

Deputy Elementary Recognized as 2021 Blue Ribbon School



Deputy students gather to celebrate their Blue Ribbon School Award.

In a press release from the U.S. Department of Education, U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona recognized 325 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups.

An excerpt from the U.S. Department of Education's release:

"This year's cohort of honorees demonstrates what is possible when committed educators and school leaders create vibrant, welcoming, and affirming school cultures where rich teaching and learning can flourish," said Secretary Cardona. "I commend this school and all our Blue Ribbon honorees for working to keep students healthy and safe while meeting their academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. In the face of unprecedented circumstances, you found creative ways to engage, care for, protect, and teach our children. Blue Ribbon Schools have so much to offer and can serve as a model for other schools and communities so that we can truly build back better."

The coveted National Blue Ribbon Schools award affirms the hard work of educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content. Now in its 39th year, the National Blue Ribbon Schools Program has bestowed approximately 10,000 awards to more than 9,000 schools.

The Department recognizes all schools in one of two performance categories, based on all student scores, subgroup student scores, and graduation rates:

Exemplary High-Performing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools as measured by state assessments or nationally normed tests.

Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing Schools are among their state's highest performing schools in closing achievement gaps between a school's

student groups and all students.

Deputy Elementary School was recognized as an Exemplary Achievement Gap-Closing School for their work with students to close the achievement gap. "Our teachers work each day to meet students where they are, emotionally, academically, socially, and physically," shared Deputy Principal Janet

McCreary. "They know the importance of looking at students as a whole, not just from one angle. Everything we accomplish at Deputy Elementary is done together. Teachers and staff work together to teach and support students, their families, and each other. It is truly a family atmosphere."

"To be recognized with this award is an incredible honor," shared Superintendent Dr. Jeff Studebaker.

"This is the highest achievement a school can receive." Academic gap-closing occurs when students, within a specific cohort, are identified as low(er)-performing based on academic achievement data points and that gap is closed (improvement seen) on the same data points year



Italyn Schoonover takes time to enjoy blue cookies and punch.

after year. "Data drives our instruction, but the teachers and staff hearts provide the environment in which true learning can take place," continued McCreary. "Students feel safe and loved by the adults in our building." Lori Palmer, Special Education teacher, agreed "our staff is a family and we care for the kids like they are our own children."

In order to be considered for this award, a school must be nominated by the state department of education. "All of our academic data filters through the IDOE," continued Studebaker. "The data is reviewed year after year and can be attributed to a specific cohort of students. That continual improvement of academic performance made Deputy stand out among the nation's schools. This is truly a remarkable achievement and the fact that it is based upon student academic

achievement and growth make it that much more incredibly special."

The nomination was received from the federal department of education by the school on February 5, 2021. Once identified, the school entered a lengthy application process to determine/verify academic practices, instructional delivery methods, data collection and follow-up, and other points of interest to confirm they met all of the necessary requirements as determined by the Indiana Department of Education. "The application process provided us the opportunity to reflect on current and past practices," shared McCreary. "That type of specific reflection allows us to grow and improve on our practices, which benefits not only current students but future students." One critical piece of this success is alignment. "Our staff buys into the vertical alignment of ALL school practices, which allows students a continuous, smooth transition to learning," shared Kathy Stoner, first-grade teacher and former MCS Teacher of the Year.

Deputy Elementary School curriculum is aligned vertically to ensure that we prepare our students for higher learning. As a staff, we regularly collaborate and agree upon what strategies, resources, and content will be taught based on what is available and researched based. We then implement our decisions PK through 4th grade.

Students held a school-wide celebration on campus on September 22, where they watched Secretary Cardona make the official (recorded) announcement of the national winners. Dr. Jeff Studebaker recognized the students and staff with a local announcement and shared what this means for our school, families, and community. You can view the celebration via Facebook from the Deputy Elementary School - MCS page.



Joseph Sommer and Lyric LeGrande visit with MCS board member David Storie.

To watch the video of the announcement, please visit one of the links below:

- <https://ed.gov/nationalblueribbonschools>
- <https://nationalblueribbonschools.ed.gov>
- <https://twitter.com/NatBlueRibbon>
- <https://twitter.com/usedgov>
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There were seven schools in the state of Indiana recognized with this award, all were elementary schools.

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Dr. Studebaker, Aba S. Kumi, Director, National Blue Ribbon Schools Program, Mrs. Janet McCreary, and Mrs. Kristi Fulton (4th-grade teacher) all traveled to Washington D.C. earlier this month to attend the national ceremony and accept their award as part of a weekend celebration of education and Blue Ribbon Schools.



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

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

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From the Superintendent Desk

We have had an outstanding start to the 2021-2022 school year! Having all of our students in school for face to face instruction, winning a national award, and completing a successful academic and athletic season are just some of the highlights of the year so far! While we were disappointed that the Covid-19 infection rate spiked right before school started and has persisted throughout the fall, we have been thrilled to have our students back in school for face to face instruction. The students have had a great fall and we are looking forward to wrapping up our first semester and the holiday season.



enrollment and increased funding from the State, we have been able to give raises that are unmatched over the past several years in our District. Teaching and working in our schools during the pandemic has been the most challenging time of our careers. The ability to keep our students in school for most of this time is due to all of the hard work and dedication of the staff. The increase in salaries is well deserved and will hopefully be the first of a few significant increases over the next few years.

One of the highlights of my time at Madison occurred this fall! The highest award any school in the United States can receive is the National Blue Ribbon School Award. We are proud that Deputy Elementary School has received that award this year! The award recognizes the contributions of everyone associated with the school and the improvements our students make while there. Congratulations to Deputy Elementary School and everyone in the community for this achievement!

Another huge bright spot this fall are the historic raises given to the teachers and employees of the District. Due to our rise in student

Hopefully this will be the last District Correspondent where I will need to ask for your continued help regarding the Covid-19 pandemic. While we are beginning to see a slight decrease in our infection rate, we still have to remain vigilant. Wearing masks while indoors and getting vaccinated are the tools we have to combat the spread of the virus. Please remain patient and persistent. By working together we can see the end of quarantines, masks, and the conversations around all things Covid.

Have a wonderful and restful holiday season! Good luck to all of our students as we close out the fall semester! And, as always, thank you for choosing the Madison Consolidated Schools for your children's education.

