

# CLEARED FOR TAKEOFF

New drones course helps students ascend towards careers, college



**MADISON, NY** - Students at Madison Central School have been learning to fly this fall. Before you come to campus looking for our non-existent airstrip, we probably should tell you that it's all part of our "Intro to Drones" class.

"Intro to Drones" is a new course led by Mr. William Hunter. It is specifically for high school students who will be sixteen or older by or around the end of the academic year. That is the age to apply for a Part 107 commercial drone pilot's license through the Federal Aviation Administration. Twelve students are currently participating in the course.

The course provides a comprehensive overview in the field of remote piloted aircraft systems. Throughout the fall semester, students have been constructing their aircraft from kits. Those kits were purchased through a grant secured by District Treasurer, Mel Brouillette. Select components have also been acquired through the Drones Professional Learning Group at Madison-Oneida BOCES, which Hunter participates in. The finished aircraft are taken outdoors throughout the week, weather permitting, so students can get hands-on experience with supervised flight time.

The students also gain experience with maintenance. They are tabbed with keeping their drones in top condition. That provides a lot of opportunity for learning experiences in adjacent fields such as mechanical engineering and computer science.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

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# THE MESSENGER



## New drones course helps students ascend towards careers, college (continued)

“The biggest thing is the building, care, and maintenance,” Hunter said. “We’ve had to do a fair amount of repair work as we’ve learned to fly them. Some of the carbon fiber frames have been broken, we’ve taken those apart. We’re going to use a CNC machine in the tech shop to cut carbon fiber replacement frames. We work on programming the drones through the INav software, and then any kind of troubleshooting we iron out as we go. The kids also have to solder the boards and flight controllers on, so they’re learning some soldering skills.”

The fall semester is exclusively an in-house course credit opportunity for students, but that will crescendo into opportunities to take steps towards college and careers in the Spring. The Spring portion of the course will be a dual-credit offering, with three college credits available through Mohawk Valley Community College. At the end of that course, students will have the opportunity to secure an FAA Part 107 License if they can pass the examination.

The Part 107 license opens doors of opportunity for students who wish to continue in the field, as it allows for commercial operation. Successful students could find contracted or permanent opportunities with real estate, law enforcement, the armed forces and more.

Regardless of a student’s path beyond the course, there are life lessons to be learned for all who participate.

“I hope they learn to fly responsibly,” Hunter said. “I also hope that this course helps them develop a bit more willingness to fix something when it’s broken rather than just trash it and buy something new. They’ve seen that a lot in the last few months. They do break and we’ve had to troubleshoot and work through issues. I think that’s important. Hopefully, some of these students come out of this with their Part 107 and they’ll be career-ready right out of high school.”



Students have the ability to fly their drones from a first person perspective with these augmented reality headsets!



Mr. Hunter's personal drone can also be seen flying alongside our student drones. This drone took the photo of our school that makes up the background of this issue's front page!



It's hard not to crack a smile when you get a turn at the controls of one of these drones!

## MCS Receives State Mental Health Grant

MADISON, NY - The Madison Central School District is proud to announce that it has received a Student Mental Health Support Grant from the New York State Office of Mental Health. The grant took effect for the 2022-23 academic year and provides the district with \$1,050,054 over a five-year period.

This grant funding opportunity was obtained through a competitive application process. Districts were required to produce a plan to illustrate how they will utilize the funding in accordance with the following objectives:

- Enhancing access to mental health services.
- Implementing integrated mental health supports.
- Strengthening partnerships with existing supports in mental health systems, as well as the larger child-serving system.

Within the plan, Districts had to include a budget narrative, a staffing plan and an itemized budget overview that accounted for the requested funds.

The District is using the new funding to enhance several key initiatives. Some examples include:

- Strengthening their existing mental health partnerships with ICAN (Integrated Community Alternatives Network)
- Support for community events hosted by the District
- Guest speakers specializing in topics with a mental health focus, such as bullying and mindfulness.
- Enhancing and developing the District's commitment to the RULER Approach for Social and Emotional Learning. (An evidence-based SEL approach developed by Yale University's Center for Emotional Intelligence)

Madison Central School District Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Special Education Mr. Brian Latella is enthusiastic about the positive impact this funding can provide to the District's staff and students.

"We are just extremely excited about the support and opportunities that the New York State Office of Mental Health is giving to support the social, emotional and mental well-being of our faculty, students, and families," Latella said. "That is a huge priority for our kids right now. Our grant application was developed to strengthen those areas within Madison Central School."

