

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Education

Summer 2023

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Medina Class of 2023 Top 10



Dana Faith De Vera
Valedictorian



Lillian Wilson
Salutarian

Dana Faith De Vera, the Valedictorian of Medina High School, is the daughter of Danny and Rowena De Vera. Dana Faith has been active in the Marching Band program (Clarinet Section Leader), Jazz Band, A'cappella choir, Student Association (Secretary), and National Honor Society (Vice President). In the future, she plans on becoming a veterinarian, she will be attending University at Buffalo this fall, majoring in Biology.

Lillian Wilson, Medina High School's Salutarian, is the daughter of Andrew and Elizabeth Wilson. Lillian has been active in the Medina music program through her participation in Marching Band as a Band Manager, Winter Guard, A'cappella and Wind Ensemble. She also served as the National Honor Society Secretary and has participated in dance for 13 years. In the fall, she will be attending Clarkson University to pursue a degree in Biology.

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Vision Statement

Exemplify excellence in education.

Mission Statement

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



A Message from your Superintendent

Graduation is a district-wide celebration, and the Medina Central School District is incredibly proud of the Class of 2023. We are proud of everything our students have achieved. After their first three years were disrupted by COVID, this year's seniors finally had a year without restrictions. Our seniors have been an exemplary class, and have helped to establish new school traditions that celebrate all students in the school. The Class of 2023 has left their mark on Medina – academically, athletically, musically, and as good citizens. We know you will do great things in life!

Now, our seniors begin the next chapter of their life, as they go off to college, careers, and the military. We wish all of our graduating seniors the very best in everything they are doing and hope that they come back to visit us in the future. Please remember that once you are a MUSTANG, you will ALWAYS be a MUSTANG, and you are always welcome back to visit us in the future.

Dr. Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent



Dr. Mark Kruzynski
Superintendent



Class of 2023 Top 10 *continued*



3. Lydia Fox

Lydia Fox is the daughter of Bob and Karen Fox. She is ranked 3rd in her class and has enjoyed participating in field hockey, cheerleading, and track throughout high school. Lydia has also been an active member of the National Honor Society. She will be attending SUNY Brockport to pursue a degree in Biology and then a degree in Pharmacy.



4. Aiden Paul

Aidan Paul is the son of Mike and Julie Paul. He is ranked 4th in his class and he has enjoyed playing baseball and golf throughout his years at Medina Junior-Senior High School. He is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Student Athlete Advisory Committee. He will move on to Niagara County Community College next year to pursue a degree in Business while also playing baseball.



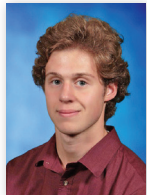
5. Henry Rigerman

Henry Rigerman is the son of Ronald and Ardeen Raglan. He has enjoyed being a part of his many activities such as IMPACT Club, Marching Band, Masterminds/Chess Club, and the National Honor Society at Medina Junior-Senior High School. Next year Henry will be joining the United States Marine Corps with the Vehicle Military Occupational Specialty (MOS).



6. Hilda Santiago Bautista

Hilda Santiago Bautista is the daughter of Zenon Santiago Bautitsa and Victoria Bautista Chavez. She is ranked 6th in her class, and throughout her four years of high school has been active in National Honor Society, and enjoyed playing Girls Varsity, Basketball. Next year she will be attending the University at Buffalo to pursue a degree in Biology and then further her studies with a degree in Pharmacy.



7. Gabriel Mark

Gabriel Mark is the son of Adam and Mollie Mark. Throughout his high school career, Gabriel has been very active in the National Honor Society, has participated in sports such as Cross Country, Swimming, and Track, while also participating in the Band Community with the A'cappella Choir, Wind Ensemble, Jazz Band, and the Medina Mustang Marching Band. After high school, Gabriel plans to attend the SUNY Fredonia to pursue a career in Music Education.



8. Jeremy Waters

Jeremy is the son of Jeremy and Jennifer Waters. He has participated in Masterminds, Student Association as Class Treasurer, and National Honor Society Treasurer at Medina Junior-Senior High School. Jeremy will be attending Niagara University in the fall to pursue a degree in Math Education, a subject he feels very passionate about.



9. Tatyana Baity

Tatyana Baity is the daughter of Husain Baity. Throughout high school she has participated in Soccer, Basketball, and Track and Field. She has been in numerous clubs such as National Honor Society and Student Association, in which she is the Class President. She has spent her senior year working hard as well as traveling the world (Spain, France, England, and Italy) with her classmates. She will be pursuing a career in Physical Therapy and will be attending Daemen University next fall.



