

# MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Expectations

Fall 2019

## A Message from your Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As I write this, the nights are getting colder, and the days are getting shorter. There may be times when we need to adjust the school day or close school. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the process of closing or delaying school.

We take the closing of school very seriously, and we take many different factors into account when deciding to close school. We look at multiple weather forecasts, temperature forecasts, and updates from county emergency management systems. Our Director of Transportation, Mr. Robert Dennis, drives on many of the roads throughout the district to accurately judge how our busses will perform in inclement weather. Our Director of Facilities, Mr. Gerhard Leuer, will ensure that if we open, the campus will be cleared of snow and ice.

The decision to close school for the school day will be made as early as possible. If it is possible to make the decision the night before, I will do so, but if that is not possible, I will always do my best to make the decision by 5:30 AM, so that parents can work on finding alternate child care arrangements if needed. If school is closed for the day, all athletic and extracurricular activities will also be cancelled for the day. For weekend extracurricular and athletic events, a decision will be made, and parents and students will be contacted directly by the coach or advisor. Additionally, it may be necessary to cancel after school activities. That decision will be made before students leave for the day, and will be announced at school, as well as through our "all call" system.

To let everyone know about school closings, the school will communicate with the community in the following ways:

- Using our "all call" system to announce closings, time adjustments of school, and after school cancellations.
- Our website - [www.medinacsd.org](http://www.medinacsd.org)
- Orleans Hub
- Facebook - @MedinaCSD
- Twitter - @MedinaCSD
- Buffalo Channel 2, 4, 7
- Rochester Channel 8, 10, 13
- Spectrum Cable
- WBEN 930 AM
- The Batavia Daily News
- Rochester Democrat and Chronicle

Please be sure that your contact information is up to date with the school, so that you will receive the all-calls.

Sometimes, weather conditions and forecasts provide significant assurance school will be able to open two hours after the usual time. In this case, it may be necessary to implement a "two hour delay".

In the event of a two hour delay, the following steps will be taken:

- The start of school will be delayed by two hours
- Busses will start their runs two hours later than usual, with pick-ups planned two hours later than usual
- Morning BOCES Vocational/ Technical students will remain at the high school
- Dismissal times remain unchanged during a delay
- Breakfast will not be served

Please note, a two hour delay will not be used to "buy time" to see if conditions improve.

New York State Education Department law requires a minimum of 180 days of instruction. This year, the district has built in seven emergency closing days. If we use those seven days for cancellations, it may be necessary to adjust the calendar using scheduled recess days in order to meet the 180 days requirement.

Ultimately, parents make the decision on whether or not to send a child to school. If you feel that it is unsafe to send your child to school, the district will respect your decision.

Additionally, please remind children to be alert for vehicles on the road at this time of year. Falling snow, potential slick spots, and mounds of snow require those driving, walking, or waiting for a bus, be more alert and take extra care at this time of the year.

We thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Have a safe and happy winter season!

Mark B. Kruzynski, *Superintendent*



**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.





## Oak Orchard Students Share Treats with Troops

The Oak Orchard Elementary School Student Council rallied their classmates to share some of their Halloween treats with troops overseas.

Teachers Natalie Scott and Sue Lehman delivered the candy, along with cards that the students made, to an organization that packages the candy and sends it to deployed soldiers. "The students and staff at the school were incredibly generous with sharing their Halloween candy," says Ms. Scott. "We ended up collecting 285 pounds of candy! We are always glad to participate and thank the military for protecting our country."



Staff and students with boxes of candy.



## Medina Welcomes New Staff

We would like to welcome some new members to our staff at Medina CSD!



L to R front row: Shannon Stephenson (HS/MS), Christina Lopardi (MS), Kelsey Evoy (OO), Chelsea Harpst (OO), Maria Lemme (MS), Nicole Austin (MS/HS) L to R back row: Mitchell Dockery (MS), Tiffany Cree (MS), Alina Patterson (MS), Morgan Swift (OO), Jamie Brooks (OO), Evan Giacomini (HS), Brandon Burgess (MS).

Missing: Jennifer Stearns (MS), Kayla Rosenbeck (HS), Nicholas Michalak (HS), Saira Borsching (OO).