So far, the funding has been utilized to support a wide variety of initiatives. Our Back-to-School Community Picnic and school day appearances by singer-songwriter, Jared Campbell, were both funded in part by this grant. We have also implemented a robust new program of after-school clubs and organizations, including cooking club, mindfulness club, and LEGO club.

With the help of this funding, the District looks forward to providing additional opportunities for students to reach their full potential inside and outside of the classroom for years to come.



## Serving Those Who Served

2022 marked a true return to form for one of our most treasured MCS traditions as we hosted our Veterans Day breakfast on Thursday, November 10th.

Nearly 20 local veterans joined us in the MCS Cafeteria to enjoy a hot breakfast prepared by our MCS Culinary Team, with table service provided by National Honor Society members. Elementary students brought cards and other tokens of appreciation.

While we can never fully re-pay our debt of gratitude, it is our privilege and our pleasure to give back to these incredible members of our community.

# A Fishy Friend Makes His MCS Debut

Students in Agriculture and Technology classes have made a new and unusual friend in the classroom this Fall.

Newly-hired agriculture and technology instructor Mr. Phil Keville has brought a porcupine puffer fish, named "Puffy", to live at MCS and become part of the curriculum.

The goal is to involve Puffy in some way throughout different courses and grade levels by providing a unique demonstration of saltwater aquaculture.

The introduction to woodworking class was tasked with building a shelf to go over the tank. That shelf will create space for a filtration system that will create the opportunity for plants to feed off of the nutrients created from Puffy's waste products.

Students also get a lesson in creativity along the way. While Puffy maintains a relatively specialized ecology as a saltwater fish, a lot of the items used to house and maintain a proper habitat are things you can buy at a hardware store. We look forward to Puffy's contributions to our classrooms for years to come.



## Honor Roll Announced For First Marking Period

The Madison Central School District is pleased to recognize the following students for achieving High Honor Roll and Honor Roll status for the first marking period of the 2022-23 academic year.

### High Honor Roll ( 94.0+ Average )

**12th:** Abigail Cook, Anthony Dodge, Tyler Fellows, Mara Wasuck

**11th:** Grace Lutke, Mackenzie Cotter, Ayden Zbock, Kyle Peavey, Molly Eastman, Isabella Champion, Colin Pittman, Camryn Parmon, Emily Turcotte, Michael McBride, Andrew Nichols, Summer Butler

**10th:** Kendra Winterton, Catherine McBride, Xavier Jones, Janet Coleman

**9th:** Emma Bergeron

**8th:** Lillian Kazlauskas, Astrid Burkhart-Spiegel, Lewis Joslyn, Lillian Reichert

**7th:** Elijah Zbock, Tyler Cotter

### Honor Roll ( 88.0 - 93.9 Average )

**12th:** Brianna Osborne, Kaitlyn Maine, Carolanne Hopkins, Fiona Abrams, Delaney Livermore, Caleb Lutke, Lillyan Harvey, Braxton Fleming, Katie Schultz, Colby Bingel

**11th:** Maxwell Sykes, Emma Godfrey, Rylee Strong, Danika Curtis, Rhiley Montoya, Mackenzie Moyer, Shawn Murray, McKenzie LaMunion, Olivia Crane

**10th:** Matilyn Hackett, Adrianna Faber, Owyn Bishop, Zachary Leuenberger, Dylan Dougherty

**9th:** Jayson Millis, Nicholas Last, Zach Cotter

**8th:** Lucas Neff, Jeremiah Rutkowski, Alfred Nolan, Kyleigh Alsheimer-Mennig

**7th:** Zackery Kirley, Alyssa Braun, Bella DeFazio

# Behind The Mask

## ...And The Microphone!

While elementary classrooms at Madison Central School filled their pom pom buckets for good behavior, The Madison PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports) team was hard at work crafting a special surprise to lead students into Thanksgiving break.

On Tuesday, November 22nd, students gathered in the Auditorium for the first-ever edition of the "MADsked Singer".

Based on one of television's most popular non-sports programs, this fifteen minute video performance involved eight different MCS staff members. Each performed for students in a pre-recorded video for approximately one minute. During the video, their identities were concealed by a mask and some sort of costume.

Students were given a clue about each singer, and a microphone was brought around the room for people to guess each one.