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Digital Ambassadors a Program with Purpose

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

A Digital Ambassador is “someone representing our school, sending out information to keep people safe online,” shared sixth-grader Ruthie Whitaker. Rae Hearne, seventh-grader, added “we help people know what not to do. We address peer pressure and help support decisions to do the right thing.”

Now in the sixth year, the Digital Ambassador program at MJHS and MCHS is becoming more and more important the more prevalent technology becomes in the lives of young people. Mrs. Kim Mahoney, MJHS teacher, and program mentor started a discussion among the group by prompting them to share what they have learned recently about the longevity of an irresponsible digital footprint. One ambassador piped up and reminded the group of the recent Jeopardy host who was quickly removed due to a social media post. And most recently a haunting email that cost an NFL coach his job. Don't let their age or experience fool you. To be certain, this young group understands the importance of a responsible digital footprint. We had a great discussion on responsible posting, appropriate versus inappropriate content, and how quickly one push of a simple button can ruin a life.

Surprisingly, as individuals, the group is pretty hands-off when it comes to technology, social media use, and screen time outside of class. Only one of the members has a TikTok account - every one of them talked about the legal age of use for the popular Instagram, SnapChat, and TikTok accounts. Most of them are well below the age of 13 and realize they would violate the terms of use agreement on most platforms. They also understand that the legal age of use doesn't stop a lot of their peers from creating accounts. “We know there are lots of students who have accounts on different platforms who are not old enough to have legally signed up,” shared Mahoney. Collectively, the DA's agreed that there are a number of their friends who are online and they see lots of opportunities to share information to help keep their friends and peers safe and mindful of their digital footprint.

The discussion took an interesting turn when they shared how surprised they are that so many young students (elementary age) have phones today or how many toddlers you see using phones. Most of the group did not have a phone until they were in 5th or 6th grade and that was done only to be able to communicate with their parents once they got to MJHS because they got busier with more after school activities and their practices. Consensus among the Digital Ambassadors is that their parents know about and actively monitor what little activity takes place on their phones with friends.

The Digital Ambassadors do a lot of the work using videos. Recently, they created a safety tips slide show and pushed it out to junior and senior high schools to play on a loop on TVs in the common areas. They created safety pamphlets to work in conjunction with a slide show prepared for 3rd and 4th graders which will be part of a lesson designed for teachers to share. Students are also prepared in the event Title 1 Literacy Nights resume at the elementary schools and they are able to visit with parents face-to-face to share valuable information.



Members (left to right) include: *Ruthie Whitaker, Mrs. Mahoney, Raeanna Hearne, Kamea Phelps, Karin Uesugi, Addison Stewart, and Ellie Whitaker. Not present for photo: Marlee Thompson, Mitchell Adams, Hannah Goley, and Hailee Spencer.*

“We have talked about trying to share at the public library about safety and digital footprints, as well as, different programs/apps,” Mahoney continued. “Public venues continue to be a bit of a challenge, but we want to be prepared for when it becomes an option.”

With an open-door policy, the program is available to any student in grades 5 - 12 who is interested in learning more about technology and/or creating educational resources for students within our schools. Up until the COVID shut down, the number of students involved, especially at MCHS, was very impressive. “Since returning to school, as with most other things, getting the junior high and high school students together is a bit trickier. However, we have been able to utilize technology to collaborate and get input on projects,” shares Mahoney. “It is much easier for our MJHS students to get together. We enjoy being together after school, these students don't have jobs yet, and the snacks are good!”



MADISON THEATRE 2021.2022 SEASON

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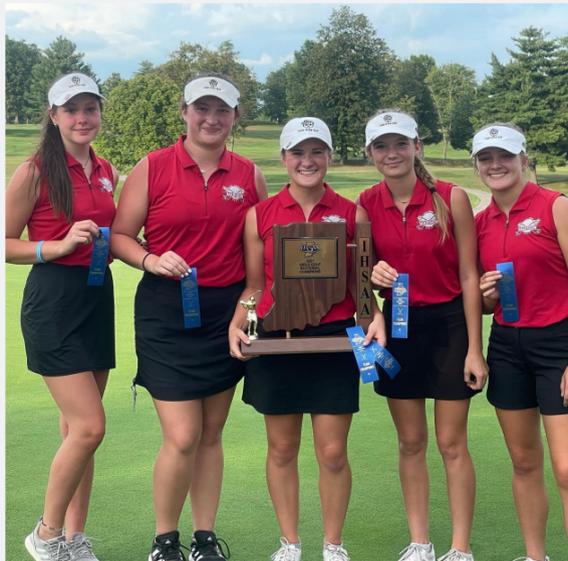
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Fall Sports Wrap-Up

“Overall, we have had an outstanding sports season with two of our teams bringing home Sectional Championships, two more teams sending qualifiers to the Regional level, and all teams showing incredible growth on the field and in the classroom,” shared Athletic Director, Joe Bronkella. Coaches share season recaps, team highlights, and are already looking forward to next season.

Lady Cubs Golf Team



From left to right: Reagan Warren, Lilly Fox, Keara Eder, Grace Bronkella, and Gracie Gasaway.

The Lady Cubs' golf team capped off another successful season by winning their third straight sectional by five strokes over rival Jennings County and 12 strokes over Lawrenceburg. The sectional championship also ensured the Lady Cubs' 10th straight appearance to the Indianapolis Roncalli regional.

The Lady Cubs' golf team was led by all-state golfer senior Keara Eder who won medalist honors in every dual, tri, and quad meet of the season including tying the school record for best nine and 18 hole scores. Eder was also one of only two performers in the state to make both the all-state and academic all-state teams.

Returning starters, Eder, junior Grace Bronkella, and sophomore Gracie Gasaway led the Lady Cubs and its golfers junior Reagan Warren, sophomore Isa James, and freshmen Lilly Fox and Laken Dickerson to an 18-2 regular-season record, the Lady Cubs' best season record in eight years.

“After losing (current Franklin College golfer Jenna) Imel to college, having a starter decide not to return, and with Jennings County returning all of their starters, we knew we were going to have our work cut out for

us this year,” said head coach Jake Shockley. “The ladies really stepped up to the challenge this year. They had a very big desire to win another championship for MCHS.”

