

## FFA Students Attend National Convention

Five students from the Madison FFA had an opportunity this fall to participate in their first National FFA Convention.

The students and FFA adviser Phillip Keville drove to Indianapolis for a week in October, connecting with about 68,000 other FFA members. They attended workshops on leadership, engagement and recruitment, joined networking sessions and took part in a variety of agriculture-themed activities, including a rodeo. Opening ceremonies were held in Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts NFL team.

Mr. Keville broke up the 10-hour drive with stops at the Columbus Zoo and Cuyahoga Valley National Park, both in Ohio.



"I thought it was cool meeting people from all over the country," said Taylor Phillips, a junior. "And the leadership workshops gave us some ideas to help others get more into FFA."

Sophomore Andrew Cameron said the convention sparked his own interest in becoming a state officer. He said he also wants to increase interest and enrollment in Madison's chapter.

"I'm really working on getting out of my comfort zone and seeing what else is out there," he said. "FFA has pushed me to do that more."

## Thankful For Our Community Partners!



We have been so lucky this fall to have received several donations from local businesses that have already had an impact on our students and classrooms!

- Employees at the Walmart Distribution Center in Marcy collected 25 backpacks full of school supplies for Madison students!
- Dollar Tree in Hamilton donated more than 1,200 school supply items!

- For Halloween, Hughes Farms donated pumpkins to our kindergarten class and Creekside Community and Thrift donated costumes!
- FedEx donated \$3,401 to Madison from the proceeds of their annual summer golf tournament, which the district can use to purchase school supplies, classroom materials and other items that will benefit students!

Thank you for your support of Madison Central School!

# FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Dear Madison Community,

As we move deeper into the school year, I am reminded daily of how special our small rural school district truly is. MCS is more than a place of learning – it is a cornerstone of our community, a hub where meaningful opportunities flourish and where students are inspired to reach their fullest potential. Our faculty, staff and community partners continue to offer our students opportunities that rival those offered in larger districts. And our students continue to seize those opportunities and make us all proud.

One of our greatest points of pride is the strong relationships we have cultivated with our community partners. These partnerships provide invaluable support and opportunities for our students and families, reinforcing the idea that education is a collaborative effort. In my 26 years in public education, I have seen a significant shift in the services schools provide to families and students. Schools are now charged with nurturing the whole child – not just educationally, but also supporting students' physical and mental well-being and providing services to families, directly and indirectly. Madison excels on this front.

I also want to take a moment to celebrate the tremendous progress made on our recent capital improvement projects. Thanks to your support, we have completed significant updates that enhance both the functionality and safety of our facilities. Our elementary classrooms are now brighter and more welcoming spaces for learning, the Health Office is better equipped to care for our students, and our athletic fields are nearly ready to host the next generation of Madison athletes.

Additional improvements include the installation of new windows and roofing, ensuring our

buildings remain efficient and secure for years to come. Safety remains a top priority, and we are proud to have implemented an updated fire alarm and emergency broadcast system to provide peace of mind for our students, staff and families. You can see some before and after photos of the improvements we have made on our website, by visiting the Community tab in the center of the home page, [www.madisoncentralny.org](http://www.madisoncentralny.org).

On behalf of the entire district, thank you for your steadfast commitment to our school. It is your support that makes these opportunities and improvements possible. Together, we continue to provide an environment where every child can thrive and feel valued – a hallmark of the Madison community.



Library, before and after



Elementary classroom, before and after

With gratitude and pride,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jason Mitchell".

Jason Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools

# Student Council Starts Haircut Program

Student Council launched a new initiative in November to provide free haircuts to students, courtesy of a local stylist and grant funding.

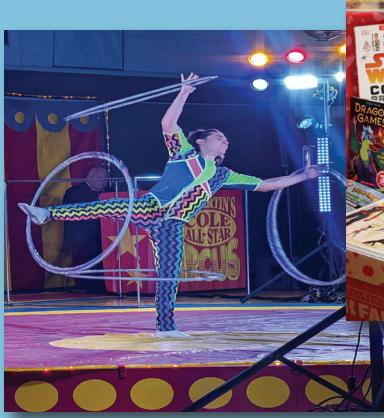
Haircut appointments are held on the first Friday of every month with stylist Tammy Rivers. Students must have parent permission and sign up for a time when they will not miss class instruction.

