

THE DISTRICT
Correspondent

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Ryan Lamb, Derek Herrick and 23 students from the MCHS Cub Enterprises program visited VSG to learn about the various career opportunities offered in the manufacturing industry.

MCHS students attend Manufacturing Day at VSG

By **PHYLLIS McLAUGHLIN**
Correspondent Editor

Working in manufacturing is not just standing on an assembly line on a factory floor. There are many opportunities that can lead to lucrative careers, said David Fischmer, director of marketing for Vehicle Service Group in Madison, a subsidiary of the Fortune 300 company Dover Corporation.

A Batesville, Ind., native, Fischmer has worked at VSG for 23 years. VSG in Madison, which also encompasses Rotary Lift, serves as corporate headquarters for the North and South America operations. In October, VSG held its first National Manufacturing Day event, which drew 23 students from Madison Consolidated High School and 15 from Shawe Memorial High School. The students received safety training

and then toured the facility, checking out not just the equipment used on the floor of the factory, but also the business end – which offers careers in marketing, web development, video production, CAD operators, and social media content writers. Manufacturing Day was established in 2012 to show “what manufacturing is, and what it isn’t,” according to its website, www.mfgday.com. For example, Fischmer said, there is

the stigma that the only jobs available in manufacturing are on assembly lines on the floor – an employee clocks in, works for eight hours, clocks out and goes home. “We are working to remove that stigma,” Fischmer said. Shift-oriented jobs on the floor pay on average \$21 an hour and can lead to terrific careers in themselves; employees on the floor

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Educators voice concerns at Indy Red for Ed Rally

By **Dr. JEFF STUDEBAKER**
MCS Superintendent

On November 19th, Indiana saw something it likely had never seen before. Schools from across the state were either closed or were on an eLearning Day – not because of weather, but because about 20,000 of Indiana’s teachers participated the Red for Ed Rally in Indianapolis. About 35 teachers and staff travelled to the state capital to represent Madison Consolidated Schools. The mission was to voice their concerns about public education in the Hoosier state. Primarily, professional educators are concerned by legislative actions they feel have eroded the fundamental structure and function of education in the past few years. The massive group of teachers



Teachers, counselors and other staff from Madison Consolidated Schools prepare to board the Cubs bus and head to Indianapolis on Nov. 19. Dr. Jeff Studebaker, superintendent, top left in back, called an eLearning Day so the group could join more than 20,000 of their peers from across the state at the Red for Ed Rally to voice concerns to legislators.

believes the Statehouse has lost its way, and that it’s time to get back on track in Indiana. It’s not just about teacher pay. It’s about a return to common

sense and fiscal responsibility. It’s about our children. The amount of money Indiana spends on testing, the amount of time wasted in a school year on

those tests, and the indefensible application of the testing results is obscene. The latest round of testing costs about \$45 million, not counting the costs of other

state-mandated tests, including PSAT, ECAs, ISTEP, IRead, etc. Our children deserve better. So do we, the taxpayers. Even the Governor knows Indiana spends a lot of money on education. There is no argument there. The concern is for how the money is being spent. Why is there so much money spent on testing? Why the multiple layers of testing when, literally, one test would be sufficient – a test most schools are already using? We are all smarter than that. Indiana’s testing scheme could show that. During the rally, teachers demonstrated and marched. The lines to get inside the Statehouse were long and moved slowly, but many got through and were heard by legislators. I’ve had the opportunity to serve

See **RALLY**, Page 8

Cub Culinary students create FCCLA chapter

By **PHYLLIS McLAUGHLIN**
Correspondent Editor

Four students in LeAnne Blackerby’s Culinary Arts program are working to build a local chapter of a national organization to enhance the education they are receiving at MCHS. Two of those students, senior Adrian Dean and junior Gabbie Vernon, are hoping to get eight more dues-paying members into the MCHS chapter of Family, Career and Community Leaders of America. Dean said joining the FCCLA will offer students opportunities to compete with other chapters “where we can exercise our skills.” Blackerby said involvement in the organization offers diverse and broad leadership opportu-

nities, and could be “a doorway to being a useful member of the community.” For example, Vernon said she wants to earn a degree in business management so that she can open her own restaurant. But, with a twist. Her restaurant would feature an “On Hold” program, in which paying customers can add to their ticket orders that are put on hold until another customer who cannot pay comes and requests anything from a meal to a cup of coffee. Dean, who plans to pursue a career in nursing at Southern Adventist University in Tennessee, said he wants to help teach those who are less fortunate how to prepare and cook nutritious foods for themselves and their families.

By joining FCCLA, “kids can do things on their own that they can’t necessarily do in class,” Blackerby said. Still in the beginning phases, the group of charter members is working to determine what local FCCLA meetings will feature and when they will be held. “And they’ll pick out competitions, which can allow them to win college scholarships,” she said, so they may continue working toward their life goals, whether that includes a career in the food industry or another field. Times have changed in an industry that once was just seen as offering entry-level fast-food jobs for teenagers, she said. Restaurant work is “no longer just a dead end,” she added.



Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin

Cub Culinary students invited teachers and staff to share its annual Sides-Only Thanksgiving Lunch at MCHS on Nov. 22. The students prepared 15 nutritious dishes, and, of course, mashed potatoes and dressing.

