

MUSTANG JOURNAL

MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT NEWSLETTER



Higher Standards ... Higher Expectations

Winter 2019



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 the Summer of 2015, under the leadership of Mr. Jeffrey Evoy, the Medina Central School District completed an intensive strategic planning process. A team of teachers, students, community members, parents, and board members met to provide a direction for all decisions made in the school district. This planning process clarified the vision for the Medina Central School District - to Exemplify Excellence in Education. The process also developed a mission statement for the District, which is to educate to inspire all to reach beyond the expected and to positively impact their communities.

During this process, the stakeholders articulated the core beliefs of the Medina Central School District:

- We hold high expectations for all students and support individual needs to ensure success.
- Everyone is treated with respect and dignity.
- We encourage creativity, innovation and problem solving.
- Families and community members are essential partners in our students' success.
- A safe, respectful environment is conducive to learning.
- We value a strong, honest work ethic and accountability.
- We continuously assess and optimize our programs, practices and services.

Finally, the planning committee created several measurable goals for the District to strive to attain. Those goals were mapped out until 2018.

I am pleased to report that with the assistance of Lynne Erdle and Dr. Julie Winston, from the University of Rochester, the Medina Central School District has completed a comprehensive review and update of our Strategic Plan. Demographic, participation, and testing data was reviewed, and compared to other districts. A parent and community survey was distributed which generated a great deal of feedback. Hundreds of students were interviewed. All staff members were interviewed. Staff, students, board members, community members, and parents spent four days reviewing this data and making informed decisions on setting our priorities for the future.

Over the next few months, I will be presenting our updated strategic plan to schools, parent organizations, and community organizations. Our plan will continue to build on the growth the District has had since 2015, and will focus on the following four areas:

- **Academic Excellence:** All learners will engage in purposeful and robust learning opportunities to perform at a high level of growth and achievement.
- **Culture:** The District will embrace attitudes and behaviors which promote a positive culture to cultivate a foundation of trust and growth.
- **Family and Community Partnerships:** The District will engage in meaningful relationships with home and community.
- **Student Experience:** The District will create and maintain opportunities that foster the development of students' character and well-being.

I would like to thank everyone who has participated in the strategic planning process. I am proud to be a member of the Medina School community, and I look forward to watching our students and staff to continue to grow, achieve, and truly exemplify excellence in education.



FFA Wins Grant

Back in early November of 2018, the Medina FFA applied for the Incentive Grant for Growing Programs with the motive to put the money towards our llama and alpaca fiber program.

In late November, they received the good news that they received the grant from the New York Agricultural Education and Outreach Project. "With this money we immediately began to plan the further expansion of our fiber program," says FFA advisor Todd Eick. "With new equipment such as knitting machines and looms and additions to the animals for improved genetics at the AG Science Research Center, the Medina FFA is looking forward to growing the fiber program with quality, student-made products. Thanks for the continuing support of the Medina Central School District."

Products are available by contacting Medina FFA advisor, Todd Eick, at teick@medinacsd.org, or contacting them through Facebook @medinaffachapter.



Emilee Novak and Fiesta.

Medina Takes Home Awards at NCCC 22nd Annual Tech Wars

Medina High School students shined at the annual 22nd Tech Wars competition held at Niagara County Community College (NCCC).

About 500 students from school districts in Niagara and Erie Counties competed in events testing science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) skills. The event gives students the opportunity to apply STEM knowledge to real world applications and show off what they learned in class. Students design and build robots, cars and other technology-based projects that they enter into a variety of competitions.

Technology teacher Mike Lepkyj says he is very proud of his students and how they competed. "We had a second place and a third place win in the Trebuchet competition and a third place finish in the Capture the Flag competition."

Trebuchet is a type of catapult and the team of Corey Saj, Dominick Whiting and Zach Blount took second place while the team of Mason Soliday, Tasker Taylor and Dominick Whiting took third place.