10. Melanie Kuhman

Melanie Kuhmann is the daughter of Michael and Heidi Kuhmann. Throughout her time in high school she has been a part of Wind Ensemble as a percussionist, and is still actively riding horses for Fuller and Company located in Medina. She will be attending Genesee Community College to pursue a degree in Biology to further her studies of animals, which is her greatest passion.



Medina's Oak Orchard and Clifford Wise Celebrate Flag Day

June 14th commemorates the adoption of the flag of the United States. Medina Central School District's Oak Orchard Primary and Clifford Wise Intermediate School were honored to welcome Mike Harmer and James Freas from VFW Post 1483 out of Medina and John Follman from American Legion Post 1603 in Lyndonville to their schools to celebrate the occasion.

The three men talked about the significance of flag folding as it was demonstrated to the students. An honor guard meticulously folds the flag exactly 13 times in remembrance of the 13 colonies. The students were told what each fold represents as they watched the proceedings. The flag was then presented to Oak Orchard Principal Jennifer Stearns, who says it will have a place of honor in the main office. Students at Oak Orchard, under the direction of music teacher and Glee Club Director Andrea Busch, sang "You're a Grand Old Flag" to end the presentation.

At Clifford Wise, Superintendent Dr. Mark Kruzynski introduced Mr. Harmer, Mr. Freas and Mr. Follman and played Master of Ceremonies for the band, poetry readers and singalong. He was presented with the flag on behalf of the Intermediate School.

A special thank you to the VFW Ladies Auxiliary Post 1483 representative Debbie Barry who organized the event and provided gift bags to Oak Orchard students to help celebrate Flag Day, along with flags for them to proudly wave during the ceremony.



Oak Orchard Primary Principal Jennifer Stearns with Mr. Harmer, Mr. Freas and Mr. Follman and students from Miss Grayson's UPK class: Rebecca Delong, Henry Noga, Barrett Root, Leah Hungerford and Margot Thomas.





Congratulations Medina Class of 2023



Juliana Allis



Chloe Anelli



Jared Bacon



Tatyana Baity



Hayleigh Bane



David Basulto Jr.



