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THE DISTRICT Correspondent

June 2020

A Free Publication of Madison Consolidated Schools

Learning in a Digital World During a Pandemic

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**
Communications Coordinator

Friday, March 13 was the last day of face to face instruction for schools in our area due to the COVID-19 closure of schools across the state. While a daunting task, Madison Consolidated Schools acted swiftly to implement a detailed district-wide alternative education plan focused around their existing eLearning platform.

Preparedness

MCS has had eLearning in place for over six years. When first introduced in 2011-2012, eLearning in our community was a very new concept. MCS had a vision, a progressive approach, and made a large investment in technology creating a 1:1 environment where each student had a device. Board minutes indicate that in 2012 iPads were approved for an elementary classroom pilot program while there were already six eLearning days for secondary students scheduled for the 2012-2013 school year. "The leadership of this district dating back to 2010-2011, prepared us well for what was to come," shared Dr. Jeff Studebaker, Superintendent. "The early adaptive work to technology in education set us apart during the recent pandemic."

By 2013, the district was utilizing six scheduled eLearning days at the high school level where students worked from home remotely. Elementary students used these days to learn about and practice 'remote' learning tools from the safe confines of their classroom guided by their teachers.

Fast-forward only a few years and the district was one of the first approved by the state to utilize eLearning days to make up inclement weather days. Each year the district

has improved upon adaptation of curriculum, delivery, devices, and tools available in order to enhance the digital learning experience. "Students today, as well as many adults, are very comfortable with a vast number of devices, platforms, and delivery mechanisms when it comes to content consumption," Studebaker continued. "Our world, our workplaces, our homes are all much smaller and more connected thanks to evolving technology that is available at our fingertips."

March 2020

When COVID-19 closed our traditional school environment, MCS was well-positioned to take eLearning to the next level. "Our students and teachers were well prepared for digital learning," continued Studebaker. "What we were not completely comfortable with was how the systems and processes we used for (what had been) short-term periods of use would hold up over the long haul and what that



Bryson Layman, second grader at Deputy Elementary, uses his iPad to connect with his teacher, Mrs. Crim

would need to look like compared to what we had been delivering. eLearning and the tools associated with it were never intended to replace face-to-face instruction within our district. However, after working to structure long-term, engaging learning environments during the recent shelter-in-place, we see both a need and value for a more robust, virtual aspect to our overall approach to education."

What we learned...

"Our district leadership met regularly [virtually] to discuss details of the learning environment as it was unfolding," shared Studebaker. "We knew our staff and students were engaging at some level in various aspects of learning, but realized quickly there was room for improvement." Across the district, teachers used Google Meet, Zoom, or other platforms to gather their classes. It could have been daily, weekly, or less structured but that face-to-face interaction proved

invaluable for teachers and students. At all grade levels, students were encouraged to get active, use household items for projects, and use their phones

to capture images and email assignments, if connectivity was a challenge. "The majority of our staff went above and beyond to help facilitate success for students," shared Studebaker.

ThoughtExchange



In an effort to better understand what worked well, identify barriers, and capture frustrations, a ThoughtExchange was launched inviting parents/guardians, staff, and students in grades 5 - 12 to share their experiences. "We had some very thoughtful responses, shared Ashley Schutte, Communication Coordinator. "It confirmed some of the things we thought were happening, identified areas for our next steps, and will help prioritize our

work moving forward."

Top thoughts were themed into five broad categories: Preparedness and Social Emotional Supports, Motivation and Accountability, Classroom Environment, Communication, and Training Opportunities. "We took the top-rated thoughts received (178 of 748 total) and placed them in broad categories for organizational purposes," shared Schutte. "We invite everyone to visit the results sites from the link on our homepage (madi-son.k12.in.us) where they can read all thoughts that were shared. Our goal in creating the themes was to help our families begin to dig into the data, as well as, help prioritize our work."

MCS was much better positioned than a number of schools within the region to launch a digital initiative. "We knew going in that it would not be our preferred method of instruction, but looking at some other districts in our area and around the state that did not have the technology or experience with remote learning, we knew our staff and students would persevere," shared Studebaker. Overall feedback results were positive and confirmed the district was well prepared. However, the survey also revealed and confirmed areas of opportunity for improvement moving forward. "The feedback from all participants regarding a desire for

See Learning, Page 7



Preschool and Kindergarten 2020 - 2021 Registration

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Madison Consolidated Schools operates one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools (each including preschool) serving approximately 2,700 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

A Virtual Success

Since the last issue of the District Correspondent, we have experienced an unprecedented shelter in place order that changed many aspects of our lives. It is frequently said that crisis situations uncover the strengths and weaknesses of people, communities, and systems (government and business models). This crisis certainly has done exactly that. We are very fortunate to live in a community where most people care about and take care of each other, educational systems are strong, flexible, and resilient, and governmental agencies are able to work with everyone for the benefit of everyone. Here are some of the many ways the Madison Consolidated Schools was able to help our students and families while we were unable to be together in our buildings:

The teachers in the district ramped up and in many cases got even better at delivering their eLearning courses for their students. The elementary school students completed over 80% of its digital assignments over the course of the shelter in place months! And teachers found ways to reach individual students and meet nearly every students' needs.

Our Food Service team served over 36,000 breakfast and lunch meals to students while we were locked down!

Our Transportation Department placed and rotated seven buses at strategic places around the community to help deliver WIFI signal to some of our families in more rural areas.

Several parents and community members helped our



Dr. Jeffery Studebaker

students stay active and fit by providing places for them to safely work out once safe.

Our Technology Department was available to assist teachers maintain and enhance their delivery and techniques within the digital learning environment. They also conducted Curbside Tech help that served on average 9 students per day at each location in order to help them keep their devices running over the shelter in place period.

While the spring of 2020 lost all of its sporting events and traditional school events, we will be able to do at least a few items to celebrate our students and their accomplishments.