Capture the Flag is where remote control robots have to steal the other team's flag. Don Squire, Dominic Viterna and Ryan Miller took third place.



Medina Students Dominate at PTSA Regional Reflections Contest

Medina students recently took part in the Reflections competition. The program helps students to explore their own thoughts, feelings and ideas, develop artistic literacy, increase confidence and find a love for learning that will help them become more successful in school and life.

The students submitted original works of art in either Dance/Choreography, Film, Literature, Music, Photography or Visual Arts.

Congratulations to our very talented students!

Film:

Elaina Huntington
Middle School- Award of Excellence

Literature:

Kaity Howe
Middle School- Award of Excellence
Maggie Lonnen
Middle School- Award of Merit
Kyrstyn Sims
Middle School- Award of Excellence
Madelyn Rutledge
Middle School- Participation Award
Emma Roush
High School- Award of Excellence
Melanie Hibbard
High School- Award of Excellence

Photography:

Addison Taylor
Middle School- Award of Excellence
Theresa Biesinger
Middle School- Participation Award

Visual Arts:

Gianna Stornelli
Middle School- Award of Merit
Isabel Ramsey
High School- Award of Excellence



Elementary School Greets K-9 Officers

Oak Orchard recently welcomed NYS Troopers and the Medina Police Department, who brought in their K-9 officers to talk with students. The third grade students heard from Sergeant Harmon and Trooper Valletta with K-9 Paris. The first graders and kindergarten students were visited by Lieutenant Draper and K-9 Kye, who read a book to the students.

Principal Julie Webber said, "Welcoming the law enforcement agencies into our school is a great opportunity for students to interact with the officers in a positive situation and remind them they are there to help. The students love seeing the K-9 officers and hearing about the incredible work they do."



Lieutenant Draper speaking to kindergarten students with his K-9 Kye. Troopers speaking with third grade students.

Oak Orchard Students Get Exposure to Live Theatre

The students at Oak Orchard have been able to experience a very unique opportunity. They have had members of the acting troupe of the Merry-Go-Round Youth Theatre visit their classrooms and put on performances several times over the course of the school year.

The theatre group has over 40 years of experience in bringing arts education to schools and putting on curriculum-based plays, classroom lessons and creative workshops to students at all grade levels. Principal Julie Webber, says "It's a great opportunity to bring some of the learning standards to our students in theatrical form." Kindergarten teacher, Miss Gooden, says her students love it. "The kids were so engaged in both the classroom and during the performance. The actress that came to the classroom was extremely enthusiastic and presented interactive kindergarten appropriate activities that kept the kids on the edge of their seats with excitement. The show's important message about friendship fit well with what we teach and learn every day."

The students had nothing to say but wonderful things about the talented performers. "It was so cool!" said Liam. Classmate Kara said, "It was the happiest part when all of them were friends and went exploring together."



Let the Games Begin

Who knew the holidays could bring out so much competition?

Staff and students had a blast competing at the Snowcoming Pep Rally. There were all sorts of crazy relay races and the highlight was the annual students versus staff basketball game. Game well played Staff!





French or Spanish?

As Clifford Wise students get ready to start high school, they have some important decisions to make. One of them will be what language they will choose to study.

High School students recently spent some time with the students talking about the language programs and what they enjoy about them. It is a great way to get the incoming students excited about learning a new language.



Medina and Lyndonville to Collaborate on *Sister Act*

The divine musical comedy, *Sister Act*, will be coming soon to the Lyndonville High School.

Once again the Medina and Lyndonville Districts' talented students, under the direction of Jennifer Neroni-Trupo, will be collaborating on the hit musical. The story is about a night club singer who hides out at a convent called the Holy Order of the Little Sisters of Our Mother of Perpetual Faith while she is in the Witness Protection Program. You won't want to miss this amazing performance!

Shows times are: March 22nd – 23rd at 7:00pm and March 24th at 2:00pm at LA Webber Middle-High School located at 25 Housel Avenue in Lyndonville. All tickets will be \$5.00.