## Oak Orchard Open House

Students and parents had a great time at the Oak Orchard open house. Principal Julie Webber says not only does it give the students a chance to drop off supplies, so they don't have to carry them to school the next day, but gets them more involved in the school and the community. "We have ten community groups in the cafeteria so students can explore options of things to do outside of school," she says. "We also have the PTSA who is looking to get parents more involved including some of our dads, so the kids can have some role models in the building. We also have our Transportation Department who can handle any last minute bus concerns."



Principal Julie Webber and first grader Liam Dreisbach.





## Former Medina Teacher Leaves Legacy for Scholarship Fund

Medina High School will begin to give out a new scholarship this year in honor of a former teacher. Ed Grabowski, attorney for the estate of Mariann R. Holcomb, presented a check at the Medina Central School District's Board of Education meeting on September 26th. It was in the amount of \$35,274.86, for a scholarship in Mrs. Holcomb's name.



*(LtoR), Ed Grabowski - Attorney, Arlene Pawlaczyk - Board of Education President, Mark Kruzynski, the Superintendent of Medina Central School District.*

Mariann R. Davies-Holcomb, former Business teacher at Medina High School, passed away on January 17, 2018. Mrs. Holcomb taught Keyboarding, Business Communications, Personal Typing, Business Math, Office Practice, Recordkeeping, Introduction to Occupations, Business Law and Business Dynamics from 1974 until her retirement in 1997. As part of her estate, she left money to fund a scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving Medina graduate business student(s) to further their education.

The Medina Central School District is honored and appreciative of this generous gift.

## Three Medina Students Inducted Into the National Technical Honor Society

Congratulations to three Medina High School students from the Orleans Career and Technical Education Center who were recently inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. Elizabeth Bellan in the Culinary Arts Program, Regan Doel in the Early Childhood Education Program and Miya Troidl in the Allied Health Program achieved this honor.

Out of all the high school students in the United States, the National Technical Honor Society students who receive this honor comprise 1.6 percent of that population. For staff at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES center, they represent the four pillars of the National Technical Honor Society: Scholarship, leadership, service and character.



*Principal Michael Cavanagh with the students at the ceremony.*

The students were honored at the Orleans/Niagara BOCES' technical education center in front of their teachers, families and school district representatives. The students had to maintain an 89.5 grade average in their career and technical education programs and an 84.5 average at their high schools, have superior attendance, exemplary behavior, be a member in good standing with SkillsUSA and have a recommendation from a faculty member.

## Fire Department Visits Oak Orchard for Fire Safety and Prevention Week

The Medina Fire Department paid a visit to Oak Orchard Elementary as part of Fire Safety and Prevention Week. The fire personnel gave a lesson of what to do in the case of a fire by using the Orleans County Fire Safety Trailer.

The trailer replicates a layout of a house and its purpose is to educate children and families on evacuating during an emergency by using visual and interactive cues in a hands-on way. "We are very grateful to our local heroes for spending time with our Pre-K to third graders," says Principal Julie Webber. "What the students learned today could help them save their lives and their family members."

Students also took home a bag to share with this families and received a fire hat.



*Mrs. Mark's grade 3 class learn a lesson about what to do in an emergency using the Orleans County Fire Safety trailer as a model.*





## Marching Band Recognizes its Seniors

The week of October 21st to 27th was a busy one for the Medina students and staff with practices, Senior Recognition Night, and a Syracuse University Dome breakfast.

The community is proud of these students and their accomplishment as well as the instructional staff who put in a tremendous amount of time and energy into the Marching Band program.

For anyone interested now that field band season is coming to a close, auditions for Winterguard will begin and so will practice.



## Seniors Learn about Life After High School

High School counselors recently took a group of seniors on a great field trip. The students, who are thinking about their plans after high school, went on a field trip to Niagara University and Niagara County Community College (NCCC).

At Niagara University they took a tour of the campus and then followed that up with a trip to NCCC for the Niagara Orleans Counselor Association's 1st Annual College Fair.

The students had a great time learning about some local options for continuing their education.



## Halloween Fun

All the schools got into the spirit of Halloween with lots of tricks – pie throwing at the Middle School staff and treats – parades and games! And of course – some amazing costumes!







