

## Committed to All-Around Excellence

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

Continuous improvement has been the legacy linchpin of this administration. What began approximately five years ago with the new

the District, as well as three projects on the campus of MCHS. All of these projects will begin later this spring and will take varying lengths of time to complete; the goal is to have all finished by November 2021.



**One of the larger arrays in the district sits on the roof of MJHS**

construction and small to large renovations of classrooms, extracurricular athletics facilities, and energy projects - the overarching theme is "Build the Future"...invest in all of our campuses and programs to better support our students.

"We are working very hard to catch up from decades of just doing enough to keep things running and shifting to a culture of all-around excellence," shared Superintendent, Dr. Jeff Studebaker. "We are a school district on the move. We have excellent, dynamic academic opportunities for students, we have extracurricular offerings that are unique to our school, and our athletic teams are coming off of one of the most successful years in decades - it is a great time to be at Madison and we need to continue to build and accelerate our successful momentum."

There are multiple projects in various stages of completion. Those include the ongoing energy-savings projects that include solar arrays throughout



**The solar array at Anderson Elementary**

electricity until the end of February," Studebaker continued. "The data we are tracking picked up late fall and captured sites as they came on live. Now that all sites are active, we have a stake in the ground and can begin an apples to apples comparison of energy expenses and savings moving forward," he continued.

## Locker Room and Concessions Facility

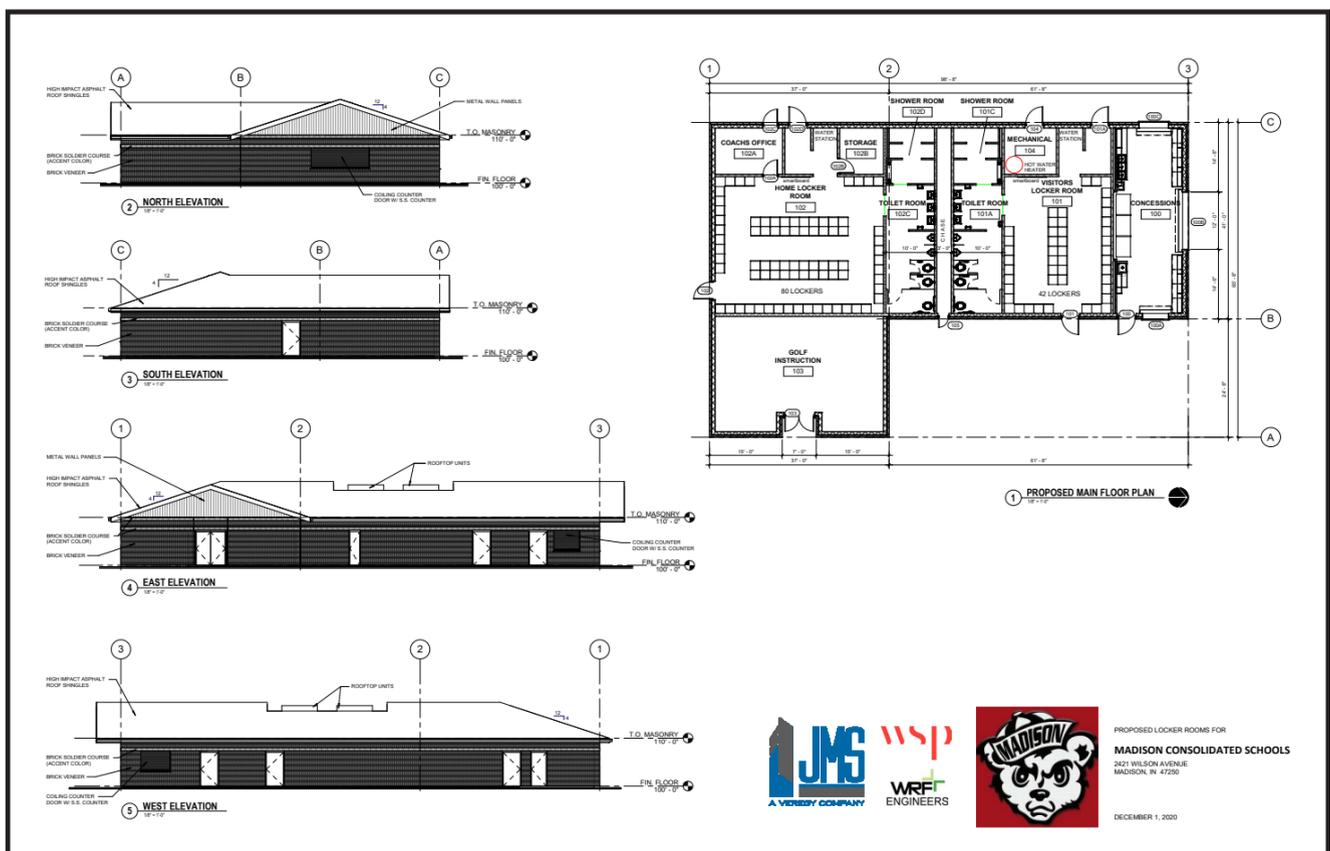
At the March board meeting, members of the Board of Trustees approved the bid to the Poole Group, Inc. for \$2,011,000 for the construction of a new weight training facility at MCHS, locker room addition which will also house a new concessions area, and a large renovation to the existing restroom facilities at the new multi-use facility located at Cub Field. "As we continue to expand and improve our facilities, the goal will be to utilize the available space in the most efficient way possible and to create multi-use venues for use across programs wherever possible," shared Studebaker.

This project is a hybrid of new construction and renovation to existing facilities. Renovation work will begin on the red building located between the baseball diamond and turf field. This renovation will include updated restrooms, added laundry facilities, upgrades to the officials room, upgrades to the entrance and ticket booth, as well as, added storage, and an HVAC system.

The existing concession space will be removed and a newly constructed, larger, more efficient space will be built closer to the bleacher stack and have additional service windows. This will allow better configuration for our needs and also will allow more flexibility when hosting multiple events.

As part of the newly constructed facility, there will be added external locker rooms that will be used by all athletes on teams where Cub Field is home. While athletes now have to access the locker rooms at the high school, or in some cases, not utilize locker rooms at all, they will now have access to space before, during half-time, and after games. The new space will have home locker rooms, visiting locker rooms, restroom facilities for athletes, a coach's office, small storage area and will be connected to the concessions space and will be on a separate HVAC system for year round climate control.