See **FCCLA**, Page 6



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

2019 has been great; 2020 is even more exciting

We have truly had an amazing fall semester at Madison Consolidated Schools!

Our start was as smooth as any in recent memory: we re-opened Anderson Elementary; started new energy-saving construction projects around the District; and have been implementing the newly adopted Strategic Plan across multiple areas.

Additionally, work creating our upcoming Career Academy is in full swing; the new lab and classroom areas for Cub Enterprises will be open for business in January.

The new Cub Diesel program will be a huge addition, and multiple donations have been made by a variety of individuals to help make this program a success.

At the elementary level,



Dr. Jeffery Studebaker

beginning in January, many of our students will have a new science-technology class that implements a cross-curricular experience, blending science and math in a fun and exciting manner. Coupled with our robotics programs and our technology centers in our Learning Com-

mons, our elementary students will have access to a great deal of opportunities encompassing cutting-edge science, technology, engineering and math education.

A year ago we were excited about 2019 and all that the year would bring. We are just as excited about 2020, as the plans we've been making begin to come to fruition. We have done a lot of work to prepare for the many great new events and programs to come.

We could not have done any of the planning or any of the work in progress without your support. Many great things are happening here, and we sincerely thank you all for your contributions.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a restful winter break!



Students in Ryan Lamb's class help clean up a space at the former Madison Alternative Program building to make room for an expansion of Cub Enterprises' automotive program, which will include Cub Diesel starting in January.

Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin

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Parades, Pennies and lots of Pride



Deputy Panthers win 3rd place in Christmas Parade non-profit category

Above, students from Deputy Elementary School are all in place and ready for the 2019 Christmas Parade. At right, Allison Palmer and Preston Righthouse hold the Deputy Panthers banner, while parents Kim Foster and Lori Day hold the banner announcing their award. Below, Alida Flores and Nick Bialles of the MCHS Marching Cubs warm up their mellophones before the parade on a day in which chilly temperatures made for holiday cheer. Below left, from left, Kaydence Trueblood, Paige Papucci and Ruby Stewart settle in on Lydia Middleton Elementary's Polar Express float.



Speaking of the MCHS band ...

Marching Cubs earn 3rd place in Class B at state competition

STAFF REPORT

The more superstitious folks among us may have been tempted to throw in the towel for the Marching Cubs in the hours running up to the Marching Band Scholastic Class Finals held Oct. 26 at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis. The event is sponsored by the Indiana State School Music Association.

On the way to Indy, the Cubs' bus broke down. When they arrived, they found competition times had been rearranged and rain had forced the competition indoors.

But drive and dedication,

which band director Katie Zolvinski believes are two crucial characteristics of the marching band members, pushed the Marching Cubs & Guard through to a third-place finish in Class B, which fielded 14 other bands from throughout the state.

Overall, the band placed 14th for the 2018-2019 school year. Additionally, marchers must be willing to put in a lot of hard work, and the band did just that.

"Madison has a great core of students," Zolvinski said in an article for the MCHS student newspaper, The Madisonian.

Zolvinski, who was named band director for the high school in 2018, said she and the

students have been working to determine "what kind of band we wanted. They wanted to be competitive, and so I pushed them to be the best competitive band they could be."

Finishing ahead of the Cubs were Salem High School and Washington High School. Rounding out the top five were Eastern High School of Pekin and Henryville Junior/Senior High School.

The Marching Cubs earned a berth in the state competition by earning a gold rating at the ISS-MA Preliminary Competition.

Madisonian Staff Writer Hunter Getz contributed to this story.



Amanda Laufer poses with her first-graders at Rykers' Ridge Elementary School as the winners of the school's Penny Wars fundraiser for kids with cancer. Standing from left are McKenzie, Addyson, Layla, Luke, D.J., Jayden, Emily, Henry, Anthony, Lina and Hunter; kneeling are Jasper, Erin and Naomi.

1st grade class wins Rykers' Penny War

Students at Rykers' Ridge Elementary are all about giving back. Under the guidance of Janet D. Hertz, the school recently wrapped up its first Penny War.

Proceeds were donated to Go 4 the Goal, an organization that helps kids with cancer in Indiana. The contest is expected to be an annual event.

"We collected \$905.25 for this very important cause," said Hertz, who works at Rykers' Ridge and also serves as Madison girls soccer coach. "I truly believe it is important for all of us to give back in some way. Not only is it a great way to be involved in something bigger than ourselves, we can truly make a difference for those in need."

Each class in the building was a team and competed against one another to raise funds and awareness. As each student brought in spare change, pennies added to their totals, while silver coins deducted from other classes overall total.

"The idea of a 'Penny War' is to have something where everyone can contribute," Hertz

explained, adding that the point is that small change can make a big difference.

"We felt all students would be able to contribute. By having the silver coins 'deducted' from the totals, our goal was to keep the playing field as level as possible, so one class couldn't tip the scales too far to their advantage with larger coins."

Additionally, Hertz soccer team this year partnered with Southwestern High School to raise \$245 for Traumatic Brain Injury research.