To arrange an appointment, students or parents can contact Student Council advisers Amber Neiss and Kelly Diehl.

## What else has our Student Council been up to?

Student Council has had a busy fall semester! The group has already helped organize a community/school golf event, a pep rally, a book fair, a fall festival and a circus. Up next, they will hold a spirit week before the December break.

Great work to our Executive Committee members – President Kendra Winterton, Vice Presidents Allie Parmon and Peyton Harter, Secretary Xavier Jones and Treasurer Lucas Neff – and our grade level representatives for 6th through 12th grade!



# Team Presents at Library Conference



Librarian Nicole Bodner and Special Education/English teacher Elizabeth Collins were selected to lead a presentation last month during the 2024 regional Leatherstocking Conference!

Leatherstocking is a conference focused on K-12 libraries, offering professional development for school librarians and highlighting unique library projects. Ms. Bodner and Ms. Collins spoke about their 9th grade local history unit and their historical flash fiction unit during a breakout session on Creative Collaborations.

## More Professional Development News

Elementary teachers and teacher assistants have been spending time working with the district's new math curriculum, Eureka Squared.



# So Much Learning!



Sixth graders have been working on personal narratives. Each student took a seed story about an important time in their life and turned it into their own picture book. To celebrate their work, students took a field trip to Barnes and Noble to share their stories with family members and friends.



Spanish classes learned about Dia del los Muertos (Day of the Dead), held on November 1 in Mexico to remember loved ones who have passed. Students created ofrendas, or tributes, to honor their ancestors and displayed them in the classroom.



High schoolers Natalie Hill, Andrew Cameron and Hunter Williams participated in the AMC10 Math Competition at Utica University, joining more than 100 students from 10 other schools in the 25-question, 75-minute math exam designed to promote students' problem-solving skills.



The high school food science class participated in an applesauce challenge, making four batches of applesauce with different varieties of apples. Students tasted and judged each batch on flavor, sweetness and appearance. Thanks to Connected Community Schools for the use of their space!



Take a look at some of the cool lessons and projects going on in our classrooms!

Elementary students completed an interactive science lesson on blubber and Arctic habitats and adaptations.



Second graders learned about World Civilizations and Cultures, with a special focus on ancient and modern Asia. To close the unit, parents and staff provided Asian foods and chopsticks for students to try out.



In recognition of Veterans Day, our National Honor Society students organized a breakfast for local veterans and their families in our school cafeteria.

Our Aquaculture class is up and running – with some new friends!

The class focuses on animal husbandry and fish farming concepts in the first year and moves on to fish reproduction in the second year. The classroom's inhabitants include angelfish, seahorses, a puffer fish, clams, catfish, a dumbo betta, yellow and purple tang and 10 axolotl that recently laid several hundred eggs. Caring for and feeding the animals, monitoring their health, testing water quality and maintaining their environments are part of the curriculum.



Senior Xavier Jones had an opportunity to meet and interview Town of Madison Supervisor Gregory Reuter through his Government, Law and Public Administration class at MOBOCES. *Photo courtesy Madison County Public Information Office.*

# MADE IN MADISON



## Ashley Soule, 2024

If Pizza Day is the day that your children always want to get school lunch, they're in good company. That's Ashley Soule's favorite day too.

Ashley, a 2024 MCS grad, makes and serves breakfasts and lunches daily in the Madison cafeteria. It's a job Ashley has had since her senior year in high school, working mornings when she didn't have classes. You may also have seen her working in other areas of the building as an afterschool custodian, a job she still does as a substitute.

"The people here are always nice, always helpful," she said. "I love being in a school."



Ashley said she had a great MCS student experience and was involved in basketball and drama. Among all of her great teachers, she called out four of them for providing her with support, counsel and encouragement when she needed it most: Patrick Hill, Melissa Ruane, Corey Zlatniski and Amanda Rotach. She also credits her co-workers Chelsea Schokker, Clarissa Hyde and Gail Soule (her mom!) for their help with her current position.

