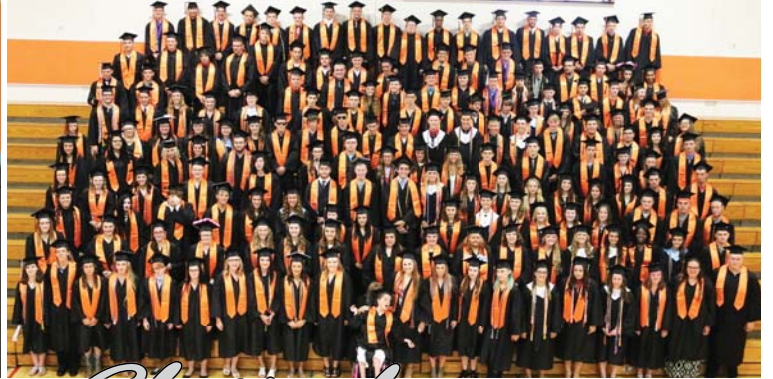


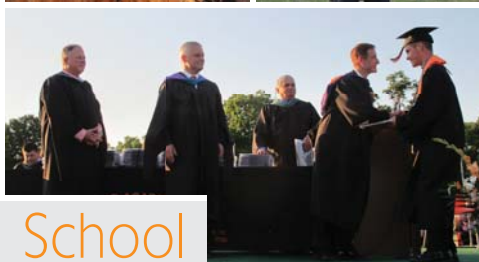


Tiger Traditions

July / August / Graduation 2016 - Volume 16 • Issue 6



Class of 2016



Top Two at Middle School

Valedictorian, right, William Ruby.
Salutatorian, left, Brody McCarthy.



For district information including a calendar of events, MACS Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district web site at www.Mexicocsd.org

A Message from the Superintendent



I hope this Tiger Traditions edition finds you enjoying our wonderful summer weather! While our 2015-16 school year had some significant challenges, it was another fantastic year at MACS! We have successes to celebrate and wonderful opportunities to look forward to in the coming school year!

We don't have all of our student achievement data for the State yet, but the preliminary data shows that this year we achieved some of our best Regents results ever. In fact, we surpassed our District

aspirational goal with 96% of our students passing in the following four areas, Algebra 2, English, U.S. History and Living Environment!

We also found success with some of our significant financial challenges. We were faced with a tax certiorari lawsuit that could have resulted in our District owing Entergy in excess of \$60 million. Through mediation, we were able to resolve the lawsuit that resulted in paying Entergy \$0.

As you know, Entergy's decision to close FitzPatrick has resulted in significant District revenue reductions for this and future years. In fact, we were potentially facing losses from the 15-16 school year of \$12.5 million to only several hundred thousand dollars annually. I am also happy to report that through mediation, we were able to negotiate a PILOT that provides our District with over \$17.8 million over the next five years. While this amount is a lot less than what we would have received if Entergy continued to operate FitzPatrick, it is most likely \$17 million more than what the outcome could have been.

Another success to celebrate was our budget. Again, I want to thank everyone for supporting our budget and our District! While we are faced with significant financial challenges for this year and future years, we were able to deliver a \$51 million budget for the 16-17 school year. While our budget was a 7% reduction from our previous year budget, it kept the student experience and our community programs in-tact while holding our tax levy steady. In the coming year and future years, we will have to work hard and be innovative in order to continue creating fiscally responsible budgets that account for our continued revenue loss from Entergy's decision to close FitzPatrick while maintaining our student experience and community programs. We will be looking for community input as we work through the process.

While the financial aspects are better than anticipated outcomes, we continue to work for a more positive outcome for FitzPatrick. It is necessary to support our families employed there as well as our community. As a member of the Upstate Jobs Coalition (UEJ), we

continue our efforts by pushing for the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC) to include nuclear energy as part of the clean energy credits.

As you know, we set the following District Goals last year.

- MACS will be in the top 10% of the school districts in New York State.
- At the conclusion of grade 3, 100% of MACS students will be reading on grade level.
- MACS will achieve a 60% proficiency rate for grades 5-8 testing in ELA and Math.
- MACS will achieve a 95% passing rate for Regents exams.