Paying it forward is Hertz's passion. A Returned Peace Corps Volunteer who served as a youth development specialist in Thailand, and a two-time AmeriCorps alumna, sees soccer itself as a platform for her players to give back.

"Not every player will be the next Mia Hamm, Alex Morgan, or Julie Ertz, but we all have the capacity to show the world someone cares," Hertz said. "We expand our humanitarian efforts each season and hope to have a ripple effect that inspires the next generation."



Above, from left, Marching Cubs seniors Isaac Boone, Rachael Hoffman, Hannah Owen, Eric Shelton, Britta Hess, Alida Flores and Lyca Bishop pose with band director Katie Zolvinski, who holds the band's state trophy.

Dustin Bentz

Bentz was hired this year to work on the post high-school transition team, based at E.O. Muncie. He earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and an endorsement in special education at Indiana State University and a master's degree in SPED administration at Ball State University.

A graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, Bentz is a lifelong Madison resident. For 11 years, he was part of the Madison Area Special Services Unit, working in various roles in Vevay and Clarksville.

His favorite thing about Madison schools: "I'm just proud to be teaching back at my alma mater. I've always been proud to be a Cub and for my kids to be Cubs. I'm enjoying my new school community and getting to interact and work with students. The last three years, I've been in administration and really missed working with students."

Lindsay Black

A Madison native, Black earned a bachelor's in exercise science at IUPUI and a master's degree in physical therapy at the University of Oklahoma.

She was hired this year to teach medical terminology, and anatomy and physiology to MCHS students in 10th through 12th grade.

She said her favorite thing about MCS is "the sense of community among staff and students."

As for his favorite thing about Madison: "We have a diverse cultural/arts community that attracts other young families to move here."

"It has been refreshing to work with teachers and administrators who care about each student's academic success and their overall well-being, and work to help them reach their potential. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of such a great team."

Jennifer Cornelius

Based at MCHS, Cornelius serves the district as a media specialist and librarian. She earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and physical education from Hanover College; a bachelor's degree in secondary education and social studies at Indiana University Southeast; and a master's degree in library science at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis.

The Madison resident said one of the best things about working at MCS is the great support she receives from the administration.

"I am enjoying getting to know some of the employees here, and getting to know Madison. Everyone has been very welcoming since the very beginning of the year."

She said she "loves her new position in the library, especially getting books back into the hands of our students."

Alinza Deuser

Serving as the full-time school nurse at Rykers' Ridge Elementary School, Deuser earned her certification as a licensed practical nurse from Galen College.

As a lifelong Hanover resident and a graduate of Southwestern Jefferson County Schools, Deuser says she has "found a new respect for Madison Schools. I see how much the staff cares for all our students, and the amount of work and sacrifice that these teachers and staff put in – not just for their students, but for all of our families."

For people who don't work at or are involved with MCS, who don't see the work first-hand, it can be difficult "to understand what educators and support staff do on a daily basis. To see the amount of work and dedication our staff puts in daily is heart-warming, to say the least."

One of the things she likes most about MCS is that everyone is "so down to earth. We can (and do) laugh at ourselves. We check on each other; we know each other's children's names, we lift each other up when one is down, we hug, we high-five our achievements, we joke around, and we have each other's back."

At Rykers', everyone from the staff to the students cares about each other "and about every single person that

comes through our doors. If there is a need in our building, you can bet it will be taken care of. Our staff comes together like nowhere else I have ever seen."

Having a full-time nurse at Rykers', she said, is very important. "We live in a world that needs open access to healthcare and education. Healthcare goes much deeper than just an ice pack or a child with a belly ache. These kids' health and personal needs change quickly, and I love working with the students and with all the staff inside and outside our building"

She believes that students must be healthy in order to be educated; conversely, they must be educated to be healthy. "I am so grateful and blessed to call Rykers' home."

Chandra Ferry

Hired this year to teach family and consumer science to students in 9th to 12th grade at MCHS, Chandra Ferry, originally from Indianapolis, earned her bachelor's degree at Indiana State University.

"There are so many things I love about this school district,"

she said, responding to a questionnaire that went to all new teachers and staff. "The administration team is very supportive and show that they appreciate you. I'm very grateful for that."

Married to Tom Ferry, also hired this year to teach at MCHS, Chandra Ferry said the staff also has been amazing, and is "always lending a hand or offering to help in any way" to make the couple's transition to MCS a positive experience.

She adds: "What can I say about these amazing kids? These students have been nothing short of pure fun and enjoyment. The classroom atmosphere is one with enthusiasm, engagement, care and good kids, and that makes my job easy."

The relationships she has already built with her students have allowed them to be open and to participate, regardless of how shy or how outgoing they might be. "It is an exciting time for all, and I look forward to many years positively impacting our kids here at MCHS. I pinch myself every day, and I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to be a part of an amazing district and team."

She and her husband, she says, have been welcomed to Madison with open arms. "The unity, kindness, support and new friendships have made our transition very exciting. We love this town, and feel it has been a true gift. Thank you to everyone that have been so wonderful welcoming us.

Her motto: Do what you love, and you'll never work another day in your life.

"Yes, we have heard that sentiment countless times, but it is true, especially for my husband and I. We love changing lives and making a difference. What better reward is there?" #weconnect "Go Cubs!"

