

# THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

Connecting our community



**BUILDING THE FUTURE**

## \$750,000 GRANT AWARDED

The district was notified on January 31, that the application for the Employer-Sponsored Child Care Grant submitted earlier this fall was awarded the maximum grant amount of \$750,000.

"This grant will be life-changing for residents of Jefferson County," shared Dr. Teresa Brown, Superintendent. "We saw an opportunity, contacted some of our closest community partners, and will work together to bring early child care for children ages 0-3 years old to our community as quickly as possible."

Governor Holcomb released news of the awards on January 31, 2024. In his [release](#), he announced that the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration's Office (FSSA) of Early Childhood and Out-of-School Learning is awarding another \$6.9 million in employer-sponsored childcare grants to an additional 22 businesses, community groups, and school corporations - bringing the total investment to \$25 million to create or expand child care offerings that address the needs of working Hoosiers. Madison Consolidated Schools is the only district in the regional area and the only rural school corporation in the state to be awarded the full amount available.

"This was a true collaboration on the part of many community employers," Brown continued. Representing approximately 4,474 employees, partners involved in bringing the initiative to reality are Ivy Tech - Madison, Arvin Sango, Inc., SuperATV, Royer Corporation, Norton King's Daughters Health, Grote Industries, City of Madison, Madison Precision Products, and Vehicle Service Group. The Madison Area Chamber of Commerce and Community Foundation of Madison Jefferson County also provided letters of support on behalf of the initiative. "As we talk with our community partners, we know that everyone is struggling to find employees. A specific, and frequently noted barrier for all of us has been a lack of early childhood care facilities. Not having sufficient daycare has made it difficult to retain employees and contributes to absenteeism. We knew we had to do all we could to make this happen for our families and employers so that we can continue to build a thriving local and regional economy."

Madison Consolidated Schools offers discounted preschool tuition to its employees for their children to attend an FSSA Level III Paths to Quality Certified preschool housed within each elementary school of the school corporation. Other employer partners offer their employees tuition benefits for two weeks of emergency childcare through [www.care.com](http://www.care.com). Although these employers are offered emergency childcare, there is no guarantee that this childcare meets FSSA Paths to Quality regulations.

The most recent childcare needs assessment conducted by our Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) service center, SDA 5 Building Blocks, revealed that Jefferson County, Indiana, is only able to serve 10.7% of its child care-dependent population in a high-quality setting. This dictates that even in the event of providing childcare benefits, there is extremely limited capacity in our community to support such a critical need.

Of the 2,190 children who are in need of high-quality childcare services, 16% of whom live in poverty, Madison only has service capacity for 235. This leaves 1,955 children in a state of vulnerability. The nearest licensed infant and toddler provider to Madison, Indiana, is The Vanguard Academy, which is located over 30 miles, or 54 minutes away from Madison in Prospect, Kentucky. Even when employers and individuals in our community partner with our CCR&R service center to identify and locate Indiana Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) providers there are no options for almost 90% of our community. This lack of facility capacity places our most vulnerable children in the care of unlicensed professionals who are not adequately trained in early childhood education, child development, and natal care. Through this grant, the Madison Consolidated Schools and the employers who partnered with Madison Consolidated Schools in this application, hope to be able to provide quality daycare options and expanded childcare benefits. "We value our employees and their families and want to be able to provide a resource that supports our workforce and community. Our children deserve every opportunity," Brown stated.

### Timeline

MCS and its partners will meet soon and form an advisory board to begin making decisions for our community daycare. Facility spaces will be constructed over the next three years until full capacity is reached. Our goal is for the center to open in January 2025, with a first phase grand opening taking place on February 1st, 2025.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to work with our partners to create a solution that will improve the quality of life for the families of Jefferson County," Brown stated. "Our partners indicated they share a need for quality daycare for their employees too. The advisory board will collaborate to make decisions regarding the infrastructure and operations of the facility. We will work together to create a business plan that provides sustainable quality child care for ages 0-5 for Jefferson County residents. This has huge economic implications for Jefferson County. The mayor has also indicated that new housing is being constructed and families need to have options for child care so they are able to move to Jefferson County for jobs. We are excited that we will be working toward the common goal of improving opportunities for our children."