In an ongoing effort for continuous improvement in achieving these aspirational goals, we have used student achievement data to drive some instructional decision-making. One area of particular focus was math in grade K-4. As a result of our action research and the corresponding student achievement data, our teachers have determined that a transition to a more efficient and effective math instructional resource was required to improve student learning and achievement results. For the 2016-17 school year grades K-4 will be utilizing "Eureka Math" as the instructional resource for teaching math. I'm proud to report that our dedicated teaching staff utilized that last week of school when students were not in session to deepen their understanding of Eureka Math in order to maximize learning for our students.

Our dedicated teachers have also used this data-based decision making process to determine the need for an increased focus on writing in the classroom. In Grade PK-6, "Writing A to Z" will be used as an instructional resource for writing. You can expect to see our students engage in multiple forms of writing this year.

We also have some significant academic improvements at the secondary level to look forward to this coming school year. We have instituted the Onondaga Community College Credit Now Partnership Program. This program provides an opportunity for all Mexico High School students eligible to earn from a minimum of 12 college credits up to an Associate's Degree in Humanities and Social Sciences, all within their four years of high school for free! All credits are guaranteed transferable throughout the SUNY and CUNY system as well as some private colleges.

Additionally, we have partnered with our surrounding Districts as well as the Center for Instruction, Technology, and Innovation to offer the new Oswego County P-Tech High School. This program re-invents high school as a unique partnership between local industry, higher education, and public high school. It is a five to six year program resulting in a Regents diploma AND an Associate's degree in Electrical Engineering Technology or Mechanical Technology through Onondaga Community College.

A huge thanks to our Board of Education who have led the charge in making certain that we have a "state of the art" website for the upcoming new school year. They have created a sub-committee who have been working diligently throughout the 2015-16 school year to create website that is easy to use and has the latest features, which meets everyone's needs. We will be providing more information as we transition to our new website format.

Finally, I would like to end my message with a personal thank you to all. My father always told me that you don't judge character in good times. While there were many great times and events this year, we faced some challenges that could have had devastating effects on our District. The character, dedication, caring, and support that was displayed by everyone throughout our District and our community this year was amazing! While I wanted to come here because I knew Mexico was great, this year truly cemented how correct I was! Even with our challenges, I had the best year of my professional life! I thank you for it and look forward to many, many more years together!! Have a great summer!

Sean Bruno,
MACS Superintendent of Schools

Contact me at:
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www.mexicocsd.org

Special Achievement Award for Student Choreography

Mexico High Drama Students Caprice Yost, Mary Buske and Abigail Garrett received the Special Achievement Award for student choreography at the Syracuse High School Theater Awards Ceremony, at Syracuse's Landmark Theater on June 4, 2016. Their student choreography work was done for the Mexico High 2016 Spring Musical "Mary Poppins."



The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Jeremy Belfield, 16 Fravor Road, Suite A, Mexico, NY 13114, 315-963-8400 x5407 or 315-297-7780. Inquiries concerning the application of the Mexico Academy & Central Schools non-discrimination policies may also be referred to the U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 32 Old Slip, 26th Floor, New York, NY 10005, telephone (646) 428-3800 (voice) or (800) 877-8339 (TTY).