In addition, there will be a new golf instruction room. "We are very excited about the addition of this space as it will serve a group of athletes that have not had on campus access to year round facilities to this point," shared Bronkella. Located on the east side of the building, This space will house four golf simulators and a putting area. The video display equipment in this area also can also be used for meeting areas for multiple sports when golf does not have it reserved.



**Plans for locker room/concession space at Cub Field**



PROPOSED LOCKER ROOMS FOR  
MADISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS  
2421 WILSON AVENUE  
MADISON, IN 47205  
DECEMBER 1, 2020



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

**Spring has arrived** and we are thrilled to be in school!

Last year at this time we were at the beginning of the pandemic and a couple of months of virtual instruction. Thanks to our parents, teachers, staff, and students, we have had a very successful school year so far! We have been able to do face-to-face teaching more than virtual and our students are demonstrating both academic and personal growth as a result of the high-quality in-person time they are receiving with our teachers. We know that we still have a lot of work to do to close the gap created by several weeks of virtual learning, but we know we have gained by being in person most of the year.

The ability to stay open during the pandemic was not the result of a lucky break. We have been able to stay open safely because all of us did our part. We masked, cleaned, socially distanced, and stayed home when we were sick. As a result, non-Covid illnesses are at an all-time low as well! As a result of our collective efforts we have been able to stay open most of the year. Also, Deputy and Rykers' Ridge Elementary Schools and their families should be commended because they never had to close down for COVID related issues! Other than our winter weather and a couple of classes we had to quarantine, those two buildings never had to close for Covid this year!

While the news regarding Covid is currently positive, we have to remain vigilant. The pandemic



is not over and new strains of the virus are popping up around the country. There are a lot of great things we all missed last year because we were closed the entire spring. We don't want to have to do that again this spring. Our ability to have Commencement and our other high-interest spring activities depend completely on how well we keep our precautions in place as we close out the year. Please wear a mask in public, socially distance your family from other people, don't travel to Covid hot spots, wash your hands frequently, and get vaccinated as soon as you can. With some intentional precautions and continued hard work we will hopefully be able to finish the school year strong and in person!

Spring unfortunately also brings the legislative session and this year there is a lot going on in Indianapolis. Many of the bills being considered this spring will result in harming all of public education if they are passed. Among the worst bills being considered are some that would continue to transfer money from public schools to private ones. While competition and the concept of allowing State tax dollars to

follow the student are good in theory, what we are actually doing in Indiana is not good for our children. Any school that receives State tax dollars should be held to the exact same rules and accountability standards as the public schools...that is currently not the case. Also being considered is a bill that would remove a School Board's authority to manage their own buildings and school buses. This bill would create a non-elected entity that would take control of our buildings and buses. This is similar to yet another bill that would allow outside entities to transfer a school's money to a charter school without the School Board having any say in the matter.

These bills are simply wrong-headed and vindictive attacks against Indiana's public school teachers who have been among the heroes this past year as we faced the pandemic. Please take the time to read about what is happening in Indianapolis and don't hesitate to contact your legislators to let them know that you value your public school!

Have a wonderful spring and let's finish strong!

- Dr. Jeff Studebaker

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Thanks to the Madison Cubs cardholders, \$4,031.84 was donated to the school during the 2019/20 school year!



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\*Check card requires a German American checking account and approval of check card application.

# Facility Updates Continued

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

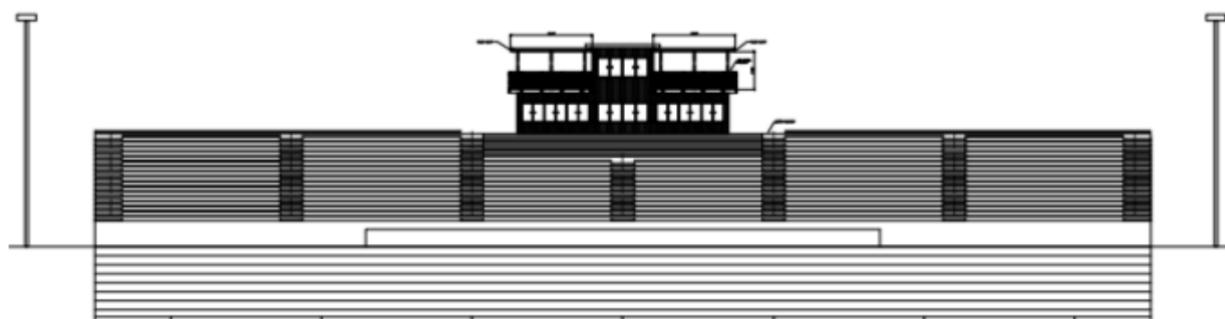
## Fitness Center

The existing weight room facility at MCHS is used every period throughout the day for weights class and was recently updated with new equipment. Coach Roney designed the space for efficiency, purchased new racks and equipment, and has continued to grow the program for students and athletes, alike. "I am thrilled that the class continues to grow and that we have once again run out of space to accommodate kids who want to get stronger," Roney shared. "The new Fitness Center will allow us to spread out, add some different equipment, expand our training offerings, and accommodate more students."

The new Fitness Center will be built on the NW corner of the Connor K. Salm Gymnasium and will sit between the softball and baseball fields. "We are very excited about this project," shared Athletic Director, Joe Bronkella. "This space will more than double our size, allow for cardio equipment, as well as, additional free weight equipment. This expansion will not only create a better environment for ongoing strength training but will also allow more flexibility for teams and coaches to have more equipment and options to create more dynamic workouts."

Last fall, Bronkella surveyed all coaches to assess their needs and desires for their team. "It was important that we capture the unique needs of each sport," he shared. "We understand that the training and conditioning is different for each team and we want this to be a facility that is flexible enough to accommodate all of our programs. We want this facility to be used year round by students, not only for our strength classes but for our student-athletes as they continue to work in-season, as well as, throughout their off-seasons to get stronger."

## Pressbox Project



Pre-site work has begun on the replacement of the press box at Cub Field. Reinforced beams, ground samples, and structural integrity work (including new footers) is the basis for this project. Once that is completed, the existing structure will be removed and the new, larger, more accommodating structure will be placed on the existing site. "This is a project we are really looking forward to," shared Bronkella. "With the upgrades we have made in technology to accommodate the cameras and recent livestream options, as well as, new scoreboard functionality - this piece will help us provide a better experience for fans in the stands, as well as, those viewing remotely." The new press box will be bigger, hard wired for the internet, and provide an elevated, climate-controlled environment for our expanding event staff. "We have big plans for this facility," Studebaker shared. "We will host the IHSAA Girls Track and Field Sectional later this spring and hope to attract any number of regional events for football, soccer, track and field, and marching band competitions. This press box will allow us incredible flexibility and this venue begins to expand into year round event hosting." This project is expected to be completed in June.

