



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

April 2022 Volume 27 • Issue 6

Class of 2022 Top 10 announced



The top 10 seniors in the Mexico High School Class of 2022 have been unveiled with the addition of an 11th student to the distinguished group.

Mackenzie Craig earned the distinction of valedictorian for the class while Kendall Cuyler was named salutarian.

Along with Craig and Cuyler, others earning Top 10 status this year include Autumn Parkhurst, Lauren Salisbury, Rylee Buskey, Alecsis Buda, Abigail Hinman, Carolyn Zedack, Ayden Jensen, Ryan Leidka and Morgan Eastman.

Mexico High School Principal James Busco made the official announcement in the beginning of March, noting that these

students have demonstrated the ability to not only persevere through the pandemic, but also to achieve greatness inside and outside of the classroom.

"All of us in the Mexico Academy & Central School District (MACS) family are proud of the accomplishments of this prestigious group," Busco said. "We know that the sky is the limit in the success that they will achieve after they leave the hallowed hallways of Mexico High School."

Mexico's 2022 graduation ceremony is scheduled for Friday, June 24, at 7 p.m.

Mexico Elementary experiences Senegal

Students at Mexico Elementary got to experience the rhythm, sound and dance of West Africa virtually through CiTi's Distance Learning program.

The experiential workshop, titled Experience Senegal, allowed several of Gina Giufre's music classes to learn from a dance teaching artist and percussionist who specialize in African dance and music.

It didn't take long for the students to get involved in the workshop, learning to count a drum's rhythm and then getting heavily involved in learning different dance patterns. The program was set up like a standard dance class with students learning the Kou Kou, one of the most popular dances in West Africa, as well as a traditional Senegalese song.

"Gina is the one who requested this program and she is incredible," said CiTi's Kristin Edwards, a distance learning specialist who helps many districts with distance learning projects. "She reached out to me very early in the school year because she had plans to do a unit on West African music around this time of year."

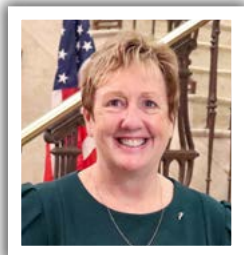
Smiles and laughter were abundant as students took part in the interactive experience, and Edwards noted Giufre hopes to have another unit later this year featuring Chinese culture.

More information on the Distance Learning program can be found on the CiTi BOCES website, CiTiBOCES.org under the Instructional Technology tab.



A message from the Superintendent

Dear MACS School Family and Community,



Welcome to the spring of 2022! It's a great time to be a part of this District, and I want to share a few highlights regarding some of the exciting things happening in our schools.

Full-Day Pre-K

We are excited to finally offer full-day pre-K opportunities for our youngest scholars! The plan is to host two classes at each elementary building for

108 students. The cost is covered with a combination of grant and general funding. The curriculum will be based on focused play and foster a sense of creativity in real and imagined scenarios. As they develop gross and fine motor skills, the children will establish essential language, critical thinking and communication skills.

School-Based Health Centers

Through our partnership with ConnexCare, our school-based health centers provide prompt, convenient quality health care to ALL students enrolled in our school district. We have locations in Mexico Elementary School and Mexico Middle School. Families from Palermo and New Haven can bring their children to the Middle School to be seen by a health care provider. Services include primary care, dental care, behavioral health services and mental health counseling. There are no out-of-pocket charges for services provided. Insurance will be billed, and ConnexCare has Outreach Coordinators who can help you obtain insurance if you don't have medical

coverage. You do not have to change primary care doctors or transfer records. Call (315) 298-1903 for more information.

Visioning

While enjoying current success, we must look to the future regarding the sustainability of both our infrastructure and academic programs. We are in the process of conducting our Building Condition Survey, which is a New York State requirement to be done every five years. With the expert support of our architects, CPL, we are evaluating the condition of our buildings, including the systems within. Once that evaluation is complete, we will have a cohesive document outlining recommendations regarding the repair and upkeep of the various facilities. Then the District can offer a proposal to the Board of Education and community members explaining needed care for the buildings and grounds. Under the guidance of Assistant Superintendent Ms. Colleen Root, we are evaluating curriculum and instruction at all grade levels and content areas to plan intentionally to elevate learning for improved student outcomes.