Camera Shy

Anthony Bowman



Camera Shy

Alexis Brege



Marissa Brigham



Alexis Caleb



Camera Shy

Dominick Callara



Nathan Cavers



Morgan Chambers



Camera Shy

Bri'Ana Chavez



Michael Chisler



Bailey Clare



Kiana Cleveland



Jasmine Cole



Benjamen Converso



Bryson Costich



Ella Dahlhaus



Dana Faith De Vera



Trenton Deary



Noel Diaz



Paige Dix



Camera Shy

Julio Doval



Olivia Eaton



Nevaeh Farewell



Gabriella Flores Medina



Lydia Fox



Camera Shy

Ryan Geiger



David Castaneda Gonzalez



Abigail Goodrich



Haley Heintz



Emma Herbert



Rachel Hill

Congratulations Medina Class of 2023



Joshua Hilobuk



Gage Hinman



Mia Hobbs



Bianca Islam



Caleb Jackson



Christopher Johnson



Elizabeth Johnson



Olivia Kroening



Melanie Kuhmann



Shalom Latin



Christopher Leavitt



Cayden Lilleby



Jayden Lugo



Autumn Lusk



Hayleigh MacDonald



Seagan Majchrzak



Haley Marciniak



Gabriel Mark



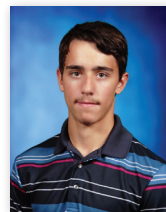
Aries-Marie McMurray



Brooke Moden



Destiny Molina



Jackson Moreland



Mason Moreland



Ashleigh Mowatt



Makayla Naples



Elizabeth Parker



Aidan Paul



Aiden Pitts



Stella Poler



Destiny Richardson



Henry Rigerman



Phallon Rivera



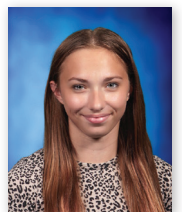
Ellisa Roath



William Roush



Hilda Santiago Bautista



Madelynn Satkowski



Congratulations Medina Class of 2023



Lydia Scharlau



Aubrey Schoolcraft



Brooklyn Seaman



Blake Simpson



Noah Skinner



Trey Skinner



Alayna Smith



Sara Smith



Hannah Sparks



Dylan Sullinger



Sara Swart



Riley Tower



Grace Troidl



David Vanderwalker



Rylee VanNostrand



Jeremy Waters



Hailey Wilkins



Lucas Wilkins



Dani Williams



Joshua Wilson



Lillian Wilson



Oliver Wilson



Kayleigh Wright



Tyrell Wright



Jacob Yates



Wyatt Zelazny



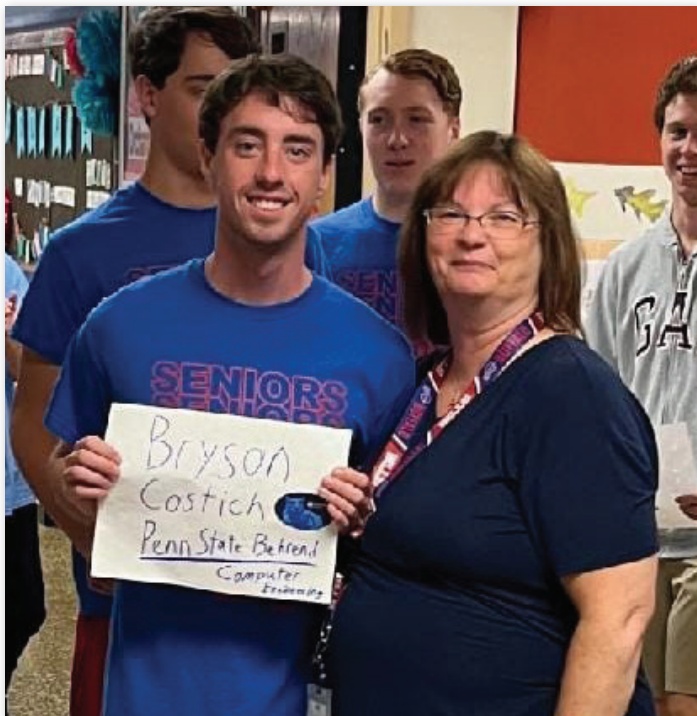


Class of 2023 Grad Walk

Our grads enjoyed a lovely tradition as they walked the hallways at the Primary, Intermediate and Junior-Senior High schools!

As they walked through the buildings, they were greeted by administration, teachers, staff and younger students who cheered them on as they completed their educational journey at Medina. They then enjoyed an amazing breakfast at the Shelby Fire Hall.

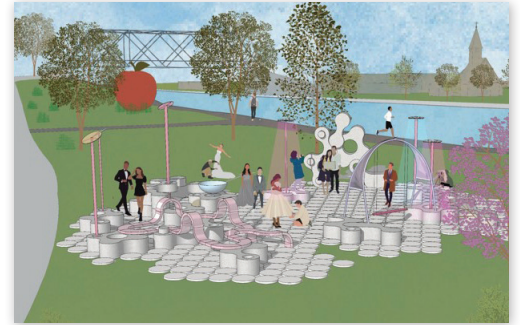
Congrats Class of 2023!



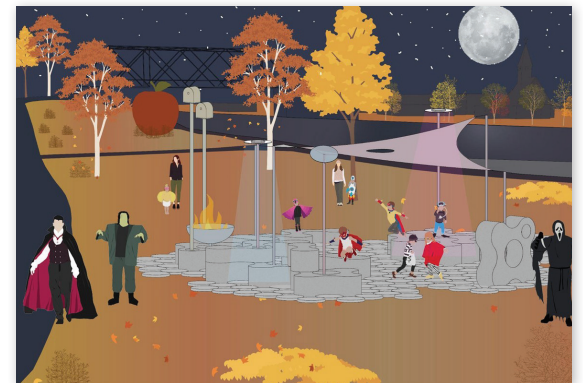


UB Architecture Students Come Full Circle with Art Class

Professors Joyce Hwang and Chris Romano presented architectural drawings from students in the Masters of Architecture program at UB to celebrate the life of Sydney Gross who was a former UB Art and Architecture student. Many of the students who presented ideas in February to the Medina Junior-Senior High School students in Jennifer Scott's class have graduated from UB's Architecture program. This graduate level course will continue with new students and two returning students in the Fall to further refine and develop the ideas for the living memorial. Joanna Pacheco, the Capital Planning Manager for the New York Power Authority and lead architect for Reimagining the Canals, talked about using public spaces to connect people to the water.



