

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Exemplify Excellence in Education.

Spring 2024

What's Inside?

43North	1
Conference Day	2
YMCA	3
Challenger Learning Center	4-5
Art Festival Poster	5
Rock, Paper, Scissors..	6
Safety Training	7
Wooden Letters	8
Prom Dresses	8
SkillsUSA	9
Greece Trip	10
Students of the Month..	11
Les Miserables	12

Medina Students Take Home Top Prize from 43North



(LtoR) Mr. Jody Sargent, Isabella Gray, Elaina Bitsas, Alexander Balaban and Mrs. Krista Lindke.

Vision Statement

Exemplify excellence in education.

Mission Statement

Educate to inspire all to reach beyond the expected and positively impact their communities.

April 25th, Medina Junior-Senior High School Business students competed and won top honors at the first-ever 43North Students to Startups Finals! The event was held in the morning at Seneca One Tower in Buffalo, NY.

Students Alexander Balaban, Isabella Gray and Elaina Bitsas competed against nine other teams, most from larger districts, and came home with first place and \$1,000 for their hard work and effort. Their business idea, called Pets & Found, was a subscription style app to help owners find their pets and partner with local veterinarians to develop a kind of animal patient portal to benefit both pet owners and veterinarians.

43North is an accelerator program for seed-stage startups and has given over \$5 million dollars annually into growing Buffalo's startup ecosystem. 43North is excited to collaborate with educators to inspire entrepreneurship and innovation in their classrooms.

"We are so proud of these students," says Jody Sargent, one of the school's Business teachers. "We want to congratulate them for their hard work and effort as well as Business/Computer teacher Mrs. Krista Lindke who worked extensively to prepare these students for their success."





Conference Day Proves Beneficial to Medina CSD Staff



The Focused and Facilitated Learning Day on March 8th was a huge success! Our staff was able to choose from almost 30 sessions they could participate in. Programs included everything from public relations, AI, effective parent and family engagement, sensory integration, CANVA, CPR, Narcan training and designing for diversity to name a few.

Thank you to our staff members, the Medina Fire Department, UConnect Care and Orleans/Niagara BOCES staff who all stepped up to run the workshops. Your knowledge and expertise were greatly appreciated!





Local Students to Assist in Restructuring GLOW YMCA

Executive Director of the Orleans County Branch of GLOW (Genesee, Livingston, Orleans and Wyoming) YMCA, Jesse Cudzilo, proudly tours visitors around the amazing historical building that houses their health and fitness areas, after school programs, summer camps and community center.

Built between 1901-03, it was known as the Medina Armory. It was designed by George L. Heins, a New York State architect and constructed of matched brown Medina Sandstone. Its towers and battlements on Pearl Street housed the 29th Separate Company of the New York Army National Guard, which was formed in 1891. It later became known as Company F of the National Guard's Third Regiment. Those members were called to duty to fight in several major wars and keep the peace in the Western New York area. It was closed in 1977 and the Medina community formed the Armory Action Committee to keep it from becoming neglected.

In 1997, the Lake Plains YMCA bought the 90,000 square foot building from the state. In 2008, GLOW YMCA purchased it. Now residents take exercise classes, use the workout room and participate in afterschool programs at the site. Over the years they have replaced the roofing, lighting and the exercise rooms. They have launched capital campaigns to modernize the facility that included a handicapped accessibility ramp, a vestibule, lobby expansion for a social space, a child watch area, two unisex bathrooms and shower areas to make the space as functional as possible.

Unfortunately, there are still areas that need to be improved and reconfigured such as the women's locker room and a basement kitchen. The locker room space is equipped with two private showers, an oak bench and lockers, some original to the building and also made out of solid oak. Sadly, some of the lockers had been sold off over time. "This facility is so unique and we want to make it the best for our patrons," Mr. Cudzilo says. "There is damage to the floors, the showers need to be replaced and it is somewhat of an awkward layout. Since we are community partners, we decided to tap our community to see if we could get some help in the remodel."

