



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence And Leadership For All!

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MACS Welcomes Ryan Lanigan As New Principal of Mexico High School



couple became engaged in 2009 and married in 2010. Before the wedding however, Ryan saw an opening for an assistant principal at Fulton Junior High School. "I was lucky enough in 2009 to get that job," he says. "It was a challenge I was ready for." It was also an opportunity for him to return to Central New York where he had grown up. In December of 2011 Ryan was promoted to principal of Fulton Junior High. He remained in that position until accepting the job as principal of Mexico High School this fall.

Speaking about the transition from junior-high to high school administration, he says, "I was interested in getting back to work with high school students because I enjoy this age group and helping mold them and prepare them for life. Mexico was very appealing to me because I had heard, and now have learned, that the staff and the community go above and beyond for their children and our students. I was highly impressed by the high graduation rate and the level of academic achievement. I wanted to be part of this success."

On October 10, 2016 Ryan assumed the role of Mexico High School Principal, but he was present for the 2016 Homecoming Parade and Powder Puff Game the preceding Friday. When asked how he liked the parade he answered, "That was the coolest thing I've ever seen!"

As principal, Ryan's days include: meeting and greeting students at the beginning of the school day; scheduling meetings with staff, department leaders, and student representatives; attending meetings; visiting classrooms; attending as many events as possible; and day to day administrative duties. Considering his role, he says, "This position allows me to be an instruction leader because of the great support I have."

Speaking about his job overall, Ryan Lanigan says, "I can't wait to get out of bed every morning and get here. I'm energized. People have been wonderful."

Mexico High School is pleased to welcome Ryan Lanigan as the new principal. Ryan grew up in Oswego and graduated from Oswego High School in 1994. He attended SUNY Brockport, lettered three years on the football team, and earned a bachelor's of science degree in physical education in 1998. Ryan student taught in the Fulton School District and worked as a substitute teacher there as well. In 2000 he took a graduate intern position as a football coach at Albright College in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Shifting direction, Ryan returned home to NY to assume a temporary physical education teaching position in Chittenango for a semester before taking a full-time physical education teaching position in Indian River Central School District in January 2001. Ryan held this position in the North Country for nine years. While there, he earned a master's degree in education from SUNY Potsdam and a second master's degree in educational leadership from the University of Cincinnati, Ohio. He also coached three varsity sports while in the Indian River School District; football, indoor track, and softball.

In 2008 Ryan met his future wife, Nicole, who, unbeknownst to him, attended SUNY Brockport during the same years he did. The

Mexico School District Capital Project Update

Construction continues throughout the Mexico School District under the current Capital Project. This project began in May of 2015 and includes a variety of construction projects, large and small, in all five school buildings as well as the bus garage.

The Pike Company is contracted for the Capital Project and, under the direction of Pike Project Manager Chris Whalen, the expected completion of the overall Capital Project is December 2017. Please check out the MACS Capital Project page on the school website: www.mexicocsd.org/capproject for continual Capital Project progress updates.



MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL EAST PORTICO BEFORE



MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL EAST PORTICO AFTER



A Message from the Superintendent



I hope this article finds you and your family well! Over the last few years, our State has directed quite a bit of change in education. Change can sometimes drain the energy and passion from our schools, and leave our staff feeling like we've lost control of our destiny. I'm happy to inform you that at Mexico, we will not accept the status quo!

We have taken back the reins to create a better

future for our school community. Through a true collaborative approach where all stakeholder groups were represented, we have created a new mission, vision, core beliefs, and strategic targets.

Through our work, we intend to re-engage, re-charge and re-invest our staff, students, parents, and community. Equally important, our work will also result in clearly articulated priorities so that we may be vertically and horizontally aligned in grades PreK-12, prioritize and right-size the breadth and scope of initiatives and allocate resources to achieve our strategic targets and District Goals. All of this will help us to more efficiently and effectively support our students in reaching their fullest potentials and *Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in ALL!*

Sometimes people ask what the difference is between the vision and the mission. A mission clearly communicates the primary aim or goal of an organization. It defines the organization's single-most important reason for being and answers the question: Why do we exist? A vision is motivational. It describes what the organization aspires to become. Finally, an organization's core beliefs act as a superset of criteria governing decision-making large and small on a daily basis. Core beliefs define and create culture and act as touchstones to guide behavior.

To the right please find our new Mission, Vision, and Core Beliefs:

Sean C. Bruno,
MACS Superintendent of Schools

MACS Mission, Vision, & Core Beliefs



MEXICO ACADEMY & CENTRAL SCHOOLS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership For All!

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 Middle School ASAP Makes a Splash!



Eighty-two Mexico Middle School students in the After School Activities Program (ASAP), dove into the pool at Mexico High on Thursday, October 20, 2016. Approximately 110 ASAP middle school students stay after, five days a week, to participate in the five activities offered: homework, active games, computer lab, arts and crafts, and board games. While this is the first swimming event this school year, the students will swim nearly every week after the winter

break in February. Approximately 25 students participate in ASAP at the high school level, where homework assistance and computer lab are the main focuses. The goal of ASAP, explains Mexico High School Assistant Principal James Busco, is "to give the kids a safe, fun environment where they can do different things each and every night, under adult supervision, while taking advantage of the great facilities our district offers - such as the pool!"