Thank you for being an integral part of our success by partnering with us to educate the children of this community! The future is bright, and our scholars will be prepared to shine within that light.

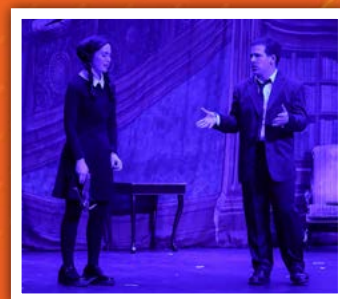
Sincerely,

Donna Runner

Dr. Donna Runner
Superintendent of Schools



'The Addams Family' musical staged at Mexico High School



Information from the District Clerk

The Annual District Budget Vote & BOE Election for two (2) open positions will take place on:

Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from noon to 9 p.m.

Public Hearing on the 2022-2023 District Budget Vote:

Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6 p.m.,

Mexico Middle School Auditorium

Last day for voter registration for this election is May 12, 2022. Voter registration can be done every day, by appointment, 315-963-8400 ext. 5401 at the District Office, 16 Fravor Road, Suite A, Mexico, N.Y. Please make sure you bring a photo I.D. and proof of residency.

Please note: The voting process will look a little different compared to years' past as Oswego County is no longer allowing districts to use county-owned voting machines. Because of this, paper ballots will be submitted and hand-counted by election personnel. Questions regarding this may be directed to the District Office.

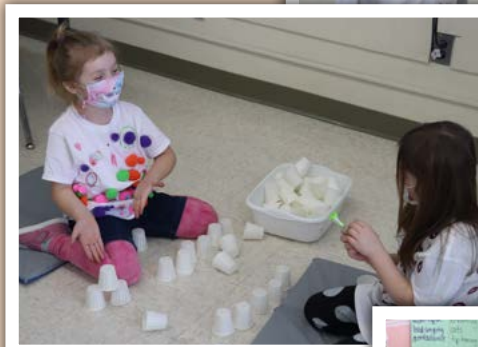
Need an absentee ballot? A qualified voter may vote as an absentee voter under this section if during all the hours of voting on the day of an election if they will be: absent from the county of his or her residence; or unable to appear at the polling place because of illness or physical disability, or duties related to the primary care of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled, or because he or she will be or is a patient in a hospital; or an inmate or patient of a veteran's administration hospital; or absent from his or her voting residence because he or she is detained in jail awaiting action by a grand jury or awaiting trial, or confined in jail or prison after a conviction for an offense other than a felony, provided that he or she is qualified to vote in the election district of his or her residence.



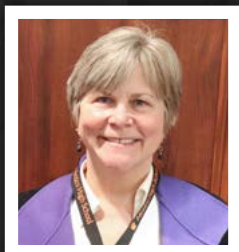
Absentee ballots, Board of Education petitions and more information on the annual budget can be found on the Mexico CSD website at mexicocsd.org/Page/1001 by scanning the nearby QR code.

100 Days at Palermo Elementary

Students from Palermo Elementary and around the district celebrated 100 days of learning and growth with a number of activities themed around the number 100. Many wore shirts with 100 of a certain object or item on them. Students stacked cups, painted, had treats and much more to mark the milestone.



Proud to be MACS



Nancy Kather, January 2022

Longtime district technology, computer education and support specialist Nancy Kather was honored in January as the Proud to be MACS recipient of the month.

Nancy grew up in a military family, as her dad was a corpsman in the U.S. Navy. As a result, her family moved often but she would graduate locally from Tully High School near Syracuse.

After graduation, Nancy earned a bachelor's and master's degree at Syracuse University and helped finance her education by joining the U.S. Army Reserves. She began her teaching career in grades 4-12 with the DeRuyter school district before instructing grades 9-12 in Carthage.

