

'An inviting space'

MCC features a variety of activities in its recently remodeled Woodside Café

By Shelly Springborn

Going to class is just part of what college is about.

It's also a time to meet new people, explore your interests and have some fun.

Montcalm Community College's Woodside Café recently got a facelift to make it more inviting for students and visitors. Located in the Activities Building on the college's Sidney campus, the Woodside Café is at the heart of MCC's recreational center and is a unique place for people to gather.

"A fresh coat of paint and new carpet has really lighted up this space and made it a brighter place to be," said Director of Facilities Taylor Male. "We have also added some new seating, oversized bean bags, games and a stage for musical performers. Our goal was to create an inviting space for people to hang out, enjoy some entertainment and just take a break."

Students can enjoy a game of table tennis, foosball, air hockey, shuffleboard or pool while taking a breather in between classes.

"We're working on expanding our offerings to give students more opportunities to be involved in activities on campus and to feel like they're a part of MCC's campus community," said Athletic Director Hunter Redman. "It's really about creating a stronger college experience here that's similar to what they might experience at a larger college or university."

"Our goal is to offer more opportunities for students to participate in activities that interest them."

– Taylor Male, Director of Facilities

Making its debut this fall is MCC's Spectrum of Art Series, which aims to inspire the MCC community in areas of diversity, originality, culture and openness through the demonstrations of local West Michigan artists.

Live music and entertainment is featured on a stage in the Woodside Café, and students and visitors have the opportunity to participate in open mic events, too.

Other activities are also being planned throughout the year, such as welcome week to kick off each semester, a fall festival and a variety of entertainers.

"We recognize that arts and cultural growth are essential to the well-being of students and to their intellectual, cultural and social development outside of the context of the institution's regular classroom instruction," Male said. "Our goal is to offer more opportunities for students to participate in activities that interest them." ■

