

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Expectations

Winter 2020



Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent

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

In a few weeks, the New York State Grades 3-8 English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics Tests will be administered to students. Based on parent and teacher feedback, the number of test sessions for these annual assessments was reduced from three to two; that change remains in effect this year. This means that students will take each subject test over only two testing days instead of three as in past years. Additionally, the 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests will continue to be untimed.

Below you will find a summary of the changes that were made to the Grades 3-8 English Language Arts and Mathematics Tests over the past several years.

- Fewer testing sessions. Last year, the Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests were reduced from three test sessions per subject to only two sessions per subject, meaning each subject will have two days of testing instead of three. With fewer test sessions, each test will have fewer questions than in past years, lessening test fatigue for students and better enabling them to demonstrate what they know and are able to do.
- The tests continue to be untimed so students who are still working on their exams will be allowed to continue to work, within the confines of the regular school day. Students who finish may be permitted to hand in their test materials (or submit the test if testing on computer) and leave the room. If so, students should exit quietly so they do not disturb any students still working.
- Test questions are reviewed and written by New York State Teachers. Hundreds of New York State educators were involved in creating and reviewing questions for 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests and selecting the questions for the test forms.

Teacher and Principal Evaluation/APPR

- Student performance on the 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Mathematics Tests will have no employment-related consequences for teacher and principal evaluations. This means that no teachers or principals in New York State public schools will be affected by the results of the 2020 Grades 3-8 ELA and Math Tests.

Release of Test Questions and Instructional Reports

- Test questions and instructional reports will be released before the end of the school year. Like the past several years, the State Education Department will release 75-percent of questions from the 2020 tests and the instructional reports for educators on or around June 1. You can view 2020 test questions on EngageNY. (<http://www.engageny.org/3-8>)

You can find more information about the State tests on the State Education Department's website. (<http://www.p12.nysed.gov/assessment/ei/eigen.html>)

As always, thank you for your support.

Mark B. Kruzynski
Superintendent



Clifford Wise Middle School Celebrates the 12 Days of Christmas

Mrs. Jaekle's 6th Grade Class participated in "The 12 Days of Christmas" before the holiday break. It was a great way to get everyone in the holiday spirit.



CW Band is Totally Tuba-lar!

Some talented young musicians at Clifford Wise Middle School entertained staff and students with some Christmas music on December 20th. Under the direction of Band teacher, Jeanette Sheliga, the Tuba section gave a spirited concert in front of the auditorium before school started. It definitely put everyone in a festive mood!



Tech Wars!

Several teams from Medina recently took part in the Tech Wars at Niagara County Community College. The competition is in its 23rd year and has several contests going on simultaneously. Athletic Director Eric Valley and Technology teacher Mike Lepkyj also acted as judges for the event.



Judge Eric Valley tries out chair for competition.



Alex Stahl, Tasker Taylor, Ryan Miller, Ashley Woodroe and Cameron Castanon.



Gabe Mark, Issac Pace and Arian Cayea.





FFA Students Attend Empire Alpaca Association Showtacular

Medina Central School District FFA advisor Todd Eick took a group of twelve students to the Empire Alpaca Association Showtacular at the New York State Fairgrounds November 7th to the 10th.

The event is hosted by the Empire Alpaca Association and the New England Alpaca Owners and Breeders Association. "It is the first time we have participated as part of an education piece," says Mr. Eick. "We had the students set up a display. Every day the kids were engaged in learning and were able to talk to breeders, professional artists and retailers who were vending. They got a good perspective on the fiber industry."

The students got a lot of encouragement from the people passing by. "One of the women said to them, 'Nothing warms my heart more than seeing a bunch of little people doing what I love doing the most.' It was a good experience for them," said Eick. "The students, even though they are seventeen and towered over her, were really pleased by her comment."