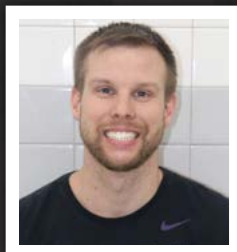
Five years later, Nancy returned to central New York to open an art gallery and picture frame business in Skaneateles. During this time she substituted at her alma mater, Tully, and would expand her role to assist students and teachers using technology. She was offered a full-time position as a teaching assistant in 1992.

Ultimately, she began working at Citi BOCES (then Oswego County BOCES) in 2007 and began serving the Mexico district the same year. Nancy still serves our district today and works as an Instructional Support Services and Itinerant Computer Education Specialist.

Nancy is a strong follower of the Blended Learning model and continues to utilize Project Based Learning Initiatives, believing that a demonstration of knowledge via projects is just as important in determining a student's knowledge as standard testing or assessments.

As for her favorite part of working with our District, Nancy is very proud of the success of our Blended Learning Program and has greatly enjoyed working with our staff, who she gave glowing compliments for their willingness to try different options to encourage our students.

Nancy's favorite memory involves an example of student led or driven education. The example involved students creating, designing and developing a game. By playing this game, the students learned content and demonstrated their knowledge of this content. The students were excited about learning which, in Nancy's opinion, should be education's goal or, in other words, "the end in mind."



Shawn Parkhurst, February 2022

The Board of Education honored high school physical education teacher and varsity boys and girls swimming and diving coach Shawn Parkhurst as the Proud to be MACS recipient for February 2022.

Shawn grew up in the New Haven area and is a MACS alumnus. The son of parents Melissa and Sidney, Shawn would run outdoor track for the Tigers but truly shined in the pool.

He began swimming at age 8 with the youth swimming program Mexico Tiger Sharks and ultimately graduated as Mexico's most-decorated swimmer at the time. Shawn earned five individual Section III Class B titles, three overall Section III titles and eight school records (six individual and two relay) in addition to earning National Interscholastic Swim Coaches Association All-American in the 200 freestyle.

Shawn continued his excellence in college, swimming at Division I Canisius College, becoming the university's first swimmer to win five individual conference titles.

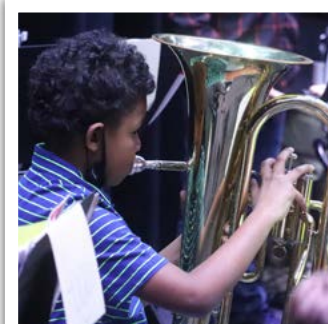
Fortunately for MACS, Shawn joined their staff and has since been a teacher of physical education at the high school and working with students of all ages throughout the year.

"Not many people could adapt their style and personality to match the student that they are serving quite like Coach Parkhurst does. One moment he might be working with a 5-year-old, then a state-ranked athlete, and moments later a 45-year-old. All while having the proper tone and demeanor to clearly communicate his objective and get them to respond in a positive manner."

As for his favorite memory, it is his very impressive pass rate for the swimming test, that is, he takes great satisfaction in knowing that many students have acquired survival skills that may come in handy someday. Shawn also takes great satisfaction in seeing the transformation of some students from being terrified by the water to enjoying it.

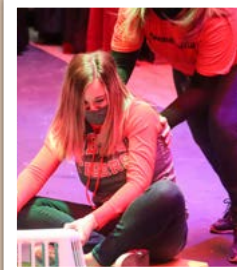


New Haven rocks out at Beginner Band Night



The New Haven Elementary fourth-grade took part in Beginner Band Night on-stage at the Mexico Middle School along with music instructors Mrs. Lenora Salzler and Mr. Glen Gagnier.

MACS Middle School Q2 celebration



Universal pre-K registration for the 2022-2023 school year



The Mexico Central School District offers a Universal Pre-Kindergarten program to children who will be 4 years old by Dec. 1, 2022, and registration is now open.

Classes are located at Mexico Elementary, Palermo Elementary and New Haven elementary schools and is free of charge.