## Medina High School FFA Holds First Ever FFA Toy Show

October 5th was the Medina High School's first ever FFA Toy Show and Sale. "We have had quite a few that have toys that are brand-new and never been out of the box. Some had older and used toys, but they will still have the box. One guy came just to set up his display and show off his collection," says Agriculture teacher Todd Eick.

Mr. Eick says he has been wanting to have a toy sale for over the past ten years and with the help of Medina and FFA alumni, Bill Nice and Cliff Barber, they decided this would be the year that they start it. "Bill and Cliff know the value of this sort of thing for our FFA kids. We also decided that our inaugural show would be in memory of Mr. Lee Roberts, he was an avid toy collector, Medina Farmer and a huge supporter of agriculture in the community."



(LtoR) Camryn Eick, Alexandria Strong, and Kennedy Eick preparing mini tractors for the FFA Toy Show.

The Toy Show was also tied into National Alpaca Farm Days. "We extended it by a week so that our attendees can come and check out our model farm and meet our alpacas," explains Eick. "We also had a free antique truck and tractor show in our high school parking lot and the Medina Canal Village Market tent was set up for samples as well. We are hoping that people thought it was a pretty cool venue for this."

Mr. Eick said the FFA students really stepped up to the plate to help make this event a success. "It was a great and very family fun event."

## Mustang Marching Band Takes First Place at NYSFBC



The Medina Mustang Marching Band traveled to the Carrier Dome in Syracuse, New York on Sunday, October 27th for the 46th Annual NYSFBC (New York State Field Band Conference) Championships. A total of 53 schools from across New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania performed in competition in the Large School and Small School category.

In the Small School 1 category, the Medina Mustangs Marching Band took first in its class with their show "Walk the Path" with a score of 91.60. They competed against seven other schools in that class. This is the 14th time Medina won the championship in their class. We are so proud of the 115 members of the band. For forty percent of them it was their first time being in the band.

## Students of the Month for October

The Medina Teachers Association and the Medina Business Association are proud to announce the October 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. This month's business sponsor is Bank of Castile.

The winners are:

- Oak Orchard: Sophia Buzard nominated by Courtney Diebel
- Wise Middle School: Gabriel Gomez Buzard nominated by Lindsay Fassel
- High School: Carter Green nominated by Doug Benedict



(LtoR) Carter Green, Mark Kruzynski Superintendent for MCSD, Sophia Buzard, Patrick Weissend of Bank of Castile, Gabe Gomez Buzard, and Joe Byrne MTA President.

Congratulations to our winners!



## Spreading Christmas Cheer ... From Medina to the Military

It's that time of year again. The holiday season is filled with Christmas festivities, traditions and family gatherings. But for many of our servicemen and women, they will be spending the holidays very far from home and their loved ones.

Thankfully, the Warrior House of WNY puts together stockings full of items to send to those serving overseas. Several boxes of the items were collected to send to our brave men and women who will not make it home for the holidays.

The Warrior House of WNY is a veterans service organization and farm located in Orleans and Niagara Counties. Their mission is to offer direct support for wounded veterans, host hunting trips, fishing expeditions, temporary housing for veterans and a Christmas gift distribution program that provides gifts for the children of military service personnel and military personnel.

Medina CSD's Oak Orchard Elementary School staff and students were more than happy to collect items to add to these stockings and make the holidays brighter for those who are serving our country. Thank you to everyone who donated and embracing what the holidays are about!



*Mrs. Fran Hann and Mrs. Julie Granchelli whose class led the way for the collection. They collected, sorted, boxed and delivered the items to Warrior House.*

# Medina Recognizes Distinguished Alumni

There are two new honorees on Medina's Distinguished Alumni Wall. Dr. Leanne (Hermann) Olshavsky and Anne Joynt who both graduated in 1998. Both alumni were recognized on November 7th at Medina High School during a ceremony in front of the student body.

Ms. Joynt is a junior partner with Lipsitz & Ponterio, LLC, a law firm in Buffalo. She represents people who have suffered injuries as a result of exposure to asbestos, as well as those affected by childhood lead poisoning, motor vehicle accidents, construction accidents, medical malpractice and defective products.