The big reveal came at the end of the video. Students had a lot of fun guessing and seeing who was correct.

## Our Performers



**We won't spoil the surprise here!**  
**Head to our Facebook Page to see the performances and guess for yourself!**

## A BRIGHT IDEA

Mrs. Donohue had a BRIGHT idea for her sixth graders on Monday, October 31st. The class held a "Glow Day", where the regular fluorescent lights were turned off, and UV lights took their place!

Students spent the class period figuring out decimal place value riddles for their upcoming unit quiz. They used highlighters to write out their answers so they could see them glowing on paper! Each student was also given a glow bracelet to wear and take home!



## Made in Madison

Once the queen of the MCS court, Cori Hughes '88 stays in the game.

When Cori Hughes first came to Madison, she wasn't sure what to expect. She had just moved a short distance from nearby Waterville, but a short distance can be a tall order for any eighth grader.

"When you're in eighth grade, you may as well be moving off the face of the earth, even if you're moving like five minutes away," Hughes said. "I didn't really know anyone there (at Madison), but the community was immediately welcoming to me and that was important."

What she found was a new place to call home, and a launching pad for a lifelong journey in the game of basketball. That journey spans from Madison, to the bright lights of Boston, and presently to her life as a college basketball coach in Newport, Rhode Island.



In need of a way to make friends at Madison, Hughes turned to sports to find her place in school. She participated as a three sport athlete at Madison in soccer, softball and basketball, and led Madison to success in all three.

Despite never playing a minute of organized basketball before coming to MCS, her star shone brightest on the basketball court. Hughes turned in a hoops career that included 1,173 career points, two Section III Championships, and an appearance in the 1988 State Final Four. She was also part of a special starting lineup that elevated the profile of the MCS athletic program. All five starters on the 1987-88 squad went on to pursue collegiate athletics.

While she was successful on the court, the bonds she formed on and off the playing surface were equally as important. She credits her basketball coach and history teacher, Jim Ford, for having a profound influence on her growth at Madison.

"Mr. Ford was very instrumental in developing me as a player, and also influenced me to want to be a coach," Hughes said. "He was like a father to me. I didn't really have a father in my life and he filled that void and cared about me."

After graduating from MCS in 1988, Hughes moved on to a Division I basketball program at Boston University. Her college career presented tremendous challenges at first.

"What I remember most was being absolutely overwhelmed," Hughes said. "I went from graduating with 42 people to a school with almost 30,000 undergraduates... I was very overwhelmed that first year and it took me that year to really get my feet under me. I also got injured that first year and that was tough, but we had success as a team and I made really good friends."

With overcoming challenges came opportunities. Hughes persevered through a difficult start to her college career to find success as a junior and senior when her number was called for the Terriers. She became the first junior captain in the history of the program.

"I think a lot of that had to do with a lot of the things I learned from Coach Ford when I was at Madison," Hughes said. "It was persevering, hard work, taking responsibility for myself and not blaming other people. I think it all really informed the way I approached trying to get better." *(Continued on Page 7)*



## Made in Madison (Continued)

After four years of college hoops, Hughes started her career as an educator. She taught English and media while coaching basketball in Massachusetts and New Hampshire. While she loved teaching and mentoring, she wanted her career to be closer to the game she loved. That desire led Hughes to bet on herself and make a direct transition to a job as a collegiate head coach. After six years as the head women's basketball coach at Daniel Webster College, she moved to her present position as the head women's basketball coach at Salve Regina University. She also serves as the athletic department's senior woman administrator. At Salve Regina, Hughes has become one of the most prominent collegiate coaches in all of New England. In sixteen years, she has piloted the Seahawks to four NCAA tournament appearances.

A death in a friend's family brought Cori back to Madison this summer. She stopped by to tour the building and was astonished by the changes to campus, many of which were brought about by the most recent capital project.

"It's completely different to me, and of course it's been 30 years, so that would make sense," Hughes said.

She also made sure to say hello to an old friend, as she enjoyed a wonderful meal with Mr. and Mrs. Ford.

On that note, Cori left us with some timely advice to share with all of you.

"Don't be afraid to leave, and don't be afraid to come back," Hughes said. "It's a big world out there... To experience something new and go different places is really important. But you can always go back. They say you can't go home again, and that's not true. Madison is a wonderful place to live, it's a wonderful place to grow up, and I'm sure it's a great place to raise children. But you should go out, see the world, and when you've had enough of that, you can always come home."