As we begin our reopening processes, several activities will occur and various programs will restart. The Athletic Department has put together its reopening documents that will guide how our athletes will begin practicing and competing again. In addition, the high school has rescheduled its production of Newsies in the newly renovated auditorium in July and has a full Commencement planned for our gradu-

ating Seniors in July as well. Our 4th grade students will also have an opportunity to say goodbye to their elementary school and also have an opportunity to be introduced to their new 5th grade building at some point in July.

As of this writing, the district's reopening plans are nearing completion and they will be shared, discussed, tweaked, and approved by multiple agencies over the coming days and will be released as soon as possible so that everyone can plan for the fall. Our emphasis on our reopening is on the safety of all of our students, employees, and families. We will base our decisions on science and practicality as we work closely with Indiana's education and health officials as we move toward a safe and exciting reopening this fall.

It truly is an exciting time to be a part of Madison Consolidated Schools! We are improving, innovating, and growing! We are excited to have many new students and staff members joining us for our next school year! We have numerous facility upgrades in progress that will dramatically improve the fiscal outlook of the district as well as the experiences given to our students. If you haven't toured our buildings or talked to us about becoming part of Madison Schools...give us a call. We would be proud to have you come grow with us! Have a great summer and see you back at school in August!



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2019 - 2020 Scholarship Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following recipients of the many, many generous scholarships made available to students through various community members and organizations. As Madison Consolidated Schools, we appreciate the investment you have made in our very deserving students...we know they will be responsible stewards of your generosity!