Beginning in the 2022-23 school year, the district is anticipating transitioning from the current half-day pre-K option to all full-day pre-K offerings. The registration deadline is Friday, May 6.

If the district receives more applications than available student spaces, we will employ a lottery process and randomly draw names until all spaces are filled. Transportation is provided to the school within your attendance zone.

The district strongly recommends completing registration as soon as possible. Packets for registration can be found on the district website, MexicoCSD.org.

Interested in getting a jump on reading early? Receive a free book every month to read with your child for ages newborn through age 5 via Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, available anywhere in Oswego County. For more information and how to sign up, visit MexicoCSD.org/imaginationlibrary.

MISSION:

Educate and motivate our students to be successful, responsible citizens.

VISION:

Recognized as a school district that inspires excellence and leadership in all!

CORE BELIEFS:

- We put students first.
- All students can learn.
- We provide a safe, secure environment for all.
- Collaboration among students, staff, families and the community is essential to our success.
- Our schools are the heart of the community.
- We value creativity and innovation.
- We lead with honesty and integrity.
- Our supportive and rigorous learning environment nurtures the whole child.
- All are treated with dignity, respect and compassion.

Mexico finishes 3rd at 100th OCAY League

Students representing MACS took third place in the third Oswego County Academic Youth (OCAY) League competition of the 2021-22 school year. The eight-team competition was the 100th in the organization's history and was labeled the "Centennial Celebration."

The event kicked off with three major anniversary-themed challenges. Teams from each school district were first challenged to redesign the OCAY League's 25-year-old logo, followed by a request for student-driven mission and vision statements to replace the original. Each team was also tasked with brainstorming a motto for the event that was both attention grabbing and reflected the values of the league.

In pairs, students took five different quizzes that featured past topics used throughout the OCAY League's 25-year history. Topics included the 1970s, anatomy and physiology, Greek mythology, world currency and authors.

Scores were based on overall quiz score, logo design, vision and mission statement, and motto. The third-place team from Mexico High School was comprised of Adria Ariola, Mackenzie Craig, Kendall Cuyler, James Galvin and Alexander Gayne.

"The OCAY League's 100th event challenged students to set the stage for our next 100 competitions," OCAY League Coordinator Caitlin White said. "Developing a logo, motto, mission and vision statement is no easy task, and every team successfully met that challenge. Congratulations to all teams on a job well done!"

OCAY League was organized in the spring of 1997 with the idea that academics merit a standing comparable to athletics. Students' academic skills are challenged and showcased in a wide variety of competitive events that emphasize scholastic excellence, team building, leadership and creativity. A particular strength of the league is its emphasis on cooperative problem-solving. OCAY League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's gifted and talented program.



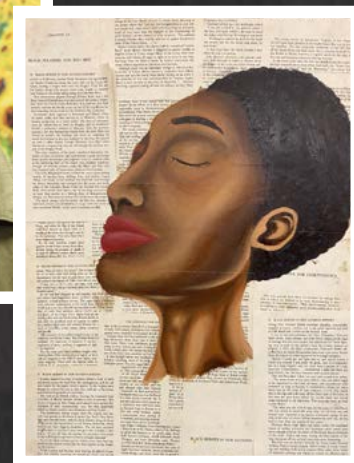
HS senior Adams honored by CNY Scholastic Art Awards

Mexico High School senior RaShaun Adams was recognized recently by the CNY Scholastic Art Awards for his hard work and ability shown in an oil painting on collage. Adams was the only student from the high school recognized by the awards showcase, earning honorable mention for his work titled "Confidence."

In a written excerpt, Adams writes about his artwork: "Confidence. The subject of this painting is basking in the glory of her race; the beauty in the color of her skin. Being raised in a small, predominantly white, republican town has clouded my perception of myself for a very long time. Only recently have I been able to shake off those shackles to not only accept who I am but love it. I believe the woman portrayed is experiencing a similar realization. She is contrived entirely with oil paint and the background was constructed from a discarded book titled "Black Heroes in Our Nation's History" that I couldn't bear to see wasted."