## Winterton Selected to Area All-State Festival

The Madison Central School District would like to congratulate sophomore Kendra Winterton on her selection to a New York State School Music Association Area All-State Ensemble. Winterton was selected to participate in the Mixed Choir for Zone 8, which includes Madison, Chenango, Schoharie, Delaware and Otsego Counties.

The group was made up of students who receive nearly perfect scores on their Level 6 NYSSMA Audition Solos, which is the highest level a student can be evaluated at.



These solo evaluations are extremely competitive, and are reviewed by highly qualified adjudicators.

Selection to Area All-State is among the highest honors a music student can receive in New York State schools. Last Spring, over 6,500 sophomores and juniors from across the state of New York prepared for All-State evaluations in the hope of being selected to an ensemble.

The Area All-State mixed choir is made up of the best and brightest choral music students from around the region, with an elite level of attention to detail going into their rehearsals and performances. It is not uncommon for these students to dedicate significant amounts of time practicing outside of school.

Selected students come together for a weekend to rehearse a concert program. They work together for 8-10 hours and then put on a performance of the selected works.

This year's performance was held at Walton Central School and served as a remarkable showcase of student talent.

Kendra continues the tremendous MCS tradition of sending representatives to the Area All-State Festival. Last year, Class of 2022 seniors Myah Hauck and Anna McNamara represented Madison at the same event.

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## MCS Athletes Wrap Up Exciting Fall Season

Student-athletes at Madison Central School had another enjoyable fall season on the playing fields in 2022.

The Madison boys soccer team, coached by Michael Strong, recorded wins over Brookfield, Otselic Valley, and Richfield Springs this Fall. Junior Zach Canning led the Blue Devils with eight goals, including a hat trick performance against Otselic Valley. Madison will miss the contributions of seniors Caleb Lutke, Logan Scalzo, Anthony Dodge and Colby Bingel.

The Madison girls soccer team, coached by Herb Bingel, logged wins over Brookfield, Utica Academy of Science, and McGraw this fall. Mara Wasuck paced the Blue Devils with five goals, while Cameryn Stanfield had an impressive season in goal by turning away over 80 percent of the shots she saw. The program will graduate five seniors: Wasuck, Hannah Canning, Carolanne Hopkins, Brianna Usborne and Abby Cook.

As of this writing, varsity and junior varsity basketball seasons have begun at Madison, and the boys modified basketball team has also started its schedule. Girls modified basketball begins in January.

The football programs at Morrisville-Eaton also enjoyed great success with Madison athletes involved. The Warriors varsity football team won the Section III Eight Man Football Championship with Madison's Landyn Smith participating, while the Morrisville-Eaton modified team went undefeated. We have continued our partnership with our Route 20 neighbors this winter with participation in wrestling and volleyball.



## Stay Connected!

### SCHOOL ADDRESS

7303 US-20, MADISON, NY 13402

### SCHOOL WEBSITE

WWW.MADISONCENTRALNY.ORG

### ON FACEBOOK

MADISON CENTRAL SCHOOL - MADISON, NY

### IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

TO REACH MADISON CENTRAL SCHOOL BY PHONE, YOU SHOULD FIRST DIAL 315-893-1878, OR 315-893-1879. WHEN PROMPTED, DIAL THE EXTENSION OF THE PARTY YOU ARE TRYING TO REACH.

DISTRICT OFFICE: EXTENSION 201

PRINCIPALS' OFFICES: EXTENSION 202

GUIDANCE OFFICE: EXTENSION 206

CSE OFFICE: EXTENSION 207

NURSE'S OFFICE: EXTENSION 214

BUS GARAGE: EXTENSION 215

## 11 Blue Devils Selected To CCL Soccer All-Star Teams

The Madison Central School District athletic department would like to congratulate the following MCS student-athletes on postseason soccer honors from the Central Counties League.

### CCL Boys Soccer All Stars:

**First Team:** Zach Canning (Junior), Anthony Dodge (Senior)

**Second Team:** Colby Bingel (Senior), Caleb Lutke (Senior), Logan Scalzo (Senior)

### CCL Girls Soccer All Stars:

**First Team:** Mackenzie Cotter (Junior)

**Second Team:** Hannah Canning (Senior), Mara Wasuck (Senior)

**Honorable Mention:** Keyara Nichols (Freshman), Cameryn Stanfield (Junior), Brianna Usborne (Senior)