Alcorn, Sage, Schwartz & McGrath Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 500	Farmer's Bank of Milton Scholarship Kennedy Stidham - \$ 1,000	Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 800 Alexia Banta - \$ 800 Clare Wilber - \$800	Marshall and Norma Banks Nursing Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 500	Larry & Charmaine Owens for Rotary Scholarship Connor Jacobs - \$ 1,000
Bethany Circle Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 250 Alida Flores - \$ 500 Emma Cammack - \$ 250 Haniah Kring - \$ 500 Kennedy Stidham - \$ 500	FFA Scholarship Abigail Moore - \$ 400 Abigail Phillips - \$ 400 Jada Aldridge - \$ 300 Jared Ferguson - \$ 200 Logan Jines - \$ 300 Morgan Cahall - \$ 100	Jefferson County Retired Teachers Scholarship Karsyn Bailey - \$ 200	Mayor's Eagles Community Service Scholarship Caroline Kirby - \$ 250	Rotary Al Carter Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 1,000
Bonnie & Prentis Shelton Scholarship Anne Grady - \$ 1,000	Frances K. Eisan Memorial Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 900	Jeffery Bear Scholarship Jada Aldridge - \$ 1,500	MCHS Academic Competition Scholarship Britta Hess - \$ 750 Haniah Kring - \$ 750 Hanna Nyberg - \$ 750 Lyca Bishop - \$ 750	Rotary Higher Education Scholarship Kennedy Stidham - \$ 1,000
Brad O'Leary Scholarship Jonah Nichols - \$ 600	Friendship State Bank: James Lemon Scholarship Alexandra Reece - \$ 1,000	John & Maureen Galvin Scholarship Rachael Hoffman - \$ 1,000	MCHS Archery Scholarship Jada Aldridge - \$ 500	Rotary Ralph Seifert Scholarship Haniah Kring - \$ 1,000
Broadway School Alumni Scholarship Harper Watson - \$ 700	Gary Chapman Scholarship for the Arts Britta Hess - \$ 500	John Paul Chapter, DAR Good Citizen Award Elias Hanson - \$ 50	MCHS Class of '84 Scholarship Jonah Nichols - \$ 400	Shannon Thomas Memorial Scholarship Clare Wilber - \$ 300
Calvin Family Scholarship Morgan Cahall - \$ 1,100	George & June Kirk Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 22,700	Joseph V. Cline Scholarship Harper Watson - \$ 33,500	MCHS Class of 1966 Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 2,200	Sharon Thom Alcorn Memorial Scholarship Hannah Owen - \$ 1,500
Carl J. & Mary M. Hoefling Memorial Scholarship Clare Wilber - \$ 4,310	George & June Miller Memorial Scholarship Vanina Kelsey - \$ 4,000	Kennedy Rucker Memorial Scholarship Morgan Cahall - \$ 500	MCHS Class of 1979 "Life is Good" Scholarship in Memory of Greg Greves Ashlyn White - \$ 100	Shawn Barnes Memorial Scholarship Mason Welsh - \$ 300
Carolyn Bruce Spicer & Gene Spicer Nursing Scholarship Bailey Hankins - \$ 500	German American AIM Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 500	Knights of Columbus Scholarship Abigail Kelley - \$ 300	Mountjoy Family Memorial Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 4,000 Alida Flores - \$ 4,300 Caroline Kirby - \$ 14,000 Casie Bear - \$ 957 Hanna Nyberg - \$ 4,300 Hannah Uhl - \$ 4,300 Madeline Felts - \$ 4,000 Megan Eades - \$ 4,000	Southeast Indiana Recycling District (SEIRD) Scholarship Hanna Nyberg - \$ 1,500
Chan Chilton Memorial Scholarship Adam Combs - \$ 800	Glenn G. & Dorothy Ebel Huntington Scholarship Hannah Owen - \$ 1,000	LaVon Cartwright Gudkese & Ann Gudkese Offerman Nursing Scholarship Emma Cammack - \$ 250		Terri Nighbert Memorial Scholarship Bailey Hankins - \$ 1,000
Charles H. & Chris Keller Scholarship Abigail Moore - \$ 300	Helyn Bishop Scholarship Elias Hanson - \$ 1,100	Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Luka Chabukashvili - \$ 48,480		The Wood Memorial Scholarship Madeline Felts - \$ 900
Curtis Wright Memorial Scholarship Anne Grady - \$ 1,200	Indiana-Kentucky Electric Corp. Scholarship Adam Combs - \$ 1,000 Connor Jacobs - \$ 1,000 Hanna Nyberg - \$ 1,000	Community Foundation Scholar Award Harper Watson - \$ 1,000 Isaac Boone - \$ 1,000 Jessie Dyer - \$ 1,000	Murray Alford Memorial Scholarship Kierston Bruce - \$ 1,000	Thomas D. Craft Jr. Memorial Scholarship Matthew Ward - \$ 1,000
Custer Contest Equal Rank Bailey Hankins - \$ 466 Elias Hanson - \$ 466 Isaac Boone - \$ 466 Jessie Dyer - \$ 466 Jonah Nichols - \$ 466 Lyca Bishop - \$ 466	Indiana Freemasons Grand Lodge Scholarship Eric Shelton - \$ 1,300	Louis Ernst Family Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 951.20 Emma Cammack - \$ 951.20 Carson Denton - \$ 951.20 Megan Eades - \$ 951.20 Abigail Kelley - \$ 951.20 Trinity Marshall - \$ 951.20 Abigail Phillips - \$ 951.20 Hanna Nyberg - \$ 951.20 Harper Watson - \$ 951.20	Nancy Lee Cub Booster Club Scholarship Harper Watson - \$ 1,000 Bryce Foy - \$ 1,000	Tiffany Lee Carter Memorial Scholarship Karsyn Bailey - \$ 1,000
Dennis Holt Memorial Scholarship Morgan Cahall - \$ 1,300	Ivy Tech Community College Scholarship Ashlyn White - \$ 1,000	Lynn A. Maricle Music Scholarship Emily Skirvin - \$ 2,300	Nathan Wilson Memorial Mathematics Scholarship Elias Hanson - \$ 3,100	Tri Kappa Beta Omega Chapter Scholarship Abigail Kelley - \$ 500 Hannah Owen - \$ 500 Harper Watson - \$ 500 Jessie Dyer - \$ 500 Kennedy Stidham - \$ 500
Deputy Alumni Scholarship Annemarie Hassfurther - \$ 3,300	JAG Scholarship Alayna Cox - \$ 250 Carson Denton - \$ 250 Nicole Gatke - \$ 250 Avrey Green - \$ 250 Adrian Guzman - \$ 250 Daniel Guzman - \$ 250 Kessler Hancock - \$ 250 Kailyn Hostetler - \$ 250 Alexa Kahn - \$ 250 Abigail Kelley - \$ 250 Caroline Kirby - \$ 250 Michael Lehman - \$ 250 Douglas Pedraza - \$ 250 Alexandra Reese - \$ 250 Wesley Stewart - \$ 250 Paige Young - \$ 250	M. W. Anderson Scholarship Connor Jacobs - \$ 900	National Honor Society Character Scholarship Matthew Ward - \$ 500	Trevor Woodward Art Scholarship Britta Hess - \$ 500
Dianna Risk Peer Counseling Scholarship Emily Skirvin - \$ 500 Emma Cammack - \$ 500		Mable Green Memorial Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 1,250 Jonah Nichols - \$ 1, 250	National Honor Society Leadership Scholarship Casie Bear - \$ 500 Clare Wilber - \$ 500	Troy Allen Pyles Memorial Scholarship Rachael Hoffman - \$ 1,300
Dorothy B. Lotz Scholarship Isaac Boone - \$ 1,850 Kelly Dong - \$ 1,850		Madison Chautauqua Scholarship for the Arts in Memory of Bob Fourhman Britta Hess - \$ 1,100	National Honor Society Service Scholarship Bailey Hankins - \$ 500 Britta Hess - \$ 500	Vehicle Service Group - VSG Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 1,000
Dupont Alumni Scholarship Jared Ferguson - \$ 1,200 Morgan Cahall - \$ 2,500	Jefferson County 4-H Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 2,000 Annemarie Hassfurther - \$ 2,000 Haniah Kring - \$ 2,000		Nick Shadday Memorial Scholarship Tucker Adams - \$ 250	Vernon Gudkese Memorial Engineering Scholarship Adam Combs - \$ 250
Elks Dick Craft Scholarship Trinity Marshall - \$ 750		Madison Lions Club Scholarship Emma Cammack - \$ 1,000	Phi Beta Psi Sorority, Medical Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 750	Zimmer Tractor Scholarship Abigail Phillips - \$ 100 Jada Aldridge - \$ 100
Emerson Harrell Scholarship Alida Flores - \$ 200	Jefferson County Farm Bureau, Inc. Scholarship Logan Jines - \$ 1,000 Kennedy Stidham - \$ 1,000 Trinity Marshall - \$ 1,000	Madison Ribberfest BBQ & Blues Scholarship Jessie Dyer - \$ 1,000	Ralph and Robyn Jones Family Memorial Scholarship Alayna Cox - \$ 1,000	
Erin Turner Memorial Scholarship Vanina Kelsey - \$ 300			Rotary Club Betty Sebree Good Citizenship Award Elias Hanson - Award	

This is the most current information we have through June 18. We realize there are other scholarship awards outstanding; MCHS counselors have continued to follow up with those committees and have asked them to contact any Madison student award recipient directly.

Congratulations!

Madison Consolidated High School Class of 2020



Ethan Colt Adams

Alan David
Betancourt Hernandez

Kierston Rose Bruce



Luka Chabukashvili



Mitchell Davis



Joseph Louis Adams



Corine Nacole Bilz



David Blake Buxton



Ethan Lee Chadwell

Adrian Elisha
Charles Dean

Tucker Dane Adams



Kevin Ernest Bishop



Morgan Jade Cahall



Evan Kennedy Chism



Carson Allen Denton



Jada Lynn Aldridge



Lyca Marie Bishop



Maggie Mae Callaway



Adam Elijah Combs



Marlon Donorio De Meo



Dean Andrew Aloma



Alexis Taylor Bivens

Emma Mckenzie
Cammack

Elliot D. Copeland



Megan Lee Dunham



Brooklyn Faye Anderson



Jackson David Bladen



Keegan David Canfield



Zachary C. Copeland



Jessie Ann Dyer



Karsyn Hope Bailey



Isaac Kirkland Boone



Bladyn Hill Cardinal



Trinity Alexis Cosby



Megan Elaine Eades



Alexia Raylynn Banta



Hugo Bravo olle



Andie Lynne Carter



Dalton Lloyd Couch



Zoe Kiann Ehlers



Leana Akerke Barnes



Cheyney Marie Brewer



Kayla Dawn Carter



Alayna Grace Cox



Madeline Grace Felts



Casie Nicole Bear



Hunter Browning



Noah Gene Caswell



Brady Anthony Davis



Jared Byron Ferguson

Congratulations!

