

# Stellar Showcases



## New Facelift for Connor K. Salm and Hall of Fame Areas

If you have recently visited Connor K. Salm Gym for volleyball you may have noticed a new, refreshed entrance to the gymnasium and Hall of Fame areas. “As part of our summer refresh, we tore out the old carpet that had been in the entry hallways for years,” shared Joe Bronkella, Madison Athletic Director. “The polished concrete creates a visually, more appealing space, is less work for our custodians, and provides a cleaner, more sanitary environment to host our guests under the ongoing COVID-19 protocols.” In addition, the polished concrete floors create a better extension to the PE classroom and athletic training spaces that are highly used by students each day. “The addition of the Madison Cub logo outside of the gym entrance reminds everyone of the storied history of past programs,” Bronkella continues. “It creates a sense of pride and community for our current and future Cubs and creates a brand tie between our internal and external venues. We hope to do more and more of this.”



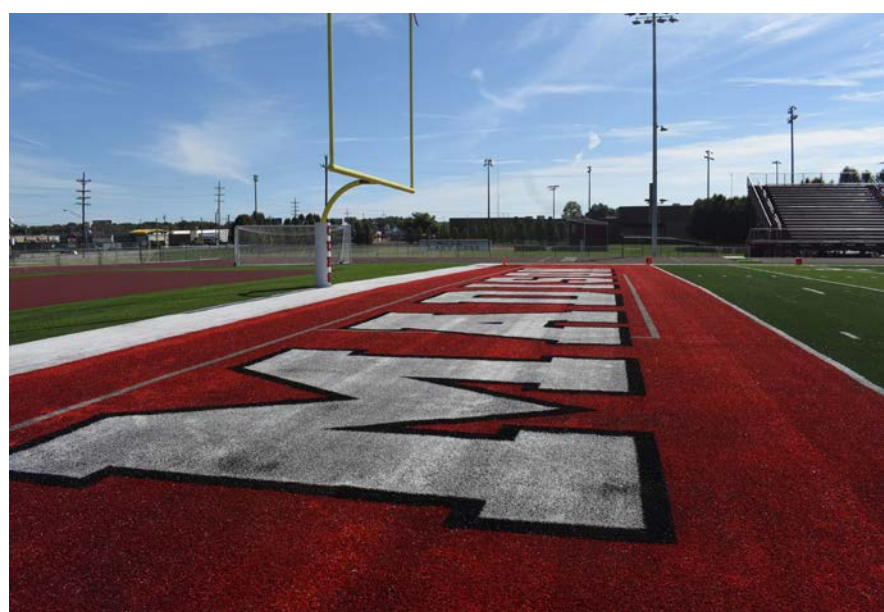
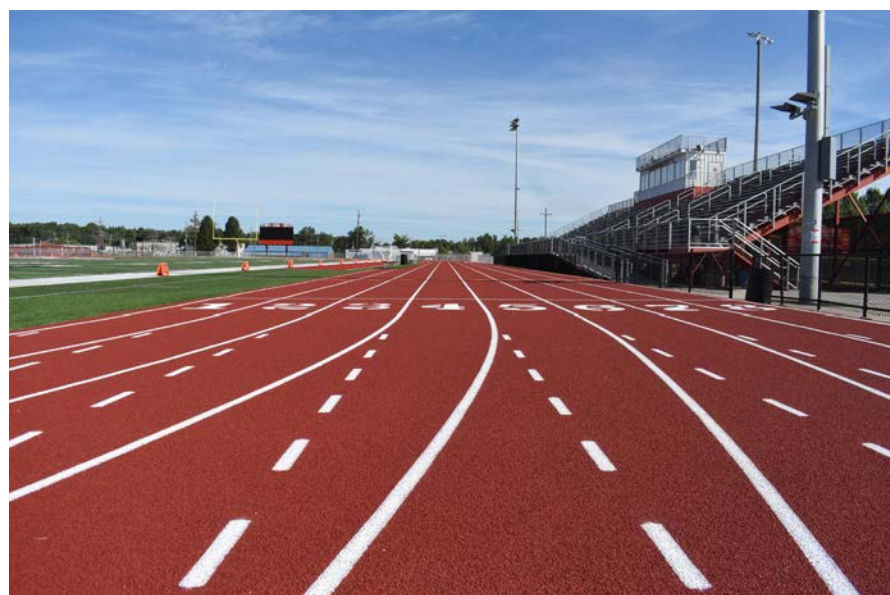
## Lou Knoble Cross Country Course

On August 22, 2020, the Lou Knoble Cross Country Course was dedicated in celebration of long-time Coach and running enthusiast Mr. Lou Knoble. “For several years, the boys’ and girls’ cross-country teams for the junior and senior high schools have been nomadic,” shared Dr. Studebaker at the recent board meeting. “Making stops at Sunrise Golf Course, the Boys and Girls Club complex, and most recently Hanover College, the course has been a competitive disadvantage for the teams and a source of aggravation and embarrassment for those associated with the program over the past several years. The Madison Cross Country program was once a strong program that produced many outstanding teams and individuals but has recently had to begin a significant rebuilding process. Part of that rebuilding process is to create a new home course.” In partnership with the City of Madison, Mayor Bob Courtney, and many alumni who have been actively involved in rebuilding the program and played an instrumental role in the development of a new 4K and 5K cross country course on the grounds of the Junior and Senior High School campuses. “This rugged and challenging course is already well-regarded in its first meet and promises to be a premier course in the State of Indiana,” Studebaker continued.