[A full list of grant recipients is linked here.](#)

# We are the **STATE CHAMPS!**

Each year, the Indiana Association of School Principals Department of Student Programs hosts the Science Bowl for elementary-aged students in grades 4, 5, and 6. A partnership with Purdue University, the online competition takes place over a few evenings as students are tested on questions around curriculum standards of Life Science. The online platform allows students to compete from their school or other location of choice with internet access.

Coached by MJHS teacher, Marsha Uhl, the MJHS Team 1 placed first in the Blue Class with a team score of 106, edging out Hamilton Southeastern and Fall Creek, (both of Fishers, IN) to win the State. Twenty-two teams competed in the class.

Mrs. Uhl shared, "I am so proud of these kids! They worked hard, but also had fun! I encourage all students

to give our academic teams a try. You can learn new things, make new friends, and be a part of something great!"

The team began practicing the week before Christmas. "We practiced two times a week up until the competition," shared Uhl. "During that time, we conducted an experiment on the effect of salt water on the germination of radish seeds. We grew them in the classroom and documented the results. We also spent a lot of time working on vocabulary and answering practice questions."

Anyone can join the Science Bowl team. There are no tryouts and everyone gets to compete in at least two parts of the competition. "The competition has three parts," she continued. "There is an individual round where up to four team

members compete independently.

"We are so proud of our MJHS Science Bowl team and their amazing performance at the recent state competition," shared Mr. Jordan Warner, MJHS Principal. "This honor is a testament to the great students, staff, and programs we offer at Madison Junior High. We are very excited about this accomplishment and can't wait to celebrate this victory with all of Madison Junior High."



Pictured left to right: Lorelei Comer, Konner Helton, Cy Frazier, Maci Clark, Lilian Hay, Harmon Gray, Chris Rowlett, and Coach Marsha Uhl.

<b>SAVE</b>	<b>CUB FEST</b> COME SEE WHAT MAKES MADISON THE PLACE FOR YOUR STUDENT!
<b>6 MARCH 2024</b> 5 - 7:00 P.M. MADISON CONSOLIDATED HIGH SCHOOL	<b>THE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY ALL SCHOOLS - ONE LOCATION PRE-K THRU HIGH SCHOOL-AGE STUDENTS FINE ARTS PERFORMANCES FOOD TRUCKS INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCES

## Curious about what makes Madison schools unique?

**EVERYONE** is invited to come and see what makes Madison the place for your student! All of Madison schools will be in one place for you to meet staff and learn about what our schools offer to students entering preschool through high school.

Elementary schools will be set up in the auxiliary gym, MJHS will be set up along the hallway between the gym and cafeteria, and MCHS will fill the cafe - all with information, interactive experiences around curriculum and pathways, games, band, choir, and theatre performances in the gym and auditorium, food trucks, and much, much more.

Come and visit, learn more about our programs, extracurricular activities, ask questions, and see what graduation pathways are available for your student.

If you know of someone who is interested transferring, grab a friend and bring them along!

**MADISON THEATRE**  
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presents

RODGERS & HAMMERSTEIN'S  
**OKLAHOMA!**

Muscle By Richard Rodgers Book & Lyrics By Oscar Hammerstein II  
Based on the Play Green Grow the Lilacs by Lynn Riggs

**March 8 - 10, 2024**  
Friday & Saturday • 7 O'Clock Sharp  
Saturday & Sunday • Half Past Two

ONLINE TICKETS  
Adult: \$14 & K-12 Student: \$5  
www.madisontheatrein.com

AT THE DOOR TICKETS  
Adult: \$17 & K-12 Student: \$7  
\$4 Off Each Adult Ticket for Madison County

The Opal & Sherman Auditorium  
740 Clifty Drive, Madison, IN 47250  
Contact: madisontheatre@gmail.com  
F @MADISONTHEATREIN

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each day?



