

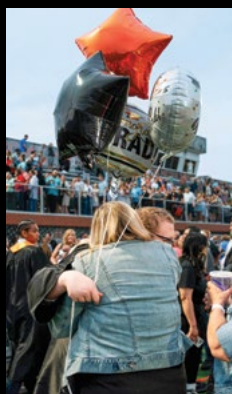


# Tiger TRADITIONS

*Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!*

Graduation 2024 Volume 29 • Issue 4

## Congratulations CLASS OF 2024



**MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS ON PAGE 2**

For district information including a calendar of events, MACS Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district website at

[www.mexicocsd.org](http://www.mexicocsd.org)





# A message from the Superintendent

**Dear MACS Family and Community,**



As we close another successful academic year, I want to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication. It is your commitment that has made this year a remarkable one, filled with academic success, fine arts achievements, and sports victories.

Our staff's dedication to fostering a nurturing and challenging academic environment has been

instrumental in our students' success. Your tireless efforts have not gone unnoticed, and I am truly thankful for your commitment to our students' growth and development.

To our families, your support and involvement have been invaluable. Your partnership has played a crucial role in our students' academic and personal achievements. Thank you for entrusting us with the education and development of your children.

Our community's support has been a pillar of strength for our school district. Your contributions, both big and small, have made a significant impact on our school's environment and our students' experiences.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the upcoming capital project focused on safety and infrastructure. This project will further enhance our commitment to providing a safe and conducive learning environment for our students.

In the coming year, we will also be planning for our 200th anniversary. This milestone is a testament to our long-standing tradition of providing strong academics in our community. We look forward to celebrating this historic event with all of you.

Our focus on improving student outcomes will continue to be at the forefront of our efforts. We are committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to succeed and thrive.

This year, we have seen our students excel not only academically but also in the fine arts and sports. These successes reflect our integrated approach to education, and we are incredibly proud of our students' accomplishments.

In closing, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you. Your support and dedication are the backbone of our school district. Here's to another year of success and achievements!

Best Regards,

*Donna Runner*

**Dr. Donna Runner**  
**Superintendent**

## Congratulations CLASS OF 2024





## Bigelow, Mack celebrated as MACS 2024 Val, Sal



A pair of hardworking and motivated young women who have immersed themselves in Mexico Academy & Central School District extracurriculars and have big career dreams earned the distinction of valedictorian and salutatorian for the class of 2024.

Ainsley Bigelow, daughter of Chad and Shannon Bigelow, and Avery Mack, daughter of Daniel and Sarah Mack, were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, earlier this year.



Both students were raised in the Mexico community and attended Mexico Elementary School in their youth. MACS Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner said she takes immense pride in celebrating their achievements.

"These young women are the epitome of dedication and excellence, their brilliance and drive shining brightly within our classrooms," said Runner. "They have set a

remarkable standard of hard work and determination, paving the way for a future filled with promise and success. While their journeys will take them far beyond the halls of our schools, we in Mexico, N.Y., will be their steadfast supporters, cheering for every milestone they reach."

Bigelow plans to attend Grove City College to major in psychology and then earn a master's in mental health counseling to ultimately become a counseling psychologist. Among her notable clubs and activities include Student Senate for four years, class officer for four years — including the last two as president, English Honor Society as president, German Honor Society, German Club as president, OCAY League, varsity weightlifting, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, Kingdom Club as president and co-founder, Yearbook Club and senior speaker.

Her advice to her fellow classmates is that "people will remember your heart and the way you love others longer than anything else about you. Be someone that you would be proud of."

Mack intends to attend Duke University and join its Air Force ROTC unit before serving in the U.S. Air Force with the goal to be an intelligence officer. While at MACS, she took part in the Marine Corps JROTC program along with its Drill Team, Physical Fitness team and Color Guard; the French Club, French Honor Society as president, Math Honor Society as president, English Honor Society, Art Honor Society, OCAY League and Urban Farmers.

She tells her classmates, "All you can control is your own effort and respect. Focus on that, and if someone makes you happy, make them happier. Only look back if it makes you better."

## MACS holds annual top 100 recognition dinner

The top 100 students at Mexico High School were honored June 3 as top academic students from each of its four grades were celebrated during its 17th annual recognition dinner.

The tradition at Mexico Academy & Central School District celebrates the top 25 students from the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes with a dinner and awards ceremony for the scholars and their families.

