

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



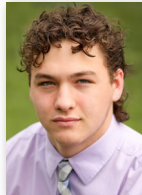
Higher Standards ... Higher Education

Summer 2020

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Medina Class of 2020 Top 10



Nathan Sherman

Nathan Sherman is the Valedictorian of the Class of 2020. Nate plans to attend Canisius College to pursue a

degree in Biochemistry, while playing baseball for the Golden Griffins. He anticipates earning a Doctorate Degree and using his education to become a genetic engineer. Nate took advantage of many activities while in high school. He took part in the school musical, was a section leader in the A'Cappella Choir, and joined the Master Minds team. Nate took part in Destination Imagination where his team won two state championships. He was the Student Association Treasurer and a member of the National Honor Society. While in high school, Nate played four sports, including baseball, basketball, soccer, and football. He earned first team honors for baseball, soccer, and basketball. Nathan received the James Perry Craft designation for excellence in math and science.

Margaret Klotzbach is the Salutatorian of the Class of 2020. She anticipates attending Niagara



Margaret Klotzbach

University to pursue a degree in Computer and Information Science. This past year, she was an Assistant Drum Major with our state champion Mustang Marching Band. She also co-captained the varsity swim team, earning an All-WNY Scholar Athlete title. Margaret is also involved in Destination Imagination (9 years) and has competed at the global level. Outside of the classroom she is involved with Tech Wars, AV Club, IMPACT Club, National Honor Society, and Student Association. She also has a passion for reading, writing, and spending time with her friends and family.



continued on page 2

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 districtwide celebration, and this year is no exception. We celebrate the success of the Class of 2020. As a district, we are proud of everything our students have achieved. We are particularly proud of how our seniors have handled the adversity of the COVID-19 closure - with grace and resilience. Our seniors have 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 that 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.

Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent



Mr. Mark Kruzynski
Superintendent



Class of 2020 Top 10 *continued*



3. Robert Geiger III

Robert Geiger is graduating in the Top 10 of the Class of 2020. He has plans to attend the University at Buffalo in the fall. Robert has participated in both football and lacrosse while in high school. Outside of the classroom he participates in National Honor Society, Student Association, and serves as a reading mentor to elementary students. In his free time Robert loves to go fishing.



4. Elle Gross

Elle Gross is a graduating senior at Medina High School and is very grateful to be a part of the Top Ten graduates for the Class of 2020. She plans to attend the University at Buffalo majoring in Nursing. While in high school she participated in both JV and Varsity athletics. Elle was a member of Mixed Chorus, A'Cappella Choir, Conservation Club, and was the president of the National Honor Society. Outside of school she enjoys taking her dogs Auggie and Ollie on walks along the canal and playing catch with them in the sun. She loves to spend her spare time reading any of Khaled Hosseini's novels such as [The Kite Runner](#) or [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#). Elle is excited to pursue her dream of working in the medical field.



5. Trevor Luthart

Trevor Luthart is graduating in the Top 10 of the Class of 2020. He plans to attend SUNY Oswego in the fall. Throughout high school Trevor participated in Varsity Baseball (grades 8-12) and Varsity Golf (grades 7-12). He won many league championships but, the highlight of his high school years was helping to take the baseball team to the state semifinals. Trevor is also an active member of the National Honor Society. In the classroom he enjoys history and math and is very excited to further his academic studies.



6. Micaela Erway

Micaela Erway is a graduating senior at Medina High School and is honored to be in the Top Ten. Next year Micaela plans on continuing her education at the University at Buffalo. While in high school, she was active in the A'Cappella Choir, PAAC Club, Student Association, and Conservation Club. She was a member of the National Honor Society and served as a Reading Mentor for the We Read initiative. Outside of the classroom, Micaela played both field hockey and softball. In her free time she enjoys being outside, spending time with her family, friends and working.