Two teams also took part in the Fleece to Finished Product competition. They used yarn that was at least 80% alpaca and used a triangle loom that was five feet. Third and fourth place ribbons were awarded to the teams for the shawls they wove.

"The third place team lost to a woman who does this for a living and lost by a point and a half," says Mr. Eick with pride. "For them to be rookies and perform as well as they did, I was very impressed by them. They did a really good job. It was a good experience for them and hopefully that will translate into different things the kids can be making, marketing and selling."



Dominick Whiting and Evie Schultz holding their team's prized shawls.



Teacher and FFA advisor, Todd Eick, shows students (LtoR): Hunter Heil, Shelby Weese and Haley Hurt how to make pom-poms to decorate the citrus boxes from their huge sale!

Medina Hits its Mark in the Cheer Competition

The annual Niagara Orleans Cheer competition was held in Akron January 22nd.

The results were:

Five schools competed in two divisions:

Large group: (more than 15 cheerleaders)

1st Place: Newfane Panthers

Small group: (15 or fewer cheerleaders)

1st Place: Wilson Lakewomen

2nd Place: Medina Mustangs

3rd Place: Albion Purple Eagles

4th Place: Akron Tigers

Overall Grand Champions:

Newfane Panthers

1st team all-league cheer team:

Medina

Alexis Jones

Alexis Hare

Akron

Danielle Robinson

Emily Wood

Wilson

Emma Gast

Kaelynn Gibbs

Albion

Brieonna Hanes

Katelyn Beach

Newfane

Gillian Hinkley

Mia McCollum

Niagara Orleans Player of the Year for Cheerleading is

Gillian Hinkley from Newfane

Congratulations to everyone!





Medina School Students of the Month

The Medina Teachers Association, Medina CSD and the Medina Business Association are proud to announce the November, December and January selections for Students of the Month.

This award is a combined effort among the organizations to recognize students who go above and beyond to help teachers and fellow students succeed and enjoy school. The month of November business sponsor was Filomena's Favorites. The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: First-grader Gavonni Holloway, nominated by Allison Woodburn and Allison Harmon.
- Wise Middle School: Fourth-grader Steven Gobeli, nominated by Maria Lemme.
- High School: Eleventh-grader Rashawn Bloom, nominated by Karen Jones and Joel Reed.

The month of December business sponsor was Creekside Floral. The winners were:

- Oak Orchard: Third-grader Antonio Rizzo, nominated by Travis Phillips.
- Wise Middle School: Fifth-grader Madeline Mark, nominated by Jason Klein.
- High School: Ninth-grader Bryden McMurray, nominated Kayla Rosenbeck.

The month of January business sponsor was the KG Ventures. The winners were:

- Oak Orchard: Third-grader Cayla Seever, nominated by Mollie Mark.
- Wise Middle School: Fifth-grader Adam-James Horton, nominated by Morgan Brown.
- High School: Tenth-grader Kaylee Lacey nominated Michele Crandall.



Congratulations
to all our winners!



Dan Doctor MCSD Community Outreach Liaison, Danette Oakes of Filomena's Favorites, Steven Gobeli, Gavonni Holloway, Rashawn Bloom, and MTA President Joe Byrne.



Mark Kruzynski MCSD Superintendent, Bryden McMurray, Mary Lewis from Creekside Floral, Antonio Rizzo, Madeline Mark, and Joe Byrne, MTA President.



Jim Blackburn from KG Ventures, Adam-James Horton, Cayla Seever, Kaylee Lacey, Marc Graff Assistant Superintendent for MCSD, and Joe Byrne MTA President.



High School Students Share Love of Reading with Middle School Students



Medina High School English teacher Beth Dickhut and Curriculum Director, Dr. Denise Stappenbeck, started off the school year brainstorming ways to keep middle schoolers engaged in reading. With the success of the We Read campaign, the educators thought that if the fourth graders had someone to read with one on one, they would find the experience more enjoyable. “I asked the juniors and seniors in my class if they would be willing to volunteer to be reading partners with the younger students and they were very excited about the prospect,” says Mrs. Dickhut.