"The top 100 dinner is a way that we annually celebrate students who demonstrate diligence and high academic achievement on a consistent basis," said MHS English teacher and top 100 coordinator Shannon Bigelow. "Many of our students set goals to be part of the top 25 of their class. The dinner is a way that the district can honor these students, and their families, for their excellence."

In addition, 17 members of the senior class of 2024 were honored for being named to the top 25 during all four years of high school.

The ceremony was emceed by English teacher Joseph Deckman and was attended by several district administrators and Board of Education members.





## MACS recognizes **hundreds of years** of service in '23-24 retirees

The district honored 18 longtime educators, staff members and administrators who officially retired at the end of the school year.

All were recognized at the June Board of Education business meeting. The retirees combined to serve 348 years in total for MACS, with Cook Manager Terry Jacobs the longest-serving retiree at 33 years.

"We are incredibly appreciative to this hardworking and committed set of retirees, your work truly made a difference across the MACS community," said Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner of this year's group. "You will be dearly missed, and we wish you many years of happy and peaceful retirement."

### Happy RETIREMENT

Ellen Francis  
Teaching Assistant

John Freda, USMC Ret.  
JROTC Instructor

Theresa Henderson  
Motor Vehicle Operator

Kimberly Holiday  
Middle School Principal

Joyce Hould  
Teacher

Terry Jacobs  
Cook Manager

Maryanne LaPage  
Cook

Anne Michaelis  
Teacher

Shelly Partrick  
Teaching Assistant

Deborah Patterson  
Teacher

Laurie Porter  
Teacher Aide

Gina Sherlock  
Teacher

Susan Soscia  
Teacher

Rebecca Todd  
Teacher

Elizabeth Voegler  
Principal

Mark Vosseller  
Bus Driver

Lydia Webster  
Cleaner

Margaret Wilson  
Teacher



## Alumni Banquet celebrates decades of MACS

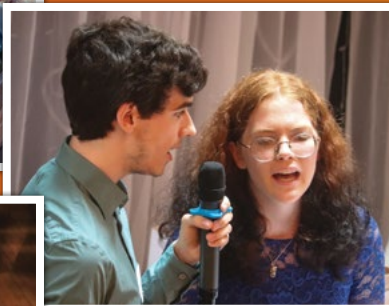
The 198th MACS Alumni Banquet was held in mid-June, bringing together decades of fellow Mexico High School graduates dating back to the 1940s.

The 2024 celebration was held June 22 at The Eis House in Mexico and was open to alumni and their families in addition to community members and general MACS supporters.

After a social hour, alumni association leaders took the podium for the evening's program, which featured class of 2024 student musicians Abigail Trani and Tristan Breckenridge. The night also featured a recognition of the class of 2024 scholarship recipients, Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner offered state of the district remarks and two longtime MACS staff members were inducted into the MACS Alumni Association Hall of Fame.

This year's inductees were Edwin Lighthall, from transportation, and James Palmitese, art teacher. Nomination forms can be found on the district website.

The 2025 alumni banquet will be held Saturday, June 21, at The Eis House.



## Bravo to our finale concerts

Photos from our MACS Music Department year-end concerts and events.





## New Haven, Mex El light the way as official Lighthouse schools

New Haven and Mexico Elementary schools recently celebrated earning the distinction of Lighthouse School, the highest distinction Franklin Covey gives out.

Both had long been Leader in Me schools, but administration, staff and students at each school worked to complete the necessary steps to becoming a Lighthouse School, a beacon and example for which other schools nationwide can strive for. Both schools held a big, schoolwide celebration to mark the occasion.

The schools join Palermo Elementary, which first became a Lighthouse School in 2018 and was recertified in October 2022.

"We are incredibly proud of how hard our staff and students have worked to achieve Lighthouse status, now at all three of our elementary schools," said MACS Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum & Instruction Colleen Root. "This distinction is a major honor and a testament to the hard work and growth of our students as leaders and individuals starting as soon as they enter Mexico schools."



## UPK students set sail for kindergarten after successful year

The youngest learners at Mexico Academy & Central School District are bound for kindergarten in the fall, having completed a successful year of the full-day universal pre-kindergarten program.

Students from New Haven Elementary rejoiced during their moving up celebration. The students sang songs and received certificates plus medals in front of a large gathering of family and friends in the crowd.