The Lady Cubs also added assistant coach Shannon Barger this year. No stranger to coaching himself, Barger previously was a head coach for the MCHS baseball team. “Coach Barger was an invaluable addition to the team this year. He was great to have around to have a sounding board for me, and he was a great mentor to the girls. I don't think we would have won the sectional title without him,” Shockley said.

The next challenge will be to see how the Lady Cubs handle the departure of Eder to Marian University where she signed a golf scholarship.

Shockley stated, “I'm very excited for next year. Losing a player of Keara's caliber for a school our size can be tough to swallow. We return a very solid core of players, though, and there is a freshman coming up that I like a lot. If the ladies continue to progress, I think we can still be very successful next year. Everybody coming back has quite a bit of talent. How successful we are will be determined by how hard we work in the off-season.”

The 2021 campaign concluded in dramatic fashion as the Lady Cubs took last year's semi-state qualifiers the Silver Creek Dragons to two overtimes in the sectional final. After 94 minutes of scoreless soccer and after 5 rounds of penalty kicks the Lady Cubs and Dragons were still tied. The match concluded in the sixth round of sudden victory penalty kicks. The Lady Dragon's American football field goal kicker placed a rocket into the top of the goal to move onto regionals and sealing their third sectional title in women's soccer in four years.

The Lady Cubs ended the season as Sectional runners-up and didn't allow a goal in the postseason in the run of play (254 minutes of scoreless soccer for their opponents, goals were only scored from penalty kicks). The Lady Cubs completed more than 215 hours of community service this season, have a team grade point average of 4.02, won a team IHSA Sportsmanship Pin, earned the United Soccer Coaches (USC) Team Academic Award, and the USC Team

Platinum Team Ethics and Merit Award for no yellow or red cards again this season.

Senior Marin Kernen earned a national USC Senior Excellence Award while junior speaking captain Molly Armbricht was distinguished as the Indiana Soccer Coaches Association (ISCA) top team player award for the Lady Cubs. Six juniors and seniors earned ISCA Academic All-State Honors: Molly Armbricht, Casey Dyer, Alaina Kelley, Hailey Jenkins, Marin Kernen, and Taylor Lynch. Sophomore Iyana Phelps was the women's soccer program's golden boot winner again this season with 15 goals, 1 assist, and 6 game-winners. The Lady Cub backline was anchored by first-year soccer player goalkeeper Alaina Kelley. Kelley and the backline helped the Lady Cubs shut out five opponents this season. The Lady Cubs went 7-2-3 at home this campaign with the lone defeats against regional qualifiers opponents in their home opener and sectional final.

Lady Cubs Soccer Team



From left to right: Autumn Ross, Taylor Lynch, Claire Bilz, Ruby Jacobs (visiting former teammate), Hailey Jenkins, Iyana Phelps, and Marin Kernen on the sideline supporting the JV team vs. Rising Sun.

Lady Cubs Volleyball Team



This year the Lady Cubs had all but one of last year's varsity starters return for the season. Four Senior leaders played a key role on and off the court in making this year a strong and winning one! The team finished with a winning record 20-8, overcoming some big competition for the first time in years (or ever)! “We were a team made up of hard

workers, determined teammates, and genuinely great kids,” shared coach Camille Crim. “As coaches, we are SO proud of our players and all that they set their minds to accomplish!” The JV and Freshmen teams showed great progress and look to continue the success in the off-season and build for years to come.

“While we didn't get the sectional win that we hoped for, nor did we give the show we had hoped to in the final game, this team has set a high standard and a bar to be maintained for the program moving forward,” Crim continued. “We are proud of the season and excited about the group we have going forward. I am confident that they will continue to build our Cub program to be the best it has ever been!”

All four seniors earned All-State Academic Recognition in addition to their volleyball career awards and achievements. There are several players who are eligible to make the Indiana Elite team, as well as, the Indiana All-Stars team - both are HUGE accomplishments!



Academic-All State honorees, Jenna Rohrer, Brooklyn Cornelius, Addi Mundt, and Taylor Harsin.

Cubs Soccer Team



From left to right: Colson Backus, Henry Grote, Ramon Alvarado Paz, Tyler Ayler, Gio Zapata, Clint Hearne, Harrison Hall, Drew Forner, Hayden Eblen, Caden Plew, Colin Hite, Diego Lorente Gomez, Landon Gregory, Gio Gomez Rojas, Kyle Roney, Evan Cammack, Karson Couch, Lyrik Derringer, Stephan DelGado, Eli Dodge, Christian Torres, Adriano Martinez, Graham Klein, Nick Whitaker, Jack Kelsey, Saba Chabukashvili, Sonny Koren, Ian Erikson, Jack Heckler, Coach Adam Jones, Coach Kyle Bipes, Brady Lock, Charlie Furlow, Jackson Schwartz, Liam Roney, and Carter Schutte.

For the second time in four years the Madison Cubs soccer team was crowned Sectional Champions. Avenging a loss from earlier in the season, the Cubs beat Silver Creek 2-0 to bring home the hardware. “It was a season of ups and downs, growth, and close games,” shared coach Kyle Bipes. “Our defense was incredible all year long and our freshmen contributed every single game.” Finishing the season with an overall record of 9-9-2, the Cubs found themselves on the short side in several games losing by just one point. “We have a unique group of players who are talented enough to play in just about any spot,” Bipes continued. “That gave us an incredible opportunity to be flexible.”

For the first time in program history, the Cubs hosted their Regional Semi-Final game at Cub Field. Losing to seventh-ranked Heritage Hills 3-1, the Cubs season came to an end. “The guys gave this team (18-1 coming into the game) a run,” Bipes continued. “They are top 10 for a reason and we gave them more than they bargained for...we just couldn't hang on. We are

incredibly proud of our season.”

The Cubs graduate Bipes' first four-year class of players. “Seniors Jack Kelsey (Courierarea Soccer Player of the Year / Academic All-State), Carter Schutte (Academic All-State), Caden Plew and Hayden Eblen were freshmen my first year as head coach,” he continued. “They are something special and we will miss their leadership.” Later joined by senior Nick Whitaker and Henry Grote, the Cubs had a great chemistry and the program is in a great place with very talented underclassmen who are playing well together and year round to hone their skills.