## Cub Field - Epic Renovation Converts for Multi-Purpose Facility

After three short months, Cub Field has been transformed into a premier venue for nine programs benefiting both junior high and high school athletes and band students. The multi-functional turf field will be home to Madison Cubs football, girls and boys soccer, track and field, cross country, Marching Band, and Color Guard. It will also host events for Madison Bears football, track and field, and soccer as schedule permits. In addition, the football field will be made available to the youth feeder system for games. The landmark renovation project approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2020 included the conversion of the football field to turf, an eight-lane synthetic surface track, re-design and sidewalk installation to new field event areas, a new, multi-functional LED digital scoreboard, and LED field lights. “The investment to make this facility a regional showcase will help us keep our students close to home for competitions,” shared Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Studebaker. “We currently have a number of students and families who travel to other communities for the opportunity to participate in events for track, soccer, marching band, and color guard. With this facility, we are now in a position to host such events which will provide us with a potentially large revenue stream and bring families to Madison which will boost the local economy through lodging, retail, food and beverage, and return visits. Our goal is to provide a facility that a number of the youth in our community can use and take pride in - thus creating a growing feeder system for all of our programs.” The investment in the multi-use facility was approximately \$2.5 million.



New Facilities continued onto page 3





Madison Consolidated Schools operates one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools (each including preschool) serving approximately 2,600 students and their families in the Madison/Jefferson County, Ind., area.

Our goal is to inspire success, boost confidence through critical thinking and problem-solving, and encourage collaborative learning. Our rigorous academic curriculum includes a diverse curriculum path into our Fine Arts Academy, multi-faceted college-and-career readiness programs, and work-based learning opportunities.

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## From the Superintendent's Desk

# Off to a Great Start

After five months, we finally reopened our schools and have teachers and students back to doing...teaching and learning! Even with all of the new procedures related to COVID-19, the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year has been outstanding! An Anderson student may have captured everyone's sentiment the best on our first day back when he said that it had been "the best day ever!" We were all frustrated and heartbroken when school was shifted over to the full virtual format in March and we lost all of the normal spring activities. We have been as equally elated, however, at being back in session and to have everything running as smoothly as it has so far. A huge thank you to our parents and community for helping make that happen...without your help and support we would not be experiencing this successful reopening.

Part of the reason why our reopening has been so smooth is that our county's COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rate has been very low. The number of new cases in Jefferson County has been stable and low for weeks and Madison Consolidated Schools has had a very low quarantine rate.

We ask that your family continue to be diligent, when not in school, to limit access to outside contacts as a way to continue to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. We realize that with colleges and universities back in session and possibly quarantining students, some older siblings may be in and out of the home. Please use caution as they return home and help keep your social circles to your



'quarantine tribe'. This will help us keep everyone safe and as healthy as possible! In an abundance of caution, we offered families a virtual instruction option for the first semester. Approximately 10% of our students opted to take advantage of this option. It is our hope that many of these students will opt back into face-face instruction after the Winter Break if our COVID-19 data continues to be strong.

As many of you may have noticed, we have been busy since March on facility upgrades. The new Cub Field has opened for business and our solar arrays are nearing completion! The high school auditorium hosted our production of Newsies back in July and will be completed in the next few weeks. The brand new Lou Knoble Cross Country Course has been dedicated on the campuses of the high school and junior high! And our new Cub Manufacturing Lab has opened for student use as well! Key contributors to these projects are Dave Ungru and Mayor Courtney! Without their help, the cross country course and the new Cub Industries Lab would not be possible.

A characteristic of the Madison community is that we are incredibly generous when it comes to our children...especially when our children are in need. Last year, the Madison Presbyterian Church partnered with the House of Hope in order to provide food for 25 of our students every weekend of the school year. This year, that number and need has exploded to 100 students. They have met the challenge and have been able to get those in need fed, but they will need our help. The Backsack Program provides a package of food each Friday for these students.

Each backsack costs about \$5 to provide. That means it will cost the Backsack Program about \$180/student for the year, which totals \$18,000 for all 100 students. Please consider donating whatever you can for a worthy cause! (See the advertisement later in the District Correspondent for details). It takes all of our efforts to make our children's educational experience safe, cost-effective, and extraordinary. Thank you for everything you are doing...be it simply wearing a mask, donating time or money for one of our programs, or most importantly, sending your child to Madison Consolidated Schools!

It's a great time to be a Cub!  
- Dr. Jeff Studebaker

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# Stellar Showcases Continued



## Opal E. Sherman Auditorium Renovation and Expansion Sets New Stage

Everyone who travels along Clifty Drive has noticed the ongoing auditorium project underway at MCHS. "We are now within weeks of completion," shared Dr. Jeff Studebaker at the September board meeting. "The steel has arrived and is being installed and we will begin to wrap up the nearly 3-year long project."

The theatre renovation project ran concurrently with other projects at the high school. Additional projects included a new roof and HVAC for A-Wing at the high school but the showcase is the expanded spaces around the original Opal E. Sherman Auditorium. "We were thankful to be able to host the spring production of Newsies in the renovated space," Studebaker continued. "Due to COVID-19 restrictions the production was postponed, but the July performance gave us an opportunity to do a 'soft opening' for a small audience in compliance with COVID restrictions."



With the end of the project finally in sight, The Opal E. Sherman Auditorium will shine as yet another premier venue for our students, staff, and community to enjoy. The auditorium renovation and expansion project included: a new, spacious entrance atrium, expanded, handicap accessible restrooms, a new concessions area, new aisle carpet throughout the theatre, new stage flooring, an LED wall, audio and lighting system upgrades, and control panels. There is a dedicated space to the traditions and honorees of the Madison Theatre program and will include a budding, yet impressive, art collection consisting of works from local artists including Mr. Lou Knoble and Harlan Hubbard.