Madison Consolidated High School Class of 2020



Alida Marie Flores



Ariel Kianna Hall

Destiny Dian Laura
Henderson

Alexandra Hope Jines



Kohen Kouba



Bryce Michael Foy



Samuel Morris Hall



Britta Elaine Hess



Logan Hunter Jines



Haniah Rishon Kring



Jaden Elexus Gardner



Kessler Van Hancock



Angelica Leann Higbie



Seth Alexander Jones



Jaylyn Star Lawrence



Nicole Ann Gatke



Bailey Elizabeth Hankins



Rachael Colleen Hoffman



Tristan Jolynn Jones



Skylar Allen Lee

Meaghan Elizabeth
Geyman

Elias Andrew Hanson



Kailyn Breann Hostetler



Brad Russell Keller



Michael Steven Lehman



Andres Thomas Gomez

Martin Lindslee Glenn
Hardy

Jacob Evan Howell



Abigail Nicole Kelley



Steven An Lin



Anne Marie Grady



Seth Mitchell Hartwell



Quinten Zhane Humes



Olivia Brianne Kelley



Gonzalo Lobato



Avrey Scott Green

Annemarie Christena
Hassfurd

Connor Lee Jacobs



Vanina Grace Kelsey



Tariana Giar Lopez



Adrian Jordan Guzman



Shelby Nicole Hatton

Christopher Gregory
Jennings

Noaha Robert King



Jadelyn Kalee Loudon



Morgan Angelynn Haase



Hailey Dawn Heavrin



Morgan Jane Jester

Caroline Amy Marie
Kirby

Lucy Jane Lynch

Congratulations!

Madison Consolidated High School Class of 2020



Mattieu Gunnar
Macomber



Jonah Callahan Nichols



Ashlyn Marie Rector



Courtney Marie Sellers



Kennedy June Stidham



Brayden Mahoney



Hanna Pauline Nyberg



Kailyn Alexis Rector



Eric Joshua Shelton



Ethan Blake Stilts



Kaylee Marie Mahoney



Dalton Payne Owen



Alexandra Christine
Reece



Stacie Shelton



Donna Jo Swickard



Trinity Lauren Marshall



Hannah Elaine Owen



Guillermo Robledo



Emily June Skirvin



Dawson Lee Tash



Mark C. McAttee



Gage Matthew Owens



Lindsey Rae Roeder



Isaac Monroe Smith



Braeton Zachary Taylor



John Landon McDowell



Aiden Lance Perkins



Susan Taylor Romero



Anton Jacob Smolarczyk



Morgan Renee Tingle



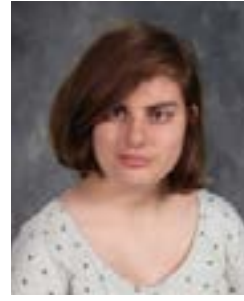
Brian Ethan McQueen



Abigail Marie Phillips



Ryan Matthew Dean
Rowlett



Katelyn Sorensen



Hayden Isaac William
Todd



Jacob Isaac Skirvin
McRoberts



Bryce Tyler Philpot



Julian Vincent Sample



Madison Lynn Squires



Trentin Cole Towne



Treven Lowell Miller



Riley Ray Pyles



Haruna Saski



Connor Reed Steveley



Joshua Tyler Trejo



Abigail Grace Moore



Julia Pytel



Arianna M. Scroggins



Wesley Brayden Stewart



Chaz Dalton Uebel

Congratulations!

Madison Consolidated High School Class of 2020



Hannah Christine Uhl



Matthew Allen Ward



Adonis Ronald Wells



Veronica Celeste Whisman



Destiny Marie Wilson



Rhiannon Louise Valentine



Harper Marie Watson



Chain Everett Wells



Ashlyn Quinn White



Briar Timothy Wynn



Tiffany Paige Vermillion



Jaden Ann Webster



Mason Thomas Welsh



Clare Marie Wilber



Milena Yeritsyan



Joshua Bradley Walter



Max A. Webster



Reece Elliott Whicker



Cheyanne Paige Williams



Paige Makenzie Young

Seniors not pictured: Kenneth N. Bowling, Taylor Ray Brinson, Donovan Ray Cox, Kelly Hau Dong, Dawson Lynn Drake, Maven Paul Blaze Egerton, Haleigh Gannon, Daniel Benjamin Guzman, Aaron Clayton Hughes, Alexa Jaden Kahn, Cielo Alejandra Lagunes, Linzi Nicole Wellons Leap, Terrance Adrian Matthews, Kody Lane Neece, Bralyn Mishaun Peddie, Douglas Michael Dean Pedraza, Joshua Kennedy Reece, Justin Tyler Riley, Madeline Jane Simms, Ruben Thevenow, Bobby Riley Thorne, and Diana Ivadean Williams.

Learning Continued from Page 1

more face-to-face interaction, more structured days with log-in expectations, and more accountability were all things we were discussing not only as district leaders, educators, and administrators, but

also as parents of students in the district,” continued Schutte. “Our entire team is very excited about the opportunities we have in front of us to make our virtual learning experience engaging for students, as well as user-friendly and accessible for parents.”