Cubs Cross Country Team



From left to right: John Michael Couch, Lucas Owen, Lane Brawner, Liam Murphy, Neel Mistry, Logan Ferris, Colton Copeland, Xavier Cosby, Trapper Johnson, Trevor Hoffman, Leighton Wielgoszinski, Henry Ashley, Travis Hoffman.

The 2021 season was a huge leap forward for the Cubs Cross Country program. Coach Sandlin saw guys: have a great summer of running, dedication to something bigger than themselves (the team), the fire and want to get better, the increase in running knowledge in relation to training, consistency, perspective to the rest of the state, and increased belief and confidence in themselves among other things.

"Our team was a regional qualifier for the first time since 2014," shared Coach Kris Sandlin. "Additionally, sophomore Logan Ferris, qualify for semi-state - marking the first time qualifier since 2014." The top 5 man average time of 18:24 was 1:08 faster than the 2020 season and the 20th best in the 40-year history of the 5k (5k, 3.1 miles, started in 1980). As a team, they placed 3rd at sectional for only the fifth time in school history and had the highest semi-state ranking (34th of

96) since 2014- in a sport with only one class. A season highlight included the 2nd Annual Lou Knoble Invitational title on the Cubs home course, the first invitational win since the 2013 season. Seniors, Lane Brawner and Neel Mistry, were named Academic All-State (Honorable Mention), only the fifth and sixth individuals in school history to earn this accolade.

"The senior class saw the ups and downs of a program and left the program in a better spot than they found it," Sandlin continued. "They left no rock unturned in becoming their best and making those around them better." When describing qualities of leaders and this senior class, Sandlin said they are synonymous with "positive, hard-working, commitment to something bigger than themselves (the team), and servant leadership" to name a few.

Lady Cubs Cross Country Team



From left to right: Addie Nott, Ava Spencer, Cadence Traylor, Isabel Wilber, Maddie Flowers, and Sarah Adams.

The Lady Cubs XC team consisted of six athletes: Isabel Wilber, juniors Cadence Traylor and Maddie Flowers, sophomore Ava Spencer, and freshmen Addie Nott and Sarah Adams.

The Lady Cubs were 18-26 on the season as a team. They finished Runner-Up in the annual Hokum Karem and the Scottsburg Invitational. Unfortunately, due to injuries, the Lady Cubs finished 6th as a team at Sectionals and were unable to move on as a team.

Isabel, Cadence, and Ava moved on to Regionals individually. Ava Spencer ran great at Regionals earning her a second consecutive trip to the Semi-State Championship.

"The Lady Cubs will be losing our Senior leader in Isabel Wilber but will be returning a good group of runners led by Ava Spencer and Cadence Traylor for the 2022 season," shared coach Josh Wilber. Isabel will continue her XC career at Georgetown College.

Cubs Tennis Team

Under Coach Devon Sharp, the boy's tennis team doubled in size from last season and became a contender with the help of an influx of freshmen. Madison boys tennis finished the season with 6 wins. They had strong performances by many freshman players and seasoned leadership from 4-year letter winner, Matt Burkhardt. Together, they were great competitors and collectively, as a team, earned 2 prestigious awards: Academic All-State recognition and the IHSAA Face of Sportsmanship

Award. Coach Sharp looks forward to welcoming many of the boys back and a strong season next year.

From left to right: Coach Devon Sharp, Alex Wang, Kaid Fink, Colton O'Neal, Abe Reetz, Matthew Burkhardt, Bodie Harsin, Bryce Miller, Landon True, Mitchell Cammack, Coach Jeremy Huff.



Senior football team member, From left to right: Jacob Pearson, Christian Bell, Silas Applegate, Curtis Jacobs, Cam King, Carter Featherstone, Dylan Dirksen, Brady Mack, and Jackson Kelsey.

The Madison Football Cubs finished the season with a record of 3-7. For the first time since the 2013 and 2014 seasons, they achieved back-to-back multi-win seasons. Something that has only happened two other times in the last two decades for this program.

The Cubs started off on the road for the first two weeks, pulling off a come from behind victory at South Dearborn to start the season 1-1. Week three, which was slated for Senior Night, proved to be challenging as they lost their original opponent due to a Covid shutdown on their end. Spending all week looking for a replacement, it wasn't until game day that a replacement was secured with Brownstown Central. With only 4 hours of preparation, the Cubs took to the field and put on an excellent performance, and celebrated their Seniors, against a team

that still remains undefeated and playing in the sectional championship. Week 4 the Cubs picked up their second win against Milan putting their record at 2-2. The back and forth continued over the next two weeks. The Cubs dropped a tough one to their rivals Jennings County in the Battle of the Railroad game and then bounced back against Mitchell to continue the season at 3-3. "The final four weeks didn't go the way we wanted as we struggled against some good competition," shared coach LeRoy Wilson. The season ended in the first round of the Sectional with a loss to South Dearborn. "This team started as a young and inexperienced group that, in the end, will return many experienced players for the 2022 season. We want to thank the Senior Class of 2022 and appreciate all of their hard work and commitment over the last 4 years," Wilson continued.

Madison Athletics Honored by IHSAA

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

Outstanding Sportsmanship

Earlier this fall, Madison Athletics received notice from the IHSAA that MCHS had once again been recognized as a Sportsmanship Award Recipient. In a letter from Sandra Walter, IHSAA Assistant Commissioner, the origin and premise of the award dates back several years after state officials held discussions with principals from around the state about their top concerns around the state of high school athletics. Sportsmanship topped their list as the number one challenge. It was at that time that the IHSAA developed a sportsmanship program unlike any other in the country.

Of the 410 eligible high schools in the state of Indiana, just 11 qualified for the extremely prestigious award. Madison Consolidated High School was on the list for the 2020-2021 school year, it is the second time MCHS has been awarded in as many years. "This is a huge honor for our school, students, coaches, and parents," shared Joe Bronkella, Madison Athletic Director. "Not only does it speak to the character of our students, but it also speaks to the dedication and commitment of our coaches, support from our parents of the lessons taught by athletics,

and the positive environment created by our community when we host athletic events."

In an excerpt from the letter, "the IHSAA is pleased to congratulate Madison Consolidated High School for your efforts in fostering good sportsmanship, citizenship, and character within your staff, students, and community members."

