



The Messenger

A Publication of Madison Central School District

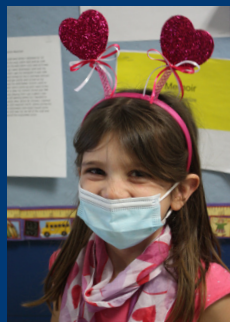
March 2021



WHAT'S INSIDE



UNIQUELY
MADISON
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MCS
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MADE IN
MADISON
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A Message From The Superintendent



Dear Madison Families:

Much has happened at MCS since our Fall newsletter. Though we have had a few occasions where we moved to fully-remote instruction, either because of positive cases or proactively around the holidays, I am proud to say that our Reopening Plan has worked successfully this fall and winter. We have been able to remain open for in-person instruction for the majority of the school year and there have been no confirmed cases of COVID-19 transmission at MCS. In addition, we are excited that we were recently able to bring students back into school on Wednesdays. Another step in the right direction! Our successes related to COVID-19 health and safety procedures have been a complete community effort. Thank you!

Recently, the New York and Madison County Boards of Health allowed for our student-athletes to play winter sports. We had our practice/game plan approved by our school physician before we moved forward and our practices and competitions will follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols. Since mid-February, our wrestlers have been able to workout at Morrisville-Eaton.

Modified basketball teams have been engaging in skills, drills and scrimmages. Our varsity basketball teams have been practicing and will play games against other area teams in early March. There will not be a normal league schedule this year. Please know that, in accordance with the guidance from the Board of Health, spectators will not be allowed at basketball games. An exception may be made when we celebrate our seniors on senior night. Details will be shared with families at a later date. Please join me in thanking our coaches and Mr. Lee for helping make these opportunities possible for our student-athletes. The following are the season dates currently scheduled by Section III:

Winter: February 1-March 14

Fall 2: March 1-April 30 (this is when we plan to play soccer)

Spring: April 19-June 30

As I mentioned this fall, we have not rested nor allowed COVID-19 to become our singular focus. We have continued our work to move the District forward and to offer the very best to our students. In an effort to perfect our reading and writing instruction, we have continued our grant-funded work with nationally recognized literacy specialist, Olivia Wahl. We've started a more formalized data analysis process that helps our teachers set instructional and academic achievement goals for themselves and their students. Recently, the Board of Education updated their goals (please visit the MCS website, under Board of Education, to review them). These goals will help us improve our goal setting and action planning across every department at MCS. In order to meet the challenges of remote and hybrid instruction, our teachers continue to explore blended learning and flipped classroom instruction. Looking forward, this experience has expanded our teachers' instructional tool kits, something that will continue to benefit our students once we are back to normal. On the facilities front, you may have noticed last year that the glass in the main entrance vestibule doors had been cracking. We have worked with our architect to get that glass replaced at no cost to the district. You'll also read about another update to the facilities in one of our new newsletter features called "Uniquely Madison." Thanks Mr. Post!

Speaking of new features, we also plan to make celebrations of MCS alumni a regular part of our newsletters moving forward. This section will be called "Made in Madison." This time we celebrate the great success of Courtney Wagner, MCS Class of 2011!

Please don't hesitate to reach out should you have any questions or insights about MCS. By working together we will provide the best possible opportunities for our students.

With thanks and pride,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason A. Mitchell".

Jason A. Mitchell
Superintendent



THE STARS OF MCS In February, MCS Elementary hosted an Extravaganza, which included a door decorating event! More than 20 doors were decked out with messages, pictures and more. Each door was awarded a prize. The door to the District Office was uniquely outfitted with as many Madison Stars as possible! Office Assistant Tracey Lewis was behind the design, which was awarded "Most School Spirit."



SLEDDING AT MCS When the snow flies in winter, Madison students know- it's time for sledding! Teachers and students alike bundle up and grab their sleds. The slope in front of the school provides the perfect sledding hill. It not only promises the thrill of the ride down, the hike back up is a rigorous but welcome one knowing there is another ride down just moments away.



SECOND GRADE SURPRISE Second grader Noah Pearsall had no idea his mother was coming home from National Guard Duty when she stopped by Madison to surprise him! Lisa Pearsall was in Washington D.C for three weeks helping out with the Presidential Inauguration. As you can see, Noah was quite happy to have his mom home.

Uniquely Madison



Charm and character around every corner, you could say Madison has a different feel than your typical school building. That is thanks in part to Maintenance Mechanic, Chris Post. Chris has been the go-to guy here in Madison for 18 years now.

His first special project was about 15 years ago. There was a lamp post painted on the corner in the hallway. Chris wanted to bring it to life. He did so by cutting a hole into the corner, adding an actual light and building structures and signs for the post. It's now a fixture in the school. Speaking of fixtures, the lights above the band and music rooms have a new look after Chris recently used small guitars to add character to the entrances.