In February, there were three main ideas for the installation: a playground, a not-a-wall space, and rock musical wall monument. The professors talked about how the ideas from community members in Medina and students from Medina Jr.-Sr. High School helped to inform where the project is now in June. All of the ideas for the memorial (making the memorial a space for reflection and enjoyment, a place of joy, integrating art and music, making it a space for giving and taking, including places for individual expression within the collective, and making the memorial a place for building community) are part of the design process that came from student comments and community input. They mentioned how Sydney's favorite colors are pink and purple and how that might be added through colored stone or glass into cement pieces that can fit together like a puzzle. They also talked about adding colored gels high on poles to cast colored shadows in the area. Professor Hwang mentioned the work of Aldo van Eyck and specifically affordances for play and how his work is influencing the project. The art installation is now moving toward playful, curved cement modules that can be cast and configured into community spaces. Another idea is to create negative space holes that can have "plug-ins" which can change in and out.



The Medina Jr.-Sr. students commented on the renderings as well as offered feedback on various ideas regarding building community involvement. Being included in this process was a great way for the high school students to gain a real-world understanding of long-term projects and group work. It also inspired several students to research different college careers and understand the amount of work required in a graduate university program.

Medina Students of the Month for May

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina CSD and the Medina Area Partnership are proud to announce the May 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 month of May's business sponsor is Orleans Community Health.

The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: first grader Seraphina Neroni, nominated by Taylor Gross and Allison Woodburn.
- Wise Intermediate School: third grader Molly Kroening, nominated by Morgan Swift.
- Junior-Senior High School: eighth grader Brandon Bruckner nominated by Joe Byrne and Rachael Rutledge.

Congratulations to our winners!



(LtoR) Medina JSHS Assistant Principal Joel Reed, MTA President Joe Byrne, Molly Kroening, Seraphina Neroni, Brandon Bruckner, Scott Robinson of Orleans Community Health, and Marc Shurtz of Orleans Community Health.



Medina Students Make an Impact



Hundreds of Medina Junior-Senior High School students volunteered on their half day off to make a difference in their community. For their annual Make an Impact (Influencing Many People As Concerned Teens) Day students and staff gathered in gym to break into teams to work on various service projects around the school and Medina. Great job everyone!





Medina Grads Celebrate Commencement at Vets Park

Hundreds of people were in attendance to watch the members of the Class of 2023 receive their diplomas at Vets Park.

Valedictorian Dana Faith De Vera and Salutatorian Lillian Wilson gave emotional speeches to their classmates about their educational journeys. De Vera's speech thanked her family, educators and friends in her speech "All of Our Yesterdays". Wilson's speech was entitled "Life is Like a Movie".

We could not be prouder of all our graduates! Congratulations and best wishes for wherever your path takes you!





All of Our Yesterdays

Dana Faith De Vera (Valedictorian)

Good evening family, friends, faculty, and distinguished guests. Welcome to the Graduation of the Class of 2023. I believe that I can speak on behalf of my fellow classmates when I say this: thank you for being here to celebrate this huge step forward in our lives and thank you for all that you have done to help us along the way.

Before I address the graduating class, I would like to shed some light on the reason why I am here giving this speech tonight: my family. In 2008, my parents packed up their belongings, picked up their two kids, and moved across the world. We came from a cluster of islands off the southeast coast of Asia, otherwise known as the Philippines. They left their whole lives behind to provide a better life for my brother and me. A lot of people, including myself, have asked: Why did they end up choosing Medina, NY? Why couldn't they pick a better place? Honestly, I have no clue what the actual answer is; but I hope they don't regret it because after growing up here for most of my life, I'm certainly glad that they chose Medina. They paved the way to make life their own and to me, they are the embodiment of the quote, "You can do anything you put your mind to." Mom, Dad, and even my little brother Owen, I hope that I am making you all proud tonight, tomorrow, and every other day. Thank you for everything.

Now, to Medina High School's Class of 2023:

Truthfully, I spent so long just thinking about what to even say to all of you. After all, most of us here have spent the entirety of our school years together and so many memories are shared. Yet, our experiences here haven't all been the same, so how could I sum all of that into a five minute speech?