Proud to be MACS

Sally Oliver, MACS Diving Coach,

was selected as the May 2016 MACS Honoree. Sally was born and raised in Syracuse and graduated from Nottingham High School in 1970. She attended SUNY Cortland and graduated with a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1974. Sally continued with graduate work at the same university, earning 33 hours and a certification in elementary education. Her first teaching position was at the Millard Fillmore Elementary School in Moravia where she worked as a physical education teacher. In 1975, Sally married Dr. Reid Oliver and in 1977 the couple moved to Pulaski where Dr. Oliver joined the (then), partners of the (now), North Country Veterinary Service. During the next years, Sally worked as a substitute teacher and taught both physical education and nursery school. In 1980, the Oliver's first daughter, Molly, was born, and Abby followed in 1983. Sally remained home with her children for a number of years, and worked as a substitute teacher as well. In 1997 she took a position as a teaching assistant at Mexico Middle school and it was at this time that she became the diving coach. Why? "Because they needed a diving coach," she answers. And, "I was the state champion for collegiate diving for 3 meter and second for 1 meter." Although Sally accepted a full-time teaching position as a fifth grade teacher in Pulaski, she continued as the diving coach for the MACS girls' team until 2013, at which time she stepped away to be available when her second grandson was born. She continues as the MACS boys' varsity diving coach and the modified coach, working with the divers six days a week, from November to the beginning of March. She also continues as an AIS math teacher in Pulaski. About the job of coaching divers Sally says, "I love it. It makes my day every day. With diving, I have one-on-one time so I get to know them really well." Considering the MACS award, she says, "It was a total surprise, a huge honor. The fact that I just coach here and they thought enough of me to honor me is fantastic."



Lindsey McCaw, Mexico Elementary Kindergarten Teacher,

was chosen as the June 2016 Proud to be MACS honoree. Lindsey grew up in Lowville, NY and graduated from Lowville Academy in 2001. She attended Jefferson Community College and earned an associate's degree in 2003, and followed this with a bachelor's degree in childhood education and certification in early childhood education from SUNY Oswego in 2005. She has since earned a master's degree in literacy from SUNY Oswego. Lindsey began her teaching career at Mexico Elementary School as an AIS reading and math teacher in the fall of 2005. In the fall of 2007 she became a kindergarten teacher and has continued in this position since that time. Also in 2007, Lindsey married David McCaw. Two children then joined the family; Carter in 2009 and Allison in 2012. Speaking about her teaching role Lindsey says, "I come to school every day hoping to instill life-long lessons in the children because character education is a top priority for me. We do this by having a sense of community and family within our classroom and beyond." Lindsey and the two other kindergarten teachers in the school, Jeannie Grant and Laurel von Holtz, work closely together as a team. Considering the academic work at this level, Lindsey explains, "The goal is that they will leave us reading and writing, having a solid number sense, and be fluid in addition and subtraction." Reaching these goals leads to job satisfaction, as she indicates by saying, "I think the best part of the job happens in April when you sit down and see what progress they've made - see how they've grown as learners." As for challenges, "You only have them for a certain amount of time... Letting go is the hardest part." Asked how she feels about the award, Lindsey says, "I'm humbled. While I'm extremely grateful, I do feel it should be a team award to honor the efforts of the entire kindergarten team." Lindsey lives in Mexico with her husband and children.



Mexico Middle School Celebration of Learning

The Mexico Middle School Celebration of Learning was held on May 11, 2016, at the school. Many parents and students attended the event that is designed, much like an open house, to shine the spotlight on what the students had learned so far this year. Teachers were present in classrooms to visit with families and the 7th grade science fair was held in the gymnasium. In addition, a multitude of organizations had displays set up for visitors to gather information and to learn about what is offered in the community.



Carolyn Zedack and her mother, Lois Zedack, visited with MACS Physical Education Teacher Mark Brescia in the Mexico Middle School fitness room during the Celebration of Learning.



Get Ready, Get Set, Row!!

The 2016 MACS Cardboard Regatta was held on Friday, May 20, 2016, at Mexico High School. Students from all three elementary schools were invited to participate, and all three schools were represented with: eighteen students, two principals (Peg Scorzelli and Rick Chapman), and one bus driver. The boats were made outside of school and the students were allowed assistance from their parents. In total, 11 boats were in the regatta.