He reached out to Medina Junior-Senior High School Counselor Audralee Doll, who put him in touch with Technology and Engineering Education teacher Mike Lepkyj. Mr. Lepkyj jumped at the opportunity to give his students a chance to use their skills. "This is a great opportunity for my Interior Design students. They will get some real-world experience and a chance to help out an organization that does so much for our community."

On February 16th, the class showed up for their initial walkthrough of the space and took measurements of the room and the features that needed to be incorporated. The students seemed excited about the project. When they got back to the classroom, they broke into groups to start their design process. Student Emma Jacobs says she has been a member of the Y for over the year and she is excited to put her vision into her proposal. "When I go there, I am always thinking of what they could do to improve it. I have a lot of ideas and I am really stoked to actually work on a project that is for something in the real world." Classmate Evelyn Phillips says she is enjoying the creative process. "It's really fun and I am looking forward to reimagining the spaces and make them more practical."

Mr. Lepkyj says the students will work on about five proposals to show Mr. Cudzilo and the Board of the YMCA. "What an amazing thing to be able to put on their resume," says Mr. Lepkyj. "How many high school students can say they designed a space for a local organization?"

Mr. Cudzilo also contacted Orleans/Niagara BOCES Principal Nicole Goyette. She told him that the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center's Building Trades students with their teacher Matt Anastasi would love to assist with the rehab and construction of the space. "We are very excited about the partnerships with these classes," says Mr. Cudzilo. "It will be a lot of work. We firmly believe that when kids are invested in their community it becomes a source of pride for them. I can't wait to see their vision for the space and I think their input will be invaluable. We are hoping that this generation coming up will embrace the history of this facility and we can pass the torch to them to keep it viable for generations to come. Our goal is to leave this building better than how we found it."



Back row (left to right): YMCA Board member Dean Bellack, Emiliana Batista, Mike Lepkyj, Jacob Rissew, Dahvid Anderson, Addison Paul, Brandon Christiaansen, Henry Winters and Camryn Eick.

Front row (left to right): Faith Baker, Taylor Frentz, Evelyn Phillips, Emma Jacobs and Jesse Cudzilo.





Medina's Fifth Graders Embark on a Cosmic Journey at Challenger Learning Center: *Unlocking the Mysteries of Mars and Exploring the Depths of Space*



By: Jason Klein, Fifth Grade Teacher

Fifth graders from Medina's Clifford Wise Intermediate recently embarked on an exhilarating journey into the cosmos at the Challenger Learning Center of Lockport. Their mission? Expedition Mars, set in the year 2076, where students experienced the challenges and excitement of space exploration firsthand.

In this simulated mission, students found themselves on the Martian moon, Phobos, tasked with pivotal objectives: searching for signs of life and water on Mars while ensuring the safety and success of their mission. Divided into teams representing different roles, such as Biology, Robotics, Communications, and Navigation, students took on responsibilities mirroring real-life careers in space exploration.

As students immersed themselves in their assigned roles, they gained invaluable insights into potential career paths within the realm of space exploration. From biologists exploring the possibility of extraterrestrial life to engineers designing and testing robotic systems for planetary exploration, the mission at the CLC offered a glimpse into the diverse and exciting fields awaiting future scientists and engineers. With each team contributing essential expertise—be it in geology, navigation, or communications—students discovered the collaborative nature of space missions, mirroring the collaborative efforts of professionals in the aerospace industry. These immersive experiences not only fostered a deeper understanding of STEM concepts but also inspired students to envision themselves as future astronauts, engineers, and scientists, poised to push the boundaries of human exploration.

"Expedition Mars isn't just about play; it's about preparing our students for the future," remarked Michael Schian, who is the assistant director of the program. "These simulations offer a glimpse into the diverse fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), opening doors to countless career paths."