## New gym technology could create additional student opportunities

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

Athletic Director Joe Bronkella and Technology Coordinator Alex Hobson have been heavily involved in the technology project to enhance the game experience. "We really think this is a unique opportunity for students and it keeps them involved in other sports and with other programs," shared Bronkella. "There are a few schools in our area that have clubs or programs directed toward the broadcasting/production interest area. It is definitely something we are exploring as it seems to have piqued interest among our student body.



From the technology perspective, Bronkella had invested in a camera system that were mounted at the high school football field last spring, just before the pandemic shut things down. Once things were able to reopen the system proved invaluable. "We were really able to expand our viewing options and accommodate fans near and far and provide a safe, socially distanced experience for our fans, as well as, visiting fans," Bronkella shared. "Throughout the school year we have broadcasted from our high school football facility, which

includes MCHS and MJHS soccer, football, and track events. All basketball, volleyball, and wrestling events held at Connor K. Salm Gymnasium have also streamed."

During the winter season, the school has purchased the Blue Frame Production Truck software which will expand offerings and opportunities even more. "We are working with Alex to understand how this package fits with our existing camera technology and how we can take the experience of student production a step or two further as we see this as a wonderful opportunity to engage fans and family of our athletes, as well as, visiting fan bases who may not be able to or wish to travel for games," Bronkella shared. "Production Truck is more portable, run through the iPads we already had, and creates endless options so long as we have an interest from our students and the 'manpower' trained and committed to implementation. It is pretty exciting to think about what it could mean for our kids!"

Hobson has been instrumental in getting the new scoreboards and gym technology integrated to create the unique experience you see at our home ballgames. As we continue to work with and unpack the Production Truck technology, the big screens will have the ability to follow the game and provide instant replay features. Currently, the screens display pregame hype and player introduction graphics during the starting lineups. During the game, it captures the score and follows points and fouls for the players on the floor. "We think this is a great opportunity for students who are interested in technology and production," shared Hobson. "We know a number of our students are already producing work on their own using their phones - we want to find those kids and see if we can partner with them to provide a service to our community that could reach well beyond athletics, including things like our commencement services."



Preschool Reservations  
**NOW OPEN**  
for 3 and 4 year olds

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP - PLEASE USE THIS TO DETERMINE YOUR DESIGNATED SCHOOL LOCATION
- FAMILY INFORMATION LETTER FOR:
  - SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS
  - CONTACT INFORMATION
  - ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

CALL YOUR SCHOOL TODAY TO RESERVE A SPOT FOR YOUR STUDENT.

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Students must be 3 or 4 years old on or before August 1, 2021



**CLASS OF 2034**  
**Kindergarten Registration**  
**NOW OPEN**  
for the 2021-2022 school year

Due to continued safety precautions, our annual Kindergarten Connect event will look a little different this spring. We ask that you visit the Main Office location of your designated school (determined by your home address) during the school day to pick up a packet. Please complete and return the packet to the clerk to secure your spot.

You will need to include:

- copy of child's birth certificate
- copy of child's immunization record signed by a physician

\*\*no exceptions.

Resources available on our website:

- Elementary school district map - please use this to determine your designated school location
- Printable enrollment packet
- Family information letter
  - Contact information
  - Addresses and phone numbers
  - School main office hours

visit [madison.k12.in.us](http://madison.k12.in.us) - information is linked on the home page pop-up box

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2021 in order to enroll.

# Madison Congratulates

## MCHS Quiz Bowl returns to State Finals

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*



Team members included: Jacob Dagher, Devin Zhang, Harrison Hall, Jack Heckler, Sonny Koren, Owen Schmidt, Jace Singer, Emily Studebaker, and Annie Zhang. Not pictured are: Neel Mistry and Jackson Schwartz.

On Saturday, March 6, 2021, the MCHS Quiz Bowl team participated in the virtual State Final Quiz Bowl Competition. "We often describe Quiz Bowl to people as Jeopardy with a team instead of competing solo," shared coach Cortney Arrowood. "Four members of the team compete in one round, which is 20 to 22 toss-up questions that focus on everything from Math and Science to English, Art, and Music. There are even pop culture questions mixed in," she continued.

The moderator reads the toss-up question to all 8 players (on the two competing teams) and then whoever buzzes in first and correctly answers the question earns their team bonus questions. These questions come in a set of 3 that all relate to the same topic/theme. The team gets to work together and confer to answer the bonus questions. Then it moves on to the next toss-up question. "Special care is taken to make sure that our 4 competing players have different strengths in their knowledge," Arrowood pointed out. "For example, we have two young men who have a lot of knowledge in sports, so we make sure to never play them at the same time so we can spread their knowledge out."

While the team traveled to Purdue University last year to compete, this year they participated virtually. Madison competed in three rounds, losing in round one to Culver Academies, beating Barr Reeve in round two, and losing to Center Grove in round three.

The list of State Finalist teams on the IASP Quiz Bowl website included sixteen schools from around the state, which is a pretty select group of competitors. "It takes a special group of students who are willing to push themselves out of their comfort zone to learn not only new things in areas of interest but become well rounded and versed on a number of different topics," Arrowood explained. "These students spend hours of time studying outside of the classroom (and separately this year, due to restrictions) to develop a strategy to compete across the board. Last year, we did not win any of the matches, so we are improving and excited to compete again next year!"

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Based Upon The Works By Jonathan Lynn, Hunter Foster, & Eric Price  
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## It's been a long drought for Madison Swimming, but...

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

The Madison Swim Team sent four Sectional Champions to represent at the State Finals Championship meet at the Natatorium at IUPUI on February 26-27, 2021. Due to strict COVID-19 safety protocols, the prelims were split into two sessions on Friday, February 26th with even number Sectional teams competing in the early session and odd numbered Sectional teams competing in the late session and no fans were permitted to attend.

The Madison Medley Relay team of Carter Schutte, Justin Banks, Liam Roney and Jack Kelsey finished 30th overall with a time of 1:41.14.

Justin Banks competed in the 200 IM and 100 Breast events. Justin finished 26th overall in the 200 IM with a time of 2:00.27 and 27th overall in the 100 Breast with a time of 1:00.19.

Carter Schutte competed in the 100 Back and tied for 28th overall with a time of 55.13, a personal best time and new school record.