2016 National Art Honor Society Induction Ceremony

Twenty-six Mexico High School students were inducted into the National Art Honor Society on Monday, April 18, 2016. The ceremony was held in the auditorium of Mexico Middle School. The new inductees (in Bold) and current members are pictured, front, left to right: **Desiree Mullen**, Kylee Hartle, Jamie Maynes, and Jordan Maynes. 2nd row: **Emily Morey**, **Sara Greenway**, **Rachael Wideman**, and Anna LaBouef. 3rd row: **Kaylee Ingison**, **Subin Kwak**, Sarah Hubbel (President), **Gretchen Arnold**, and Anna Lentzer (Treasurer). 4th row: **Samantha McCombie**, **Sierra Spohn**, Hannah Sheldon (Vice President), and **Karissa Summell**. 5th row: Elizabeth Lasinski and **Adriana Walts**. 6th row: **Chynia Cummins**, **Danielle Czirr**, **Larissa Snyder**, and Brooke Ouder Kirk. 7th row: **Morgan Rhoads**, **Karlin Twiss**, **Brandi Saladin**, Nicholas Saladin, and Alex Joss-Forbes (Secretary). Absent from photo: Julia Comins, Tyler LaPage, Jolene Pettit, Paige Pettit and Samantha Waloven.



MACS Annual Top 100 Dinner

The MACS Annual Top 100 Dinner was held at Mexico High School on June 6, 2016. The top 25 students of academic standing were recognized for each grade level. In addition, seniors who have reached the top 25 each year received the Above and Beyond Award (pictured).

Emery Receives Achievement Award

Congratulations to James Emery who received the Central New York School Boards Association (CNYNSBA) Board Member of Achievement Award. James Emery has served on the MACS Board of Education for the past 20 years, and as president for the past three years.



MACS MCJROTC 2015-2016 Award Ceremony



The MACS MCJROTC 2015-2016 Award Ceremony was held on May 20, 2016 at the Mexico VFW Post 369, in Mexico. The event included a dinner and the presentation of numerous awards for the 2015-16 school year.

Librarian of the Year

Congratulations to Mexico High School Librarian Nicole Nicosia who was named "Librarian of the Year" by the School Library System of New York State.



Retirement Congratulations

Congratulations and sincere thanks for the many years of service to: Jeff Baum, Dennis Birdsell, Sherry Buskirk, Melanie Chapman, Bonnie Cleveland, Grace Halbert, Keith Himes, Kay Julien, William Kays, Joe Malone, Carol McCarty, Bridget O'Brien, Patricia Prosser, Patrick Ross, Don Simon, Sue Smith, and Virginia Wilson.

New Haven Elementary Grandparents' Luncheon

One-hundred eighty-three grandparents visited New Haven Elementary School on May 10, for the pleasure of sharing lunch with their grandchildren during the school day. Fourth grade student Logan Abbott is pictured here with his grandparents, Ron and Debbie Abbott. Logan gave a thumbs up when asked about the sub sandwiches his grandparents brought in for lunch. The Abbotts are from New Haven.



Our Deepest Sympathy
for the family of Emily Parkhurst

MACS Block "M" Athletic Banquet

The Mexico High School 2016 Block "M" Athletic Banquet was held on June 2, 2016. Upwards of 40 students were recognized and awarded for their outstanding athletic contributions to the MACS sports teams throughout the 2015-16 school year.

Athletes of the Year

Hunter Hellinger and Kendra Harter received the 2016 Lawrence "Sparky" Rector Athlete of the Year Awards. Sparky Rector, center, presented the awards.



New Haven Chorus Concert

The New Haven Elementary Chorus Concert was held on Thursday, May 12, 2016, at Mexico Middle School. The chorus is made up of third and fourth grade students and is directed by MACS Music Teacher Keith Himes. The theme of the concert was the 'History of Jazz.'



2016 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Janice H. Clark, left, and Ellen (Perlet) Blythe are the 2016 inductees to the MACS Athletic Hall of Fame.

Announcing the Mexico Middle School News Crew!

There is a News Crew on site at Mexico Middle School.

The News Crew Club meets during 10th block under the direction of MACS Teacher Rick Lenahan and MACS Teaching Assistant Julie Osborn. These students meet, discuss current school news stories, set up appointments, and travel the school interviewing and filming for their newscasts.



Members of the News Crew Club, seated: Ella McCoy, left, and Anna Trumble. Standing, left to right: Alyssa Webster, Alexa Von Holtz, Jacob Hadcock, Adria Ariola, and Sage Clement.

MACS Memorial Day 2016

Mexico Academy and Central School proudly participated in both the Mexico and New Haven Memorial Day Parades and Cemetery Services on May 30, 2016.