Snowcoming

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

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



Trevor Luthart (Santa), Alexis Hare, Devin Griffin, Sophia Cardone. By Wall: Jarielys Flores Medina, Jack Masse, Abby Blount, Hannah Kenward, Cooper Fearby, Nate Sherman and Ian Wagner.



Jaxon Phillips, Megan Zakes, Haylee Seefeldt and Jarielys Flores Medina.



Isaac Pace, Xander Payne and Arian Cayea.



Trenton Crews, Rickie Pitts, Adrianna Johnson and Justine Sargent.

Varsity Cheerleading Have Something to Cheer About

Congratulations to our talented Varsity Cheerleaders! They took first place in the D2 Small and second place overall at the Niagara-Orleans League Cheerleading Competition at Akron High School.

They also took third place in D2 Varsity Small Division after the competition at the North Tonawanda High School.

That is something to cheer about!





Oak Orchard Plays to Packed House for Winter Musical

The second and third graders at Oak Orchard Elementary School played to a packed house at the end of November. They performed the musical "Child of the World" and totally rocked it.

The audience was on their feet after this beautiful and inspiring performance.

Winter Guard Season has Begun!

The Winter Guard started its new season in November with auditions and practices.

Medina is sponsoring three guard units this 2019 season. The Pony Guard is in its second year of existence and consists of 15 students in grades 5-8. This year their show is "The Queen of Soul - Aretha Franklin". The Junior Varsity Guard consists of 14 students in grades 4-9 with many returning members who have moved up in their skill level and accomplishments. This year's show is "Imperfect" about the determination and perseverance that it takes to overcome the demons in our lives and realize that we are each perfect in our own way. The Varsity Guard consists of 13 students in grades 7-12 who are seasoned performers. This year their show is "I Can Only Imagine". Many people experience the loss of a loved one and this show takes you on a journey that can bring back fond memories of that special person.

The Junior Varsity and Varsity Guards performed in competition for the first time this season on January 26th at Orchard Park, where 25 guard units from Western NY and Canada performed. The Junior Varsity competed in the Regional A Class (RA) and took 2nd place with a score of 48.52. First place went to Lancaster with a score of 48.92. The Varsity Guard performed in the Scholastic A Class where they earned 1st place with a score of 57.92. In total they will compete in 8 shows before the Championships. Medina's Home Show is Saturday, March 9th.



FFA Students Make Crates for Citrus Sale

Students participating in the FFA program at Medina High School put their carpentry skills to work. The students created crates for their citrus sale.



From left to right: Travis Stornelli, AJ Seefeldt, Chris Caldwell, Emory Seefeldt, Caleb Boyce, Mitchell Silversmith, Owen Flower, Jacob McEwen-Miller, Zachary Oliver, Dominick Whiting, Mason Soliday, Matt Henning, Tyler Chinn, and Rashawn Bloom

Oh Christmas Tree!

The first day of Snowcoming, the Student Association decorated the school's Christmas tree in the lobby to get everyone in the mood for some holiday fun.





Girls Basketball Team Ranked Number Two

As of Saturday, February 9, the Medina Girls Basketball team has an 8-3 league record, and an overall record of 11-7. "We are in second place in the Niagara-Orleans League," says Coach Larry Lash. "We have one league game, and one non-league game to play in the season. Sectional play will begin on Tuesday, February 19th". It appears they will have a home game for the pre-quarterfinal final game in Class B1.

"Our team has made great progress since the beginning of the season. Our non-league schedule was very challenging, and that helped to prepare us for the league season," says Coach Lash.

Way to go ladies!



Medina's Camri King drives against Albion defender. (Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Wertman/Orleans Hub).