But perhaps the most impressive renovation aspects are those the students and theatre production staff will enjoy most and won't be seen when patrons come to enjoy the first production of the 2020 - 2021 theatre season, Radium Girls scheduled for October 22-25, 2020. "Some of the most impressive spaces are behind the scenes," shares Aaron Kelsey, MCHS Fine Arts Program Leader and Madison Theatre Director. "We have new cast dressing rooms, a costume room, and a new 4,000 square foot prop room - which allows us to not only store items, but is large enough to use as a building site for larger props, onsite and indoors!" The prop room has outdoor access through a large garage door that enables vehicles in and out to load and unload, as well as, a ramp that will make the transition of large prop pieces on and off stage much easier.

In addition to the obvious use of the space, we have also had several classes use the venue as a classroom space," shared Kelsey. "We have Film Lit classes use it for film showing and our dance class has used to it for virtual guest instruction. It has already proven very valuable in extending fine arts to more and more students." The Mires School of Dance will have the first community event in the venue when they host their annual dance recital. The overall renovation (including other aspects of projects at MCHS) was roughly \$4.5 million.



## Solar Arrays will net large savings for district

As part of the energy savings plan discussed in February 2020, work on the Solar Panel Array project installation continues throughout the district. "As mentioned during the Hearing on Amendment to Lease, the solar array project is well underway," shared Dr. Jeff Studebaker. "Installation is complete at MJHS, Administration Building, and the Bus Garage. Work is underway at Anderson Elementary, and will begin shortly at Deputy and Rykers' Ridge elementaries in that order." As part of the hearing in February, it was noted that this energy savings project will save the district significantly over the life of the arrays. "It is projected that once complete, the arrays at Anderson, Administration, and the bus garage will cover their energy costs 100%," Studebaker continued. "Cost offsets for MJHS will be approximately 42.3% and 90.8% at Deputy Elementary." The proposed cost of the solar project was \$3.5 million with a proposed bond payoff in ten years. The total energy savings for the district in year one is estimated at \$212,396.72. "This will have a direct positive impact to our Operating Budget," continued Studebaker.



## Expressing Their Seniority!



For the second year in a row, the Senior Parking Spot Project has been approved as one of the student-driven fundraisers at MCHS. In 2019, the inaugural year, thirty-seven students each paid the \$20 fee to stake claim to their personalized parking spot in the student parking lot behind the high school. "It was a huge success and the creativity of our students is really something our community should be able to enjoy," shared Michael Gasaway, MCHS Principal. "This was one, small way we could bring a sense of 'normal' to campus as we began to prepare to come back to school. When you pull into the parking lot for games, it is really something to see! The colors, the designs, the self-expression is so cool - the asphalt is a great canvas!" The Class of 2021 did not disappoint. The designs, all pre-approved by Mr. Gasaway, range from whimsical to social platforms to self-admission of tardies. They are colorful, masterfully designed, and filling up the lot with lots of personality. Senior, Lani Stockdale, also one of our District Correspondent Interns - set out to capture the essence of her classmates creativity and provided all of the photos for this spread.





## Skyward & Contact Information

### Efficiency and Accuracy Remain a Focus for Family Communication

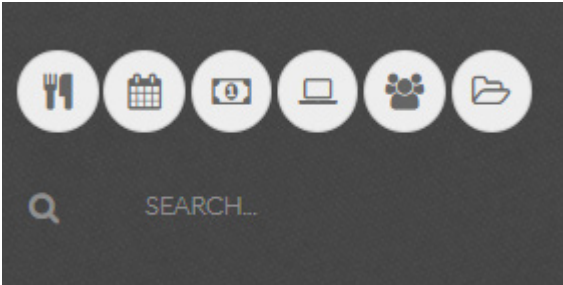
by: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

Perhaps now, more than ever, it is vitally important that your school has accurate contact information on file. “With the rate and pace that information is changing, we have to be able to communicate with our families quickly”, shared Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator for the district. “We want to be as timely and accurate with the information we send home and to do so efficiently we must have accurate information in our Skyward Family Access portal.”

The district uses Skyward as the student management system for housing all student data. SchoolMessenger is the communication platform that ties to Skyward and enables mass communication via call or email to families from their school. “Each morning there is a data pull from Skyward into SchoolMessenger,” Schutte continues. “Our data is updated and refreshed daily around 5 a.m. This enables us to have the most current information in our system (as provided by our families) in the event we need to communicate information from school.”

Principals and the district use SchoolMessenger to communicate information on everything from weather delays and cancellations to reminders about school events that may require parental interaction, such as school picture orders. Notifications range from the district level to building specific items and can arrive via email, phone call or a combination of the two - depending on the message and urgency level.

“We ask all of our users to be mindful of overload - whether that is a call and/or email, length of the message, and the time of delivery” Schutte continued. “However, when you are trying to communicate with hundreds of families to ensure they receive the same information, in a timely manner, sometimes with a quick turnaround - SchoolMessenger is the most effective way.”



One quick way to access Skyward is from the madison.k12.in.us website. From the home page, click on the icon in the top right corner that looks like a group of people (second icon from the right). Once in Skyward, click on the Family Access link and verify your information is up to date.

The Skylert link, located near the bottom of the left-side menu, will take you to the notifications personalization page. From here, families can determine how they wish to be notified of messages coming from the school. A family can receive attendance information to either email or phone, they can determine what number is used for food service notifications, and how they wish to receive ‘general’ or reminder notifications coming from school.