Above: Mexico Middle School Marching Band - New Haven Parade



New Haven Elementary School - New Haven Parade



Above: MACS John Ocker, Student Reader of Gettysburg Address - Mexico Cemetery Service

While on the job, the students wear media badges which they created. The students also do 75 - 80 percent of the editing of the newscasts, which are ultimately shown in homerooms first thing in the morning, once a week.



Mexico Elementary Celebration of Learning

The June 9, 2016 Mexico Elementary School Celebration of Learning drew a crowd of hundreds. Parents and children visited classrooms and teachers and enjoyed a K-4 art display. MACS Art Teacher Patricia Brooks, left, stands with Amanda Russell and her children; Alexia, Emma, and Ethan, and her nephew, Hunter Stinson (being held).



Pictured: MACS Art Teacher Dave Maidens presented the 2016 Art Awards (PathFinder Bank and Dunkin' Donuts with National Art Honor Society), to: Sarah Hubbell, Hannah Sheldon, Anna Lentzer, and Alexander Joss-Forbes. The Rzepecki Art Scholarship was awarded to Sarah Hubbell.

2016 Senior Awards Night

The Mexico High School Class of 2016 Senior Scholarships/ Awards Night was held on June 8, 2016 at Mexico Middle School. Multiple special presentations/scholarships, special mention awards, senior awards and local scholarships were given. In addition, over \$15,000 in MACS Dollars for Scholars Scholarships were awarded.



French Honor Society Inductions

Mexico High School French students Brionna Emery, Abigail Maciejko, Logan Craig, Dayton Corl, and Jose Balaguer were inducted into the Societe Honoraire de Francais at a formal ceremony on April 7, 2016, at the Greenside Restaurant in Pulaski, NY. The students are taught by MACS French Teacher Kimberley Harter.

Congratulations

to the following Mexico students who will be part of the inaugural Oswego County Pathways in Technology Early College High School, P-TECH class:

Timothy Keegan, Destiny Switts, Austin Tyrell, Jeremiah Waterman, Grant Williams, and Ian Yager.

New Haven Celebration of Learning



The June 9, 2016 Celebration of Learning at New Haven Elementary School was a grand success with well over 500 parents, grandparents, and children attending. The event included: a cookout with hot dogs, chips, and drinks; playground time; student recitation of the '7 Habits'; a song by the Pre-K; visits to the classrooms; a treasure hunt for the seven habits; and a book fair.

Mexico Middle School Art Showcase Winners

The June 13, 2016 Mexico Middle School Art Showcase winners are, from left to right: 3rd Place - Avery West with "Sunset Love," 2nd Place - Alison Chmielewski with "Van Gogh Reinvented," and 1st Place - Sydney Lawton with "The Horse."



Palermo Career and Wellness Day

The fourth grade students at Palermo Elementary School enjoyed Career and Wellness Day on Friday, June 18, 2016. The students spent the morning exploring career opportunities with specialists from five fields including environmental conservation, landscaping, nursing, food service, and K-9 law enforcement. During the afternoon the students learned about maintaining wellness by being active. Career and Wellness Day is an annual event at Palermo Elementary School.

MACS 2016 Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony

The Mexico High School 2016 Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction Ceremony was held at Mexico Middle School on April 21, 2016. The event included the induction of seven students into the Tri-M Music Honor Society Chapter 3403. The inductees pictured front, left to right, are: Baxter Mason and Angel Newcombe. Center: Sheila Wallis and Rachel Munson. Back: Morgan Rhoads, Joshua Washer, and Karlin Twiss.



MACS German Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Nine students were inducted into the MACS German Honor Society, Delta Epsilon Phi, during a ceremony that was held on May 5, 2016, in the Hungerford Library at Mexico High School. The inductees standing front, left to right, are: Alyssa David, Shannon Michaelis, Haliee Woods, and Calla Lewis. Standing in back: Jose Balaguer, Rachel Rose, Shelby Burrows, Nicholas Hartmann, and Karissa Summell.