The shared experience in high school that we all have as a class is quite different from most previous or even future graduating classes, for this sole reason: we never really got to experience high school to the fullest. Think about it. Ninth grade, we were told numerous times that some new virus wouldn't be an issue; but in fact, it changed our lives forever. Mid-March, school shut down. At first, it was two weeks, and then another two weeks, and another, until the end of the year. Every morning in tenth grade we'd have to think extra-long about the question: is it a blue or red day? The color signifying which day we actually had to go into school. We also had to go through the long days of Google Meets where no one wanted to be the first to join or even have their cameras turned on. These were also the days where everyone had to wear those very fashionable masks, including our instruments. Then there was eleventh grade, everyone was back in school, but there was still social distancing and masks until the middle of the year. After masks were no longer enforced, just imagine the shock of seeing your hallway crush without a mask for the first time. Lastly; senior year, our first and last "normal" year. Can you believe that? Some of our firsts in high school were also going to be our lasts.

There is one thing, though, that I am certain that we share with other graduating classes: the desire to speed up time. We spent our whole lives waiting for this day; the day where we would finally be considered all "grown up," the day when our lives wouldn't be ruled by bell schedules, tardy slips, and twenty-minute lunch periods. Each and every year, we were all hoping for time to move faster and faster so that we would reach the next achievement in life such as getting our licenses, our very first jobs, and now: graduating high school. Most of us didn't live life in the present, always looking toward the future, but now here we are Class of 2023. This is the future that we have all been looking forward to. We are about to finish the last page of the "high school" chapter in the story of our lives. And now that this future, that we looked forward to has become our present, it is so very bittersweet. So, "keep it sweet in your memory" because "you're on your own, kid".

When we were children, we slept next to all of our stuffed animals so that none of them would be left out, we tried to push down all five of the colors on that one pen that we always seemed to lose, and we watched the rain drops on the car window fall and thought about their grand race, but most of all; as children, we couldn't wait to grow up. High school wasn't easy, that's for sure. There have been many late nights, early mornings, and times where many of us said to ourselves, "I just have to make it through the week."

Recently, I have been regretting always looking to the future. As of late, the end is finally starting to hit me. Just a couple weeks ago now, I had my last ever Marching Band rehearsal and didn't want to go home. I sat down after practice taking it all in and realized that there wasn't going to be another season, another drill card, or another set of music to memorize. Even before the Class of 2023 graduated, the band had their first fall rehearsal and I wasn't there; I had to ask people how it went, and "you know it's not the same as it was." The future may have some wonderful things ahead, but we are in the present now and I wish that I didn't use up all my time waiting for things to be over. So, I guess that is one piece of advice that I would give you all: don't spend your life waiting. Be present in every moment of your life, and "may you stay forever young."

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Now, before you start writing the next chapter of your life, let's reflect on our time here at Medina. Some of us may never look back while others will long to travel back in time. Our time together in Medina has shaped who each of us are today. Some of our best and worst days of our lives were in the span of the last four years, but from Mr. Worldwide, otherwise known as Pitbull, I would like to say: "Everyday above ground is a great day, remember that."

Lastly, "I wish you well my friend[s] [and] as we go our separate ways, we know we never can forget all our yesterdays." Congratulations to Medina High School's Class of 2023! We finally made it.

Life is Like a Movie

Lillian Wilson (Salutatorian)

Teachers, administrators, parents, families, and friends, thank you for attending this ceremony on this very special day. I think I can speak for all of us when I say we truly appreciate all of your guidance and support that helped to get us here today.

When I first sat down to write this speech, I had no idea what I was going to say. I had no idea what a speech like this should look like. Like Uncle Ben said "With great power comes great responsibility." So I wanted to make sure my speech was one that everyone could enjoy and relate to. The next question was "Should I go the heartfelt, 'try to make everyone cry' route, be a bit more lighthearted or comical?" I am a very indecisive person, so today you will hear a bit of both.

Everything about today is so surreal. Just four years ago, we were little fish in a big pond, trying to navigate our way through high school, saying to ourselves, "Just keep swimming." Now, we're big fish and we're about to enter an even bigger ocean, trying to navigate our way through life. I'm sure some of us want nothing more than to get out of Medina and into the world, and I was definitely in that boat, but I know that there are many of us who want nothing more than to go back in time. "Great Scott" if anyone has access to 1.21 gigawatts of power and a Delorean, let me know after the ceremony.

I've always been a big movie watcher, and the more I think about it, the more I realize that life is like one long movie. You're the protagonist of your own story, but there will always be antagonists, and struggles you will have to overcome. We've all had so many different high school experiences, and along the way, we've all had our own successes and failures, with some regrets sprinkled in there too. We all fought our own battles with the virtual covid year and the uncertainty that followed, as well as senioritis, whether your battle with that one started senior year, or freshman year.