The system will typically go out and grab the first, or primary, contact information for generalized messages. In the event of a school-hours emergency (such as a power outage or lockdown) or a non-school hours emergency (such as a weather related delay/cancellation) it will send the message to all contacts associated with each student record. “We recommend that families go out and review how their account is set up,” shared Schutte. “One of the things they can do from here is opt into our texting functionality. While not all notifications from school are concise enough to be sent via text, some are and we want to be sure families know this is an option.”

School personnel are here to help! In the event you have any questions, have trouble accessing Skyward, or are not receiving notifications from your school - please reach out to your building clerk for assistance.

School Hours Emergency	Attendance	General	Non-school Hours Emergency	Food Service	Survey
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** Skyward Contact Info**					
School Hours Emergency	Attendance	General	Non-school Hours Emergency	Food Service	Survey
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School Hours Emergency	Attendance	General	Non-school Hours Emergency	Food Service	Survey
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\*Screenshot of Skylert Personalization\*

If you have a younger student riding the bus and they cannot always recite their full name, address, and school name just yet - please put their information on a notecard or sticker and place it in a safe place in their book bag. Be sure to share with them where to find it in case the bus driver needs it.

### Safety Protocols and Seating Charts

by: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

Guidelines for a safe return to schools contain details that make a normal school day a bit trickier, but students and teachers have embraced the new environment.

“One of the great things about being back in school safely is students making new friends and reconnecting with old friends,” shared Superintendent Dr. Jeff Studebaker. “I have been in and out of all of our buildings from day one and all I see are students and staff doing exactly what we have asked them to do. Students of all ages are wearing masks, physically distancing themselves, and doing all they can to help keep us safely in class.”

As part of the re-entry plan, masks are required to be worn on campuses by students in grades 3 - 12, and are highly recommended for all students. “Both teachers and students are especially aware of safety when some of our daily activities get us closer than the recommended three feet distance,” Studebaker continued. “We have guidelines in place to keep groups as small as possible if working together, all shared materials and lessons have been removed from daily activities, seating charts are required in all classrooms, and routine

sanitizing efforts are a shared responsibility within all of our buildings.”

Another part of the overall safety protocol includes limiting interaction to small groups of students, wherever possible. This is just one of many ways the district is trying to reduce contact points and keep detailed records in the event it would need to contact trace. Other examples include seating charts in classrooms, on buses, and regular small group seating arrangements in cafeterias. All of this is being done to be able to quickly identify which students are together, while on school campuses, in the event we were to have a positive case reported and need to provide a close contacts list to the health department for contact tracing purposes.

**Friends on Buses - must be car riders**  
Families were recently notified that effective immediately bus transportation would be limited to regular riders. “We have had an increasing number of students requesting transportation so they can go home with friends after school,” shared

Jill Deputy, Transportation Coordinator for the district. “For the health and safety of other students on our buses, we ask that if your student plans to have a friend to your home after school that you make arrangements to pick them up and transported as a car rider for that day.”

Each bus driver has a separate list of students who are to be on the bus each day. “There is a specific seating chart for both the morning and afternoon routes,” continued Deputy. “When an extra student arrives to board the bus and is not on the seating chart, it creates a possible safety issue for other students and violates our COVID-19 safety plan.”

Overall, the district has experienced very few instances where students are not complying with the safety protocols. “Most of what we are seeing are all students stepping up to help,” shares Studebaker. “Everyone wants to continue to be able to come to school and participate in activities. We are committed to keeping our environments as safe as possible so we can continue to come to school safely.”





## Streaming Options for Fans

Live streaming services have been expanded for the fall athletic season. With the NFHS Network subscription (nfhsnetwork.com) fans can watch games from anywhere. NFHS offers either a monthly subscription or an annual pass. While athletics does not receive an immediate impact, there is an option to donate to your school's athletic department as part of the check out process. Once subscribed, you will receive email reminders of the event available for the day. "We had already piloted the live streaming service last year during the boys and girls basketball and wrestling seasons," shared Bronkella. "We were one of very few schools in the state to use this service which provides our fans the opportunity to watch our events on their computer, Apple TV, or smart device." Madison installed the system indoors before the COVID-19 pandemic shut things down. "The winter sports season gave us the opportunity to do some test runs," Bronkella continued. "As it turns out it was an unexpected proactive approach that now gives us the option to make our events available to those who are still a bit cautious about getting out while also giving out of town family members a new way to stay connected." Madison will be broadcasting sports from Cub Field and Connor K. Salm gymnasium for the 20 - 21 season. "We have worked hard with other schools and our coaches to move as many events as possible (including jr. high events) to our high school venues as part of our COVID-19 safety protocols," shared Bronkella. "The cameras and streaming service are an added option which also helps promote a safe environment as we try to limit crowd sizes in our larger venues." Sporting events that may be available for streaming included high school football, boys & girls soccer, and volleyball, as well as, junior high football, boys and girls soccer, and volleyball.



"NOW, all this said, it depends on weather and availability of visiting teams and their ability to participate within their safety guidelines," Bronkella reminds. "We will play as often as possible!" Be sure to check the lineup list on NFHSNetwork to make sure your game is available online.

Another enhanced option for MCHS events is the ability to pre-purchase tickets online. With some limitations in crowds and a movement to a paperless environment, Ticket Spicket is another great resource from our athletic department for high school events. "This service was introduced last year during a soft rollout," states Bronkella. "With the current state of sports, we are utilizing it even more to create less contact at the ticket booth. This allows us to not have to exchange money and/or tickets, it utilizes a smartphone to redeem the ticket at the booth.

As we continue through all of our season, we will keep providing this service as an additional option to help ensure fans purchase of tickets." Download the FREE app from your app store. There is a small fee for this service from the vendor. As always, you can purchase your MCHS Annual Sports Pass for all home events, excluding any state tournament events. Passes are available at the main office (Door 1). Costs are: \$200 for a Family Pass (four passes), \$50 for a Student Pass, \$50 for a Senior Citizen Pass.