She is the daughter of retired Oak Orchard Elementary School Principal Cathy Joynt. She has been honored with many awards such as being named Woman Lawyer of the Year by Women Lawyers of Western New York. She recently served as president of the Western New York Chapter of the Women's Bar Association, a statewide organization with 20 member chapters dedicated to the advancement of women in the law and in society.



Photos Courtesy of Tom Rivers.

*(LtoR) Dr. Leanne Hermann Olshavsky and Anne Joynt.*

Dr. Leanne (Hermann) Olshavsky is an obstetrician and gynecologist in Cincinnati, Ohio at The Christ Hospital. She is also the Medical Director of the Women's Health Service Line at Christ Hospital Health Network. She earned her undergraduate degree from Miami University in Ohio graduating cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Zoology. She then continued her education, attending the University of Cincinnati and receiving her Doctor of Medicine in 2007. She completed her residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Cincinnati and was a research associate at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital in 2011.

High School Principal, Michael Cavanagh, said the two alumni show the power of working hard and completing tasks. "With persistence anything is possible," he said.

Medina accepts nominations for distinguished alumni each year by July 31. Then a committee of current and former teachers and administrators, and alumni will review the nominations and select the inductees. The ceremony is held in the fall during a school assembly.

Cavanagh said the school wants to honor alumni, promote school spirit and pride, and pick alumni who can inspire current students.







## Clifford Wise Middle School Rolls Out Red Carpet for Open House

Medina's Clifford Wise Middle School rolled out the red carpet for their students on September 3rd. Principal Christopher Hughes and Assistant Principal Jennifer Stearns invited the students and their families in for an opportunity to introduce themselves to their new teachers, engage in a scavenger hunt, drop off their supplies for the first day of school and enjoy some pizza. They even got a photo opportunity on the red carpet with the school district's mascot, the Mustang, in the background.

"It was a wonderful evening and our families had a great time interacting with everyone," says Assistant Principal Mrs. Stearns. "We are very grateful to all of those who donated prizes and supplies like Tops and McDonald's and Mark's Pizzeria and Cusimano's Pizzeria for the delicious pizza. I think it was a great way to start off a school year."



*Kylee Howard with her father Eli Howard.*



*Principal Christopher Hughes and Assistant Principal Jennifer Stearns.*

## Oak Orchard Family Fun Night is a Hit!

October 23rd was a great night for a "Block" party at Oak Orchard Elementary. Over 300 people attended the Family Fun Night where everyone had a great time at the construction night themed event making a massive cup-stacking structure, playing word games, building with books, creating a cracker and a marshmallow snack, playing a game of Jenga, creating a Lego marble maze, building a catapult or using playing cards, Lincoln Logs and other objects to make structures. Nothing like building on success at Medina!



*Brigham Durrant (Grade 3) and his marshmallow building.*

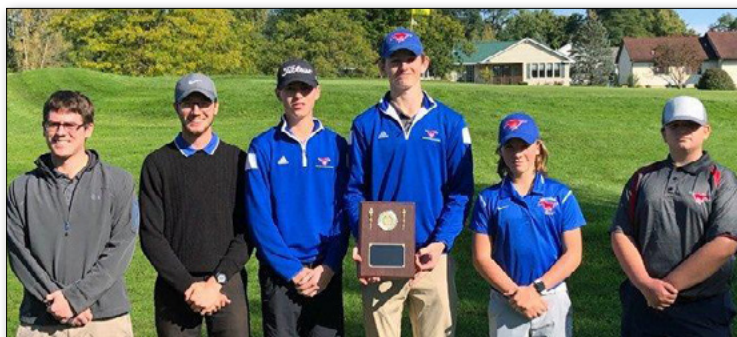


*Peyton Kennedy, Torrey Dames and Royalty Howard creating with Lincoln Logs.*

## Golf and Soccer Teams Take Home NO League Championship

We are so proud of our Golf team and Boys Soccer team! Both groups of athletes brought home the Niagara Orleans League Championship!

A special shout out to Ian Wagner who took first place at the All-League Golf Tournament and Aiden Paul, who took second place.