Adams' teacher Brittany Malone said she was really happy with the artwork and effort.

"I'm incredibly proud of RaShaun, this was an independent piece that he had been working on," said Malone. "I'm happy to see his hard work and dedication to the arts being recognized at scholastics this year."



Building STEM skills and robots: MACS VEX Robotics

The Mexico High School VEX Robotics program sent three teams to the state championships in March.

The teams, under the guidance of high school science educator Galen Fellows and mathematics educator Benjamin McAuslan, earned places in the state championship with strong performances throughout the year, including a tournament championship at West Genesee High School.

"It was just our third tournament of the season and all of the teams did a fantastic job problem-solving and working through issues to get here and during the day," said Fellows of the teams' performance. "So proud of all of them and looking forward to more excitement as we go."

VEX Robotics competitions allow students to problem-solve in a competitive, game-style format utilizing skills like engineering, building, computer programming, communication and teamwork to achieve a common goal. These competitions also serve as a platform for students to branch out and work toward higher aspirations that are entirely student-directed.

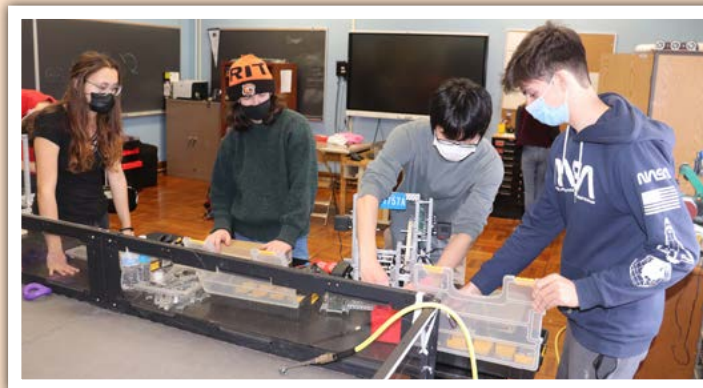
At the West Genesee competition, Fellows noted the program's team of six freshmen impressed many and formed an alliance with another NYS team from near the Massachusetts border. They fought their way to tournament champions together, securing MACS a second ticket to compete at the March 12 state championships.

The team works after school four days a week, into the evenings together, modifying robots to better suit game elements and practicing gameplay or different scenarios. The organization is mostly student-driven, with Fellows and McAuslan serving as mediums to bounce ideas off of or to help with logistical or part concerns.

"Ever since our first VEX group started up, the kids have been extremely motivated and self-driven, they lead each other and work together very well," said Fellows. "They're a great group of kids and we are always looking to add anyone who is interested."

Current active members of the group include seniors James Galvin and Alex Gayne; juniors Tsubasa Kobayashi, Chloe Restani, Alex Shomo, Trevor Bartlett, and Paige Masrouri; sophomore Julianna Ricker; and freshmen Zoe Grezsik, Bennett Bertolloni, Cosette Laffan, Alissa Wilson, Hailey Lindsley, and Sarah Marsden. The qualified teams advanced to the championships at The Oncenter Nicholas J. Pirro Convention Center in Syracuse on March 12.

The group also showcased some of its robots and allowed MACS students of all ages to pilot robots and participate in STEM activities during the upcoming Community Connection Day.



Members of the Mexico High School VEX Robotics program perform maintenance on their bot during a recent practice session. Pictured from left is junior Paige Masrouri, senior James Galvan, junior Tsubasa Kobayashi and junior Alex Shomo.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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Follow us on our new Instagram page for photos and videos from schools and events: @macs_pride

For more information on the ***School-Based Health Centers*** and their services, visit mexicocsd.org/SBHC or scan the nearby QR code!

ConneXtCare™
A Community of Care



SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS RIGHT AT MACS!

The Health & Dental Center at Mexico Elementary School
For students at Mexico El and Mexico HS



The Health Center at Mexico Middle School
For students at Mexico MS, Palermo and New Haven