"We work with coaches at all levels to instill leadership through example, to help student-athletes understand the importance of good sportsmanship, and to hold them accountable to a high standard," Bronkella continued. "We realize our student-athletes are young people who will inevitably have a misstep at some point. Part of the beauty of athletics and the relationships built, when done correctly, allow for the ability to hold kids accountable, have difficult conversations when necessary, and create life-long learning experiences that sometimes make a huge impact. Our student-athletes are reminded time and time again that it is a privilege to represent our schools (at all levels) and with their uniform comes expectations above and beyond."



MADISON THEATRE 2021.2022 SEASON

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spectacular performances!

Student Athletic Council - a foundation in excellence

Started in 2017, the Madison Student Athletic Council is focused on sportsmanship, student leadership, and collaboration. "We wanted a way to bring forward the student voice in athletics," Bronkella shared. "We wanted to better understand what student-athletes seek in their experiences. From facilities to equipment, to school spirit, to collaborative work with other student organizations within the school - we are always seeking opportunities to improve the experience for the athlete, our school, and our community."

There are 6-8 spots available on the SAC for sophomore, junior, and senior class cohorts. Students are eligible to apply as sophomores. "We want kids to have one year of high school experience...settle in academically, establish effective study habits and time management, balance the demands of high school sports, and have the opportunity to explore extracurriculars before they are eligible to apply for a position on the SAC," shared Bronkella. The application process is competitive and anonymous to almost everyone involved in order to keep it focused on the premise of the program. Students are asked to share what activities they are involved in, what sports they participate in, and must request a letter of recommendation from a coach and/or teacher/staff. "We are seeking multiple-sport athletes who are involved in various extracurricular activities across the school," shared Patric Morrison, Assistant AD who helps to oversee the group's activities. "We are looking for different perspectives, leadership qualities that can cross over into other school activities, put a priority on academics and attendance, are of high character, and are willing to serve others."

"The SAC is focused on areas of community service, education, and student leadership opportunities," shared Morrison. During monthly meetings, members of the SAC plan upcoming events, identify initiatives, and work with athletics and school staff to put together an implementation plan. Some initiatives led by the SAC include: partnering with MJHS teachers for a Reading Buddy Program for fifth graders, high school coaches appreciation events, unified sports program/event organization and participation, script and record sportsmanship videos used pregame in athletic venues, and presented a Q & A panel for eighth-graders

interested in high school athletics. "These students want to be visible not only to their peers but also to younger student-athletes in order to make the experience positive and fulfilling," Morrison continued. "It is a great group of young people who are making a difference for our school and community."



L to R: Alaina Kelley, Kailee Lock, Lexie Sullivan, Molly Armbricht, Cadence Traylor, Casey Dyer, Taylor Lynch, Keara Eder, Brooklyn Cornelius. Lane Brawner, Carter Schutte, Van Skinner, Gavin McMahon, Harrison Hall, Jack Kelsey, Liam Murphy, Bryce Miller, Jenna Rohrer, Grace Bronkella, Kallie Eder, Bailey Owens, Lyana Phelps, Lily Konkle, and Neel Mistry.

The expectations of a SAC member go above and beyond the already high precedent set for all student-athletes. "These individuals put themselves out front and in doing so understand they are the examples, role models, and set the tone for what Madison athletics is all about," Bronkella stated. "We have a great group of young people who work hard, have great ideas, and are invested in improving the school in every way possible." Other schools in the area have also adopted the program. "One of my favorite things is when we are able to travel to other schools with our SAC members and meet with other school's AD's and SAC members to discuss projects, possible collaborations, and share best practices from all schools," Bronkella shared.



Unified Sports - Champions Together!

In June, MCHS was recognized as a Unified Champion School. A program partnership between the IHSAA and Special Olympics, Madison Cubs Unified brings together student-athletes from both special education and general education to participate in high school sports.

The IHSAA Unified Sports program has requirements regarding the ratio of athletes on each team and prohibits general education students in a particular sport from being a part of a same-sport unified team.

Madison Unified Cubs launched with flag football in the 2018-2019 school year

but the rules around the ratio of players did not allow a full implementation of the program's season. Unified Track was set to go in the spring of 2019-2020 before COVID shut down all programs. However, 2020-2021 saw the hugely successful Unified Cubs Bowling team achieve both numbers and success for all student-athletes. In its first season, the team had 26 students participate. The team met for seven practices, hosted at Striker's Bowling Center in Vevay, IN, and participated in the Sectional game. "While we did not qualify, our team grew in many ways and we had fun!" shared coach Sarah Webster. "The commitment of our student-athletes, coaches, and parents made this program a success despite not having a local bowling alley," shared Amy Gatke, Unified Team coach and Special Education teacher. "Our community supported us with generous donations to cover the cost of transportation to Vevay for our practices. It was incredible to see this program take off!"

Madison Cubs Unified is coached by Amy Gatke, Sarah Webster, Megan Sprong, and Lori Palmer and the goal began with the intent to become a banner "Champions Together" school. That was achieved in June when the coaches were presented with their banner for the 20-21 school year. "By earning this designation, our school is recognized as a role model of the requirements of the four pillars: inclusive youth leadership opportunities, unified sports, whole-school engagement, and collaborative fundraising efforts like the Polar Plunge," Gatke continued. "As excitement builds and more students get involved we hope to launch other teams," shared Bronkella. "This year we are planning to explore Bocce Ball!"

Walmart Supercenter Makes Significant Donation

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

In September, I received a call from one of our teachers who had a friend on the Walmart management team who had an offer that we couldn't pass up! With the retail rotation of inventory, moving from fall/return to school to holiday, Walmart found themselves with a significant amount of school supply inventory. With the help of our transportation team, we completely filled two of our large vans, on two separate occasions.

Following the first delivery on September 16, we set up a "Supply Store" in the conference room at the Administration Building. I took photos and sent an invitation to all teachers throughout the district to come and shop after school to collect what they needed/or would use in their classrooms. The second delivery came a week later and the "shopping spree" continued.

Several teachers from across the district in several grade levels came by and grabbed things. My office sits right next door and it has been a lot of fun to listen to them as they "shop"...it's like Christmas! Once again, the generosity from our community to our schools, and specifically our teachers, is so incredible. We cannot thank Walmart enough for the items donated. Every single thing was claimed and will benefit teachers and students in classrooms throughout the district for months to come!