Madison had three State qualifiers in 1985 and 1986. In 1985, Tom Solomon qualified in the 100 Breaststroke and 200 Free, along with the 200 Medley Relay team of Gish, Halm, Cook, and Solomon. In 1986, Solomon qualified in the 100 Breaststroke, 200 IM, and was a member of the 200 Medley Relay team of Gish, Jones, Perkins, Solomon, Wells, Wallace, Alward, and Dagher competed.

"We hope it is not another 35 years before we have a return trip to this meet," shared Ashley Schutte, Madison Swim Coach. "We have a very young and talented team with more coming in each year. Our feeder program, the H2O Swim Club, is developing strong, driven, and committed Divisional and State level athletes who are excited to be part of a growing, competitive team."

The Medley Relay team qualified for their State berth by clinching a Sectional Championship in the event and set a new school record in the process with a time of 1:40.09. In addition to the relay team win, Justin Banks and Carter Schutte secured individual Sectional Championships in their individual events and took down records on the way to their individual State qualifying performances. During the Sectional meet, Banks set a new school record in the 200 IM with a time of 1:57.17 and the 100 Breast with a time of 58.55 dismantling the 35 year old records set in both events in 1986 by Tom Solomon. Schutte broke the 100 Backstroke record with a time of 55.68 previously set in 1997 by Ben Canada.



State Qualifiers: Liam Rooney, Jack Kelsey, Carter Schutte, and Justin Banks

"Indiana is known and respected for producing incredibly talented and competitive swimmers," Schutte continued. "Throughout the telecast of the State Finals it was reiterated how competitive the field is and the work and effort it takes from these athletes to qualify at this level." In addition to competing at the IHSAA State Championship meet, Carter, Justin, and Liam represented H2O Swim Club at the USA Swimming Senior State Meet with several qualifying times in various events.

"While our guys were not completely satisfied with their results, they understand the honor and achievement it is to simply get there," Schutte shared. "They are now more motivated than ever to continue to compete at an elite level and do all they can to ensure they get another opportunity, not only for themselves but for their teammates as well. We intend to be back!"

## Bilz Grapples Her Way to History; Hopes to Inspire More

### Female Wrestlers

By: *Isa James, Madisonian Staff Writer*

Born and raised in Madison, Indiana, Madison Consolidated High School wrestler Kelsey Bilz has propelled herself to be the first-ever wrestling state-champion in Madison history.



This is a monumental accomplishment considering the wrestling program has been around for over 60 years, with 25 state qualifiers and 15 state placers.

"This historical significance cannot be overstated," said MCHS assistant wrestling coach Dustin Bentz. He has been working with Bilz since she attended Madison Consolidated Junior High School. Bilz's record-setting match occurred on January 15th at Hamilton Heights High School, located in Arcadia, Indiana. Mackenzie Smith, whom she defeated for the state championship, had previously beaten Bilz on December 29, where Bilz was outmatched 17-2. Bilz also fell to Smith

in their first meeting earlier in the fall. However, the third time was the charm for Bilz as she turned the tables at the state meet and won a 2-1 grudge match.

Bilz stated that her biggest downfall in the previous match against Smith was that she was in her head too much during the match. However, she didn't make the same mistake going into the match for the state championship. Bilz said she had decided to get out of her head, wrestle her match, and be more aggressive this time around. MCHS Head Wrestling Coach, Tyson Skinner, observed that she was moving well on her feet throughout the match. He and Bilz knew her opponent's ability to get turns from the top, so the second they went neutral, Bilz could get a takedown which was a great determinant in her winning the match. The last period was all about "staying active" and not giving up a turn to maintain her lead.

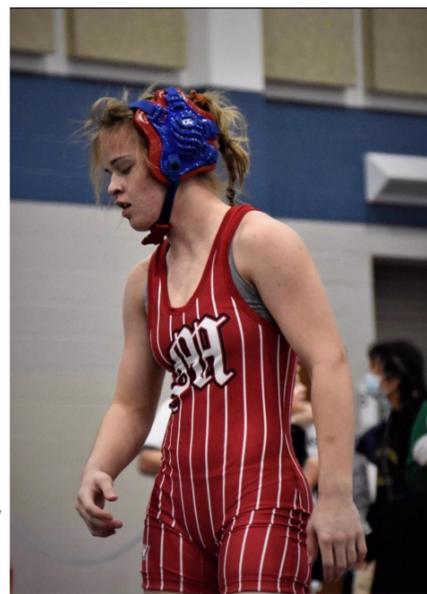
After Bilz heard about a wrestling meeting over the intercom in seventh-grade, she decided to be open-minded and attend. This event sparked her interest, and she began to

watch matches and practices. Bilz admitted that she was not in the best spot in terms of grades before joining and wanted something to get her motivated. Wrestling made her push herself a lot harder because she now knows she can take whatever is thrown at her. Additionally, it has helped her to maintain consistency by not taking practices for granted and always working her hardest, no matter what. She previously ran for the MCHS cross country team in the fall but decided to focus solely on wrestling this season. It appears that decision culminated in a state championship.

Bilz's athletic talent, along with her many years of training and hard work, have gotten her to where she is. Her thick skin and grit have allowed her to progress so far in her wrestling career. According to Skinner, she doesn't settle. "She (Bilz) is driven and motivated to be the best version of herself that she can be."

"Just go for it," she said. "Soon enough, there will be a female wrestling team, and I would tell them to be open-minded with this new sport. It's an experience that I'm glad I challenged and should be challenged by many more females. It will be the norm with time." Since Bilz's recent win, Bentz commented that he has received many more girls aching to join.

Bilz's historical victory for state champion has paved a new path for the Madison Cubs' wrestling team. Her hard work and devotion to the sport have likely inspired a new generation of athletes at MCHS, especially young women. As she rounds out her last year of high school, she is searching for the best college for female wrestlers, where she hopes to become the best wrestler at her future school and to travel the world.



## Energy Bites Fuel PE Class

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*



MCHS PE Students: Sophomores Haley Huffman, Erin Burkhardt, Van Skinner, Elijah Tanguis, and Freshman Vincent Marshall enjoy energy bites treats prepared by culinary students.

One of the most awesome things to see is cross-curricular collaboration. During a recent Wellness Committee meeting, Food Service Coordinator Judy Brooks and Athletic Performance Coach, Jay Roney teamed up to help pair up our culinary and PE classes. "We are always looking for things our students will enjoy," shared Brooks. "With the focus on healthy foods and snacks in school we discussed ways to incorporate this throughout our district. Coach Roney asked if the culinary students would be interested in trying a new recipe for energy bites to share with his PE classes."