Mexico District 4th Grade Band 2016 Spring Concert



The Mexico District 4th Grade Band Spring Concert was held on Thursday, June 16, 2016, at the Mexico Middle School. Over 80 musicians performed seven songs under the direction of MACS Music Teacher Glen Gagnier. MACS Music Teacher Gina Giufre conducted "Beethoven's Ninth" and MACS Music Teacher Keith Himes played in the band.



MACS 2016 Spanish Honor Society Inductees

Five Mexico High School students were inducted into the MACS 2016 Spanish Honor Society during a ceremony held at the school on May 12, 2016. Standing, from left to right, are inductees: Brandon Dutcher, Tyler Grasso, Brandi Maynes, Shania Purchas, and Allyson Ruby.

MACS 2016 National Math Honor Society Inductions



Thirty-three Mexico High School students were inducted into the National Math Honor Society on Monday, April 18, 2016. The induction ceremony was held in the auditorium at Mexico Middle School. The new inductees (in bold), are pictured among current National Math Honor Society members. Pictured front, left to right are: **Lydia Becker, Emily Blunt, Taylor Hall**, Corrinne Perrotti, **Deanna Spencer, Raeann Ouderkirk, Elizabeth Spencer, Sarah Hubble**, and Alyssa Greco. 2nd row: Meghan Kearney, Kendra Harter, **Bailey Wills, Victoria Ross, Brianna Clark**, Gretchen Arnold, and **Kylene Fletcher**. 3rd row: Marteen Arena, **Kassidy Myers**, Anna LaBouef, **Hannah Sheldon, Becca Saya, Caitlin Spurling**, and **Erin Gilmore**. 4th row: **Victoria Brownell, Abigail Burrows, Brooke Fralick**, and **Shyanne Hellinger**. 5th row: Kennedy Lamb, **Hannah Henderson, Elizabeth Lasinski, Jack Baldwin, Abigale Weber**, Aaron Shopland, and Noah Galluzzo. 6th row: **Nicholas Galluzzo, Liam Simko, Benjamin Pelow, Austin Whitaker**, and **Sean Heagerty**. Absent from the photo is: Abigayle Garrett, Audrey Hull, Alissia Seeburger.

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Learning Beyond the School Walls



Mexico High Chorus and Band Travel to Myrtle Beach, SC

Eighty-five Mexico High chorus and band students had the terrific opportunity to travel to Myrtle Beach during spring break, April 22-26, 2016. The musicians performed at Ripley's Aquarium at Broadway, on the shore of Myrtle Beach, and once more at Barefoot Landing. The trip was led by MACS Band Teacher Brian Carnes and MACS Choral Director Hope Greco-Gaham.

Musicians Perform at Disney

The Mexico Middle School Band traveled to Disney World in Orlando, Florida over spring break in April, 2016. Over 75 musicians took the trip that included:



an instrumental workshop, performing/marching in the Epcot Parade, and visits to Hollywood Studios and Magic Kingdom. Mexico Middle School Symphonic and Marching Bands both received excellent ratings from the competitions they participated in. Kevin Upcraft, Mexico Middle School Band Director, led the trip.



The fourth grade students of Mexico Elementary School took a field trip to the one-room schoolhouse in Palermo on Wednesday, June 16, 2016. At the schoolhouse the students learned some of what a school day was like for a child living 150 years ago. MACS Teacher Linda Daly, standing right, explained what the consequences were for various misdeeds, including writing sentences on the chalk board over and over. The field trip to the authentic one-room schoolhouse is a favorite among fourth grade students in the Mexico School District.

AVID Students Spend Day in Enterprise America City

Thirty-seven Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), students from Mexico Middle School spent an exciting and educational day at Enterprise America in the WCNY Education Center, at the studio in Syracuse, on May 17, 2016. AVID is an elective class at the middle school that incorporates writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, note-taking and study skills. The Enterprise America experience is a day-long, hands-on adventure in a miniature city located in WCNY's Education Center. MACS AVID Teachers Stewart Smith and Kim Julian prepared the students for the experience and coordinated the field trip.



MACS AVID students: Grant Williams, Destiny Hull, Jade Windey, and Marissa Hammond with MACS Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction Mary Beth Horn, who joined in on the WCNY field trip.