Medina's Maddie Williams goes for a layup against Roy-Hart defenders. (Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Wertman/Orleans Hub)

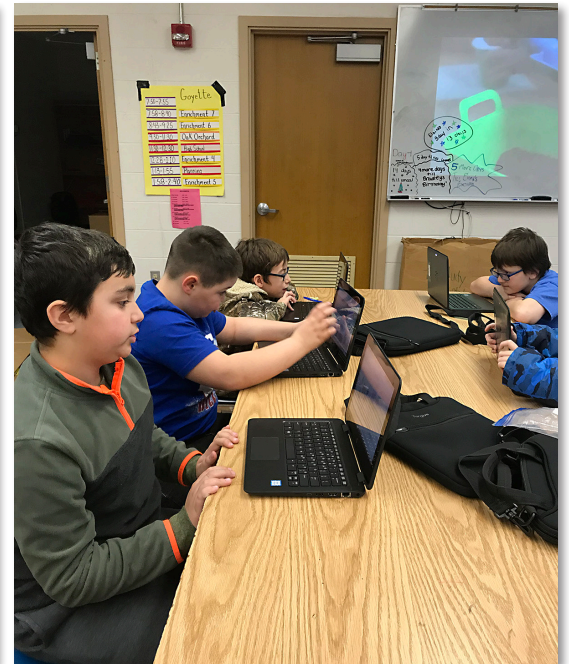
Students Get Introduced to Coding

Clifford Wise MS students recently participated in the International Hour of Code, which is a one hour introduction to coding.

Students followed a tutorial and coded their own dance parties. An hour of code takes place each year during Computer Science Education Week, December 3-9, but students can participate throughout the year as well. Studies show coding helps to nurture problem solving skills, logic and creativity.



Maggie Lonnen, Lilah Class and Penelope Schalck.



Nathan Brabon, Max Pilon, Hagen Van Leuvan and Christopher Bissel.

Did Someone Say Dessert?

The Junior FFA members contributed some sweet treats to the Medina FFA Banquet.

The students, with help from advisor Kristen Armenia, spent a Valentine's Day afternoon decorating cookies for the event.



(LtoR) Ahlyssah Miller, Mason Eick, Mia Albone, and Makenzie McGrath



Ani Hiller and Evelyn Phillips

Medina School Students of the Month

The Medina Teachers Association, the Medina School District 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 of the organizations to recognize students who go above and beyond to help teachers and fellow students succeed and enjoy school.

The business sponsors are:

November: Filomena's Favorites

December: Herbalty Cottage

January: Creekside Floral.



(LtoR) Mark Kruzynski (MCSD Superintendent), Adrianna Fearby, Olivia Kujawa, Danette Oakes from Filomena's Favorites, Noah Skinner, and Joe Byrne MTA President.



(LtoR) Bonnie Heck from Herbalty Cottage, Dr. Denise Stappenbeck (Curriculum Coordinator for MCSD), Makenzi Wynn, Autumn Rizzo, Anastasia Olivo-Miller and Joe Byrne MTA President.



(LtoR) Marc Graff (Director of Finance and Human Resources), Mary Lewis from Creekside Floral, Zachary Graham, Colton Brunette, and Joe Byrne MTA President.

November Winners:

- Oak Orchard: third grader- Adrianna Fearby (nominated by Mrs. Toub).
- Wise Middle School: fourth-grader- Olivia Kuwaja (nominated by Mrs. Pane).
- High School: eighth grader- Noah Skinner (nominated by Mr. Dole and Mrs. Gray).

December Winners:

- Oak Orchard: third grader- Autumn Rizzo (nominated by Mrs. Black).
- Wise Middle School: seventh grader- Anastasia Olivo Miller (nominated by Mrs. Goodrich and Mrs. Canham).
- High School: senior- Makenzi Wynn, (nominated by Mrs. Dunham and Mrs. Szeluga).

January Winners:

- Oak Orchard: second grader- Zachary Graham (nominated by Mrs. Jennings).
- Wise Middle School: seventh grader- Colton Brunette (nominated by Mrs. Pantera).
- High School: freshman Xander Payne (nominated by Mrs. Ossont and Mrs. Klinzing).



MEDINA CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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