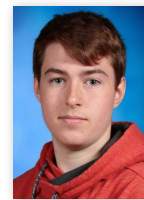
7. Layna Vilorio

After graduating in the Top Ten of the Class of 2020, Layna will be attending the Rochester Institute of Technology to begin her first year in their Engineering Technology Exploration Program. She will be exposed to many different kinds of engineering technology such as: mechanical, aerospace, automotive, and consumer packaged goods. This will assist her in choosing a specific major by the end of her first year of college. Layna is involved in musical theatre, Mixed Chorus, A'Cappella Choir, Select Ensemble, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, and Marching Band. She was a member of the Yearbook Club, Student Association, National Honor Society, and Destination Imagination. Layna also enjoyed being a member of the field hockey and track teams.



8. Jack Masse

Jack Masse is a graduating senior in the Top Ten of the Class of 2020. He plans on attending Niagara University and looks forward to participating in their Academic Exploration Program. He has participated in many activities throughout his high school career, including Destination Imagination, Chorus/A'Cappella Choir, FFA, Student Association, Volleyball, and Golf. He will miss being in High School, especially since the year has ended so abruptly. However, he is very excited to go to college and can't wait to have new experiences and meet new people.



9. Parker Wilson

Parker Wilson is a member of the Top Ten graduating seniors of the Class of 2020. In the fall he plans to attend the Rochester Institute of Technology to major in Biotechnology. He is a member of the National Honor Society and will graduate with a Regents Diploma with mastery in both math and science. Parker is a middle child of five, who was always pushed by his parents to do well in school so that it would benefit him later on in life.



10. Chloe Nashwenter

Chloe Nashwenter is excited to be a part of the Top Ten graduates of the Class of 2020. She will be attending Niagara University this fall, majoring in Accounting and minoring in Social Work. She has been accepted into the Accounting BBA program which prepares students for careers in financial and managerial accounting. Her ultimate goal is to become a Certified Management Accountant (CMA). While in high school, Chloe was a member of the PAAC Club, National Honor Society, and a member of AVID since 8th grade.



Excerpts from Valedictorian and Salutatorian Speeches



"This winter my fellow graduates were hit with something that even our teachers, administrators and role models did not know how to handle. For the first time we could not lean on someone else to instruct our way of life. Although premature in comparison to other classes, our class was forced to grow up. We are set to be thrust into the world of adulthood in the time of crisis. In a time where heroes are needed more than ever. And what better heroes than the young men and women around this country venturing out into their first adventure of the adult world. As William Shakespeare once said, "The world is your oyster," meaning that we are young. We can achieve anything we put our minds to because we certainly have the ability. It is indeed an unknown world out there, uncomfortable, and always filled with uncertainty. For many young people that is scary. The best piece of advice that I can give to embrace the uncertainty, to embrace that uncomfortable feeling is; If we can learn to become comfortable with being uncomfortable, then we will never be struck down by fear. Failure will be expected. But it shouldn't simply be looked at as what you failed to accomplish, instead it should be seen as the next stepping stone to where you want to get to. As Nelson Mandela once said "I never lose, I either win or learn." This is the attitude we need to have going forward into the next step of our lives. We can't guarantee success with our hard work, but we can darn well guarantee that at the end of the day, there will be not an ounce of regret."

- Nathan Sherman (Valedictorian)



"My dear friends and classmates of 2020, we have endured some of the worst times this country has ever seen. We were born in the wake of tragedy, and we have grown up in a time of uncertainty and fear. From September 11th, 2001, to the divided landscape of today, we have witnessed many, many dark times. Now, here we are in 2020, facing once again that same fear and uncertainty. I can't speak in absolutes, but I thoroughly believe we will make it through this, that we will rise above the challenge set before us, just as we have done so many times before. Even now, as we grieve for what we have lost, we have not allowed this pandemic to define us. We never gave up. We have come back united by this shared sort of grief, but we have also come back united in our resilience. We all have counted down the days to this moment. Whether you've dreaded it, like I have, or wished it would come sooner, it's finally here. We made it to the finish line. This chapter of our lives is ending, and we are waiting for a new one to begin."

-Margaret Klotzbah (Salutatorian)



Thank you to the Orleans Hub and Nicole Goyette for sharing their photos!