Testimonials

“As we pushed things out

trying to keep our families informed and engaged, we would get responses here and there,” shared Schutte. “It may have been tech related or a question on meals, or clarification on a detail; but one day I received a message on our social media feed that blew me away!” Leslie Middleton, mom to five

MCS students in grades 10 to preschool reached out to say “My kids and I would like to give a HUGE thank you to all of the staff, tech support, principals and teachers at Anderson Elementary/Pre-K, MJHS, and MCHS! We didn’t like it anymore than the next person, but these people did an amazing job at help-

ing and keeping up with the kids, encouraging them communicating (not only issues, but way to go’s) and loving my family!”

“FIVE kids ages 4, 6, 8, 11, and 16 - all in one household, three different schools, and five different grade levels and it worked,” continued Schutte. “I was so excited and wanted to learn more...and I knew Leslie’s enthusiasm, honesty and humor could encourage others.”

Middleton shared that collectively all of her kids most enjoyed it when their teachers were face-to-face and they could interact with their classmates, “they missed that social interaction.” Her fifth grader enjoyed seeing classmates with Mrs. Thevenow and Mrs.Traylor, her kindergarten enjoyed specials with Mrs. Manns and his STEM class experiments. She did notice that they were much more productive when they had the live interaction with teachers and classmates.

Barriers

Feedback from the exchange identified student motivation as a barrier. Parents, teachers, and students all indicated that it was difficult to focus, complete the work, and keep track of assignments or missing work.

The Middleton family’s experience mirrored this...

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difference
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An Unprecedented Year for the Custer Contest

By ASHLEY SCHUTTE
Communications Coordinator

On April 16, 2020, the 109th Annual Custer Oratorical Contest joined the ever-growing COVID-19 pandemic closure cancellation list. Originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26th, the traditional, public performance was shifted to an optional, submitted video recording of the student’s recitation. “While there are a number of things that were canceled due to the pandemic, this is a very unique event and a community favorite,” shares Michael Gasaway, MCHS Principal. “As with all things, we are very sorry to see this as the students have been working hard to prepare their pieces”.

Each year a Custer Contest invitation is extended to the top five MCHS seniors who have the highest, weighted grade point average, meet the attendance requirement criteria, and have completed all four high school years (8 semesters) at Madison Consolidated High School. If any of the top five seniors decline, the invitation is extended to the student with the next highest GPA, again, utilizing the same criteria as a tie-breaker, should it be necessary. “This year, we were looking forward to having six participants due to identical GPA’s for the two students in the 5th position, and all had accepted the invitation to participate,” stated Gasaway.

Each student is given the contest guidelines at the time of their acceptance of

the invitation to participate which is usually around the beginning of February. The funding and original guidelines were established by Mr. A. S. Custer in 1911 and were based on the model of an oratorical contest that has been held at Wabash College since 1875. In part, the student’s oral selection must be an original oration or selection of literature, can be edited, and must be approved by the student’s Custer coach. Each presentation is required to be 12 minutes long at a minimum and no longer than 15 minutes when presented. Each piece should be oratorical in nature, without extensive theatrical acting, no props are allowed, and penalties are assessed for being over or under the time limit. Over the years guidelines have adapted to a degree. Today the judges are anonymous, enjoy the recitations for the first time just as other audience members, and base each presentation against a standardized rubric to determine scores and overall placement.

I reached out to the six students and their coaches and asked them to share their experience in what was a very non-traditional year for Custer. Krista Lee, an MCHS teacher, and 2008 Custer Contest winner shared “Custer was such an important event in my life! I worked so, so, so hard on my piece that I could still recall most of it today. This year the circumstances are so different I don’t know if the piece will become a part of the student in the way it has

for others. It is still such an accomplishment to be asked and something that sets the top students apart, even from top seniors at other high schools.”

The selection of the literary piece is a huge component of the process. Jill Koren, coach to Bailey Hankins and Isaac Boone, shared “one of the things I find most valuable about the Custer contest is the rich discussion of literature that occurs. As a teacher of literature, I can especially appreciate the in-depth thought process required of a student who must imagine embodying a piece of literature, including all of the characters and convey their original interpretation to a live audience.” Jessie Dyer shared “The process of choosing my piece took a while. I wanted a story that was powerful and represented a strong female lead who was able to overcome struggle. I had about six books that I was trying to decide between, but my coach and I both decided *Where the Heart Is* by Billie Letts was the story we wanted to share.”

Participants and coaches alike agree that the work and preparation that had taken place up to the time the cancellation was announced were outstanding and no one regretted the opportunity to be a part of the Custer legacy. “...it was an awesome experience and I learned so much,” shared Elias Hanson. Dyer continued, “Even though I was really nervous and taking on this challenge was outside of my comfort zone, I was looking forward to present-

ing my piece.”

Part of what makes Custer so engaging for the audience and challenging for the student is the live nature of the presentation. In preparing for this story, I have learned a lot about what it means to select a literary piece, the time and attention to detail that is needed to bring the story and characters to life, and deliver with a passion...all while being mindful of the time constraints present. Will it speak to the judges? Can I convey what I see in my mind through an adaptation on stage? All of this combined with both the thrill and fear, of being in front of a live audience is something you cannot replace with a video camera in your home. While none of the students opted to record their performance, Jessie and Elias shared their thoughts on what turned out to be their only disappointment in the overall experience. “I didn’t submit a video because the entire process became more difficult with the social distancing aspect. I no longer could meet with my coach face to face and the video conference made it hard to do what we wanted to get done.” Amanda Harsin, Dyer’s coach, shared the regret of not having a live audience. “I was so proud of how much Jessie worked on selecting a piece, crafting the excerpt, and mastering the content. It made me very sad to not be able to see her deliver it in front of a big crowd the way she deserved!” While it may seem simple enough to record a video, there are

a number of things that added an additional level of stress to the process. Dyer continued sharing “I was practicing for hours to get my piece how I wanted and then I was becoming really stressed about how to record and what actions would fit in the video screen. All of these inconveniences pushed me to decide it was not in my best interest to submit via video.” Fellow participant Elias Hanson concurred, “I didn’t submit a video because even though I had memorized my piece it still would have required many hours of additional work. Not being able to perform for a live audience made it hard to stay excited about it. To me, it can’t be Custer unless it’s live.”