All in all the donations were valued at \$7,340 and included dry erase markers and boards, several varieties of gel pens, mechanical and #2 pencils, lots and lots of glue (bottles, sticks, and gallon jugs), slime, pencil cases, primary composition books, lots and lots and lots of FOLDERS (which I have learned are equivalent to gold bars!), highlighters, pencil top erasers, Crayola markers, crayons, and three-hole punchers.



Cub Manufacturing Celebrates Manufacturing Month with New Equipment

By: *Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator*

Cub Manufacturing and Cub Engineering have long been the beneficiaries of outstanding support from local industry partners. From mentorship to financial support, and equipment donations - the program has been on the verge of something very, very unique and special for students at MCHS.

The hands-on learning lab was moved to a stand-alone building on campus last year which gives them a larger space to bring in more equipment and explore on-campus production opportunities. Students spend each day learning the craft of welding, dabbling in engineering design, and better understanding production logistics - but this is just the beginning.

Reorganized to better align courses, certifications, and internship opportunities - Cub Enterprises now houses all of the College & Technical Education (CTE) programming and is overseen by Whitney Mathews, Cub Enterprises Coordinator for the district.

"To this point, Cub Manufacturing and Cub Engineering are what you have likely heard most about," continued Mathews. "However, under our structured new model, we will incorporate all aspects of CTE programming

including Cub Culinary. We will continue to work closely with our high school business, diesel/automotive, and agriculture teachers to make sure all students enrolled in CTE/dual credit courses either at MCHS or through Ivy Tech Community College have numerous opportunities to earn Technical Certificates, explore internships, and collaborate with our internal, budding student-led business operations. We will look to these students to help provide support in the areas of accounting, marketing, advertising, and promotion. Everything will align with our pathways program, state requirements for graduation, and align with the Indiana Next-Level jobs program."

Story Continued on Page 10.

Cub Engineering Students participated in their first fundraiser during the Homecoming football game: (Left to Right): Neel Mistry, Matt Burkhardt, Keara Eder, Carter Schutte, and Taylor Lynch.



MANUFACTURING MONTH

HERE'S WHAT'S UP!

1 - DUAL CREDITS & CERTIFICATIONS

2 - INTERNSHIPS

3- PROJECTS, PARTNERSHIPS, & MORE

New Year, New Projects!!!

By *Whitney Mathews Cub Enterprise Coordinator*

Did you know that October is considered to be Manufacturing Month, nationwide? National Manufacturing month celebrates modern manufacturing and positively influences the common misconceptions around the manufacturing industry while inspiring the future generation of manufacturers. Here is what's new in Cub Industries Manufacturing/Engineering programs...

Dual Credits & Certifications

Both programs are aligned to the Next Level Program of Study for future career and post-secondary advancement. Manufacturing and Engineering courses at MCHS are designed to teach students through a collaboration of hands-on and 21st Century curriculum.

Over 60 students in Cub Manufacturing/Engineering earned their OSHA 10 Safety Certification this year and are prepping to become workforce ready. Need certifications? Our Cub Industry students are eligible to earn AWS Welding certification through Cub Manufacturing, upon completing all requirements.



Collaborative Learning Shares Experiences

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator



Last year, students in Mr. Shockley's Creative Writing class began the year much like years past - working on rhetorical devices and efficient writing during the first term. It was during this time that Shockley had the idea of a very unique, very large, and turns out very cool collaborative learning project! Taking students from his class and inviting art students in Mr. Kelsey's Painting class, and Mrs. Pietrykowski's Graphic Arts students to publish several student-authored and illustrated books.

The second term began with childrens' stories to apply what was learned in the first term. Students studied childrens' story characteristics and story structure. Each student came up with a theme and designed their characters and story around their selected, approved theme. Focusing on foundational elements such as grammar, setting, voice, and story

- each student wrote their story on a topic that was important to them. "Topics included friendship, adversity, kindness, perseverance - life lessons they felt they had insight into and wanted to share with our younger students," shared Shockley, MCHS Language Arts program leader, and teacher. "As the stories were coming together, I thought it would be really neat to include art students to assist with the illustrations." The authoring students met to discuss their stories and characters with the illustrating artists to compile a vision for the storyboard. Students in Mr. Kelsey's painting classes brought the characters to life on the page.

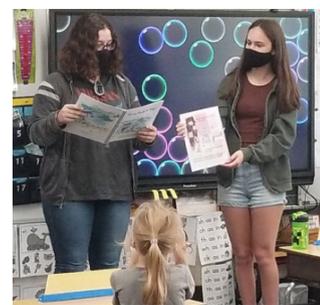
As the stories were coming together, Shockley worked with Kelsey and Pietrykowski on the timing of the artwork completion and the final binding project, which was completed by the students in the Graphic Arts class.

While really cool to this point, Shockley thought why not take it a step further and share the books with our younger students? "I contacted all of our district elementary principals and pitched the idea," he shared. "They were very excited about the opportunity to have high school students come into their buildings and share." All school campuses, at that time and currently, continue to be pretty locked down to outside visitors due to continued COVID prevention protocols. "Our students know what is expected of them in order to keep everyone as safe and healthy as possible," Shockley reiterated. "I think our principals felt it would be very beneficial to have the social interaction between students and trusted our high schoolers to follow protocols."

All MCS teachers are encouraged to and are always looking for ways to collaborate with other teachers across curriculum areas. While COVID has made it a bit more challenging, students love to work with other students, especially older students who come back to their elementary buildings and give back. "Our teachers at Deputy are very effective at cross-curricular work to enhance the learning experience," shared Principal Janet McCreary. "By taking language arts and applying to an art lesson, or applying math principles to a science lesson - it helps students understand that learning should

not be done in a silo, they should always seek ways to implement in all subject areas." This principle takes on a deeper meaning once students get to the secondary level and branch into mentoring and service learning opportunities. Some great examples include the work done on the playground at Rykers' Ridge elementary by the Lady Cubs Soccer team, the Digital Ambassador program at MJHS, MCHS students often visit elementary schools to help younger students prepare for virtual learning days, and the budding agriculture program at the junior high is getting lots of help from high school FFA members.

With the help of our transportation team, students were able to visit each elementary school throughout a beautiful day last spring to share their incredible work, read to students in kindergarten and first-grade, and answer questions about the process they had participated in throughout the year.



Alyssa Brown (left) and Marin Kernin (right) presenting the children's books.