As students delved into their roles, they encountered challenges akin to those faced by professional astronauts. From analyzing soil samples for microbial life to navigating spacecraft trajectories, each task demanded critical thinking and teamwork.

But the adventure didn't end there. Students also had the opportunity to explore the wonders of the universe in a mobile planetarium. Guided by Mr. Schian, they journeyed through our solar system, encountering planets, moons, and celestial phenomena. Amidst the breathtaking visuals, students learned about Greek mythology's influence on the stars and even experienced a preview of the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse, and were equipped with their own solar eclipse glasses.

Reflecting on their experience, one student exclaimed, "It felt like we were really in space, discovering new worlds and solving mysteries. I want to do something similar when I grow up!"

Medina's fifth grade teachers praise the Challenger Learning Center for its innovative approach to STEM education, igniting curiosity

Continued on page 5

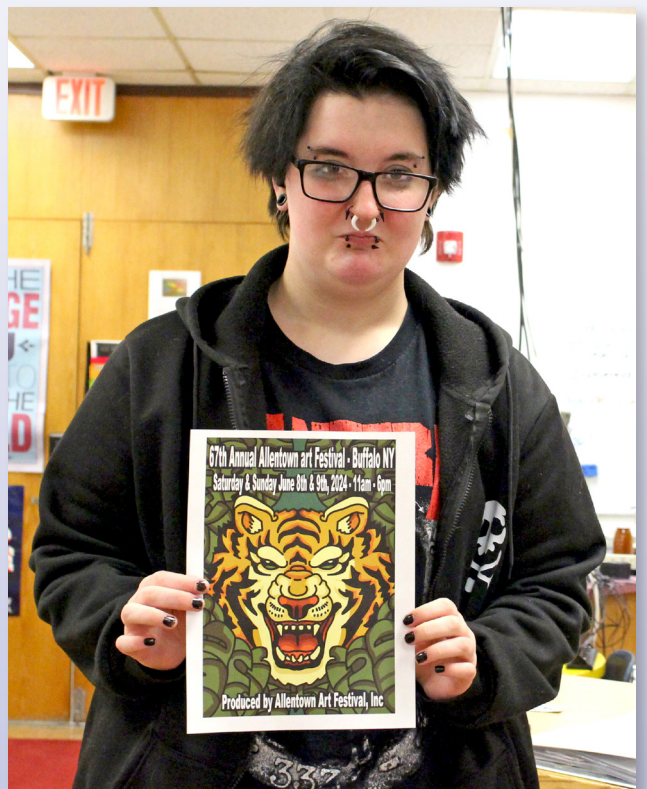




and inspiring future generations of scientists and explorers. As the students return from their cosmic adventure, they carry with them not only memories but also a newfound passion for discovery and a deeper understanding of the universe that surrounds us.



Graphic Communications Student Gets Honorable Mention for Allentown Art Festival Poster Contest



Congratulations to one of our Orleans/Niagara BOCES Graphic Communications students whose talent was recognized by the Allentown Art Festival organizers!

Each year, the Allentown Art Festival holds a competition to select the official design for their poster and T-shirt that accompanies the festival. Information regarding design details is sent to all area secondary schools and colleges.

Orleans Career and Technical Education Center teacher Karen Krull revealed that her student, junior Alex Naylor (Medina CSD), received honorable mention and \$100 for her submission.



GRAPHIC COMMUNICATIONS





Medina Junior-Senior High School Celebrates March Madness with Rock, Paper, Scissors Tournament

Students in the 7th and 8th grades at Medina Junior-Senior High School have been caught up in the NCAA's March Madness. While they have been watching the Men's and Women's teams compete, they have been having a competition of their own timeless game of Rock, Paper, Scissors.

Students went over the rules and strategies of the game before they started the tournament, which is modeled after March Madness, as its participants were whittled down to the Elite Eight, Final Four and the champion.