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.

Visit

[madison.k12.in.us/about/career opportunities](https://madison.k12.in.us/about/career%20opportunities)

for up to date information on all  
available positions



# The Dailies

## MCHS DAILY ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CUBS

## MCHS Parents

We took a recent poll on ParentSquare to see if we could find a location to share the daily announcements with parents, as well as, students.

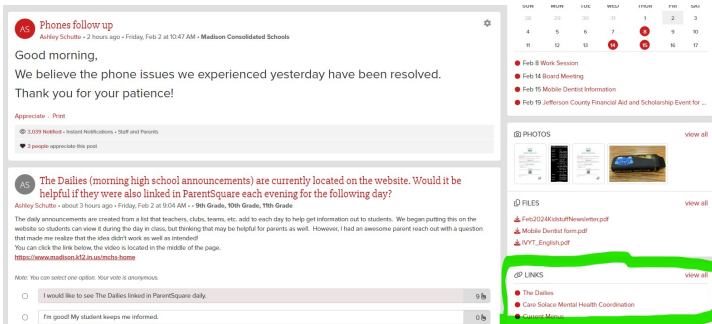
*The Dailies* are updated daily Sunday - Thursday with information provided by teachers, club sponsors, teams, etc.

Students see the announcements at some point during the day, they are loaded to the website, and now we are adding a link to ParentSquare.

You can find the link and visit at your convenience. It is located on the high school feed on the right side in the links section.

This link will direct you to the high school website and the video is in the middle of the page.

We hope you find this helpful!



## GROWING MINDS SPROUTS ROOTS!

Announced earlier this year, the Farm Stop project is getting lots of attention. The founding group, also the management team, has made three successful presentations to date. "These young ladies have put in an incredible amount of work outside of class and other activities to bring this initiative to reality," shared John Schutte, project mentor. "They are intelligent, articulate, and passionate about this project and it shows each time they speak to someone new."

Since beginning the project earlier this fall, the team has done a risk assessment, created their sales presentation, and successfully landed three solid wins. "We met with our farmers to pitch the idea," Schutte shared. "We knew we had a solid plan and by the end of the evening every farmer we invited was wholly on board and ready to jump in."

In their second outing, the team presented virtually to the Indiana Department of Health in pursuit of a \$20,000 Farm to School sub grant. They received word on February 1 they were approved and that funding will go towards equipment.

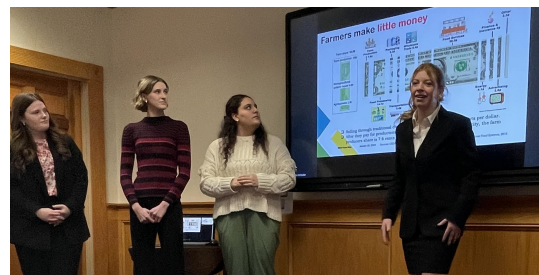
Work is progressing with the team. They will begin to create the business plan, perfect their presentation, and look to seek additional funding opportunities for the project.

You can learn more about this project in the fall edition of [The District Correspondent](#).

Be on the lookout for more information as things take root! If you would like more information about how your organization can support this project, please email [jschutte@madison.k12.in.us](mailto:jschutte@madison.k12.in.us).



Growing Roots Farm Stop management team Ava Ambrecht, Reilly Kuppler, Sophie Guirguis, Lilly Cox, Avery Clayton, Emma Wynn, and Anni Kempton.





# MCHS JAG CHAPTER CONTINUES LEGACY OF SUCCESS

Every single MCHS JAG student was awarded for their efforts at the annual regional Career Development Conference held on February 1.

"I still can not process how amazing our JAG students did today," shared JAG Specialist Sierra Shouse. "They showed up big time to represent our school! GO CUBS!"