Tom Ferry

Also originally from Indianapolis, Tom Ferry was hired this year to teach science to students in grades 9 through 12. He earned a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in education from ISU.

Like his wife, Chandra, Ferry said his favorite thing about

MCS is its "family feel and how it is child-centered. "It's wonderful. There is a positive growth mindset here, with an all-in attitude for results. I feel very supported from the top down."

He said he also loves everything about living in Madison – "the people, the environment, and the many things to explore. My wife and I are blessed to be a part of the school system and community. It is like a dream come true, and we look forward to living, working and retiring in Madison."

Abigail Garrett

Garrett, who teaches social studies, English language arts and math to sixth-graders at MJHS, attended IU Southeast, earning a bachelor's degree in education, with a minor in business. A Hanover resident, Garrett said she loves "the connection between the school and the community. It really creates a family atmosphere, and provides both the students and staff with a foundation of teamwork. I have enjoyed getting to know my students and co-workers. I feel a new-found love for my community. Go Cubs!"

Dosha Harrell

Harrell joined MJHS this year to work in student services as a social worker. The Deputy resident earned both a bachelor's and a master's degree in social work at Indiana University.

Her favorite part about working in the MCS district is the students and staff.

"I enjoy interacting with students on a daily basis. The staff have been so helpful, encouraging, and supportive in my transition to this position. I am so excited to be a part of the MJHS/MCS community."

Amy Slack Hoskins

Hoskins joined the Lydia Middleton Elementary staff as a clinical social worker. A Switzerland County resident, she earned a bachelor's degree in social work at the University of Evansville and a master's degree at the Indiana School of Social Work.

Her feelings about MCS: "I am excited to be a part of this wonderful school system. We have such a positive learning environment for our staff and students. The use of Positive Behavioral Interventions (a.k.a. PBIS) helps our students learn problem-solving skills and learn to develop positive coping skills."

She believes the MCS community "is very proactive in looking at the needs of our citizens. I have been a part of the Healthy Communities Initiative, and am pleased with the work we are doing to help address the social and emotional needs of all of our citizens."

Landon Howard

Howard was hired this year to teach 6th grade social studies and 8th grade health at MJHS. He earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education at Indiana University. The New Albany native moved to Madison in July.

His favorite thing about MCS: "The administration at the Middle School is fantastic. I also really enjoy talking with the other teachers; they've all been very nice and helpful. The students are also a joy to be around most days, as well."

Howard says he enjoys Madison because of its location on the Ohio River, surrounded by scenic hills. "It's a beautiful community. I am living downtown, so I'm trying to take advantage of all the things that downtown has to offer. I also love how much the community cares about it's sports programs. My interactions with people outside of the school community have really shown me how much pride Madison has in their athletics at the high school level."

Sara McGannon

McGannon was hired this year to teach English for 9th grade, as well as Indiana Studies and AP research. The Scott County resident earned degrees in English at Franklin College and Indiana University.

She said her favorite thing about working at MCS is the community she's found among the teachers and staff. "Everyone has been so welcoming, and are all completely focused on the success of each and every student in the classroom. I also love the relationships I have been able to create with different students."

Making connections between the lessons discussed in class and the community, outside of school, has been a big plus. "My Indiana Studies students just completed their small-business brochures; every student was able to find a small business in Madison to research, and all the small business owners were willing to give students information. I am extremely grateful for this district and the administration support given to so many teachers."

Haley Owens

Hired to teach third grade at Anderson Elementary, Owens is a Deputy native who earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and mild interventions at Butler University.

What impresses her most about MCS: "I love how Madison Schools involve the community and how the community gives back to the schools. I also love that the students are given



lots of different opportunities through extra-curricular activities and in the classroom to learn new skills and find their own

personal success."

She said she enjoys getting to know her students and their families, and the support she receives from the staff at Anderson, which, she said, welcomed me with open arms.

"I have taught in Lawrence Township in Indianapolis, Greater Clark Community Schools, and at Canaan Community Academy. I also spent some time teaching in Kenya. This will be my seventh year teaching third grade. I live on my family's 103-year-old farm, and I enjoy taking care of my animals. I graduated from MCHS in 2008 and was a Lily Scholar. I am glad to be part of MCS and to help create lifelong learners, like my MCS teachers did for me."

Lydia Reardon

Hired as a special-education teacher at Anderson Elementary, Reardon earned dual bachelor's degrees in special education and elementary education at Purdue University, where she minored in global studies and reading specialist.

Originally from Hanover, she had lived in Lafayette for the past 10 years.

Her favorite thing about MCS: "I love the sense of community. The staff here is very welcoming, and I feel as though I have been working here for years. I love the sense of family. I am so happy to be able to say I am part of the team."

Hannah Righthouse

Hired to teach Select English at MCHS, the Jeffersonville native earned a bachelor's degree in secondary education at Indiana University Southeast.

Righthouse said her favorite thing about being employed to teach in Madison schools: "I love that

everyone is so supportive of each other. It really feels like you are a part of a big family here, which has been very helpful during my first year.

Additionally, "I really enjoy downtown Madison and all of the different shops that it has. It's fun to just walk around and see what you can find."