Ms. Shelby Ison, MCHS Intro to Culinary teacher, was all over the idea. Brooks teamed up with her to secure the necessary supplies and together Ison and Roney coordinated efforts to have the snacks prepared and delivered to students at the conclusion of their PE class. "We are always talking with our kids about the importance of healthy nutrition and hydration in the process of preparation, competition, and

recovery," shared Roney. "To be able to combine our lesson with Ms. Ison's class and have them use the opportunity as an assignment in class was awesome. The PE students really enjoyed the treat!" Students in the Intro to Culinary Arts class made the energy bites, packaged them, and delivered them at the end of each class period.

"All of my friends really liked them," shared culinary student Olivia Glasgow. "Personally I liked hearing how proud the students were making healthy treats for other classes which included a lot of their friends," shared Ison. "They really enjoyed hearing how much everyone liked the energy bites and had fun providing them for their friends."

The MCS Wellness Committee is a group of teachers, administrators, community members, and a student representative who work together to implement age appropriate awareness on nutrition education, healthy choices, and the importance of exercise.

# The 110th Custer Contest to be In-Person

By: **Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator**

One sure sign of spring is the annual Custer Oratorical Contest held each year at Madison Consolidated High School. This year, the event returns to the Opal E. Sherman Auditorium on Sunday, May 2, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. and will be in person. "Last year, due to the closure of school around the pandemic, the students were invited to participate virtually," shared Carrie Dickerson, MCHS Counselor and Custer organizer. "It was just not going to have the same feel as a live event, and we couldn't be more excited to have this return for our students."

Last year the six participants (there was a tie for 5th rank) were given the option to record their recitation. "Instead of a public performance and judging, the students were given the option to record their recitation for social media," shared Dickerson. In a piece for last year's District Correspondent, we reached out to some of the participants for feedback and learned that while all were well into the preparations and rehearsal at the time schools closed, (which continued virtually over the shut-down) none of them opted to record their finished recitations. "Along the way students shared their experiences with the virtual rehearsals which brought to light several barriers with recording," shared Dickerson. Due to the unprecedented situation last year, all contestants from last year's contest received an equal portion of the award money. "We are very happy that things appear to be in place for an in-person event where the students can perform their selections in front of a live audience (albeit likely limited to ensure social distancing) and be judged on their performance, just as Mr. Custer intended all those years ago."

Mr. Custer began the Custer Oratorical Contest in 1912 for students who attended all four years at MCHS and rank in the very top of their class. This year's participants are pictured: Jacob Dagher, Rachel Riley, Devin Zhang, Sebastian Biallas, and Zach Forner. Senior Emily Studebaker, while in the top-ranking order, has not attended Madison Consolidated High School for the required four years, thus making her ineligible to compete. "Emily has been an incredible support to this group," Dickerson shared with a smile. "While she cannot participate in the Custer Contest, she is supporting her friends and classmates and enjoying the experience."

The students each select a literary passage that can be brought to life on stage. They are not allowed to use any props and must create a way to bring the story alive to the audience. Each selects a coach, prepares outside of school, and is given up to two hours of preparation time on stage prior to the event. The participants are judged on their performance but those judges remain anonymous. "As part of the conditions of the contest, no one ever knows who is judging the contest," shared Dickerson. "We have this beautiful ledger that documents the long-standing history of this tradition. We are very lucky to have this very unique opportunity to showcase the top-performing students in each class."

Meet the five participants lined up for the 110th annual Custer Oratorical Contest:

## SEBASTIAN BIALLAS

Sebastian is the son of EJ and Katy Biallas. Sebastian plans to attend Purdue University in the fall studying Mechanical Engineering. While at MCHS, he has been involved in Concert Band, Marching Band, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra, Student Council, National Honor Society, Camp Invention counselor, 8th grade band instructor, and has taken Tae Kwon Do lessons for many years.

Sebastian's selection is from *Scythe*, a young-adult novel by Neal Shusterman. Set in the far future, where death by natural causes has been virtually eliminated thanks to advances in technology, and an advanced computer system known as the "Thunderhead" controls society. Sebastian has selected Ivy Tech Professor Jill Koren as his coach.

## JACOB DAGHIR

Jacob is the son of Jacque McDaniel and Jeff Dagher. Jacob plans to attend Purdue University in the fall studying Electrical Engineering. While at MCHS, he has

been involved in the Quiz Bowl Team and the Math Bowl Team.

Jacob will recite an excerpt from George Orwell's *1984*. A fictional novel published in 1949, *1984* follows the life of Winston Smith, whose personal desires collide with the ruling Party's ideology and raise the stakes of how far he will go to maintain his autonomy. *1984* ultimately explores the dangers of totalitarianism and warns against a world governed by propaganda, surveillance, and censorship. Jacob has selected MCHS Language Arts teacher Hannah Oliver as his coach.

## ZACH FORNER

Zach is the son of Matt & Lisa Forner. While Zach has not yet selected a school, he plans to study Business. While at MCHS he has been involved as the President of National Honor Society, member of the Student Athletic Council, a 4-year member of the varsity Baseball team, 3-year member of the varsity Soccer team, 2-year member of the varsity Basketball and Football teams, and 1-year member of the varsity Cross Country team.

Zach has selected *The Score Takes Care of Itself* by Bill Walsh with Steve Jamison and Craig Walsh. Walsh, a towering figure in the history of the NFL, led the San Francisco 49ers from the worst franchise in sports to a legendary dynasty. His philosophy on leadership and the development of skills necessary to be a successful leader in any aspect of life are brought to life in this work.

## RACHEL RILEY

Rachel is the daughter of David and Sharon Riley. Rachel plans to attend Purdue University in the fall studying Psychology. While at MCHS, she was involved in the Marching Band serving as the clarinet Section leader, Pep Band, Pit Orchestra, Student Council, National Honor Society, HOBY Ambassador and Junior Leader, Camp Invention counselor, and 8th grade band instructor.

Rachel has selected an excerpt from *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. Originally a 1978 radio comedy broadcast, the narrative follows the misadventures of the last surviving man, Arthur Dent, following the demolition of the Earth by a fictional alien race. Rachel has selected MCHS History teacher Krista Lee as her coach.