Their 7th & 8th grade teachers, Joseph Byrne and Mindy Hill, organized the event with prizes including giant sized chocolate bars and plaques that were created by technology teacher Mike Lepkyj. On the day before Spring Break, the students gathered in the auditorium to complete the grade finals, the grand champion finals and some consolation matches. The energy of their classmates was palpable as they cheered and applauded the contenders as they hit the stage ready for their battles. Social Studies teacher Joe Byrne was master of ceremonies and referee. "Everyone had a lot of fun and it created a real positive environment before our break," says Mr. Byrne. "Our goal was to have some friendly competition between grades and make sure everyone had a good time and came together as a group."

Winners were:

7th Grade winner: Evan Stanton

8th Grade winner: Izzy Delgado

Grand Champion: Izzy Delgado





Seniors Learn About Making Memories Safely

As our Medina Junior-Senior High School students get ready for prom and graduation, staff and administration decided it was critical to give them an eye-opening demonstration and talk about the importance of making safe choices.

Of all the alcohol-related fatalities involving teens each year, about one-third of them take place during April, May and June. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) statistics that means 1,000 children under the age of 21 die each year in preventable tragedies while celebrating their high school proms and graduations.

Thank you to the Ridgeway Fire Hall, Ridgeway and Shelby Fire Department personnel, the Medina Police Department and Mercy Flight for participating in a mock car crash that simulated injuries, rescue and transportation to hospitals. "It definitely hits home with them to see the aftermath while driving impaired," says teacher Krista Duhow. "We are very grateful to UConnectCare Behavioral Health Services and our SRO Medina Police Officer Dustin Meredith for talking to the students as well. This is a time for celebration and we want these to be happy occasions not marred by tragedy."





Tech and Engineering Class Take On Project to Help Elementary Students

Prom Dress Giveaway

Every teenage girl wants to feel like a princess on prom night. Thanks to the generosity of Community Action and the Medina Central School District, students got to choose the dress of their dreams and not having to worry about the cost. "We don't want anyone missing out on prom due to the expense so assistance is offered in many forms," says teacher Krista Duhow.

Our students had a great time helping each other pick out that perfect gown and they can't wait until that magical night!



Technology and Engineering Education teacher Mike Lepkyj and his students took on a cool project this school year. They are making wooden letters to help the students at Oak Orchard Elementary learn their alphabet.

Their goal is to have them completed by next fall. Great teamwork everyone!



Aleta Hartgrave (Lyndonville student) and Kylee Howard (Medina student) choosing their gowns.





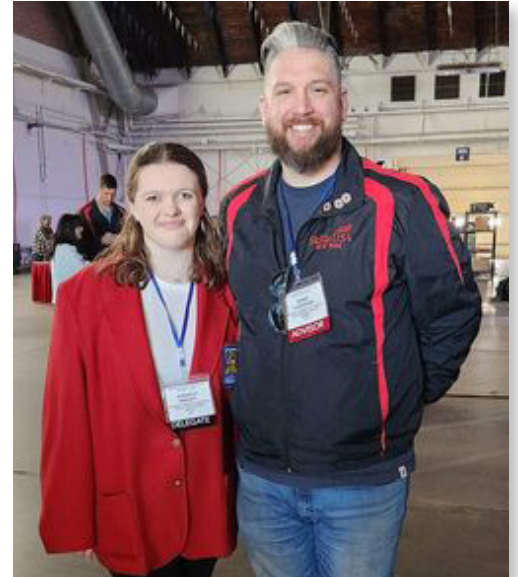
Congratulations to Our SkillsUSA Winners!

Our Junior-Senior High School Orleans/Niagara BOCES students brought home medals from New York State SkillsUSA Leadership and Skills Championships in Syracuse, New York. It was an incredible opportunity for students to showcase their talents, knowledge and skills as they competed against other career and technical education students across the state.