Koren shared that Isaac Boone had selected *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, partly because it was a classic he wanted to explore. He ended up reading as a book of choice with his AP Literature book club and presenting his interpretations to the combined AP Literature sections (roughly 40 students) in a lively Zoom meeting, “so all was not lost!” expressed Koren. She went on to talk about selection, “it’s not always the ‘favorite novel’ though a passionate love for a particular piece goes a long way. There is the consideration of audience appeal and pace, dialogue versus description, tone, dialect, humor, drama...basically everything that makes great literature great!”



Lyca Bishop

is the daughter of Fely Bishop. Lyca’s selection was *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. Lyca is also involved in the Madison Cubs Marching Band, National Honor Society, and Academic Super Bowl. She will attend Indiana University majoring in Psychology. She was coached by Mr. Lee Strassell.



Bailey Hankins

is the daughter of Beth Hankins and Mark Hankins. She chose *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Bailey is involved in archery, HOSA, National Honor Society, and completed her Medical Assisting certification through Ivy Tech. She will attend Galen College of Nursing majoring in Nursing. Bailey was coached by Mrs. Jill Koren.



Isaac Boone

is the son of Ann Kirkland and Steve Boone. Isaac selected *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain. Isaac is also involved in the Madison Cubs Marching Band, Academic Bowl, Madison Performing Arts Foundation artist, and a Cincinnati Youth Wind Ensemble member. Isaac will attend Northwestern University majoring in Saxophone Performance and Music Education. He was coached by Mrs. Jill Koren.



Elias Hanson

is the son of Jon and Lisa Hanson. His selection was *A Literary Nightmare* by Mark Twain. Elias is a member of the Madison Cubs soccer team, Math Bowl, and Student Athletic Council. He will attend Southern Adventist University majoring in Chemistry. He was coached by Mrs. Susan Ohlendorf.



Jessie Dyer

is the daughter of Sandi Dyer. Jessie’s selection was *Where the Heart Is* by Billie Letts. Jessie is also a member of the Lady Cubs basketball and soccer teams, National Honor Society, and Student Athletic Council. She will attend Indiana University majoring in Business Management. She was coached by Mrs. Amanda Harsin.



Jonah Nichols

is the son of Jim and Tracey Nichols. His selection was *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. Jonah is also involved in the National Honor Society and a member of the Madison Cubs football and wrestling teams. He will attend Purdue University majoring in Engineering. He was coached by Mrs. Krista Lee.

Learning Continued from Page 7

Tracking all of the separate assignments was a challenge, Leslie ended up with a dry-erase board for due dates, online class, video chats, etc. “so we all had a visual and my kids owned/shared the responsibility to manage things.” Her sophomore, who is enrolled in AP and dual credit courses, only slipped

once due to time management - “but it turned into a valuable lesson.”

Keeping everyone focused on their work when she couldn’t be right there with them the entire time was difficult. There is so much to do at home (toys, snacks, pets, farm animals, more snacks!) that doing homework for the day wasn’t high on the list of their ‘things I want to do today’. Overall, she noted, teachers

really seemed to be understanding of the situation and were not more overwhelming than necessary and as a whole the workload was not unreasonable or unmanageable.

There were tech issues on occasion - assignments didn’t submit, or a camera quit working, “but there was no human fault in that.” As a result, she has realized she needs to know more about technology.

“I felt very supported and that was huge for me! Not only through the teachers, but the principals, staff and tech team all really stepped up to make sure we got taken care of!”

If she could change one thing...it would be the live video time. “I really wish they had more of it. I have no doubt that if the teachers could do daily video chats to teach what they are working on it would

help tremendously with not only comprehension, but with motivation and overall morale.”

Supports

The district offered several wrap-around services to families during the closure period.

Celebrating Excellence

Congratulations to our Teacher and Non-Certified Employee of the Year

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**
Communications Coordinator

We are very excited to announce Mrs. Kathy Stoner as the 2019-2020 Teacher of the Year for Madison Consolidated Schools.

Mrs. Stoner is a 26-year employee of Madison Consolidated Schools and has spent her entire career at Deputy Elementary School. She has taught Special Education, First grade, and Second grade and currently teaches First and Second grade ELA (English Language Arts) classes. Kathy has a great sense of humor, is humble, compassionate, and has a genuineness about her that lets everyone around her know she cares, regardless of the situation. Her actions are a daily reflection of her compassion. She is the first one to

reach out when she sees a need with students and/or staff and will do whatever she can to help or support. Kathy works hard to develop relationships with students and their parents and sees this is a priority for their overall success. Most days at lunchtime you will find her eating in the cafeteria with her students because “that is where I learn the most about them, by just having conversations with them,” shares Stoner.

With a heart for mentor-



Pictured with Mrs. Stoner are (left to right) her parents Arnold and Ruth Curry, son Andrew, Mrs. Kathy Stoner, husband Steven, and sister Debbie Anderson.

ship, Mrs. Stoner has trained many student teachers throughout the years who have gone on to become wonderful teachers themselves. She loves to share her passion for teaching, and each of the student teachers leaves with an understanding of the

importance of compassion and building relationships with students.

Since the inception of our district eLeader initiative, approximately six years ago, Mrs. Stoner has supported staff as the eLearning Tech advisor and specialist at Deputy Elementary. She is an avid user of technology in her classroom and helps others effectively integrate tech into their daily instructional delivery. Kathy is also the district’s Reading Mentor representing First-grade

teachers, she serves on the School Improvement Committee for Deputy Elementary and teaches summer school as a way to continue to support struggling students.

Each year Madison Consolidated Schools honors one teacher (certified employee) and one non-certified employee (not a teacher) who are nominated through various methods in recognition for their passion for our students, their job, and education.