Proud to be MACS



Michael Charbonneau, Mexico High School English Teacher, was chosen as the September 2016 Proud to MACS honoree. Born and raised in Cohoes, NY, Michael graduated from Keveny Memorial Academy in 1982. He attended Le Moyne College, graduating in 1986 with a bachelor's degree in English and communications, and completed his teaching certificate at Siena College. After student and substitute teaching in the Averill Park School District, Michael accepted a position at Mexico

High School as the English 10th and 12th grade teacher. In 1992 he earned a master's degree in education from SUNY Oswego. Currently he teaches three English 12 classes, a 10th grade honors class, and one media class. During his first year at Mexico High, Michael established the school newspaper "The Talkative," and in 2005 he pioneered a media class which developed video/feature stories for a public access program called "Eye on the Tiger." In 2014 his class began the "Eye on the Tiger" Newscast that is broadcast three times a week, via YouTube, on the school website. "The kids deliver the news, record it, edit it and distribute it," explains Michael. When asked about his favorite part of his job, he says, "I love the people I work with. We were, and still are, a strong department... I love the kids, they're a lot of fun, especially when they're curious and engaged and want to look more deeply into something." Regarding the award, he says, "I was very pleased, especially when I was told Shannon Bigelow nominated me. She is a former student who I just loved working with. And now she's been my colleague for quite a few years. She's someone that I respect an awful lot, and the fact that she thought enough to nominate me made the recognition that much more special." Michael is married to MACS Teacher Danielle Dubrulle, and is the father of three. The family makes their home in Lysander.

Kristine Gagnon, Mexico Elementary Special Education Teacher, was selected as the October 2016 Proud to be MACS honoree. Kristine grew up in Grafton, VT, and graduated from Bells Falls High School. Post high school, she studied at Springfield College in Springfield, MA, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation and disabilities studies, and a minor in communication disorders. Kristine then studied for her master's degree at Syracuse University, graduating with a



duel certification in general education and special education in 2013. That fall, Kristine was hired as a special education teacher assistant at Mexico Elementary School. Two years later she accepted the position of special education teacher. Meanwhile Kristine married Palermo Elementary School Physical Education Teacher Jon Gagnon in 2011, and the couple became parents to their daughter, Alexis, in 2014. Describing her work as a special education teacher, Kristine says, "I work directly with a variety of students in different settings, including small groups and individual sessions. My role involves working with students on social and emotional goals, as well as academics." What is her favorite part of the job? "I enjoy the uniqueness of my role. Working with a variety of students allows me to be creative in making the curriculum and learning accessible for all the students... The Mexico District is very welcoming. I love this building. They've been terrific with the kids - very supportive and encouraging of the things I do with my students." Considering the award, she says, "I'm very appreciative. I get to work with a lot of professionals, both in district and outside of my district, and I enjoy continually learning new things from both my students and my co-workers." Kristine and her family make their home in Mexico.

4th Grade Beginning Band Night

Many families attended the 4th Grade Beginning Band Night at Mexico Middle School on September 27, 2016. Fourth grade students from Mexico, New Haven, and Palermo Elementary Schools, and their parents and/or grandparents, learned what it takes to begin playing an instrument in the band and how the band program works.

All three elementary school music teachers, Glen Gagnier, Theresa Rutkowski, and Keith Himes, were present to provide information about band and to answer any questions the students and their families had.

Mexico Elementary School Music Teacher Keith Himes, left, and Palermo Elementary School Music Teacher Glen Gagnier explained how the MACS 4th Grade Band Program works during 4th Grade Beginning Band Night.



Caught Reading!

Dominic Oderkirk, a kindergarten student at New Haven Elementary School, was settled in with a good book about dinosaurs during classroom center time, in mid-September, when he was caught on camera. New Haven Elementary School currently has the goal of raising all student reading levels, which works toward the greater goal of Mexico School District that states, "At the conclusion of grade 3, 100% of MACS students will be reading on grade level."



In addition, New Haven Elementary School will again host the 'Readers from Birth' story hours, one evening a month, beginning in November.

New Haven Elementary School Open House



Emery, left, and MACS District Superintendent Sean Bruno, right. Chuck and Jessica Parker are parents to kindergartner Ben, front left, and third grade student Chase, front right.

Many families attended the New Haven Elementary School Open House on Thursday, September 15, 2016. The event included classroom/teacher visits, a book fair, school bus safety, snacks and more. Before visiting the classrooms, the Parker family posed for a photo with MACS Board of Education President James

MACS Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations

The 2017 nominations for the MACS Athletic Hall of Fame are due by February 1, 2017. Please find information regarding the nomination process, as well as the applications, on the district website: <http://www.mexico.org/proudtobemacs>. Once on the site, a link for the hall of fame can be found under community, athletics, or MACS Board of Education.