The good news is, we made it through! We fought the battles, and came out of them victorious. We've, hopefully, all grown and changed as people, just like characters in a movie. Everyone dogs Medina, but I believe it was our "golden ticket" and that we've been given everything we need to achieve greatness in our lives because of it. Whatever you decide to do, whether you plan on jumping right into work, plan to go to a college or trade school, or even going into the military, I know we will all be successful. In the words of Ferris Bueller, "The question isn't 'what are we going to do,' the question is 'what aren't we going to do?'" Once we grab our diplomas and head out into the world, we should hit the ground running, ready to take on whatever comes our way. We're all about to go our separate ways and truly figure out who we are. Some of us may never see each other again; some of our paths may cross. However, this is the last time our class will all be together in one place.

In this movie called life, the plot isn't set in stone, it grows and changes instead. You're free to meet new characters, control your own dialog and alter your setting or genre. So, my advice to everyone is that when you leave here today and start this new scene in our life, go enjoy every second of it! Yes, be sad that this part of the movie is ending. Be sad that things are changing, but also be open and optimistic about the future! Anything can happen. After all, "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're gonna get." There is so much we haven't seen and so much we have left to discover in this world. We will all continue our own character development. So go live your life, but never forget where you came from, because "There's no place like home." Don't forget the opening credits. Don't forget all those people who came into your life and supported you, or even those who didn't. Remember the lessons you learned and all those things you did or didn't do. Remember it all, and use those things to help you grow as a character. Be open to change, because this is just the beginning. Everyone please enjoy the rest of the ceremony. Congratulations to the Class of 2023, "May the force be with you" and "in case I don't see ya, good afternoon, good evening, and goodnight."



Photo courtesy of the Orleans Hub.



High School Field Day

High school students headed out to the back of the school to enjoy some fun in the sun as they finished a successful school year. Students had a great time eating, playing games, dunking classmates and staff with water, signing yearbooks and making memories.

Thanks to all our staff who made this a truly special day for our students!





FFA's Animal Appreciation Day Huge Hit

Everyone loves Animal Appreciation Day! Our FFA, advised by Mr. Todd Eick, was a huge success with our students from Pre-K to 12th grade.

There was a steady stream of visitors to check out the livestock and pets who were on display. Everyone loved meeting these amazing animals!





Track and Field Event

Track and Field Days has a long history in Medina. As grade levels moved buildings, it was paused for a few years. Last year, Mollie Mark and Kristi Young worked hard to bring it back, along with retired teacher, Kathie Valley, who has brought in retirees to help out for a day of fun.

The following 6th graders broke records:

Jude Lacy broke the 100m and 400m dash records.

Talia Rupp broke the girls' mile record.

Caliyah St. Louis broke the football throw record.

Cayla Seever broke the long jump record.

The following 5th grader broke a record:

Aurelius Schalck 1 mile



1st place winners for each grade-level were:

6th- Ms. Valley's Class

MVP's were Jude Lacy, Caliyah St. Louis, Cayla Seever

Coach's award to Payton Allen



5th- Mrs. Weber's Class

MVP's were Aurelius Schalck and Lily Hungerford



4th- Mrs. Mark's Class

MVP's were Lucius Boyle and Erin Allis

3rd- Ms. Cree's Class

MVP's were Abigail Sutch and Bryson Heiligenthaler



Photos courtesy of Jason Klein, District Technology Integrator.



Academic Achievements Celebrated at Honors Convocation

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Mr. Steven Blount
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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. Mark Klotzbach
Transportation Supervisor

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Mr. Michael Cavanagh
Principal

Mr. Joel Reed
Assistant Principal

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

Mr. Christopher Hughes
Principal

Mr. Daniel Doctor
Principal/Community Outreach Liaison

OAK ORCHARD PRIMARY SCHOOL (585) 798-2700

Mrs. Jennifer Stearns
Principal

Honorati is a local academic award traditionally accorded to students who demonstrate exceptional merit and diligence. To be selected, students must have a minimal 85% average for three consecutive marking periods. In addition, they must pass every class, every quarter.

First year recipients receive a certificate. Two-year recipients receive a medal, and three-year recipients receive a trophy at Honors Convocation.

Congratulations to all our recipients!