Kelsey Sachleben

Hired to teach preschool at Anderson Elementary, Sachleben is a Madison native and former resident of Indianapolis, who earned a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood/Special Education at Ball State University.

"I love being back home with my family and friends," she said. "I was gone for seven years, and Madison has provided me a wonderful opportunity to be a part of the school district."

"The staff is very supportive, and I love the people I work with. We work hard to keep the students engaged and offer multiple opportunities for fun activities for the students. Thank you for letting me be part of the team."

Kristopher Sandlin

Having earned a bachelor's degree in K-12 physical education and health at Franklin College, Sandlin, a Scottsburg native, was hired to teach physical education at MJHS.

The resources Madison provides, he said, include and are not limited to Clifty Falls State Park, historic downtown Madison, and community relationships tied to the school.

"I love the historic side of Madison. I love the pride within our school corporation as well."

Scott Schick

Schick was hired as an assistant principal at MJHS. The Hartford City native earned a bachelor's degree in Ed/MAED Administration & Supervision at Ball State University.

He said his favorite thing about MCS is the culture and community of the school system as a whole. "The focus on family is great, as well as how I've felt invited into the community. Our



schools are incredible. In just the couple of months I have been here, I feel like I am home."

Additionally, he said:

"Downtown Madison is amazing. The various types of dining, shopping, and sightseeing are a treasure. We like to walk the numerous trails, and watch the traffic along the river. Did I mention the festivals?"

Schick said he and his wife were very selective about where they wanted to relocate during his job search. "Madison was the only location that met all of our desires. We are in the process of buying our forever home, and we can't wait to become a part of the community."

Shayla Shepherd

Shepherd was hired this year to teach chemistry and the principles of biomedical sciences to grades 9-12 at MCHS, as well as AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) to 11th graders. The Madison native earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Hanover College.

"My favorite thing about Madison Schools is the positive and supportive atmosphere. The teachers and administrators truly care about each and every student here at Madison and provide students with an inclusive learning environment. As a new teacher, I have received an abundance of support from all the employees here at Madison."

Shepherd said she loves taking walks downtown, especially along the riverfront, and supporting local businesses and festivals. "Madison is a beautiful community. We are constantly updating and bringing new businesses to Madison to give people of all ages something to do. I also love the history of the city. I have lived here my entire life, but I am still learning something new about Madison every day."

Shepherd said choosing to work at MCHS has been one of the best choices she's ever made in life.

"Because of the other staff members and the students here, I am learning more about myself than I ever have. The students have been awesome, and I am grateful for the connections I've made with each student so far. I also could not ask for a better science department. They have been extremely resourceful and have been open to any ideas I've brought forward. Madison has definitely been a great fit for me."

Emily Studebaker

A native of Ann Arbor, Mich., Studebaker moved from Lafayette, Ind., with her family when her husband, Dr. Jeff Studebaker, was hired to serve as MCS superintendent. She earned a bachelor's degree in education, speech-language pathology and audiology at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and a master's degree in speech-language pathology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

She was hired this year to serve as the speech-language pathologist for preschool and elementary students at Anderson Elementary.

"My favorite thing about MCS is the students," she said. "They are eager to learn and work hard every day. I also enjoy working with great teachers and families."

She and her family enjoy Madison mostly because "there are so many things here, including friendly people, a beautiful town, great opportunities, and our favorite restaurants."

Paul Woodling

Woodling, who earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in business at Indiana State University, is originally from Carmel. After having worked at smaller high schools, he said his favorite thing about teaching business at MCHS is to have other colleagues teaching in the business department.

"This school is bigger than my last three, so it can offer more options to students, especially dual-credit classes."

Woodling said he finds downtown Madison fascinating. "I am enjoying being this close to the Ohio River. Plus, the people I have met have been friendly and welcoming."

Fall athletics sets the tone for success

Lady Cubs earn another sectional golf title

MCHS athletes had an outstanding fall season. “Fall sports really begin over the summer,” explained Madison Athletic Director Joe Bronkella. “Our fall athletes begin pre-season work while still on summer break, so we appreciate those who make the commitment to get to the available optional workouts, weight room, and practices in order to prepare for their seasons,” he said. “This season we saw all of this hard work come together for some very successful team and individual seasons.” Madison Lady Cubs golf team

begins competition before the school year begins, putting five matches under their belts by the first day of school. With a very young team, they managed to improve their scores with each outing; they peaked at the right time and won their eighth sectional title at Sunrise Golf Course in September – the Lady Cubs’ fifth title in the past 10 years, Bronkella said. The team went on to compete at regionals at Smock Golf Club. There, sophomore Keara Eder qualified for her second-consecutive individual bid at the state finals, where Eder tied for 56th place in the state.



Pictured above are Jenna Imel, Keara Eder, Gibson James, Alivia Brawner, Ally Skirvin, Grace Bronkella, Kauai Schneider, and coach Jake Shockley.



Pictured left to right: Coach Josh Wilber, Kelsey Bilz, Isabel Wilber, Milena Yericyan, Anne Grady, Kayla Dattilo, Chloe Ferris, Clare Wilber and Brett Cahall.