Congratulations Medina Class of 2020



Lillian Alberi



Donovan Alexander



Morgan Allis



Trinitie Andrews



Selena Austin



Bryan Ayrrhart



Elizabeth Bellan



Jennifer Benton



Amari Beyer



Destiny Bickel



Molly Bielak



Arella Biesinger



Riley Black



Caleb Boyce



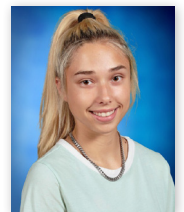
Mackenzie Bropst



Adreanna Burch



Joshua Calus



Olivia Carter



Kevin Clayton



Grace Cook



Natalie Cox



Trenton Crews



Caleb Cudzilo



Jocelyn Cutler



Joseph Davies



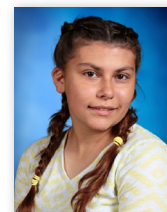
Regan Doel



Syeira Dow



Jada Draper



Paige Dunn



Aiden Dyke



Micaela Erway



Ronald Ettinger III



Cooper Fearby



Sean Fenton



Jayden Fianza



Seth Fiegel

Congratulations Medina Class of 2020



Mary Flores



Simon Fox



Terry Gauthier



Robert Geiger III



Christopher Goyette



Morgan Greco



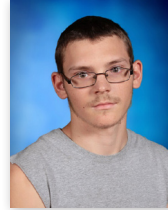
Melanie Green



Fionn Greiner



Elle Gross



Zechariah Gursllin



Hannah Heil



Hunter Heil



Alexia Heschke



Yulie Hinselmann



Stefanie Holmes



Jelia Howard



Wesley Hughes



Haley Hurt



Simon Jackson



Alexis Jones



Lacey Kenward



Lily Kiebala



Margaret Klotzbach



Eric LeVan, Jr.



Austin Lovewell



Jordan Lugo



Trevor Luthart



Mary Cruz Mandujano



Isaiah Marsh



Savannah Martin



Jack Masse



William Mattle



Veronika McClary



Smanatha Metz



Ryan Miller



Kristina Mitchell



Congratulations Medina Class of 2020



Jordan Moden



Jenna Moore



Samantha Morrison



Chloe Nashwenter



Abigail Neuman



Hannah Nicholson



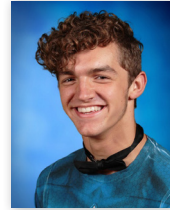
Emilee Novak



Destiny Nuwer



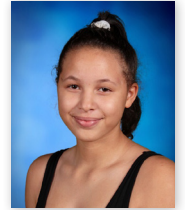
Nodia Osby



Lincoln Pace



Tessa Pecoraro



Ayzha Pitts



Alyssa Pluskwa



Julie Porter



Maxim Rambach



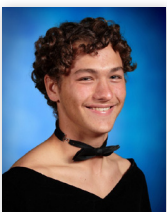
Andrew Saunders, Jr.



Emily Schoolcraft



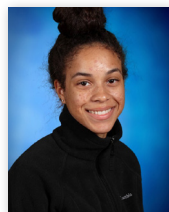
Richard Sewar



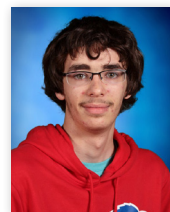
Nathan Sherman



Colby Stephens



Elliana Stewart



Stephen Tagg, Jr.



Jonathan Thomas



Miya Troidl



Jackson Tuohy



Grant Van Leuven



Thomas Vasquez



Layna Viloría



Ian Wagner



Jacob Washbon



Renee Webber



Shelby Weese



David Wiley III



Reagan Wilkins



Bradley Wilson



Parker Wilson



Congratulations Medina Class of 2020



Travis Wiseman



Ashley Woodroe



Miranda Zelazny

Congratulations to our Niagara Academy Graduates:

Destiny Richardson

Brandon Shrader

Winter Guard Shatters Expectations for Themselves and Their Season

Diana Baker is the Director of the Mustang Winter Guard. She has been teaching this for 11 years and is also one of the Assistant Band Directors. She was a member when she was in school 18 years ago. "It was a driving factor for me because the school holds you to a standard. They encourage participation in extracurricular activities. It pushes you to try harder and makes you want to always go the extra mile. I was always learning something new and it helped me in achieving my own personal goals."