He spends a lot of time brainstorming these ideas. "I see it in my head and I just go for it," said Chris. The reactions from the students keep him going. "I love how Madison is a nice small community, I just love it here."

Other projects include the construction of the concession stand and lights by the entrance to the gymnasium. There, he incorporated some hidden history. "This was built using the original entrance door from when the school was built in 1932. This door is 2.5 inches thick. They don't make them like this anymore," said Post.

Chris recreated the auditorium in the hallway for announcements about stage events. He nailed every detail, even the sound boards on the ceiling. You'll find more of Chris' special touches throughout the building, including a new drop ceiling with an "M" to match the gym floor. "That area was dark and plain and I wanted to do something so that when you're first walking down the hallway it welcomes you."

Chris also designed the Teacher's Lounge, repurposing old supplies to build a table with special added touches throughout the room. All ideas from a maintenance worker who puts his all into a building he loves.

Chris isn't done yet. Right now he is working on a surprise for the teachers. He hopes that project will be done by the end of the school year. Stay tuned for more stories that are Uniquely Madison.



MCS Elementary is B.L.U.E.



MCS Elementary continues to emphasize the social-emotional well being of its students. MCS B.L.U.E. is our motto so that all members of our learning community understand the following:

- B**e Respectful
- L**ive Responsibly
- U**se Caution
- E**veryone Thrives



Students have been hard at work focusing on the 5 pillars of social-emotional learning: self-awareness, self-management (impulse control), social awareness (understanding others), relationship skills, and decision-making (problem solving).

Students have been searching for MCS B.L.U.E. bracelets hidden in the hallways so they can turn in their bracelet and add to the MCS B.L.U.E. puzzle, while stating what MCS B.L.U.E. means to them.

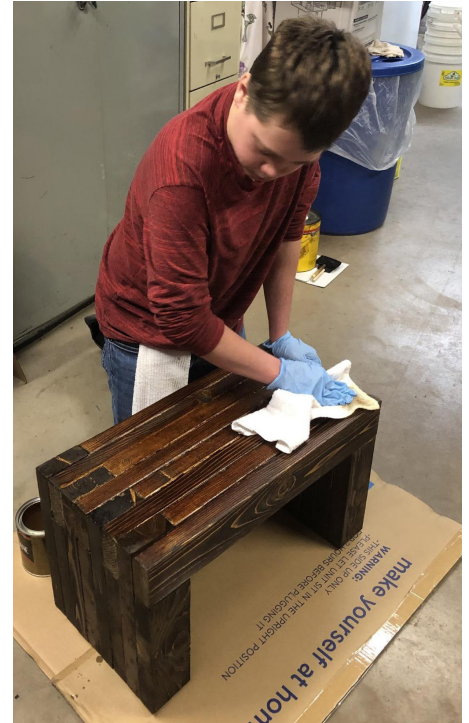
Through their positive behavior, students participated in our MCS B.L.U.E. Extravaganza, which included an event where all students and teachers created a jersey. They were all put together to form one large jersey to demonstrate we are all part of the same team at MCS!

MCS News



Despite the challenges of a hybrid learning model, the students enrolled in the Foundations of Technology class continue to have the ability to participate in hands-on woodworking projects. Students implement the information they learn through virtual class discussions and online assignments as they work on various woodworking projects both within the school building and in the remote setting. As students work through these projects, they follow an engineering design process model, complete with a written project proposal which includes a design plan, timeline, project summary and reflection.

One of the students' most recent projects challenged them to implement their knowledge of finger joints by designing and building a bench/table using only six eight-foot-long 2x4's. Aided by the use of their project proposal, each student created their own uniquely designed bench/table which demonstrated the use of a basic finger joint for its assembly. These pictures represent a few of the various designs and fully assembled projects built by the students in the class.

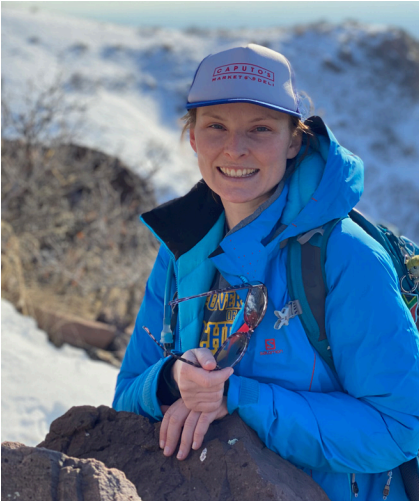


Community Donation



An MCS Alumni is answering the call for water bottles for the District! Keith Peavey, MCS '84, dropped off a donation of 100 reusable water bottles. Peavey is the President of Tanner Insurance Agency here in Madison and heard the school was looking for donations after removing the traditional water fountains and installing water bottle filling stations throughout the building. "Anything that I can do to support the school, especially during these unusual circumstances of COVID," said Peavey. Last fall, Alder Creek Beverages in Boonville also donated some Nirvana water bottles to the District. Thank you!