Cahall earns third cross-country semi-state berth

The Lady Cubs Cross Country team had a great season, with junior Brett Cahall, earning her third Semi-State berth. Overall, they finished fourth as a team in the Southwestern Sectional meet at Hanover College, with Cahall finishing 10th individually, posting a time of 21.33.0. The team finished ninth in

the Columbus North Regional at Ceraland Park, where Cahall placed 30th, posting a time of 21.22.4. On a day that saw raw temperatures and flooded course conditions in Brown County, and the coldest temperatures to date, Cahall pushed through placing 105th at the semi-state meet with a time of 21.55.1.

Cubs soccer rolls to fifth sectional title, spot in Elite 8

The Madison Cubs Soccer team got off to a fast start, ending the season with a 12-7-2 record, representing the third-most wins for Cubs soccer in school history. The team also earned its second berth in regional finals. The Cubs won their fifth sectional title on their home pitch, the team’s first since winning four straight

titles from 2007-10 before the sport went to multiple classes in 2012. The Cubs then won their first match against West Vigo, 3-0, at the Heritage Hills Regional, putting them in the Elite 8 of Class 2A soccer. The Cubs dropped the night game 8-0 to the eventual state champions, Evansville Memorial.



Pictured, from left are: Hayden Eblen, Hugo Bravo, Dylan Eblen, Jacob Smith, Danny Winters, Zach Forner, Collin Hite, Adriano Martinez, Harrison Hall, Clint Hearne, Sonny Koren, Haruki Iwai, Casey Anderson, Luka Chabukashvili, Mitchell Liter, Luke Bryant, Carson Denton, Drew Forner, Caden Plew, Carson Roark, Gonzalo Lobato, Jaylen Jeffries, Ashton Carie, Coach Adam Jones, Coach Danny Terrell, Grant Smith, Matt Ward, Carter Schutte, Jack Kelsey, Liam Roney, Nate Hamby, Will Heitz, Elias Hanson, Christian Torres, Lyrik Der-ringer, and coach Kyle Bipes. (Not pictured: Guillermo Robledo)

Emergency Response Teams add layer of safety districtwide

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**
Communications Coordinator

As an added layer of the district’s school safety efforts, our schools have implemented campus Emergency Response Teams (ERT). Nursing Coordinator Kirstie Stivers, RN, had the idea to create the teams, then reached out to all employees to see if there was interest. “After the initial email, I quickly had individuals from each building step up to be a part of this project,” Stivers said. “I think defining the roles ahead of time, and allowing them to select how they wanted to be involved, made it appealing and not as intimidating.” The ERT will respond to any medical emergency that may arise in their building. An example of a situation the ERT may respond to are a seizure or diabetic episode,

or in the event of a natural or man-made disaster, injuries that may follow. “We hope we never have to use these teams, but as a district we are committed to student safety and care, and this is a small way we can work together to take that commitment to a deeper level,” Stivers said. “We want to be fully prepared in the event of an emergency. The goal is to be more organized and efficient as we respond.” Each building’s ERT include five positions. The Lead: In most situations, this will be the school nurse, who will provide most of the patient care. The Contact: This person is responsible for calling 911, parents and others with the emergency information. This position requires someone who remains calm under pressure, can clearly communicate information from

the primary caregiver, and receive any necessary instructions to pass along. The Lookout: This person will stand watch for parents and emergency vehicles, directing them to where they must go – also requiring the person to remain calm under pressure and work efficiently. The Runner: This person will gather any needed items, such as wheelchairs, Automated External Defibrillators (AED) and bandages, to ensure the primary caregiver has everything needed to care for the patient. The Assistant: This person will stay with the patient and the Lead, providing help in any way needed. All school employees are required to take annual training on Blood-borne Pathogens Exposure; Health Emergencies (asthma, diabetes, life-threatening allergies, and seizures); Youth Suicide Awareness,

Prevention and Postvention; and AED. All of our certified staff, and many others, are also trained and certified in CPR. Teams are now in place in all MCS buildings. Additionally, School Resource Officers Tim Armstrong, Jacob McVey, and John Wallace are overseeing the district’s “Go Bucket” initiative. ““Go Buckets’ are something we have been looking at for a few years,” Armstrong said. “While the bucket is a simple concept, it is a project that can add up in costs, but is invaluable to have in the case of an emergency.” From a severe weather event to a lock-down situation, the Go Buckets are an essential item the district hopes will be in place “just in case.” The five-gallon buckets, which will be placed in every classroom districtwide, have lids and include small first-

aid items, hand sanitizers or wipes, toilet paper, a tarp, red biological waste bags and disinfectant. Should students be forced to lock-down in a classroom for a long period of time, the buckets can be converted into portable restrooms, in addition to providing the necessary supplies for first aid; the buckets are ready in a moment’s notice as part of each school’s crisis response plans. “We want to extend a huge thank-you to our local Lowe’s store and King’s Daughters’ Health for donating the items to make this project a reality for our students and staff,” Armstrong said, explaining that Lowe’s donated all of the buckets and lids, and KDH donated medical supplies to get the program started. Armstrong said buckets should be available in all classrooms districtwide by the end of the calendar year.