Callie Anderson's Book, *The Best Summer Ever*

Junior Callie Anderson's story, *The Best Summer Ever*, centered around perseverance and remaining optimistic when facing obstacles. Illustrated by Junior Jade Yount, the main character Hazel shares her story of wanting to hang out with friends at the pool but becomes vulnerable by sharing she doesn't know how to swim. Determined to overcome her fear of deep water, she wakes up each day with the goal of learning how to swim so that she felt a part of the group and safe while at the pool. With the help of her mom and encouragement from her friends, Hazel learned to swim and conquered her fear of deep water by climbing to the top of the high dive and taking the plunge! At the end of the story, Hazel realizes that she can do anything she puts her mind to.

Agriculture Curriculum Resurrected at Madison Junior High School



MJHS FFA Officers, From Left to Right: Tracent Chatham, Berlynn Conover, Addy Colen, Hannah Richart, Sydney Huff, Abby Ferguson, Kolton Lock, and Teddy Cyrus.

It's been a long time and while not exactly sure of the timeline, Ms. Shelby Ison - Ag teacher at MJHS believes it has been at least 20 years since there has been an ag program at MJHS. Ison currently has 66 students enrolled in her classes. "Mrs. Briggs, MCHS Ag teacher and FFA sponsor, and I were discussing how to recruit more student for the high school ag program," Ison began. "I brought up my past experience with teaching middle school and it seemed like the next logical step in growing the program through a feeder system."

While students in the 7th grade experience the Exploring Agriculture class as a semester rotation; 8th grade students can take the Intro to Ag class for high school credit. "Students in both classes learn about the industry at varying levels," Ison continued. "We have/will discuss Leadership, FFA, Animal Science, Plant Science, Food Science, Natural Resources, Agribusiness, New Technologies, History, Careers, and Power, Structure, and Technology systems."

Much like the high school program, junior

high students are also able to participate in competitions. "We currently have several junior high members practicing for our Forestry contest," Ison continued. "They will also have the opportunity to participate in Livestock Judging, District Leadership Contests, Dairy Judging, and a few others in the spring."

Agriculture education and the components of the strong leadership development concepts FFA is built upon is not only for young people who grew up in rural areas, around farming, or are involved in 4H. "We have a wide variety of students in our program," Ison shared. "I have your typical rural students that have grown up around crops, animals, trees, and hunting, but I also have students that owning a goldfish has been their only involvement with animals, or students that tried growing a plant once. I think our variety of students with a range of abilities and backgrounds is what makes us special and gives us a unique outlook on our programs' future."

The students are all in! While they were anxious to get started once they got to high school, this opportunity will have them well prepared to hit the ground running. The Officers of the MJHS FFA Chapter are already contributing. They work together with the high school students to collaborate on after school events such as the fall party and



New FFA jackets, From Left to Right: Hannah Richart, Abby Ferguson, Sydney Huff, Teddy Cyrus, Tracent Chatham, Grayden McDarment, and Gracie Evans.

contest practices to bring the two programs together.

"I think it is awesome, I have been looking forward to doing FFA in high school, but now I have the opportunity to join in middle school." Abby Ferguson, Reporter

"I think it is really great, because students are able to join now rather than waiting for high school and have the chance to experience these chances earlier." Berlynn Conover, Secretary

"It is really good that students are introduced to the FFA early so that they can experience more in their 5 or 6 years than just the 4 years previously allowed." Addy Colen, Vice President

"Our officer team is blazing a trail for future middle school students." Sydney Huff, President

"We just received our first wave of blue corduroy jackets, 7 to be exact," Ison shared as she beamed with pride. "The students are thrilled! They have shown them off or talked about them with just about everyone."



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2021 National Blue Ribbon School

DEPUTY
 ELEMENTARY

Introducing Taylor Lynch - 2021 School Board Student Representative

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator



As a freshman, Taylor helped organize a school board candidate forum for the 2018 election. Her junior year she organized and hosted the school board candidate forum, in a virtual setting as a result of COVID-19, for the 2020 election. "When it came time to apply for the Student Representative for our MCS School Board this year, I wanted to grow upon my involvement after the forums," shared Lynch. "I want to do everything I can to help students K-12 and make sure they are represented in our school district. I feel this opportunity gives me the platform to do so."

Taylor has jumped in with both feet. While her soccer schedule and college recruiting visits have spurred the use of technology (she pre records videos to share at the meetings if she cannot personally attend), she has proven to be the most involved rep in recent memory to actively involve students of all ages. "I found out that I was to serve as Student Representative on Tuesday August 17th," she recalled. "The next day, I went on an email frenzy to reach out to teachers and student representatives at the junior high school. I met with Mrs.

Thurston and students Ellie Whitaker and Jacob Slade on August 27th; they have been extremely helpful and receptive to working with me and providing updates for the junior high school. I emailed all of the principals at the elementary schools within our district to get the contact information for their 4th grade teachers. I plan to start with the 4th grade teachers and move down the grade levels to hear how things are going in their classrooms. Principal Mires and Principal Albrand have been very helpful, and I am looking to meet with some of their student representatives in order to provide a variety of updates for each board meeting."

Each year, MCHS Principal Mr. Gasaway gives the senior class the opportunity to apply for and interview to be the Student Representative. The process begins with a Google Form at the beginning of the school year.

"Within the second week of school, I was interviewing for the position of Student Representative," Lynch continued. "I have done many in-person interviews, zoom interviews, informational interviews, but this was my first panel interview. While panel interviews can be intimidating, (and in some sense it was) I felt prepared for the questions that were asked. Overall, it was a very quick process and great experience for future endeavours." To say Taylor is involved would be an understatement - her high school resume/senior brag sheet is a stunner!

In addition to her board representative position, Taylor is a three-year member of the Lady Cubs soccer team (was a speaking Captain

this season), is a four-year member of the Lady Cubs basketball team, is currently the Student Council and Student Athletic Council President. She has held Student Council positions every year while at MCHS and was the past-President of her Freshman and Sophomore class. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. She is a third year Engineering student in Cub Engineering, is OSHA 10 certified, and experienced in Inventor Autodesk and AutoCAD software, designing project ideas/solutions for various customers, and calculating project cost estimates. She was an intern in the inaugural VSG program where she worked side-by-side with engineers on real-time projects. Additional honors include: All Courier Area Second Team, Basketball (2019-2020 Season), All Conference Honorable Mention, Basketball (2020-2021 Season), Academic All State, Soccer (2020 Season), Winter Homecoming Representative, Junior Class (2021), MCHS Science Student of the Year, Academics (2020-2021).