## DEVIN ZHANG

Devin is the son of Yu Jiang and Zu Tian Zhang. Devin plans to attend the Georgia Institute of Technology to study Computer Science. While at MCHS, he has been involved as the Team Captain of the Math Bowl and Quiz Bowl teams, Vice President of the National Honor Society, President of the Anchor Club, Secretary of the Student Council, and stage hand with Madison Theatre.

Devin has selected Isaac Asimov's short story *The Last Question*. Written in 1973, the piece is a science fiction short story and features a fictional computer called Multivac. The story overlaps science fiction, theology, and philosophy.

In 2019, the Community Foundation of Madison Jefferson County announced the creation of the Spirit of Custer Endowment to assist with long-term funding of the contest. At that time the school district and the Community Foundation partnered to raise over \$78,000 for the new endowment. In 1911, A.S. Custer established the annual contest with a \$1,000 gift. "Times have changed since the initial gift and we wanted to be sure we could maintain the intent and integrity of the well-documented wishes of A.S. Custer," shared Superintendent, Dr. Studebaker. "Through the establishment of this endowment community members, as well as, past participants will have an opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to financially support the contest for future generations." Grants from the endowment will provide scholarship awards for contestants of the annual contest.

For information on the Community Foundation, Spirit of Custer Endowment, or to make a donation please contact President & CEO, Bill Barnes at 812-265-3327, email [bill@cfmjc.org](mailto:bill@cfmjc.org), or visit the Foundation's website at [www.cfmjc.org](http://www.cfmjc.org).



## Two Madison teachers in the spotlight!

### Excerpts from the Indiana Department of Education Newsletters

In November, Lydia Middleton's kindergarten teacher, Missy Perry, was recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as an #DigitallyINspriED educator for her work with virtual instruction. In addition to teaching a regular kindergarten class, Ms. Perry teaches a group of students virtually by live-streaming her class every day. All students experience whole group and small group instruction. During whole group instruction, Ms. Perry can be seen calling on students who are physically in class as well as those that are attending via computer. In addition, Ms. Perry meets with students individually to assess each student. Given the fact that Ms. Perry teaches over thirty kindergarten students per day, this is a difficult task. Ms. Perry makes it look easy. Students in her kindergarten class use BOOM Cards, FlipGrid, IXL, and other digital tools.

In addition to teaching over thirty kindergarten students per day, Ms. Perry is always the first to volunteer to teach a new digital skill to staff. With the advent of virtual learning looming on the horizon this year, Lydia Middleton staff members decided to dedicate one day a week to learning how to use various digital resources. We call this Technology Tuesday. Ms. Perry has introduced three different topics on those professional development days. In addition, she is

always open to assisting others. Outside of teaching her class and assisting with staff professional development, she serves as a mentor for English Language Arts.

This month, Karisha Owens, the Lead Preschool Instructor at Deputy Elementary, was recognized for her #INspriEDearly accomplishments by the Indiana Department of Education. Now in her third year as the Lead Preschool Instructor in the three-year-old classroom, Ms. Owens true passion for working with the youngest learners shines daily! She believes in educating the whole child, including life skills, social-emotional skills, and character development. Ms. Owens is



happily married, with a wonderful eleven-year-old son, and a little girl on the way. She enjoys watching her son's sporting events, summer weather, camping, working outdoors, and spending time with family and friends, as well as their two dogs.

"Ms. Owens is a professional in the field of Early Childhood and exemplifies Paths to Quality, follows the Early Learning Foundations, ensures her work is developmentally appropriate," shares Collette Bronkella, Preschool Coordinator for the district. "She is a natural leader and works extensively to meet the needs of all students in her classroom by knowing their individual needs."

# Alumni Spotlight - Andrea Davidson, Class of 2003

**By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator**

Andrea Davidson has made quite a life pursuing her passion. "You find something you love, that brings you joy, that makes your heart full, and lean into it with all you have," she shared with MJHS students during a recent visit. "Once you begin to lean into that thing (or things) you love, figure out how to get better at it, and then give it back to the world in some way, that is living in your purpose. When you're living in your purpose your work is something you are energized and excited to wake up to even when it gets hard."



Davidson, MCHS Class of 2003, moved to Nashville, TN in 2014 where she has created a successful career as a vocalist, songwriter, producer, and multi-instrumentalist.

In 2018, I was contacted by the late Mayor Damon Welch with the idea of bringing Andrea into the schools. He had recently run into her and he shared a bit of her story with me. While he wasn't exactly sure what to do, he encouraged me to reach out to her. I met Andrea a short time later to brainstorm what we could do together and ended up leaving the conversation with a feeling of urgency knowing she could have an incredible impact on our students. I reached out to Aaron Kelsey (one of her former teachers) and Jill Mires, who was principal at MJHS at the time - thinking our secondary students would be our target audience. As much as we wanted this to happen, the timing just wasn't right for any number of reasons and the project was put on the back burner but was always on the radar.

Fast forward to the year of pandemic, virtual learning and out of the box thinking. Mires and Kelsey applied for an Innovation Grant from the Indiana Department of Education. "The intent of this grant was to directly increase our students' social and emotional wellness through innovative programming emphasizing well rounded educational opportunities," shared Mires. "This grant offered the opportunity to implement new programming and/or expand existing programming that embraces the heart of the Social Emotional Learning competencies while aligning with the content areas including, but not limited to visual arts, music, theater, and physical education, foreign language, sciences and STEM/STEAM, and robotics." This was it! The opportunity we had been patiently waiting for to work with Andrea and to share her story and experiences with as many students as possible...work began immediately.

When Andrea and I first met in 2018, Andrea poured her heart out after learning about the mental health issues our community faced. The suicide rate, depression among young adults, and the deteriorating support network for many of our youth weighed heavily on her heart. As a young child growing up in Madison, Davidson now identifies herself as one of the kids who didn't have a lot growing up. Her parents separated when she was 11, those relationships were strained at times, and support wasn't always readily available. She didn't like school, she didn't ever feel like she fit in, and often found herself creating a representative of herself for the outside world to see that was not the reality of what was

going on in her interior world. She was a self-proclaimed "stress ball" with perpetual fear and anxiety, bad skin, one of 'those kids' who wasn't really in trouble but was often disengaged and disassociated. It wasn't until many years later she found the courage to face her trials and work through her past. "I was in your seat once and I remember how hard it was to put myself out there. I was so insecure. Confidence is a powerful, beautiful thing that I never had much of until I came across poetry and then music. When you find something you love that you can express yourself through, get good at it through practice and discipline and then share it in some way, that's the strongest kind of confidence you can possibly cultivate. For me poetry and then singing led to songwriting which 100% completely saved and transformed my life," she shared candidly.