Event Link is another great tool to use. It is a FREE app in your app store that allows you to subscribe to MJHS and MCHS athletic schedules and gives real-time updates on any changes or cancellations.

# Fall Athletics Update

And they are off...safely and competitively!

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

"We have successfully been able to safely re-introduce sports back at both the high school and junior high," shared Joe Bronkella, Madison AD. "Our athletes have been very diligent in their efforts to follow the safety protocols put in place over the summer. We are working hard to help remind them of what is at stake if we do not follow the guidelines." MCHS athletes returned to limited activity mid July with small group, outdoor workouts whenever possible.

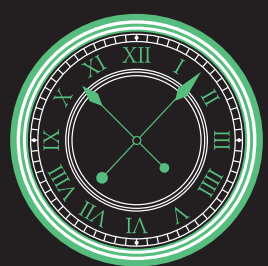
"Following the recommendations from the state health department and IHSAA we have been able to have athletes actively involved in all five fall sports," Bronkella continued.

Along with student-athlete requirements, there are fan requirements in place for all spectators. "We are asking everyone to wear masks in all venues across our campuses," he continued. "We want to do all we can to keep our athletes and fans healthy and create safe environments where families can come and support our teams." Golf, tennis, and cross country look a bit different since they are outdoors and fans and athletes can more easily distance themselves from one another. "Our challenge is when we have larger crowds in smaller areas," Bronkella stated.

In addition to all high school games, all MJHS volleyball games have been moved to the larger Connor K. Salm Gymnasium and seating is available in the upper level only. "We have asked families to spread out," he continued. "If they are among their immediate family, we understand sitting together but if you are not in the immediate household, we ask that you keep your social distance between those in your family and those seated around you. When fans cannot create that physical distance, masks are required in the stands regardless of whether we are indoors or outdoors."

The football bleachers have been divided to accommodate the recent IHSAA mandate for maximum capacity recommendations. "We have every other row marked off limits," he continued. "We have done this to create space in front and back of each seat in the bleacher block. Same rules apply, keep your distance as you find seats along a row. There should not be anyone seated immediately in front of or in back of you at a game." In addition to the seating arrangements at Cub field, which is now the home field for MCHS and MJHS football teams, most MCHS soccer games, some MJHS soccer games, Cross Country teams, and all MJHS and MCHS track and field teams - there are separate entrances for visiting and home fans and portable restrooms. "We are trying to do all we can to make options available and provide a safe environment," Bronkella reiterated. Fans visiting for soccer games at the MJHS facility will see similar options but the field seating remains in place. "The ability to bring a seat or a blanket and spread out around the field at MJHS remains a nice alternative to bleachers seats."

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By **D.W. GREGORY**

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# 2020 - 2021 - A Blended Approach to Learning and Staffing

By: **Ashley Schutte,**  
**Communications Coordinator**

The beginning of school is always an exciting time as we welcome new teachers and staff to the district but 2020 - 2021 may be the most exhilarating yet!

In an effort to provide options for students in the wake of the continued COVID-19 crisis, Madison Consolidated Schools has a virtual option available for students who wish to learn from home. "We currently have approximately 10% of our students who are virtual learners at this time," shared Dr. Jeff Studebaker, Superintendent. "We have had some phenomenal teachers step forward to lead this uncharted effort. While we did not know until close to the first day of school what the numbers would look like, we have 12-14 teachers throughout the district working with our virtual learners across both the elementary and secondary levels. Some of our virtual teachers are also teaching face-to-face (F2F) classes during the day." Students (and parents) who chose the virtual learning option had to sign a Learning Agreement outlining expectations to complete scheduled class work and maintain daily attendance requirements, just as their peers are throughout the day in our many F2F classrooms. By signing the agreement, students committed to learning at home throughout the first semester. At that time, should circumstances change, and they wish to return to F2F instruction, they will be able to return to their building for the second semester.

## Virtual Learning - a birds eye view

Elementary virtual learners are divided by grade levels (Kindergarten, Grades 1 & 2, Grade 3, Grade 4, and Grades 5 & 6) and are working with five of our elementary teachers to receive instruction via a virtual classroom. Using a combination of Google Classroom, Google Meet, and live streaming options, students are expected to join their classmates and teachers at regularly scheduled times throughout the day. Using adaptive interactive learning software programs, like Aleks and IXL which supplement math curriculum, students are expected to keep pace with their F2F classmates while using their school-issued tech devices to complete assignments. "These, and other programs, will prioritize students' learning by accelerating their exposure to grade level content," shared Jill Mires, Elementary Curriculum Director and Rykers' Ridge Elementary Principal. "Tools such as these help our teachers not only evaluate where students are in terms of academic skills, but also supplement the core curriculum used in our elementary classrooms to teach core classes such as math and reading. We will continue to focus our efforts on data driven decisions, providing a viable and guaranteed curriculum, data based groupings, differentiation, and use evidence based instructional practices in both F2F and virtual classes. Our teachers are working very hard to make sure their virtual experience is as close as their F2F peers as possible," shared Mires.