Congratulations, Mrs. Stoner and thank you for your continued passion for education and our students!

Kathy lives in the Lexington area with her husband Steven and has three sons Robby, Andrew, and Ryan.

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**
Communications Coordinator

We are very excited to announce Mrs. Angela Wielgoszinski as the 2019-2020 non-certified Employee of the Year for Madison Consolidated Schools.

Mrs. Wielgoszinski, or Miss Angie as she is known in the building, is the Administrative Clerk at Lydia Middleton Elementary School. It was very clear from the nominations received that Miss Angie is an integral part of the overall success of Lydia Middleton Elementary!

A few snippets from her nominations:

- Also known as the “main frame” of our school, she is the go-to person if you have a question and she knows every student and is attentive to their needs.
- Angela was very helpful to me as a new employee to the building. She was always the first person I went to with anything I needed...

I appreciate her support daily.

- Her interactions with our students is touching to watch... she is a figure they love and trust when they are hurt, worried or concerned.
- She has a wonderful sense of humor and she uses it to her advantage to convey an uplifting feeling to anyone who talks to her.
- She keeps our school running like a well-oiled machine. She knows who to call, what resources we have, solves all the problems of students (and staff!), and always has the foresight and anticipation of what is coming next.
- She is the QUEEN of



Non-certified Employee of the Year is Mrs. Angie Wielgoszinski or Miss Angie as she is known in the building.

organization and is very meticulous in everything she does. She listens to anyone who needs it-and lifts you up if you are having a bad day. She is truly loved by all at Lydia Middleton!

- Angie is such an important part of our building. She is able to help with every grade level which is beneficial for all students and every staff member in the building.
- Angie is not only the glue, but the mortar that

holds our school together. There is not one job that she can’t do or hasn’t done since the first day she stepped foot into her position.

She has been nurse, custodian, teacher, parent, delivery person, cook, assistant, librarian, copier, sub.... she knows how to run the school with her eyes shut from any location.

- I love her unique “je ne sais quoi” about the ebb and flow of stresses in a school day. She is the best and is one of the reasons I love working at Lydia Middleton!
- Her organization and routines help all students and staff feel safe all day. She

does not seek praise or recognition, she is a secret “giver”.

- She goes the extra mile out of the goodness of her heart, has an amazing work ethic, and is beyond dependable. She is there every day and stays late to make sure things are taken care of across the building.

Each year Madison Consolidated Schools honors one teacher (certified employee) and one non-certified employee (not a teacher) who are nominated through various methods in recognition for their passion for our students, their job, and education.

Angie joined the MCS team in 2014 and has worked as the Administrative Clerk at Lydia Middleton Elementary since her hire. She lives in Madison with her husband Jason and son Leighton, a junior at MCHS. Congratulations, Miss Angie!



Through their continued support, our generous educational partners at **SuperATV** will once again cover all fees and classroom supplies for students attending Madison Consolidated Schools during the 20 - 21 school year.



CONTACT US ABOUT TRANSFERRING TO MADISON!
inquiries@madison.k12.in.us madison.k12.in.us

**Program will not change for students who qualify for federal assistance through the Free & Reduced Lunch Program.

Athletics Reopening Guidelines will be First Test

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**
Communications Coordinator

Even though spring sports were canceled, coaches kept in touch with athletes encouraging healthy activities and providing workouts athletes could do at home. While Physical Education was part of the overall eLearning experience for students, physical activity was highly encouraged during most family and student interactions. Not only for its benefits on the ability to focus but overall mental health. High school strength and conditioning coach, Jay Roney, kept up with his students via videos they submitted of their assignments/workouts and an app called Train Heroic. “Now with school out for summer, our hope is our fall coaches can assist as one more point of contact to keep kids active,” shares Joe Bronkella, Athletic Director. “Not only is exercise good for them, it is very important for our student- athletes to keep in shape so we can shorten the cycle of conditioning as our teams prepare and hope to report on time for the fall season workouts.”

Preparations underway:
Fall athletics information was emailed to high school families in early May. “We saw this as an opportunity to gauge interest in upcoming sports, connect students with coaches, and keep in touch with families over the summer,” shares Bronkella. “We will be doing a similar information blast for junior high fall sports as time gets closer.” Most Junior high athlet-

Learning Continued from Page 8

“One of the highlights of this experience was the way our staff circled the wagons to meet the needs of our families,” stated Studebaker. Meal pick up service was offered at buildings and gave principals and counselors the opportunity to be available to families should they need them. Breakfast and lunch meals were available for pick up through a reservation system, two days a week with mid-day and early evening curbside shifts to accommodate family schedules. “Our staff prepared and served a hot meal on Mondays and Wednesdays and sent sack lunches home for Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday,” shared Judy Brooks, Food Services Coordinator. “Our food service team provided 18,254 breakfasts and 18,254 lunches for our students while they were learning from home.”

Curbside Tech Support events took place throughout the county and were very well received. “Our tech team set up shop outside at Rykers’ Ridge Elementary, Deputy Elementary, and MJHS to offer assistance to students ranging from chargers and password resets to screen replacement and loan-

ics do not begin until school starts and do not typically have specific summer workout programs. Junior high athletes are encouraged to contact the high school coach for their sport if they would like to participate in pre-season conditioning programs.

Some things to note:
Per the State, all Madison facilities remain CLOSED until June 30, 2020. This means no team, coach, or athlete can be on any campus, field, court, or playing surface participating in any school organized activity. If, and when, we receive additional updates we will pass those along. The IHSAA released information regarding the annual sports physical requirement. If a student participated in a sport and had a valid physical on file for the 2019-2020 school year, they will not be required to have a new sports physical for the 2020-2021 school year. If a student transfers into Madison from another, they must present a copy of their valid 2019-2020 sports physical to their coach prior to the first practice date. If a student is new to our school and/or did not participate in athletics last year, a sports physical will be required before they can participate.

er swap outs so students could complete their work,” shared Alex Hobson, Educational Technology Coordinator for the district. There were twelve events and each location averaged nine students served per day.