Mrs. Dickhut and High School librarian, Jennifer O’Toole, came up with a list of appropriate books and distributed them to the juniors and seniors who were participating. “Some of the older books, my students had read when they were younger and wanted to share with their mentees,” explains Mrs. Dickhut. “Some of the newer books, they thought would be fun so they agreed to read one of those.”

Then began the process of pairing up the middle schoolers with their mentors. Mrs. Dickhut and Middle School librarian, Kristen Phillips, asked the high school students to make mini movies about the books. Technical Support specialist, Joe Roaldi, worked with the students on how to use the app Flipgrid to make their movie. Based on the videos, the younger students picked who they wanted to work with. “The movies were great,” says Mrs. Dickhut. “Some of the students got so creative with them and based on that the middle schoolers picked what book they wanted to read.”

In November, the middle schoolers met their mentors and received the book they chose as a gift, thanks to a grant, with a special note from their mentors. The Book Shoppe helped the school district order the books and also donated bookmarks to celebrate their reading adventure. “Sue Phillips has been great to work with and has been so helpful with our reading campaign. We are grateful for her helping out and hope she enjoys her retirement,” says Mrs. Dickhut.

Throughout the process, the mentors and mentees met again and communicated online using Google Documents to ask and answer questions. “For our first time doing this, we were very happy how it went,” says Mrs. Dickhut. “Like anything, we saw some things we are going to change to make the process easier and get more students involved. What we loved about it, is that it built a connection between the students and made reading more exciting for all of them.”



Snowcoming

Medina High School's annual Snowcoming was a flurry of activity. Students spent the last couple of hours of the weeklong event participating in all sorts of different fun and festive events. Students hung out in their pajamas, watched movies, made ice cream, had a scavenger hunt and made holiday presents for their families and played games.

It is always a great way to hang out with their schoolmates and get into the holiday mood.





Mustangs to play in Class C for football

Story written by Mike Wertman (Orleans Hub).

The football division alignment and opponents will have a very new look for Medina this fall as the Mustangs will be competing in Class C instead of Class B due to a change in the state's enrollment numbers for each of the sport's five classifications (AA, A, B, C and D).

In 2019 the state's classification enrollment numbers for Class B were 355-584 and for Class C 230-354.

The new classification enrollment numbers for 2020 for Class B will be 397-629 and for Class C 261-396.

Those changes will have Medina, which is listed at 356, shifting to Class C while Albion at 443 will remain in Class B.

Six other schools, which were in Class B last year, have also dropped to Class C including Tonawanda, Newfane, Lackawanna, Springville, Alden and Eden.

The tentative three division lineup for the 18 schools in Class C will be as follows:

C North – Medina, Newfane, Akron, Wilson, Tonawanda and Cleveland Hill.

C Central – Lackawanna, Springville, Alden, Eden, JFK and Gowanda/Pine Valley.

C South – Fredonia, Cassadaga Valley/Falconer, Southwestern, Chautauqua Lake/Brocton/Westfield, Allegany-Limestone and Clyer/Sherman/Panama (CSP).

The 14 Class B schools will be divided into two enrollment based divisions.

Albion will be in the B2 Division along with Lake Shore, Maritime, Olean, Maryvale, Dunkirk and Depew.

The B1 Division will have West Seneca East, Burgard, East Aurora, Iroquois, Pioneer, Cheektowaga and Lew-Port.

This fall's Section VI schedule itself could also have a new look after a proposal to increase the number of regular season games from seven to eight. The eighth game would be played on the weekend which previously was used for preseason scrimmages.

This would be the first time Section VI schools have played an eight game regular season since 2008 when the section added a quarterfinal round for the sectional playoffs. Those quarterfinal games occupied the weekend which had previously been used for the eighth game of the regular season.



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