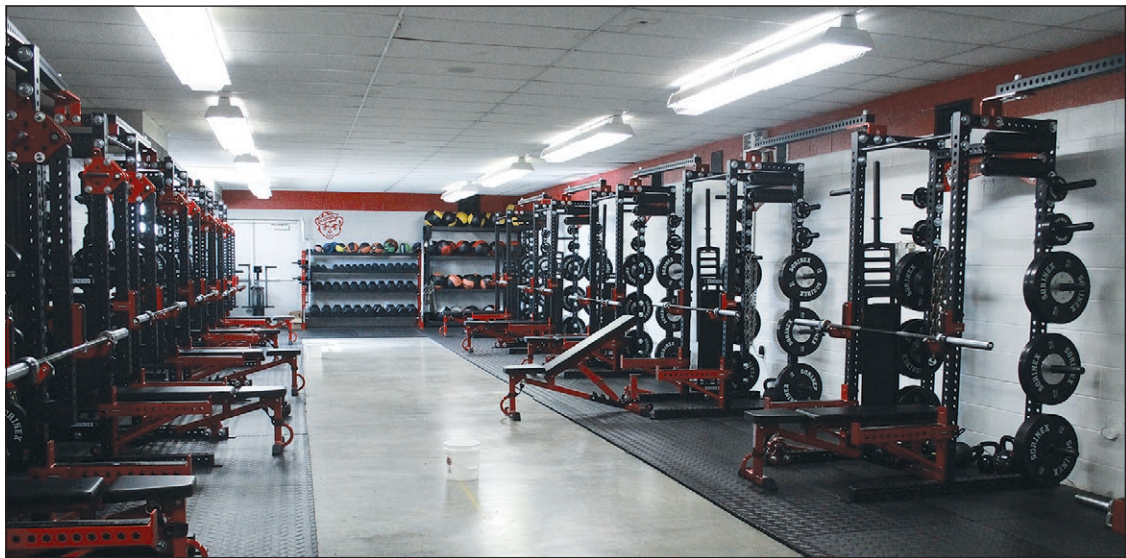
A reverent tradition

MCHS, MJHS students honor
Madison’s military veterans



Madison and Jefferson County residents representing all branches of the U.S. military in which they have served, are serving, or are planning to serve, were treated to beautiful music by the MCHS choir and concert band during the 2019 Veterans Day ceremony on Nov. 11. The event included speakers and a roll call of all veterans attending the ceremony.

– Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin



– Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin


A newly remodeled and updated weight room at MCHS is being used not just by student athletes, but also by physical education classes and those who want to work out after the school day.

Improved weight room built to boost overall health of all students at MCHS

By **PHYLLIS McLAUGHLIN**
Correspondent Editor

The updated and remodelled weight room at Madison Consolidated High School isn’t just for athletes anymore. MCS Athletic Director Joe Bronkella said the Cub Strong program also is being used as part of the school’s overall physical education program. Decked out with 12 Sorinex weight racks and all-new dumbbells, barbells and other equipment, the weight room is booked with strength and agility training classes during six of the seven periods each school day, along with the student athletes who keeping fit during the season for the various sports teams. Sorinex designed the room to accommodate more students. Previously, about 25 to 30 students could be training at one

time; now it accommodates up to 46 students. MCHS equipment still in good condition was moved over to MJHS to make room for the upgrade. Bronkella said that facility is already being used at least three periods a day by strength-training classes, which are an elective in the MJHS PE program. The bonus is that students who want to play sports in high school will already have the basics they need. The main goal for the upgrade is to encourage all students to become interested in strength training, which has great benefits even for non-athletes. For athletes, the training helps reduce injury, but, overall it helps boost a student’s mood, increase with cognitive development, builds self-esteem, can increase a student’s focus and motivation in the classroom, and increases the likelihood they will continue to stay active as adults. And it has a positive effect on mental health, Bronkella said, adding another goal is to help combat the issues of suicide and addiction in the community. Principal Michael Gasaway said he already has seen a reduction in bad behavior, because using the facility after school is a privilege that requires students to maintain good behavior and good grades. “And, as a place to go after school, it helps kids stay out of trouble and avoid making bad decisions,” Bronkella added. Students – and parents – also can keep track of their progress with an app. Once a student’s baseline is determined, trainer Jason Roney customizes a workout and helps each student set and attain their own personal goals.



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

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Memorial honoring Mayor Welch dedicated at Anderson Elementary

STAFF REPORT

Students, staff and family of the late Mayor Damon Welch attended a ceremony Nov. 18 at Anderson Elementary.

During the ceremony, officials unveiled a memorial to honor the work he had

done for the district, from which he graduated in 1971.

“He was always an avid supporter of our school district and truly believed in a working partnership to put education first for our students and community,” Superintendent Dr. Jeff Studebaker said of Mayor

Welch. “It was evident he had a very special place in his heart for E.O. Muncie Elementary, but also supported the necessary work to reopen Anderson Elementary.

“It is only fitting we honor him and keep his memory with us daily.”



Attending the ceremony were Mayor Welch’s family, from left: his grandson, Damon Mathew Batts; daughter, Gaeli Batts; granddaughters, Emma and Rebekah Batts; and his wife, Ginny Welch.