Winter Guard is an artistic extension of Medina's Marching Band. The elite groups, Varsity and Junior Varsity, perform competitively regionally using various equipment, dance and performance to tell their story. This year's show was called "Metamorphosis". Ms. Baker says the theme is about taking the world's expectations of yourself and shattering them against all odds. "The message is about reaching for new expectations. You have a mold you are supposed to fit in to and you are trying to break out of it to find your true self."

The teams' season started the second week in November and it has definitely been about exceeding expectations. The team started in third place and is now one point away from first place. The Varsity team consists of 15 members and the Junior Varsity team has 16 members. The students range from 5th grade to 12th grade.

"This does so much for kids in their middle school/high school career," says Ms. Baker. "It teaches you time management, respect and working together as a team. It lets them know that what you do affects the person next to you. If one kid is out it changes what you see on the field. Everybody is vital to the success of the program."

Ms. Baker says as a whole it teaches the students to strive for better. "I mastered this skill, so how do I reach for the next skill? We push the kids to achieve their goals. Sometimes the kids are shy, but we push them beyond what they view as their limits to excel in whatever they choose to do. The Arts program is great for that. It broadens their horizons and prepares them for the next step in their lives' journey."



Varsity Winter Guard team.



JV Winter Guard team.



Animal Appreciation Day Goes Virtual



Ryder Jones poses with goats.



Ella Dahlhaus holds Katie the dog.

FFA advisor Todd Eick and his students weren't about to let the COVID-19 school shutdown stop their annual Animal Appreciation Day. Thanks to the brainstorming of Oak Orchard Principal Julie Webber and the FFA members, the show went on with a beautiful slideshow made from photos the students sent in from home.

Goyette Signs for SUNY Cortland

Medina High School senior Chris Goyette has signed to continue his education and his baseball career at SUNY Cortland. He is shown here at the signing with his parents Nicole and Chris, his brother Bradley and his sister Sophia. A pitcher/infielder, Goyette helped Medina capture the Niagara-Orleans League, Section VI and Far West Regional titles last spring to reach the state semifinals. He is also a member of Medina's football and swim teams.

Way to go Chris!





Guest Author Shares Book and Thoughts on Mental Wellness

Author Sarah Klaiber says her battle with depression inspired her to write her book "Treasures." "It was about my journey about appreciating the positives in my life and helping to improve my mental wellness with more natural means."

Before school let out, she read her book to students at Medina's Oak Orchard Elementary. "I want them to know that it is okay to feel blue sometimes and to look to the things in their lives that make them happy, their treasures so to speak. There are so many people, young and old, who suffer from depression and I think it is great that schools are now focusing on that and how to help students cope with these emotions."

Studies show that one in five young people will experience a mental health challenge each year, with issues like depression and anxiety acting as significant impediments to academic success for students. There is a campaign in many schools to promote mental health understanding and dialogue, and decrease shame, prejudice and point students and parents to available resources like guidance counselors and social workers.

School librarian Molly DeBottis says she loves the message that Mrs. Klaiber is sharing with the children. "Her message is so important about happiness and mental health. It is good that we are starting at a younger age discussing this with them." She says she is also grateful that Mrs. Klaiber can discuss the writing process with the classes. "It helps them to see the possibilities about being an author and what they are capable of."

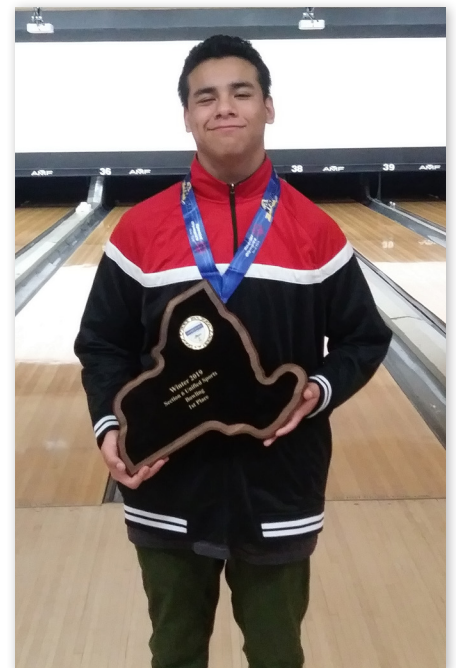


Author Sarah Klaiber with students Robert Lewis, Jr., Isabelle Perkins, Kamaryon Warren, Hailey Session, Patrick Grollmes and Erin Allis.

