont’s Principal, Brandon Phenix, Fremont Kindergarten teacher, Lena Oliver, and Realtor with ReMax/Perrett Associates, Kaciana Champlin.*





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