Following graduation, Taylor plans to major in either mechanical engineering or aeronautical engineering and hopes to play basketball at the collegiate level.



MCS Food Service Team Receives the 2021 Golden Delicious Apple Award

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator



From left to right: Tammy Shaw, Loretta Thevenow, Sharon Peak, Judy Brooks, and Dr. Jeff Studebaker

The Indiana Department of Education Office of School & Community Nutrition has recognized the MCS Food Service Team with the 2021 Golden Delicious Apple Award. This award recognizes culinary excellence in serving fresh and nutritious meals to Indiana students and youth.

In a release, Office of School & Community Nutrition Director Julie Sutton stated, "Indiana school foodservice programs were challenged by our department to demonstrate and, when necessary, make improvements in nutritional quality and freshness of menus created to serve school children. We are happy to announce that the food service staff of Madison Consolidated Schools welcomed this challenge and are hereby presented the Gold Level award."

During the time frame, MCS food service staff submitted self-evaluations of current menus reflecting a wide variety of colorful menu choices, including fresh fruits and vegetables, a mix of hot and cold entrees, as well as other healthy menu planning techniques. The menus and evaluations were reviewed by the IDOE School & Summer Field Specialists to confirm best practices.

In addition to their work throughout the school year, members of the MCS Food Service Team worked to feed area youth throughout the summer. MCS sponsored the summer meal program in coordination with River Valley Resources. Tammy Shaw, MCHS cafe manager, Sharon Peak, Lydia Middleton cafe manager, and Loretta Thevenow, Lydia Middleton assistant cafe manager worked together to prepare 6,272 meals as part of the community program. "These ladies would come in at 5:00 a.m. to prepare meals and make sure they were packaged and ready for delivery to community operating sites," shared Judy Brooks, MCS Nutrition & Wellness Coordinator. "We have a

great partnership with Lucy Dattilo at RVR and an amazing team of volunteers who help make this possible. Our bus drivers Peggy Mellas-Kilgore, Jake Allard, and assistants Cheyney Brewer and Lydia Goebel, delivered the free meals to designated locations throughout our community to individuals eighteen years of age and younger. As the program progressed, the ladies determined a hot meal on Fridays was necessary and as a special treat, the final Friday everyone received a hot, homemade turkey manhattan!"

In addition to the community summer meal program, we had staff who also prepared meals for summer school students while in session early in June. "I am so grateful for the hearts of our team," shared Brooks. Every person on our team who worked to provide these meals has a love for and dedication to make sure our students are put first and have nutritional meals to eat while at school. All in all, our team served 7, 210 meals in June and July."

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It is the policy of Madison Consolidated Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age, in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 1971, 22-9-1); Public Law 218 (I.C. 1971, Title 20); Titles VI and VII (Civil Rights Act 1964); the Equal Pay Act of 1973; Title IX (1972 Education Amendments); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 93-112, Section 504.

Cub Manufacturing Celebrates Manufacturing Month with New Equipment, *cont.*

October was Manufacturing Month and Cub had a very special delivery from our partners at Royer Corporation - a new laser engraver. "We are on the cusp of a very exciting partnership with Royer and will have more to share on that in the next few weeks as our production line gets up and running," shared Mathews. Engineering instructor, Derrick Herrick, has been busy setting up the equipment and working with students to learn the ropes on the new machine. "Our kids are very excited about this opportunity and have been busy brainstorming ideas on how we can produce things for our community that will, in turn, lead to a funding stream for our program," Herrick shared. "With the help of Ms. Mathews, we have had our first fundraising event where students made and sold customized Cub cups during a football game earlier in the fall."

"We have HUGE plans in store over the next few weeks to announce the details of our partnership with Royer," Mathews shared. "This is a big opportunity for our kids, our programs, and our school. We are thrilled that we will be working with the team at Royer." Watch for more information coming soon on the launch of the project.

Crossing the Ditch

By: Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator

Plans are already underway for the annual 'Cross the Ditch Day' where eighth-grade students from MJHS come to the high school for the day and explore courses, tour the building, and talk with students. This year will have a greater focus on pathways and how the curriculum ties to CTE programming. "Our team met this past week to begin brainstorming the agenda for the day," shared Mathews. "Our CTE teachers, counselors, and students will have the opportunity to make this event very special for our incoming freshmen. We hope to expand upon previous years by offering hands-on experiences, really diving into career exploration, and all will be hosted by our seniors who are involved in various aspects of all programs. "Our seniors are great ambassadors and this will give them the opportunity to interact and answer any questions MJHS students may have about the high school," continued Mathews.

The event, scheduled for Thursday, March 3, 2022, will look different than previous events and will dovetail into the annual Cub Fest event where students and parents are encouraged to come and check out all that MCHS has to offer for students.

Group pictured below celebrating the new partnership between Royer and Cub Enterprises (Left to Right): Waylon Marshall, Jason Spray (Royer), Ryan Lamb (MCHS teacher), Josh Lockett (Royer), Isaac Marshall, Lucas Binkert.



Projects, Partnerships, & More

Cub Industries and Enterprises wouldn't be what we are without our amazing business partnerships both internally and externally. Cub Engineering has worked with student athletics and culinary to create customized products to sell and generate profit for the programs and clubs here at MCHS.

Cub Industries new pilot partnership will begin early November for several students and staff here at MCHS. Cub Manufacturing has upped its skill level knowledge and is breaking into manufacturing products from our educational manufacturing lab located in Plant 1 and Plant 2 at MCHS. Cub Industries will start its first ever production line with local manufacturing partner, Royer Corporation. Student staff will be in charge of producing orders to fulfill Royer's Amazon online market place. More news to come.

Internships

What started as one has already grown. Beginning with only two internship sites last academic year, we have now grown to 5 Internship Sites! Students are gaining experience through local businesses such as Madison Precision Products Inc, Vehicle Services Group, Arvin Sango, SuperATV, and Royer Corporation. We now have 11 students in placements for internships or beginning soon.



MORE TO COME FROM CTE/CUB INDUSTRIES