During UPK, students have instructional time, special area classes, lunch and naptime to get students an earlier start in the classroom and social setting, a major benefit to young learners as shown through studies. Full-day UPK is available in all three of our elementary schools: New Haven, Palermo and Mexico.



## Palermo Elementary kindergartners on to first grade

Palermo Elementary School celebrated its kindergarten classes and their year of growth, learning and major milestones, celebrating three days before the school year ended.

Students of the future class of 2036 danced down the entryway before singing several songs and telling the crowd what they hope to be when they grow up someday.





## Mexico MS Awards highlight triumphs, achievement of school year

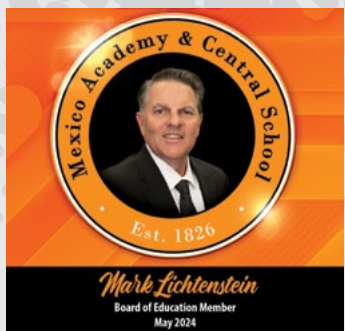
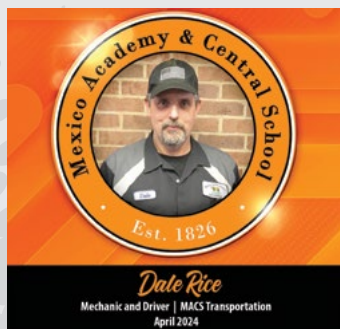
Mexico Middle School honored students in grades 5-8 during an awards ceremony for each class in the days leading up to the end of the school year. Students received honors for their hard work in the classroom, extracurricular activities, band and

chorus, and also their good character traits observed by staff. Principal Patrick Dunham and Assistant Principal Laurie Nohle congratulated each group on their success and dedication in 2023-24.



## Proud to be MACS

The Board of Education recognizes staff monthly throughout the school year as nominated by their peers for going above and beyond. Nominations can be made at <https://www.mexicocsd.org/PTBMnominations>.



## Mex El Class of 2032 ready for Middle School

A packed crowd full of supporters roared as the future MACS Class of 2032 officially completed their years at Mexico Elementary School and are bound for middle school in the fall.

Numerous awards were presented to the classes, including some for special areas, academic success and character awards. Principal Amy Fiedler-Horack congratulated the group and commended them for several hardworking years which included virtual learning for the pandemic.





## Block M Awards 2024: Student athletes recognized for strong '23-24

The annual celebration of another successful year of Mexico Tiger sports saw dozens of athletes honored for their work on and off the field with the Block M Athletic Awards.

The awards ceremony, held June 3 in the Mexico High School Avery Skinner Auditorium, saw several scholarships given out along with team MVP awards

and other special awards.

Ella Blunt and Jacob Poissant were honored as the Lawrence "Sparky" Rector Athletes of the Year, the final award presented during the ceremony.

MACS Athletic Director Andrew Gates congratulated the teams and student-athletes on a great year all-around and wished the graduating seniors all the best

in the next steps of their journeys.

Special awards and scholarships led off the evening, and then coaches took the stage to talk briefly about the successes of their teams and individuals this year, and then awarded the Most Valuable Player trophy.

Listed below are the winners of the special awards and team MVPs for the 2023-24 school year.

### OVERALL AWARDS

Lawrence "Sparky" Rector Athlete of the Year  
(Presented by Andy Gates):  
Ella Blunt, Jacob Poissant

Janice Clark Memorial Athlete Award:  
Kylee Urquhart, Ethan Becker

### SPECIAL AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Linda Beyer-Shoults Memorial Award  
(Presented by Lois Beyer and Courtney Shoults):  
Evelyn Fontana

Jared R. K. Gates Scholarship Award  
(Presented by Jimmy Loomis,  
Bob and Debbie Gates):  
Dakota DeFalco

Edward Albright Jr. Memorial Scholarship Award  
(Presented by Jeff LaBouef):  
Ethan Becker

Brian Ariola Award  
(Presented by Joe Deckman):  
Maddison Greenway, Hunter Herrington