Her advice to MCS students: Think positively and don't discount what's around you.

## Join Us For Three and Me!



If you have a child who will start pre-kindergarten next year, you can join our monthly Three and Me parent-

child group to get a sneak peek into our classrooms, meet our teachers and see what school is all about! The meetings typically include free play, stories, crafts, a snack and time to talk with pre-k staff and other families.

## Colgate Programs Support Student Learning

Madison is continuing its partnership with Colgate University this year with a full slate of clubs and initiatives for elementary, middle and high school students. Current programs include academic tutoring; an afterschool art club; an environmental group; mentoring programs; and an elementary literacy program.

Elementary Special Education Teacher Merissa Roberts coordinates Colgate Reads. Elementary Counselor Jennifer Buckley and Elementary Math Specialist Patrick Hill coordinate the other programs.



# Congrats to Our Student Athletes

Congratulations to the following Madison students on being recognized by NYSPHSAA as individual student-athletes. To earn the honor, students must carry an academic average of 90 or higher during the fall sports season.

## Boys Soccer

Anthony Cucci  
Zackery Kirley  
Ronan Mancuso  
Lucas Neff  
Hunter Williams  
Elijah Zbock



## Girls Soccer

Alyssa Braun  
Janet Coleman  
Madelyn Hill  
Natalie Hill  
Lillian Kazlauskas  
Catherine McBride  
Alexis Werner  
Kendra Winterton

## Football

Lewis Joslyn

## INTERESTED IN WORKING AT MCS?

Visit [www.madisoncentralny.org/about-us/employment](http://www.madisoncentralny.org/about-us/employment) for our current openings!

# On The Field This Fall

Our Blue Devils soccer teams wrapped up fantastic seasons, with both teams qualifying for post-season play and many students earning regional recognition!

The Girls Varsity team advanced to Section 3 playoffs before losing a 4-3 overtime heartbreaker to Town of Webb.

The Boys Varsity team advanced to the Section 3 quarterfinals, losing a hard-fought game 2-0 to Belleville-Henderson.



Congratulations to the team members who earned League Honors for their skill and sportsmanship:

⚽ Seniors Jayden Hafelin and Jacob Burns, and junior Keyara Nichols - *1st team All Stars*

⚽ Seniors Janet Coleman and Kendra Winterton, junior Lucas Canning, and sophomore Garrett Weaver - *2nd team All Stars*

⚽ Senior Catherine McBride, junior Spencer Clark, sophomores Darin Buchanan, Lucas Neff and Lilly Kazlauskas, and freshman Alyssa Braun - *Honorable Mention*

Beyond the League, Keyara Nichols was named to the overall *Section 3 Class D All Star* team.

In addition to soccer, 4 Madison boys played football on the Morrisville-Eaton Varsity team, helping that squad advance to the championship game of the 8-man division! Senior Landyn Smith, junior Gabe Geiger, sophomore Lewis Joslyn and freshman Noah Mudge were all integral parts of the team, and earned the honor of playing in the JMA Dome, a fantastic achievement!



**Madison Central School District**

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## **MCS Community Comes Together For Dinner**

School groups and community agencies demonstrated their collaborative spirit through our Thankful Thursday Community Dinner. MCS cafeteria staff and Madison FFA students cooked and served spaghetti dinners and the Madison Teachers Association provided a special cake! Connected Community Schools, ICAN, Community Action Partnership and NBT Bank set up informational and activity stations and provided free winter coats, hats, gloves and books to students.

**Website**[www.madisoncentralny.org](http://www.madisoncentralny.org)**Facebook**

Madison Central School - Madison, NY

**Phone**

Call 315-893-1878 and, when prompted, dial the extension of the party you are trying to reach.

District Office: Extension 1020

Principals' Office: Extension 1363

Guidance &amp; Athletics Office: Extension 2100

CSE Office: Extension 1360

Health Office: Extension 1910

Bus Garage: Extension 1053

**Stay  
Connected!**