## Pasta Anyone?

The students in Family and Consumer Science at Clifford Wise Middle School enjoyed a home cooked meal, cooked by themselves! Teacher Kristen Armenia had her 7th grade classes make a complete family-style meal of pasta, meatballs and tomato sauce.

They celebrated their accomplishment by hosting a meal and inviting their teacher to join them for their culinary masterpiece. Bon appetit!



## Medina CSD SRO Introduces Himself to High School Social Studies Students

There is a new School Resource Officer (SRO) in the Medina Central School District and he is already making an impact on the students. Police Officer Stephen Gross has been busy acquainting himself with staff and students. "I am really excited about being here. I love getting out and being in the community and working with the kids has been very rewarding and I am enjoying getting to know them all," he says. "As far as the school district is concerned, safety is their priority and I felt ready to step into that role and I am excited about that."

Social Studies teacher, Joe Byrne, asked Officer Gross to come to his 8th grade classes and talk to the students. "I wanted to give him a chance for the students to become more familiar with him and show off his impressive knowledge of school district law," says Mr. Byrne. "Today we are talking about how we balance civil rights in our society with school safety," explained Officer Gross. "I think it is very important that they know their civil rights as students, but also the concerns that we, the government, have for school safety."

The students talked about such cases as *Tinker v. Des Moines* that cemented students' rights to free speech in public schools, *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* that concerns 4th Amendment rights against unreasonable searches and seizures, *Ingraham v. Wright* in which the US Supreme Court ruled that corporal punishment in public schools did not violate constitutional rights and *Kent v. United States* where it was determined that juvenile offenders are entitled to the same amount of due process of law as adults while under the jurisdiction of a juvenile court.

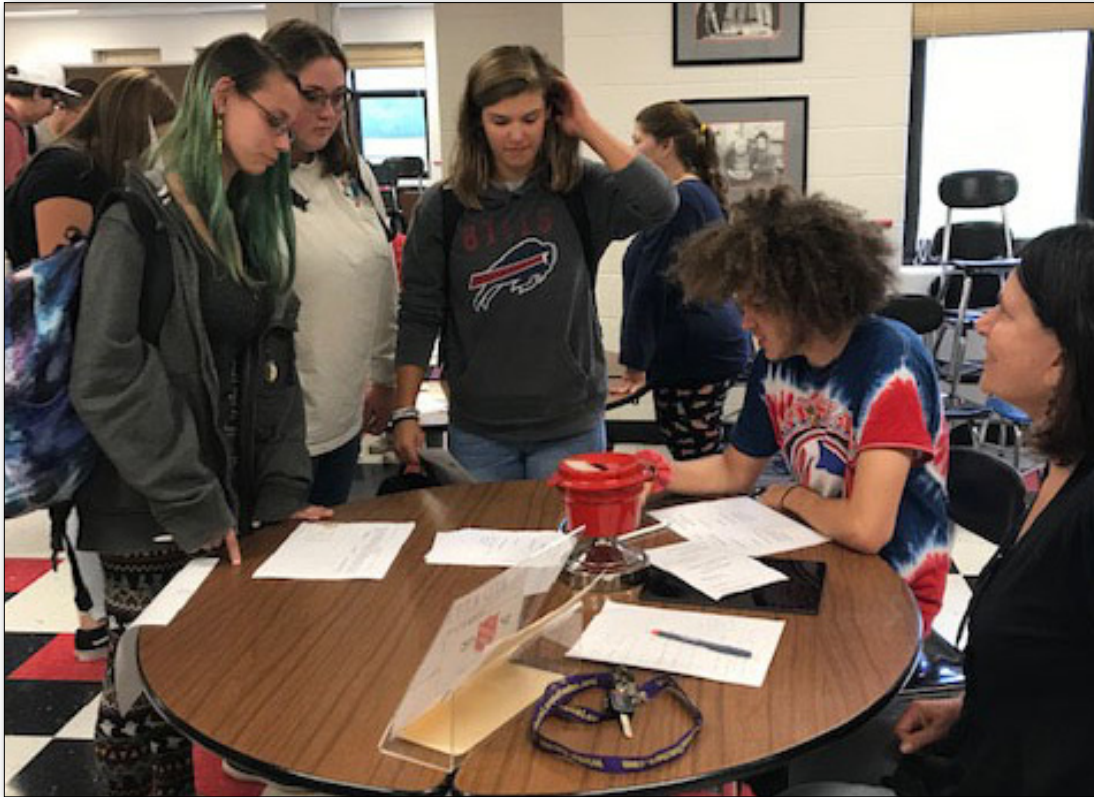
The class had some interesting opinions on the various cases as Officer Gross talked about them and discussed how they would relate to what happens in their school. There was also time for students to get a little more personal and ask him about his gear, role in the school and the community. "My number one goal is to help students to be less afraid of police and to make sure that you get home safe every day," he told them. Mr. Byrne says he is very grateful for the time that Officer Gross spent in his class. "He had a training in New Jersey the day before and made sure to get back here to talk to my students. I think it was a great way for them to feel more comfortable with him and incorporate some of the lessons we are learning in class."