"I remember being in Mr. Stoner's fifth grade class," she began. "I was struggling and my anxiety manifested itself in bad skin, migraines, and a lack of focus. My parents were splitting up and any male dynamic, at that time in my life, was scary due to my situation at home. Mr. Stoner changed the trajectory of my life. While I never verbalized anything, I think he picked up on things. I realized during my time with him that I could take words and effect people - make them laugh, make them think, make them feel seen and make them feel loved. Looking back, that angst I felt moved me forward as a writer -that is where it all started. I returned to his classroom as an adult to visit with him and his students before he retired and thought then what power teachers have to change lives... after this week, I have never felt more strongly the truth of that statement."

Davidson visited every school during her visit. Working closely with Jill Mires, principal of Rykers' Ridge Elementary and Director of Elementary Curriculum, on the content for the curriculum Andrea got busy producing. The lessons began virtually with all students in each grade level throughout the district. Davidson sent a video that teachers



could use to teach students the art and craft of songwriting. Videos were created for elementary and secondary students with varying levels of depth focusing on the social and emotional benefits of music, the need for honesty about your feelings, the power of a creative outlet, and finding your passion. She shared a lot about her process, what drives her to beat to her own drum, and finding a community of friends and support who love you for who you are, encourage you to be your best, and drive you to be better each and every day - regardless of what you pursue.

From the virtual sessions, students who were interested in diving a bit deeper into songwriting were invited to sign up to have a face-to-face session with Andrea - so long as it worked out with COVID restrictions for an on campus visit. We really hoped this would work out," shared Jill Mires. "We knew it had the potential to be very special for our students regardless but after seeing the response to the videos, we knew we had to work hard to remove any barriers that might prevent an in-person session!"

It worked out that Andrea was able to come home and visit with students the week of March 8, hosting multiple, small group sessions at each school connecting with nearly 350 students.

"This experience has been extraordinary," shared Davidson. "The creativity of these kids, their ability to learn so quickly, to be so raw and honest - some incredible music was created with these students. I have witnessed kindness, respect, love, support, humility, sadness, happiness, and a sense of pride and accomplishment as a result of this time together."

During one session a student asked Andrea if she was famous. Andrea's answer was some of the best life advice I have heard in a long time. "When I was young, fame meant success," she started. "Today I realize that success is feeling good about myself, being self-reliant...having peace, joy, and purpose. I have learned that if you follow and give time to your passions, you can build a wonderful life with purpose." Since moving to Nashville, Andrea has seen great success and some might say she is famous, however, you would never know that from talking with this humble soul. Davidson had signed a record deal with Warner Brothers, a publishing deal with Warner Chappell, and a production deal with Jay Joyce. Most aspiring artists would be over the moon but Davidson found that the more structured the expectations became, the less happy and fulfilled she was in her work.

During a Q & A session with middle school students, Andrea encouraged honesty about your feelings and about where you are. "It doesn't always have to be positive, it's all about energy, communicating what's on your mind, feeling those vibes, and finding a healthy release to deal with things," she shared. One piece of advice she offered to those seriously interested in exploring music further is to find a way to demo your music. "You have to be able to put it out there," she guided. "The most empowering thing you can do for yourself as an artist / songwriter is to learn how to demo your own songs. Protools and Logic Pro are industry standard DAWS (digital audio workstations) but Garage Band (free with a Mac computer ) can work just to get started too. I love Logic Pro because I find it to be intuitive and user friendly plus it's way cheaper than Protools. You don't even have to play an instrument to make demos of your songs these days, you can access everything through software. If you're serious about moving to Nashville to pursue the songwriter / artist path demoing your own songs is not an option it's truly a must!"

As she wrapped up her second session at MJHS, we sat down for a few minutes to visit. The smile on her face, the warmth of her presence indicated it had been an amazing week of time with kids but also a time of personal growth for her. She admitted she wasn't sure what to expect when she arrived... she doesn't have children, has never facilitated a classroom, and understands how hard it is to step out among your peers and get real. "What these kids have done this week is incredible," she reminisced. "The art of co-writing takes balance, cooperation, respect, and compromise. From the youngest students to the oldest, I experienced incredible energy, grace, and a sense of support. What these kids have endured this year - through the pandemic, to virtual instruction, to being with their friends finally...they're killing it! The commitment and energy to make that happen from the teachers, staff, and school district is incredible. There are some powerful things going on in Madison schools and in this moment I feel so proud to say this is where I came from. It was great to get here and experience this in person and share my passion!"

While in Nashville, she co-wrote with various acclaimed songwriters, got a song placed in the hit TV series Nashville, got a song synced in an Apple ad, and toured extensively all over the United States. Currently, Andrea is stationed in Nashville where she is working towards getting a degree in Music Technology, freelance songwriting, and teaching one on one songwriting sessions in her Whole Artist Coaching Program. She is also working part time in Rogersville, TN where she has opened a music and arts event space in a historic valley called The Pressmen's Home.

For more on Andrea Davidson, check out Andrea Davidson Music on Instagram and Facebook or visit [andreadavidsonmusic.com](http://andreadavidsonmusic.com) and be sure to look for her where you stream music.

## Arctic Temps No Problem for Plungers!

**By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator**



Saturday, February 19, was chilly, snowy, and was the day scheduled for the annual Polar Plunge at Deam Lake in Borden, IN! Madison Consolidated Schools awesome plungers, small in number but mighty in impact, raised \$1,500 for Special Olympics and our Madison Cubs Unified teams. The team of Sarah Webster, Megan Sprong, Amy Gatke, and Garrett Gatke braved the frigid conditions. "This was the coldest year yet," shared Sarah Webster, Special Education teacher at MCHS. "The water was 15 degrees!"

Madison Cubs Unified brings together student-athletes from both special education and general education to participate in high school sports. Efforts to start the process last spring with a Unified Track Team were cut short due to COVID-19. "We are very excited to get underway," shared Amy Gatke, Unified Team coach and Special Education teacher. "Currently, there are 20 students participating on the Cubs Unified Bowling Team. We are hopeful to launch other teams as excitement builds."

A collaborative effort between Special Olympics and the IHSAA, Unified Teams are composed of athletes and partners of students in high school. Madison Cubs Unified is coached by Amy Gatke, Sarah Webster, Megan Sprong, and Lori Palmer and the goal is to

become a banner "Champions Together" school. "In order to earn that designation, a school must meet the requirements of four pillars: inclusive youth leadership opportunities, unified sports, whole school engagement, and collaborative fundraising efforts like the Polar Plunge," Gatke continued.