Virtual learning for secondary students in grades 7 - 12 looks a little different as they are grouped by subject content and work with more than one teacher, just as they would if they were attending classes on campus. "Schedules for our junior and senior high virtual learning students look very similar to what they would have, had they come to campus," states Michael Gasaway, Director of Secondary Curriculum and MCHS Principal. "Students in Grades 7 & 8 also use Aleks and an online program for Social Studies, but work with teachers within the building for Science and English Language Arts, and are required to meet classroom expectations defined in their Learning Agreement." As the high school curriculum differs just a bit, virtual learners in Grades 9 - 12 utilize the existing SELECT program, which has been in place since the 2016-2017 school year. The function and philosophy of SELECT are to develop independent learners who think critically, communicate effectively, and seek knowledge actively. This development stems from key focal points: educational focus (learning vs. credits), the culture of the classroom (student choice and desire to accomplish goals), educator focus (teachers who focus on teaching skills over content), and soft skills (punctuality, respect for oneself and others, self-motivation, pride in one's work)...all skills necessary for success in the world post-high school. One of the guiding principles of SELECT is Learn to Learn.

"It is impossible to teach a student everything he or she needs to know in today's world," Jared Kempton, SELECT Program Leader shared. "A wide number of professional careers require continuing education. Our goal is to teach students how to teach themselves. We help students develop a self-awareness of how they learn best. We equip them with a toolbox of study strategies and give them practice in attempting new subjects on their own. Students will not only learn how to push themselves in their own learning, they will also learn how to overcome setbacks and failure, which naturally come whenever pushing to be better. Our students will be more resilient in the face of unexpected problems and unfamiliar situations, preparing them to face future challenges of lifelong learning," he continued.

"We have had students in SELECT for four years successfully completing courses in our alternative environment," Gasaway continued. "The founding principles of this innovative learning environment established five years ago, lends itself very naturally to the virtual learning environment we find ourselves in today. To launch this model as our high school virtual instruction platform was no brainer."

To learn more about SELECT, visit their webpage at <http://www.madison.k12.in.us/student-life/initiatives-programs/select-p-l-a-c-e>.

## What does this mean for staffing?

With the addition of virtual learning options, the district needed to make shifts in staffing in the weeks and days leading up to the first day of school. "Our goal is to be fully staffed by the time school begins each year," shared Studebaker. "We were well on our way in the early spring and then the pandemic shut-down occurred. What had been future-focused staffing efforts to ensure we were hiring the best and brightest, quickly pivoted to the oversight of a real-time shift to virtual learning for students in our care."

Each year, in the late winter and early spring timeframe, schools begin to assess their staffing needs for the following school year. Taking into consideration retirements, new positions, and shifts in current staffing, principals begin to recruit talent to fill their positions. "We were in a great space in March and felt very good about the hires we had secured for the upcoming school year," continued Studebaker. "With the extended closure and subsequent offering of a virtual option for our students, we realized we needed to re-evaluate our position."

A number of teachers in each of the district's schools stepped forward to lead the charge on the virtual front. With those shifts, there were more openings for classroom teachers throughout the district and those were hires that occurred later than usual, but yielded

some incredible talent. "The virtual learner number fluctuated up until the first days of school," shared Studebaker. "This meant that we were not only trying to fine tune our virtual learning environments at the last minute, but also making sure we had the right people in place, classes balanced, and ensuring our F2F classrooms were staffed accordingly as our enrollment was very robust this year."

All teachers throughout the district are working very hard to make sure students are not only learning, but are doing so safely. Virtual teachers, some of which are in classrooms - others have created classroom space in their home, are breaking ground in uncharted water to provide meaningful, sound instruction comparable to what is taking place in classrooms across our campuses. "We have had learning experiences, adopted new methods and processes, and continue to do our best to overcome challenges as they arise - one early barrier has been technology," Studebaker continued. "Our tech team was well prepared going into the spring. We had all of our devices ordered and felt we were ahead of the curve compared to years past, until the pandemic shut down tech manufacturers world-wide." Like lots of other schools across the nation, the device order for the district was dependent upon the tech vendors being up and running to manufacture computers to fill orders and components for maintenance and repair. "Our iPads arrived in time to distribute early

on, however, our Chromebooks are still in short supply," he continued. "We have searched numerous alternate vendors trying to locate and secure any number of devices we can in order to get students up and running successfully. We realize this has been a frustration for some of our families and we apologize... we did not anticipate the shortage of devices from the manufacturers."

## New and Expanded Responsibilities Provide Benefits

With the increased safety protocols in place, the district created expanded positions to fill needed areas within the district. "In order to comply with the physical distancing aspects of school safety protocols we realized we needed more supervision in our buildings," shared Studebaker. "Our board graciously approved the ability to increase our bus driver compensation package to include access to our medical clinic. In addition, we offered the opportunity to take on additional responsibilities through a hybrid position which would be full-time and come with health benefits. The hybrid positions would allow them to keep their morning and afternoon routes, as well as, a midday position as an ISP or building custodian."

The district still has openings available. For more information, please visit our website at: [www.madison.k12.in.us/about/careeropportunities](http://www.madison.k12.in.us/about/careeropportunities).



# A New Face for MCHS as Board Representative



MCHS Senior Jacob Smith was introduced as the Student School Board Representative for the 2020-2021 school year at the school board meeting on September 9th.

“As you talked with peers and teachers in our building about Jacob you learn quickly that he is kind, big-hearted, and has a big personality,” shared Mr. Michael Gasaway, MCHS Principal as he introduced Jacob to the Board of School Trustees. “He is an exceptional choice to represent the students of MCHS.” Each year, members of the senior class are invited to apply for the role of board representative. “This year, there were 11 very capable and qualified applicants,” Gasaway continued. “Jacob rose to the top after two rounds of interviews.” Each applicant was interviewed first by a

panel of nine teachers and then by the building principals.