MANUFACTURING
from Page 1

in themselves; employees on the floor have a variety of education levels, from certification in safety, electrical and other areas, to bachelor’s and master’s degrees, he said. “But we want to emphasize the diversity of jobs available right here. There are great employers in the county offering all kinds of careers.”

Fischmer said VSG also offers internships, mostly for college students, with a robust program in which interns are treated just like permanent employees.

“They go through an application process and the interview process before they are hired. Our goal is not for the intern to come in and file or get coffee. We give them meaningful work and a chance to prove themselves,” which benefits both the intern and the company.

“We’ve had as few as four interns and as many as 12 during a given summer,” he said, adding that some interns have held more than one internship.



A VSG employee demonstrates one piece of the work that’s done at the Madison plant, which produces automotive repair equipment, to students during a Manufacturing Day visit.

“So far, five former interns are now full-time employees.”

Students preparing to enter the work force after graduation can find meaningful careers that will allow them to grow and develop their own skills, and learn in manufacturing jobs.

And because VSG is a global company, with European headquarters in Germany and

Italy and Asian headquarters in China, some jobs offer opportunities for travel, and for the adventurous, live and work for the company in other countries.

“At the end of the day, we want to help students in Jefferson County know that there are some wonderful career opportunities close to home,” Fischmer said.

FCCLA
from Page 1

But students aren’t required to be working toward a career in the food industry to join FCCLA.

During a recent class on baking pecan pies, Blackerby reminded her students that following recipes is a skill that requires reading comprehension and basic math skills, such as fractions, to understand how to make the recipe work – or, if needed, to double, triple or even halve a recipe to suit whatever food-related occasion comes along.

“Self-sufficiency is the goal,”

both of the new FCCLA chapter and the Cub Culinary program in general, Blackerby said. “But, ultimately, I’m hoping to inspire some students to realize it could become a career.”

Established in 1945, FCCLA today has more than 175,000 members in 5,300 chapters in all 50 states, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico.

The organization focuses on teaching students about parenting, family relationships, nutrition and fitness, and helps them develop skills for life that will aid them at home and in the workplace.

For more information, visit www.fcclainc.org.



Culinary arts teacher LeAnne Blackerby explains why understanding fractions is crucial to baking the perfect pecan pie.



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RALLY

from Page 1

as an educator for many years and in different places around the state. I was in the line at my polling place the year the state pulled together to vote out one of the architects of our current mess. Teachers and parents are at least as angry and active today as they were then; it seems clear they're much more motivated to make a change.

Let's be clear. Public schools are not broken,

and both the Legislature and the schools should be held to a high accountability standard.

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By paring down, the system could be reduced to one reliable test, plus guidance from our world-class educators, to move students forward, and do this without spending a penny more than we spend today.



MCS teachers and staff attended the Red for Ed Rally held in Indianapolis on Nov. 19.

From Day One, MCS programs build student leadership skills

By **ASHLEY SCHUTTE**

Communications Coordinator

Leadership is an important part of a well-rounded education, and all MCS schools and staff are committed to providing lessons and hands-on experiences that are appropriate for each grade level to help students develop essential leadership skills.

In our elementary schools, this often begins as early as preschool and kindergarten, students take turns leading their classes for a day, and assist their teachers with daily tasks – organizing lunch orders, leading the line quietly to and from areas within the building, and (sometimes) sharing things meaningful to them.

This is the first step in helping students develop a sense of helping and being considerate of others, understanding rules, interacting with and learning about their peers.

As students progress in grade level, they are exposed to activities, such as service clubs, the concepts of being a member of a student council, and opportunities to engage with adults who visit their buildings by



MCHS senior Caroline Kirby took first place in the national Employability Skills competition at this year's JAG Leadership Academy.

serving as tour guides.

In middle school, students have even more opportunities to continue their involvement in student council, as well as to become peer counselors and join programs including She Became and Girls Steam Ahead. Each of these focus on the further development of leadership skills.

In high school, leadership programs are designed to be a bridge into college and career readiness. MCHS offers a number of traditional programs, including student government, athletics, agriculture, and academic-pathway programs such as HOSA (healthcare) and FCCLA (consumer sciences).

Other opportunities include lesser-known activities, such as Jobs for American Graduates (JAG), Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), Girls and Boys State, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

This year, seniors Caroline Kirby and Carson Denton and four other seniors from our region travelled to Washington, D.C., for the JAG National Student Leadership Academy.

JAG is a statewide program that focuses on helping high school students achieve success after graduation. At the conference, students compete in Public Speaking, Employability Skills, Math Skills, and Project-Based Learning events.

Kirby, who was selected to participate in the Employability Skills portion of the event, placed first in the national event. Each state was allowed to send three delegates; 39 states were represented.

Boys and Girls State delegates are nominated by their high school during their junior year. Sponsored by the American Legion and its Auxiliary, the program brings student leaders from around the state together for a full week in the summer.

HOBY is available to sophomores who also are nominated by their school. Its mission is to inspire and prepare future young leaders in a global community for a life dedicated to leadership, service and innovation.

RYLA, coordinated by Rotary International, also is a global youth leadership program. Students are selected by their local Rotary Club to connect with other students during this intensive experience.

Interested students should contact their school's counselors for additional information and application deadlines. Often, costs to participate in these programs are covered by the school.



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