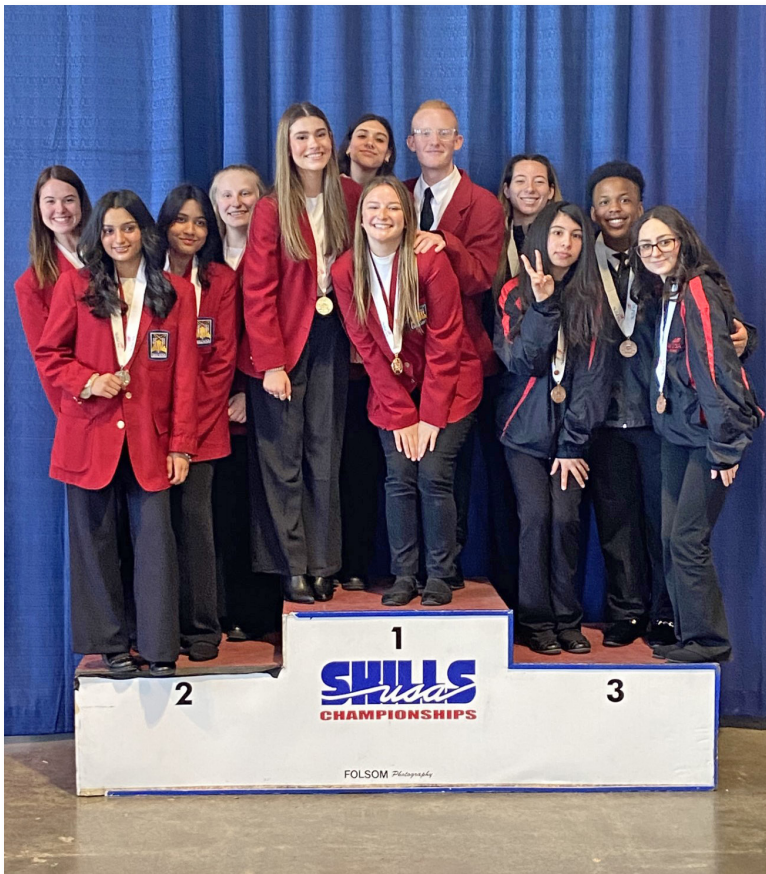
SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce. Their mission is to empower its members to become world-class workers, leaders and responsible American citizens. Gold medalists have the option of competing at the national level at the world's largest gathering of America's future skilled workforce in Atlanta, Georgia at the end of June.

Congratulations to Gold medalists Brooklyn Nawotka and Layne Hodgins who were members of the Health Knowledge Bowl team and are students in the Allied Health program. And Silver medalist Kelsey Lemoi in the Basic Health Care Skills and is a student in the Allied Health program.

Junior Abigayle Wright was selected to represent New York State as a SkillsUSA officer. Her actual position will be determined at the National SkillsUSA competition. She is in the Auto Body program at Orleans Career and Technical Education Center.



Abigayle with her Auto Body teacher James Rozewski.



Brooklyn and Layne with their Health Knowledge Bowl teammates.



Kelsey on the podium with her second place medal.



Students Explore Greece on Spring Break

Medina Junior-Senior High School students had a once in a lifetime trip to Athens and the Islands of Argolida, Greece this past spring break week. Principal Mr. Michael Cavanagh and teacher Mrs. Alexandra Peracciny took 15 students on the trip. Greece is a country in southeastern Europe with thousands of islands throughout the Aegean and Ionian Seas. Influential in ancient times, it's often called the cradle of Western civilization.

The students visited the Acropolis Hill, and its museum in Athens, the ancient ruins of Mycenaean, the Palamidi Fortress and a tour of the islands of Hydra, Poros and Aegina. Students participated in Greek cooking and pottery classes as well. They were able to spend some time on the beach and swim in the waters of the Saronic Gulf and the Argolida Gulf.

This trip was the third trip to Europe in the past three years. A trip to the Mediterranean Coast of Italy, France and Spain is planned for spring of 2025.





Medina School Students of the Month

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina CSD and the Medina Area Partnership are proud to announce the selections for Students of the Month.