In addition, the transportation team assisted by rotating seven buses throughout the county to make mobile WiFi hotspots available to students.

Our SRO’s made home visits to deliver food or just check in with some families where transportation or other unforeseen circumstances became a barrier. “We had teachers meeting up with students on front porch steps to provide additional help, our Speech Language Pathologists were online with students continuing their services, and coaches stepped up as an added resource and touch point,” shared Studebaker. “I couldn’t be more proud of how our team came together to meet needs.”

Next Steps
Families are asked to be on the lookout for an email with a link to a follow up ThoughtExchange to identify specific areas of training. The survey closes at midnight on June 28. “We understand there are Skyward and Google Classroom opportunities,” shared Schutte. “Those

Madison Consolidated High School
Home of the Cubs

2020 Fall Sports

Cheerleading
Online Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/Re5GcxHLBRko6vA6LA>
Head Coach: Hannah Oliver
e-mail: holiver@madison.k12.in.us

Cross Country
Boys Cross Country Sign up: <https://forms.gle/djQCMaHrBLKwPAi5y6>
First Official Day of Practice— August 3rd, 2020
Head Boys Coach: Kris Sandlin
Head Girls Coach: Josh Wilber
e-mail: ksandlin@madison.k12.in.us
e-mail: josh.wilber@grote.com

Football
Football Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/YKaYtW8225cQrf2>
First Official Day of Practice— August 3rd, 2020
Head Coach: Leroy Wilson
e-mail: lwilson@madison.k12.in.us

Volleyball
Volleyball Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/A7fofMBQjW1Bk4Y8>
First Official Day of Practice—August 3rd, 2020
Head Coach: Camille Crim
e-mail: crimvolleyball@gmail.com

Boys Tennis
First Official Day of Practice—August 3rd, 2020
Head Coach: Devon Sharpe
e-mail: dsharp48@gmail.com

Soccer
Boys Soccer Sign Up: <https://forms.gle/9pkvq7hU89pAzn7>
First Official Day of Practice—August 3rd, 2020
Head Boys Coach: Kyle Bipes
Head Girls Coach: Janet Hertz
e-mail: ktbipes@gmail.com
e-mail: jhertz@madison.k12.in.us

Girls Golf
First Official Day of Practice— July 31, 2020
Head Coach: Jake Shockley
e-mail: jshockley@madison.k12.in.us

Dates above are tentative and we have no information available at this time regarding any type of group summer workouts. Madison schools will continue to follow state-mandated guidelines. Please contact coaches if you are interested and to stay up to date

*All Athletes MUST have updated/completed physical (dated after 4/1/19) and info submitted on <https://madison.in/finalforms.com/>. Per IHSAA, last year's physical is valid, but online forms must be updated.

All students who participate in athletics at Madison must have a FinalForms account set up. Families need to login to their account and update any necessary information as soon as possible. “There is a medical/health list of questions we are asking everyone to update,” shared Bronkella. “There is a specific COVID-19 portion added this year.” Completed forms must be turned in to the Athletic Office and on file before the first practice. They can be printed and delivered to the office or emailed to Asst. AD Patric Morrison at pmorrison@madison.k12.in.us. If a student athlete is new to FinalForms, they can register at <https://madison-in.finalforms.com>. Instructions can be found: [are pretty broad topics, we want to learn specifically where the struggles are so we can create content to push out over the summer.” Detailed directions included with the exchange will help guide the discussion. At the end of the day, we learned we were ready to deliver instruction in the midst of a crisis. What we](https://madisonathletics.org/library/files/madisonconsolidated-highsch_bigteams_14297/files/FinalForms%20Par-</p></div><div data-bbox=)


ent%20Introduc-tion%20Packet.pdf
Re-Opening in Phases:
Per state guidance, athletics will be the first opportunity for schools across the state to test the waters in the new world of post-COVID-19 guidelines for interaction. “We have had a district team working on reopening plans,” shared Bronkella. “I have worked with other AD’s in our region as the IH-SAA, Governor, and IDOE have been working toward allowing us to gather. Using these guidelines, our district team has worked together to incorporate the learning and been able to expand these processes into what will soon be our larger, detailed, district-wide plan for bringing students safely back to school.” Athletics, co-curricular, and extra-curricular activities will return in three phases. Below is a high level summary of each phase. The detailed plan will be shared with parents/guardians, student-athletes, and coaches by the end of the month and will also be available to view on our website.
Phase 1: July 6 - July 19
All summer activities are voluntary. Activities will have time and day restrictions where hygiene and social distancing standards are followed to the extent

possible. Locker rooms and weight rooms will not be used and no formal competitions will be allowed.
Phase 2: July 20 - August 14
Locker rooms and meeting rooms are available for use at a recommended 50% capacity. Contact is permitted per the IHSAA guidelines but no formal competitions are allowed with the exception of girls’ golf with only essential personnel, there will be no spectators or fans allowed.
Phase 3: August 15 and forward
Competitions may begin with spectators, media, and vendors in attendance. Stipulations include all attendees follow social distancing guidelines, safety protocols, and follow established mass gathering guidelines.

Madison will continue to monitor and follow all guidelines set forth by our state government. Updates will be pushed out on social media feeds and the district website. Be sure to follow Madison Athletics on social media: Twitter @CubsAD, Instagram @cubsathletics, and Facebook @madisoncubsathletics, and on the web at madisonathletics.org. Stay up to date with all sports, scheduled events, weather delays, and cancellations using the EventLink app. You can download it from the App Store or get it on Google Play. It is FREE and completely customizable to the teams you want to follow!

have another crisis-related, extended closure,” states Studebaker. “We will use this experience as a growth opportunity to create a better student experience for our continued digital learning environments.”

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ALAN MENKEN

LYRICS BY
JACK FELDMAN

BOOK BY
HARVEY FIERSTEIN

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