## Medina High Students Learn Value in Community Service



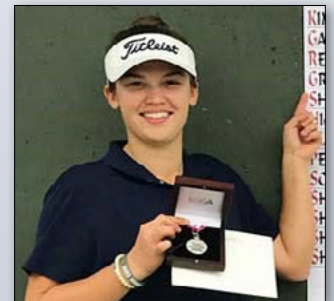
Medina High School students recently took part in the annual Community Day at their school. Todd Bensley and Jennifer Ossont, Participant in Government teachers, coordinate the event by inviting various community organizations to come in to talk to students about what they do and see if they would like to volunteer. Each student has to complete ten hours of community service each year towards their graduation requirements.

The organizations included: YMCA, Community Action, Medina Area Association of Churches (MAAC), GCASA, Salvation Army, FFA, PAWS Animal Shelter, Lee-Whedon Library, Medina Historical Society, PTSA, ERC, Shelby Fire Department, Parade of Lights and the Medina Railroad Museum. "The organizations that participate are always excited about the number of students who volunteer," says Mr. Bensley.

The teachers love hearing feedback from the students once they get done with their obligation. "As a teacher it is rewarding to hear students give their presentations on community service," says Mr. Bensley. "One of the questions we ask them to answer is: 'Is community service worthwhile?' So often I hear students say that they showed up just to get the hours done. But, by the time they left, they realized they really enjoyed it, and the organizations were appreciative. Many students also go back to these organizations to volunteer on their own. That is the ultimate reward because they see the value in helping out the community."

Ms. Ossont adds, "Many students seem so uncomfortable and unsure of themselves at the thought of community service, and even get stressed by it. Once they are done there is this growth and maturity you see in them. The realization that they can make a difference and be a valuable part of their community, part of something bigger than themselves."

## Green Earns All American Golf Honors



Medina senior Melanie Green has earned Honorable Mention on the American Junior Golf Association's (AJGA) 2019 Rolex Junior All American Team.

Green will be attending South Florida University on a golf scholarship and is ranked 32nd on the Rolex AJGA rankings.

A first time Rolex All American, Green has three top three AJGA finishes including a recent second place finish at the Billy Horschel Junior championship.



*Melanie Green with her parents, Melisa and Ron signing her letter of intent for South Florida University.*



# Fall Festival of Bands Hits All the Right Notes!

During a beautiful autumn weekend, Medina Central School District hosted the Fall Festival of Bands on September 21st. It was their 41st year in the competition's 53 year history that Medina was the home of this amazing event. The festival was held in the newly renovated Veterans Memorial Park with nine bands competed in five different classifications. An estimated 1000 people were in attendance.

The Mustang's show "Walk the Path" is an exploration of finding your path in life, taking action and walking that path forward. In Small School 1, Medina earned 1st place with a score of 76.60. Other winners were Leroy in Small School 3 with a score of 65.55; Northwestern in Small School 2 with a score of 70.45; Orchard Park in Large School 2 with a score of 74.95; Jamestown in the National Class with a score of 77.55.

A highlight was Music Director Jim Steele playing the National Anthem with former students Matt Jaeger and Joe Organisciak (Class of 2003).



**MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
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**Mr. Mark B. Kruzynski, Superintendent**

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