Jacob began his report thanking the board and Mr. Gasaway for the opportunity. “I am so humbled to have been selected from a very talented and competitive student group,” Jacob shared. “I chose to apply because I want to be a voice for the students who may not always have a voice. It is my goal to represent my school in a professional manner and realize this position comes with great responsibility. I am also passionate about mental health and young people and hope to use this platform to raise awareness.” In his first report to the board, Jacob shared “the first 20 days of school have been great!” He continued with “students are thankful to be back... MASKS ARE ON!, hands are being washed frequently, spaces are being sanitized, and we are committed 100% to doing anything we have to do in order to stay in-person.” Jacob is Deputy Elementary alumni, a three year member of the Cubs Soccer and Baseball teams, an award-winning member of Madtown JAG, and plans to attend Ball State University to study Speech Language Pathology.



## Exciting News!

**FREE Student Lunch through December!**  
Plate lunch is free for all Madison students.  
Virtual students, please call 812-274-8108 to make a daily reservation.

The state program allows ONE free lunch per student. Students who wish to purchase additional lunch or ala carte items, can do so at regular cost.

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It is the policy of Madison Consolidated Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 1971, 22-9-13; Public Law 218 (C. 1971, Title 20); Titles VI and VII (Civil Rights Act 1964); the Equal Pay Act of 1973; Title IX (1972 Education Amendments); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 93-112, Section 504.

# Internships Expanded for 20-21

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator



Introducing the 20-21 District Correspondent interns, Senior, Lani Stockdale and Junior, William Ratcliff. The District Correspondent initiative has always included a component for student opportunities. In 2019-2020, the scope for opportunity increased exponentially when production of the paper moved inside the school and created an internship opportunity. The first intern, Maddie Felts, is now a freshman at Indiana University Southeast and is studying Graphic Design.

“This year we are fortunate to have two interns working on the paper,” shared Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator who oversees the project. “Lani has taken the lead on design and layout and is also in a photography class this semester, so we are able to dual-purpose her efforts behind the camera as she captures our images. Will, is a third-year graphics student and is learning the ropes. We will expand in his role more and more over the next several editions with plans for him to take over design and layout next year. Ideally, we will always have two students (upperclassmen) with some experience, a desire to learn, and interest in a career in the graphics, design, and/or journalism field of interest.”

This initiative provides an excellent hands-on experience - especially for Lani. Following graduation, Lani plans to study Graphic Design and will be exploring college options with a front-runner being USI. “The paper will give her portfolio materials as she prepares to begin the college application process in the next few months,” shared Schutte. “At the same time, she is getting project management experience and will have full access to and alot of input and guidance on the overall process of bringing together a large-scale marketing tool from idea conception to publication.”

Lani is a defender on the Lady Cubs Soccer team and hopes to play college level soccer. “Lani is one of those sneaky hot kids,” Schutte laughs. “You see her at school and you think, great young adult, she is going to go places...then you see her on the pitch and you’re like WOW!, is that Lani!? She is hard-working, quick witted, ferocious, level headed, and expresses her ideas and beliefs in a way where she is an immediate contributor. I am so excited to continue to work with her throughout this school year. She came on board over the summer, volunteered her time with Maddie and I to learn, and brings a level of professionalism and pride in work that is well beyond her years.”

Will’s talents are well known! “When Mrs. Pietro (Marlene Pietrykowski, Graphics Teacher) told me that Will was interested in an internship I was very excited,” Schutte continued. “Will has exceptional artistic ability and is very creative. He has submitted some work in our previous art competitions and it has always been a stand-out.” As a third year student in the graphics department, Will is “invested and this awesome opportunity just seems like the next step. I love to write, design, and plain be creative, and this seems like a great way to use those passions.” In addition to his creative nature, Will is a member of the Cubs Track Team, specializing in mid-distance. He is active in the Madison Theatre program, a member of the Science Olympiad Team, and works alongside Mr. Koren and teaches a Computer Coding class of six students. While he is not sure of his future plans, Will hopes to “learn all I can and have fun doing it!”



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## MCHS Alumni Spotlight



# Class of 2017



**Maddie Holland - MCHS '17, University of Nebraska**

## Article by: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

I had the pleasure of first meeting Maddie when she was a student at MJHS, she was a member of the swim team and just an incredible kid. She was smart, funny, driven, worked hard, and just great for our team...I remember thinking, 'this one will do great things!' Fast forward to high school where she continued to swim but also excelled at pole vaulting - a sport not for the faint of heart. As she continued to train and succeed, the academic load also increased, the practice time increased, the expectations increased, and so did the stress and anxiety (we now know). I always followed Maddie's adventures through her social media feeds, press releases, etc. - oh yeah, I forgot to remind you that she went to the University of Nebraska on a Track & Field Scholarship - she is a Cornhusker! A BIG10 student-athlete...a young lady who has faced a great deal, and in the process, discovered who she is and wants to remind others that "life works its way out".

In May, Maddie received the Wilma Rudolph Student-Athletic Achievement Award which honors student-athletes who have overcome great personal, academic, and/or emotional odds to achieve academic success while participating in intercollegiate athletics. When I saw this news, I was elated for Maddie! What an honor, I thought, but as I read the press release...my heart swelled with regret, hurt, and guilt as I learned about the depths of her struggles which began while I was to be looking out for her. "I know that I could have benefited from hearing in highschool that life works its way out" shared Maddie. "I am also really passionate about destroying the ideas that females have to look and be a certain way to make it in sports."