Unified Bowling Team Remains Undefeated



The Medina CSD Unified Bowling team went undefeated for their third straight year and captured another sectional championship! Congratulations to our team and their coach Jessica West!





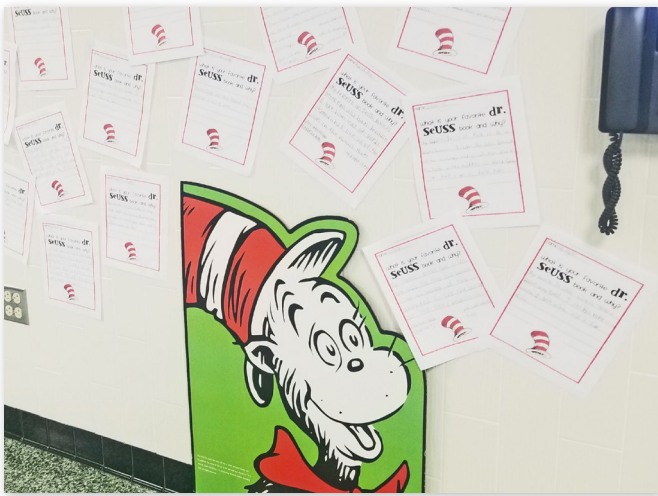
PARP at Oak Orchard Celebrates Dr. Seuss

PARP (Parents As Reading Partners) Week was a huge hit at Oak Orchard Elementary School.

The event was sponsored by the PTSA and included activities like Pick a Reading Partner and Drop Everything and Read time. They also made and distributed PARP-corn for the students to enjoy as they read.

It was also a weeklong celebration of all things Dr. Seuss in honor of his birthday. Students also wrote about their favorite Dr. Seuss stories and they were displayed in the cafeteria. Students were invited to dress like their favorite Dr. Seuss characters and the Board of Education member, Mrs. Wendi Pencille brought in her therapy dog, Ellie, to join in the fun!

Principal Julie Webber read some Dr. Seuss stories to students and they were also livestreamed to all the other classes. "The students really enjoyed watching the stories that I read to them. Because of the shutdown we shared them on the PTSA Facebook page each day so they could enjoy while they were home!"



Students wrote about their favorite Dr. Seuss stories.



Ellie the dog listens to stories read by students in Mrs. Diebel's first grade class.



Third graders Riley Holmes and Jacob Farley enjoy reading in the cafeteria.



Principal Mrs. Webber as the Cat in the Hat and friends.



Medina Staff Send Greetings to Students

Dozens of staff from Medina Central School District showed how much they miss their students with a virtual motorcar parade.





MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent

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Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Stearns
Assistant Principal

OAK ORCHARD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
(585) 798-2700

Mrs. Julie Webber
Principal

Daisy Chain Tradition Continues

Every year for almost 100 years, Medina students pick daisies for the Daisy Chain for commencement. The tradition is a chance to honor the 16 top-ranked girls academically and the top two boys of the junior class. The students meet in a field and gather the flowers and spend two days to make the 54 foot daisy chain.



The school district can trace the Daisy Chain back until at least the 1920s. The chain is carried on the day of graduation by the students with the young ladies dressed in white dresses and it functions as a flower-lined corridor to guide the graduates to the ceremony. The young men escort them. It is a great honor for the students and a special tradition for the graduate class.

Medina Students Celebrate Acceptance at Niagara University

Niagara University celebrated eight Medina High School students who they have accepted for the fall semester. Congratulations to: Ian Wagner, Jack Masse, Margaret Klotzbach, Emilee Novak, Micaela Erway, Miranda Zelazny, Jocelyn Cutler and Chloe Nashwenter.

On February 25th, representatives from the college came to the High School to personally hand out the acceptance letters and congratulate the students and their families in person.