Four students will go on to compete in the State competition to be held in March in Indianapolis. "I am very excited to see them take their learning to the next level and compete against the best of the best in the state," Shouse continued. "I know what they bring to the table and know they will be very strong competitors."

Students with second place finishes included Iyana Phelps - Creative Solutions, Colin Foy - Critical Thinking, Elaine Adams - Career Presentation, Kiley Jones - Writing, and Hunter Thompson - Public Speaking.

Receiving Honorable Mention - Andre Howard for Outstanding Senior, Taytem Anderson, Jake Dyer, and Trenton Bivens for Entrepreneurship.



1st Place  
**Bryce Miller**  
Financial Literacy



1st Place  
**Claire Slygh**  
Employability Skills



1st Place  
**Marisol Maya and  
Gracie Nolan**  
Project Based Learning



## MCHS\_JAG

Go give them a *FOLLOW* or a *LIKE* on Instagram and Facebook and follow their chapter. Lots of great things happening!



Pictured left to right: Taytum Anderson, Jake Dyer, Trenton Bivens, Colin Foy, Bryce Miller, Marisol Maya, Elaine Adams, Gracie Nolan, Iyana Phelps, Claire Slygh, Andre Howard, Hunter Thompson, Kiley Jones, JAG Specialist Sierra Shouse.



# Wand-erful News from Madison Theatre



Madison Fine Arts Academy Director, Aaron Kelsey, announced earlier this month that Madison Theatre was selected by Broadway Licensing to be the first school in Indiana to produce "*Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*".

"This is such an honor," he shared. "The Thespian officers and members produced a great video in December that was used in our selection."

Anyone who follows @madisontheatre\_in on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#) may have seen the video submission for their audition. "The students were very creative," Kelsey complimented. "This will require a lot of magic and we hope to incorporate the whole city." The production will take place in the October/November 2024 timeframe.

## ROBOKIND

A \$57,600 grant has funded some amazing new assistive technology for special education students with communication disorders. Anderson Elementary and Madison Junior High School are now home to two new classroom robots who will be available to work with students using meaningful, interactive curriculum with a goal of accelerating measurable outcomes.

To qualify, a school needed to meet or exceed the number of students with autism with a communication goal listed in their IEP. "During the two year life span of the grant, these classroom assistants have a very specific job and location but we are already seeing numerous ways they could be utilized in other areas of our daily routines in the future in other ways with more students," shared Shaun Pennington, district Grants & Compliance Specialist.



Special Education teachers and support staff from both schools were recently trained on how to use the robots and curriculum in their classrooms.

The robots will be making their debuts within the near future!

**February 27, 2024**  
**7:00 p.m.**  
**Connor K. Salm Gymnasium**  
**Madison Consolidated High School**  
**\$5 admission**  
**Doors Open at 6:15 p.m.**

*Save the date!*

**86<sup>th</sup> Ohio Valley CHORAL Festival 2024**

All Choir alumni from all schools are invited to join us for the singing of "Battle Hymn of the Republic" - a festival tradition since beginning in 1937.

## An honored tradition...

The Ohio Valley Festival Association was founded by Mr. Harold Rothart of Madison, IN, in the fall of 1937 and is the oldest festival of its kind. The founding committee members included Ellen Beebee of Lawrenceburg, Paul Rigsby of Rising Sun, Martha Banister of Vevay, Clare B. Ulen of Scottsburg, Frances Cory of Jeffersonville, and Bertram C. Heckel of New Albany.

In Mr. Rothart's words, "The festival was founded to promote the friendly cooperation in the advancement of music among southeastern Indiana schools. The first festival was held on May 20, 1938, in the Brown Memorial Gym in Madison, IN. Kiwanis Clubs from Madison, Vevay, Lawrenceburg, and New Albany distributed some 5,000 souvenir programs. The price of admission was .20 cents. Each school takes its turn hosting the festival, and Madison Consolidated High School is proud to carry on the long tradition of the Ohio Valley Festival as we complete our 86th year.