This award is a joint effort between the organizations to recognize students who go above and beyond to help teachers and fellow students succeed and enjoy school.

The February winners are:

- Oak Orchard Primary: First-grader Jack Pagano, nominated by Kelsey Evoy.
- Wise Intermediate School: Fourth-grader Abigail Sutch, nominated by Maria Lemme and Emily Crissman.
- Jr.-Sr. High School: Sophomore Emiliana Batista, nominated by Stacey Ali and Stephanie Hargrave.

The month of February's business sponsor was Creekside Floral.

The March winners are:

- Oak Orchard: Second-grader Hollis Green, nominated by Jamie Brooks.
- Wise Intermediate School: Fifth-grader Addison Herman, nominated by Deb Webber.
- Jr-Sr High School: Eighth-grader Roman Maksimchuk, nominated by Kayla Rosenbeck.

The month of March's business sponsor was Baxter Healthcare.

The April winners are:

- Oak Orchard: Second-grader Liam Davies, nominated by Allison Harmon.
- Wise Intermediate School: Sixth-grader Kimberly Kelley, nominated by Krista Jaekle and Melissa Valley.
- Jr-Sr High School: Sophomore Robert Lechner, nominated by Kathy Boje and Gianna Sargent.

The month of April's business sponsor was OneChurch.



(LtoR) MTA President Joe Byrne, Mary Lewis of Creekside Floral, First Grade Teacher Kelsey Evoy, Jack Pagano, Abigail Sutch, Fourth Grade Teacher Maria Lemme, Fourth Grade Teacher Emily Crissman, and MCSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction Julie Webber.



(LtoR) MTA President Joe Byrne, Hollis Green, Addison Herman, Roman Maksimchuk, Jessica Rockcastle of Baxter Healthcare, and MCSD Superintendent Dr. Mark Kruzynski.



(LtoR) MTA President Joe Byrne, Liam Davies, Robert Lechner, Amanda Kroening of OneChurch, and MCSD Director of Curriculum and Instruction Julie Webber.



MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

One Mustang Drive
Medina, N.Y. 14103
Phone: 585-798-2700
Fax: 585-798-5676
www.medinacsd.org

Dr. Mark B. Kruzynski, Superintendent

BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Mrs. LuAnn Tierney, *President*
Mrs. Alissa Mitchell, *Vice President*
Mrs. Annette Allis
Dr. Steven Blount
Mrs. Jennifer Buondonno
Mr. Scott Robinson
Mrs. Debra Tompkins

DISTRICT OFFICE
(585)798-2700

Dr. Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent

Mr. Marc P. Graff
Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Julie Webber
Director of Curriculum and Instruction

Mrs. Alexandra DiLaura
Director of Special Programs

Mr. William Fischer
Manager of Network & Information Systems

Mr. Daniel Doctor
Director of Community Partnerships

Mr. Mark Klotzbach
Transportation Supervisor

Mr. Kevin Czaja
Director of Facilities

MEDINA JUNIOR-SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL
(585) 798-2700

Mr. Michael Cavanagh
Principal

Mr. Joel Reed
Assistant Principal

CLIFFORD H. WISE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL
(585) 798-2700

Mr. Christopher Hughes
Principal

OAK ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL
(585) 798-2700

Mrs. Jennifer Stearns
Principal

Medina Junior-Senior High School Performs Epic Musical *Les Miserables*

Congratulations to Director Rachel Trillizio and her talented cast and crew! They absolutely brought the house down with their performance of *Les Miserables* for this year's musical.

The cast got an added treat when Brendan Stackhouse and Will Curry, who are the Resident Director and the Music Director of the touring company that brought *Les Miserables* to Shea's Performing Art Center this spring, stopped in to a rehearsal. "They were amazing," says Trillizio. "They watched a few scenes, gave feedback and advice and allowed the students a chance to ask questions. It was wonderful!"



Compliments of Photos by Bruce and Associates

