The School Connection Program is a WMU-initiated, community engaged effort to develop and implement a comprehensive, off-site alternative educational program for middle school students in the Parchment School District.

**Program Outline:**
- The School Connection Program is an intervention for at-risk students to provide opportunities for additional academic and behavioral supports.
- Students in the School Connection Program have been recommended by their educational leader, principal of the Middle School.
- Common behaviors that would elicit this intervention are having trouble staying on task, difficulty completing work, frequent absences and having office discipline referrals.
- Students check-in every morning with the program director and teachers and receive a points based on program-wide expectations.
- Weekly reports were sent home so parents can monitor progress.

**Lessons Learned:**
- Scholars thrived in a smaller learning environment.
- Scholars left SCP with increased self-advocacy, self-awareness, and self-regulation skills.
- Some Scholars struggled with the transition back to the home school and needed additional support.
- In response, a weekly book club met on Mondays during the MN period to continue the small learning community.
- Scholars might better benefit from increased support in the school environment during the school year. “Summer camp-style” programming might support social emotional development and might fill the void commonly experienced by MS and HS students during out of school times.
- Community and Campus partnerships allowed SCP to be a success. There were over 10 partners.

**Next Steps:**
- Continued follow-up into High School, i.e., periodic visits, pre-intern student assignment to classes.
- Partner with WIRE Program for summer STEM camp and Layla’s Cool Pops Youth Summer Employment Initiative.

**Scholar Reflections:**
- “This is the first time I have ever felt hopeful about school.”
- “I am doing a lot better in my work and feel more confident about myself.”
- “I now pay attention and can calm myself.”