Charles Giovo II Most Coachable Award:  
Giana Cutuli, Stefano Magro

Wally Sutliff Memorial Award Most Improved:  
Mara Williamson, Nicolas Murabito

Charles Giovo Sportsmanship Award:  
Hailey Comstock, Everett Bryant



### TEAM MVPs

#### Fall

Cross Country: Aubrey Herrington, Ethan Becker

Football: Johnny Greeno, Brayden Mack

Girls Soccer: Giana Cutuli

Boys Soccer: Jacob Poissant

Fall Cheerleading: Kierstyn Ford

Girls Swimming: Evelyn Fontana

Girls Diving: Chelsea Hitzschke

Girls Tennis: Ella Blunt and Avery Mack  
(doubles team)

Golf: Evan Hansen

Volleyball: Adriana Dimanto

#### Winter

Girls Basketball: Ella Blunt

Boys Basketball: Jacob Poissant, Chris Hermit

Winter Cheerleading: Emma Cadrette

Boys Swimming: Stefano Magro

Boys Diving: Ethan Gilbert

Indoor Track: Madison Poissant, Everett Bryant

Wrestling: Noah Becker

#### Spring

Baseball: Brayden Mack, Jacob Poissant

Softball: Kylee Urquhart

Boys Tennis: Bill Mills

Outdoor Track: Marley Eastman, Ethan Becker

Outdoor Field: Olivia DeStevens, Alexander Marthia

Lacrosse: Hailey Workman

Weight Training: Logan Haynes, Deegan Blue

## BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Emery - *President*  
Darlene Upcraft - *Vice President*  
Chad Bigelow  
Dennis Brooks  
Connie Douglas  
Amy Shaw  
Susan Teifke  
Zoe Grzesik - *Student Representative*

## SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Donna Runner  
16 Fravor Road  
Mexico, NY 13114  
315-963-8400 ext. 5401  
www.mexicocsd.org



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16 Fravor Road  
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# KIDS EAT *Free* THIS SUMMER

**FREE Breakfast and Lunch for Kids 18 and Under**

**MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL**  
**MONDAY, JULY 8 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 2024**  
**BREAKFAST 8:15-9:15AM**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Pop-Tart® Breakfast Items Juice/Fruit Milk	Cereal Bar Juice/Fruit Milk	Muffin Top Juice/Fruit Milk	Cereal Juice/Fruit Milk	Assorted Breakfast Items Juice/Fruit Milk

We must comply with all Summer Feeding Child Nutrition Guidelines.  
Children must take at least 3 of the 4 components offered. The 4 components are protein, grain, fruit, and milk.

### LUNCH 11:00-NOON

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hamburger on a Bun Baked Beans Assorted Fruit Milk	Chicken Patty on a Bun Steamed Corn Applesauce Milk	BBQ Chicken Nachos Steamed Carrots Diced Pears Milk	Hot Dog in a Bun Steamed Broccoli Diced Peaches Milk	Pizza Green Beans Mixed Fruit Milk

Daily choice of the menu entrée or Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich. Menu subject to change. Adults may purchase a complete meal for \$5.25.  
We must comply with all Summer Feeding Child Nutrition guidelines. Children must take at least 3 of the 5 components offered.  
The 5 components are protein, grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk.

## Upcoming Events

**Aug. 6:** PAL, Mex El UPK Screening  
**Aug. 7:** Mex El UPK Screening  
**Aug. 8:** BOE Workshop Meeting, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 19:** Varsity Football begins  
**Aug. 26:** All other JV/Varsity sports and Modified 7-9 Football begins  
**Aug 26-27:** NH UPK Screening  
**Aug. 28:** Freshman Orientation, MHS, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 28:** PAL K Orientation, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 29:** BOE Business Meeting, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 30:** UPK Bus Run and Orientation  
**Aug. 30:** Mex El K Orientation, 6 p.m.  
**Aug. 30:** NH K Orientation, TBD  
**Sept. 2:** Labor Day – MACS Offices Closed  
**Sept. 3:** Welcome Back Staff – Staff Development Day  
**Sept. 4:** *First Day of School UPK-12 Students*  
**Sept. 4:** All other Modified sports begin  
**Sept. 20:** Homecoming

## MACS Senior Awards 2024 recognizes years of hard work

Dozens and dozens of scholarships, representing hundreds of thousands of dollars, were awarded during the Mexico High School Senior Scholarships/Awards 2024.

The ceremony honored the class of 2024 top 10, graduation marshals, valedictorian and salutatorian, and had several presenters on hand to give out special awards and gave out senior awards along with Dollars for Scholars scholarships.

MACS thanks those who generously support our scholarship efforts and give to support our young scholars' future plans and continuing education.