# Martin Luther King Day Celebration

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

In celebration of Martin Luther King day in January, MCHS published a YouTube production MCHS Presents: A Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration of Equality and Civil Rights celebrating equality and the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The program captures personal experiences from community members Sue Livers, Elsie Payne, and Helen Cope about their childhood memories and life growing up in Madison.

"This was Mr. Koren's project, he led the process and did a great job communicating with our team for production," shared Jake Shockley, English and Journalism teacher at MCHS. "I was just the editor." Mr. Koren worked with Juniors, Taylor Lynch and Ethan Mack, who also hosted the production, to lay the groundwork and conduct the interviews. "They did a tremendous job collaborating with me during the creative process and formation of the video." Mrs. Grayson and

Director Pieratt did an amazing job with the choir and band performances to add the musical element to the program; while students from our JAG program did a great job defining equality.

The program was shared with all teachers throughout the district to use in their classroom. If you would like to watch, the entire program can be viewed on YouTube with this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nAz4hkNCwyl>

Pictured to the right are Sue Livers (top left), Helen Cope (top right), Elsie Payne (bottom left). Each shared memories from their childhood of growing up in Madison. Program hosts Ethan Mack and Taylor Lynch (bottom right) are also pictured.



# Madison Hires Tim Torrance as New Lady Cubs Softball Head Coach

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

On Wednesday, February 10, 2021 the Board of School Trustees approved the hiring of Madison native and MCHS Alum Tim Torrance as the new Lady Cubs Softball head coach. "I am ecstatic about this opportunity," shared Torrance. "This is the kind of coaching position I have always wanted. A solid program rooted in fundamentals, hard-working student-athletes, an elite field, and outstanding facilities - it is just a great opportunity."

"We had a number of interested candidates but Tim's experience, passion for the sport, and desire for long-term continued growth and development of our program and student-athletes put him at the top of our list," shared Madison Athletic Director Joe Bronkella. Torrance spent the last six years as the head softball coach at Shawe, as well as, coached the volleyball program until joining the Madison staff last fall. "Tim came highly



recommended when we had an opening on our volleyball staff this past fall," Bronkella continued. "He fit in right away with our volleyball staff, worked well with our athletes, and has an approach that we feel is a great fit for the culture we are cultivating within Madison athletics."

Torrance is a Cub Alum and has been coaching at various levels since graduating from high school. "I was really looking forward to taking this spring off and watching all of my grandchildren play sports. Three of them have just moved back and are two are involved in sports at Madison High School and I was excited to be able to watch all of them compete," Torrance shared. "When the volleyball opportunity presented itself earlier in the year, I felt very fortunate to be able to get involved and contribute. The softball position is truly something very special and I am honored to have been selected. My oldest daughter is on staff as an assistant and my granddaughters are members of the team at Madison. To be able to share this opportunity and our family's passion for the game of softball with the Lady Cubs and their families is something I treasure. I have an amazing staff and will rely on them and their experience with these young ladies to get up to speed as quickly as possible."



Preschool Reservations  
**NOW OPEN**  
for 3 and 4 year olds

RESOURCES AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE:

- ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT MAP - PLEASE USE THIS TO DETERMINE YOUR DESIGNATED SCHOOL LOCATION
- FAMILY INFORMATION LETTER FOR: SCHOOL OFFICE HOURS CONTACT INFORMATION ADDRESSES AND PHONE NUMBERS

CALL YOUR SCHOOL TODAY TO RESERVE A SPOT FOR YOUR STUDENT. REGISTRATION WILL OPEN IN APRIL.

EACH SCHOOL WILL CONTACT FAMILIES WHO ARE ON THE RESERVATION LIST FOR REGISTRATION APPOINTMENTS.

Students must be 3 or 4 years old on or before August 1, 2021

# Giving Back is Big for Mayor's Eagles

Rewind back the holidays for just a moment and check out Lydia Middleton's Mayor's Eagles project! The Mayor's Eagles sponsored a Holiday Food Drive for the Jefferson County House of Hope. "We had excellent student participation," shared Amy Hoskins, School Counselor and Mayor's Eagles Sponsor. "We were able to donate a total of 2,373 food items to the House of Hope."

More recently, the Mayor's Eagles sponsored a "Kindness Week" March 1-5. The PTO donated money to sponsor a danish and coffee breakfast for our Teachers and a Thursday "Coffee Cart/Drink Cart" for staff. Students also gave away "bags of kindness". The Eagles also designed and put up our Kindness Keeps us Afloat display in the gym.



**CLASS OF 2034**  
Kindergarten Registration  
**NOW OPEN**  
for the 2021-2022 school year

Due to continued safety precautions, our annual Kindergarten Connect event will look a little different this spring. We ask that you visit the Main Office location of your designated school (determined by your home address) during the school day to pick up a packet. Please complete and return the packet to the clerk to secure your spot.

Resources available on our website:

- Elementary school district map - please use this to determine your designated school location
- Printable enrollment packet
- Family information letter
  - Contact information
  - Addresses and phone numbers
  - School main office hours

You will need to include:

- copy of child's birth certificate
- copy of child's immunization record signed by a physician
- \*\*no exceptions.

visit [madison.k12.in.us](http://madison.k12.in.us) - information is linked on the home page pop-up box

Kindergarten students must be 5 years old on or before August 1, 2021 in order to enroll.



Mayor's Eagles Pictured left to right: Regan Rowlett, Lilly Dattilo, Max Paden, Kolton Brittain, Ava Canida, Emma Shockley, and Maggie Stivers.

## ELECTRICAL EXPENSES

|          | 2019        | 2020        | 2021        | SAVINGS     |
|----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| OCTOBER  | \$61,216.23 | \$56,583.12 |             | \$4,633.11  |
| NOVEMBER | \$50,916.99 | \$40,782.22 |             | \$10,134.77 |
| DECEMBER | \$47,352.54 | \$41,025.70 |             | \$6,326.84  |
| JANUARY  |             | \$53,053.51 | \$45,154.17 | \$7,899.34  |

## Solar Energy Savings

As mentioned in the article on Page 1, solar energy savings realized to date throughout the district with all solar panels now actively generating energy. We will continue to monitor cost savings month to month and report back frequently with updates.

**KOEHLER**  
**WELDING**  
**SUPPLY, INC.**

An integrated supplier with the capabilities to source all our customer's needs.