By the time she arrived at Nebraska as a Freshman in the fall of 2017, Maddie realized her struggle with food, her weight, and her performance had consumed her life. She began meeting with a dietician and sports psychologist who diagnosed her with Major Depressive Disorder, Anorexia Nervosa, and Generalized Anxiety. "As a kid I always struggled with what I looked like," Maddie shared. "I had glasses, crooked teeth, and leaned toward the "nerdy" side. But these struggles started to ramp up when I started high school and then continued on through my freshman year of college. It was when I started pole vaulting that I became aware of the scale and my body because we got weighed periodically due to the rule that you weren't allowed to be on a pole that had a weight limit that was less than your body weight. This rule is archaic, but it is still enforced by IHSAA so at practice we were weighed. I had always heard stories about how once a girl goes through puberty she declines in athleticism and this worried me one day after I saw a spike on the scale at practice. I started watching the scale religiously and started to control what I ate to manipulate the number on the scale. Over the years it escalated and became more obsessive so that when I left for college - I was worried and lonely, I had this to rely on. It felt like the only things I had control over was my weight, what I ate, and how much I exercised. This gave me fleeting confidence, but what started out as a feeling of autonomy then turned into one compulsion after another. It was Nebraska that had me start seeing a Psychologist and Dietician to overcome my eating disorder."

With the encouragement of her coaches, teammates, and family, Maddie took time away from both school and athletics as she entered an inpatient treatment facility to seek help. "I went to treatment in St. Louis for three months and then continued on with treatment back in Lincoln for another three months. It was difficult to take time off of track and school but now I know it was all worth it. I could never imagine the reason I was most thankful for attending the University of Nebraska would be because they would give me my life back... and then some. I think the most important thing for young female athletes to know is that our bodies change. You are not meant to look like you did in high school the rest of your life. And it DOESN'T make you a terrible athlete to gain necessary weight and go through puberty. In fact, if you listen to your body and eat enough fuel to give your body energy throughout hard workouts you are raising your potential higher than ever before puberty. There is not one specific body type for certain sports, and your body is going to look different from everyone else's no matter how much you try to change it. It is very important to embrace it and treat it like the beautiful piece of machinery it is."

When asked about her time at Madison, Maddie now sees that it was preparing her for things she would face later in life. "There are so many lessons I learned at MCHS from all my teachers and coaches, some referring to academics and athletics, but my favorite that I still use to this day have to do with life in general. My senior year Physics teacher, Mr. Dewitt, gave us a slideshow presentation before we graduated on helpful tips to survive our freshman year of college. One thing that really stuck with me was to always show up for people. He explained that even if you have a test the next day, or a major project due the next morning, your first priority should be caring for others when

they need it most. There have been plenty of times throughout college that I have been faced with the decision to be there for my friend when they need me or study/finish an assignment that's due the next day. I always think back to what Mr. Dewitt said, and I drive to their house as soon as I can. Sometimes you have to remember your morals and follow them instead of getting caught up in a certain GPA. The funny thing is that every time I have chosen to follow this advice, the school work ended up getting done in time anyways."

For Maddie, relationships are key. Interestingly enough, this is what I picked up on as I watched her social media feeds from afar. While I wanted to keep an eye on her track accomplishments, I also enjoyed watching her take on the world. Always humble, she never touted her athletic accomplishments publicly, however, I did notice 'social' presences began to focus more on the people in her life she was grateful for, for those who helped her, how she hoped to help others, touching on mental health. It wasn't until then that I thought about what may have changed for her. . . fast forward to May, 2020, and the announcement of the Wima Rudolph Award. Not only has she survived, but she is thriving and committed to helping others. "Being a Big10 student-athlete has taught me not only how to work hard and persevere, but it has shown me how important relationships are with those around you, which I think is essential for any work you choose to do in the future," shared Holland. "There are so many situations I have faced through track and school that have felt like major setbacks, but it is getting over them and trudging on that has shown me future bumps in the road are only bumps, and that you can always turn things around no matter the circumstance. It has given me the confidence and discipline that is needed for success in the future."

When asked to share advice with current students, she said "don't freak out if you don't know who you are yet, or what you want to do with your life. The standard 4 years of undergraduate school aren't meant for everyone, and in the long run an extra year or so to get going is nothing compared to the span of your whole life. It is crazy to expect a teenager to know what they want to do for the rest of their life, so don't force yourself into one thing - go into college with an open mind. Get involved and build relationships with others because at the end of the day, our academic and athletic accomplishments won't fuel your soul. It is the people around you who truly bring the happiness and spark to your life and they can help pick you up when you fall."

"College has been a whirlwind experience of discovering who I am as a person," she continued. "On the academic side, I came in with intentions to become an occupational therapist and then changed my major and career path several times throughout the past three years." Maddie is crushing a double major in Biochemistry and Nutrition and Health Sciences and will pursue a career as a registered dietician. She plans to co-own a private practice partnering with a therapist following graduation. She would also like to own an Italian Greyhound! Maddie will graduate in May, 2022, as she was able to redshirt a year.

In addition to school and athletics, Maddie is also involved in several organizations bringing awareness to mental health in both athletics and society. She has had the opportunity to work as a research assistant for the UNL Developmental Cognitive Neuroscience lab and now the UNL Agronomy and Horticulture department. "College has been a trial and error experience for me and I think I can say I have tried just about everything," shared Maddie. "Throughout the past three years, I have made friends through track and clubs and have found these to be my favorite parts of college."

I reached out to Maddie and asked her to share her story because she is a Cub, someone from home, who is resilient, has faced adversity head on, and pushed through to become stronger and more courageous. But moreso, I think now more than ever, we all need encouragement and reminders that we are all able to reach out for help and someone will be there to give us a hand. As teachers, coaches, classmates, and parents - you never know who may be struggling. Keep an eye on one another and check in...create relationships where you can confidently have conversations to ensure each other is safe, healthy, and know where to go to get help, if needed. Simple reminders such as: do the best we can, value our friendships, ask for help, be open minded, and know each of us has a purpose - might be just the thing someone needs to hear and will help those who need it begin their healing journey.



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