Made in Madison



Name: Courtney Wagner

Graduation Year: 2011

My name is Courtney and I am a Geobiologist who specializes in rock magnetism. I study bacteria that make magnets inside their cells and use these magnets to understand the sensitivity of modern and ancient aquatic environments to rapid environmental change.

I graduated from MCS in 2011 and, from there, went to the University of Rochester. In 2015 I graduated from Rochester with a B.S. in Geology. After graduating from Rochester I went directly into a geology Ph.D. program at the University of Utah. I successfully defended my Ph.D. dissertation on February 5th and will officially graduate from Utah in May. I am waiting to hear back from several applications that range from government jobs with the United States Geological Survey to tenure-track professorships. Fingers crossed! My ideal job would combine science outreach with teaching and research.

As a first-generation student from rural Upstate NY, I want to help motivate our youth to pursue STEM careers. I also hope to inspire people to trust science and search-out peer-reviewed articles because of problems like misconstrued information. My research is controversial because of its ties to climate change, but I am excited because this challenges me to communicate my work so that everyone understands its importance. This also allows me to destigmatize scientists as being pretentious and out of touch.

Everyone at Madison left a HUGE impression on me: including my teachers, athletic coaches, and the staff. One of the extraordinary things about Madison is the supportive community, within and outside the classrooms. The teachers, however, are what sets Madison apart. I am incredibly grateful to have had such caring, devoted instructors in my life. My high school teachers from Madison are to thank for sparking my excitement and passion for learning. There is something special about having a small-town school like Madison, which inherently reduces the class sizes and means that everyone knows one another, combined with high-quality instructors. For such a small school, we still had access to a variety of advanced classes and pathways. For example, although we did not have A.P. courses, we still had things like the TC3 college credits which helped prepare me for college.

Although all my teachers at Madison were one-of-a-kind, and I have fond memories of them all, my three science teachers had the most significant impact on my career: Mr. Saulsgiver, Ms. Barnes, and Mr. Burdick. I always looked up to them (and still do!). They made classes fun and are passionate about teaching. From field trips to the ice rink to reconstructing crime scenes and more. They inspire me to be a kind, engaging, motivating instructor. Mr. S started his biology courses off by telling us that there was a "bar" to which he needed to teach us for NYS, but that he would teach us and give us material to go well above this bar. How many teachers do you know of that will go above and beyond the set curriculum, even if it costs them more of their precious time and gives them little to no reward? Also, fun fact, Mr. S makes the BEST Donald Duck impression. I would always find myself staring at one of Ms. Barnes' motivational posters in the room that says "Shoot for the stars. Even if you miss, you'll land among them." This is not only in writing on the wall of her classroom, but it is reflected in her teaching and how she genuinely cares for each of her students. Mr. Burdick always had a creative experiment for us to do, which would hammer home whatever we were learning about. As a teaching assistant at Utah, I know how hard it can be to come up with experiments and demonstrations that are engaging and accurately demonstrate what you are trying to teach at the same time. One of the funniest memories I have is keeping a jar of Nutella in Burdick's closet for class time.

Not that I did not appreciate Madison while I was there, but now that I have been away for a few years, I have come to realize how lucky I was to be able to go there. Besides the high-quality teachers, Madison is a close-knit, caring community. It really sets it apart from other schools, and I would not be where I am today if I did not have so much support and positivity from everyone there.



IMPORTANT DATES

March 2: BOE Meeting - Budget Workshop Meeting 7 pm
March 3 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends
March 10 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends
March 12 - End of Progress Period 3
March 16: BOE Meeting 7 pm
March 17: Full Superintendent's Day - no student attendance
March 24: Half Supt's Day (Afternoon)
March 31 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends

April 2- 9 Spring Break - no school - no student attendance
April 12: Return to School
April 13: BOE Meeting Budget Workshop Meeting 7 pm
April 14 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends
April 16 - End of Marking Period 3
April 20-22 : 3-8 Grade ELA Testing
April 20 - BOE Meeting 7 pm
April 21 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends
April 28 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends

May 4: BOE Meeting Budget Workshop 7 pm
May 4-6: 3-8 Math Testing
May 5 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends
May 12 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends
May 14 - End of Progress Period 4
May 18: BOE Meeting 7:30 pm
Mat 18: Budget Vote Day 12 - 8 pm
May 19 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends
May 26 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends
May 31: Memorial Day No School

June 1: BOE Meeting Workshop Meeting 7 pm
June 2: Grade 4 & 8 Science Testing
June 2 - Grade 6-12 White Team attends
June 9 - Grade 6-12 Blue Team attends
June 15: Last Day of MS & HS
June 15: BOE Meeting 7 pm
June 16-25 Regents Exams
June 23: Senior Awards Night 6:30 pm
June 25 - End of Marking Period 4
June 25: Graduation 7 pm

ADMINISTRATION

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Treasurer

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Middle/High School Principal

Mr. Brian J. Latella
Elementary Principal & CSE Chair

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