Palermo Elementary School Fall 2016 Open House

Classroom visits were a highlight for the multitude of families that attended the Palermo Elementary Fall 2016 Open House on September 28. In addition to classroom visits, the event included welcoming programs with chorus members singing "The Seven Habits" song, refreshments, a book fair, and family photos. Bus drivers stood ready to question the students about bus safety and reward them with balloons. MACS Board of Education members visited with attendees and also displayed the new school website.



Pictured back, left to right, are: Rachel Dann, Wyatt Dann (4th grade), Palermo Elementary 4th Grade Teacher Karen Allen, and Colleen Grzesik. Standing front, left to right, are: Jameson Dann (1st grade), Zoe Grzesik (4th grade), and Abby Grzesik (1st grade).

Mexico High School 2016-17 Foreign Exchange Students

Seven foreign exchange students are attending Mexico High School for all of the 2016-17 school year.

These students, from five different countries, are living with host families within the Mexico School District. They are attending school everyday and are participating in extracurricular activities just as local students do. All seven students are here in the states with the Education First International Education Company.



Pictured front, left to right, are: Mireia Maste Jorge from Spain; Laura Eggertswyler from Switzerland; Anne den Ouden from The Netherlands; Ewa Shilling from Germany; and Alejandra Nieto from Spain. Standing back, left to right, are: Johan Liborius from Denmark and Erik Schneider from Germany.

STEM at the Kindergarten Level



Building candy towers, from left to right: Trenton Mulcahey, Kyle Clark, Damien McConnell, and Edison Boots.

STEM is a familiar term in the Mexico School District, even at the kindergarten level. Every Wednesday, New Haven Elementary Kindergarten Teacher Nicole Virdone's students have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), lesson.

(engineering). The students stopped three times in the building process to measure the height of their towers and to record the measurement results on paper (math). One inch, three inches, five inches! Could they eat the gummy pumpkins? Yes, some were set aside for later.

On October 5, 2016, the lesson was on building candy towers using toothpicks and gummy pumpkins and, as a blended learning teacher, Nicole Virdone used a blended learning approach for the lesson/project. Prior to the lesson, Nicole recorded an instructional video for the students and at the start of the lesson they watched this video on an iPod to see the steps they would need to take (technology). Next, they drew their building blueprint on paper, and built their towers

Candy towers, pom-pom slingshots, a spiderweb bridge, and a pumpkin catapult are just a few of the STEM lessons the kindergartners experienced this fall. What is Nicole's overall assessment of the STEM lessons? "It's working really well. They're very excited about the projects. The next day they want to know if they can do it again. I like how they're using their minds, they're being creative. They love watching me on the video."

Mexico High School Fall Open House



Many families attended the Mexico High School Annual Open House on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. Students toured the building with their parents and siblings, visited teachers and classrooms, and enjoyed refreshments in the main foyer of the school. Pictured here; several families gathered in as MACS English Teacher Anne Michaelis, left, described what the students experience in her classroom during the school year.

Homecoming 2016



MACS 2016 Homecoming Parade

Unseasonably warm temperatures and sunny skies prevailed for the Mexico High School 2016 Homecoming Parade on Friday, October 7. The parade, organized by Mexico High Student Council, began at the MACS Bus Garage, traveled through the village, and concluded at Mexico High School. Floats from each class and various clubs participated.

MACS 2016

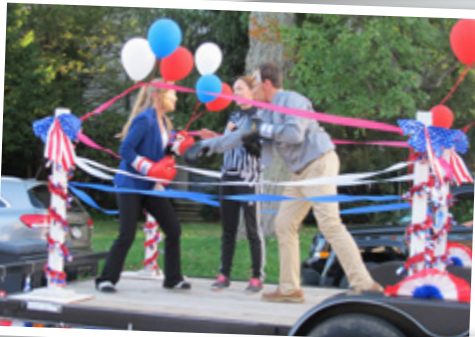
Powder Puff Game

The Mexico High seniors and juniors played the 2016 Powder Puff Game in front of a filled stadium on Friday, October 7, following the homecoming parade. At the end of the game the seniors were the winners.

MACS 2016 Homecoming

Football Game

The MACS 2016 Homecoming Football Game was played against Utica Notre Dame, at Mexico High School, on Saturday, October 8. The game had a thrilling end with Mexico victorious - 8 over 7.



Mexico Elementary School Open House Successful



Pictured here, Mexico Elementary School Music Teacher Keith Himes pauses for a photo with Jeremy and Lisa Spencer and their son Noah (kindergarten), and his classmate Kynlee Wood.

The Mexico Elementary School 2016 Fall Open House was a grand success with many, many families happily visiting classrooms and teachers, touring a Mexico Fire Department fire truck, and checking in with the MACS Transportation Department for free balloons. The Mexico Academy and Central School Faculty Association passed out cookies and pencils, and members of the MACS Board of Education greeted families and displayed the new school website.

Mexico Middle School Fall Open House 2016

The Mexico Middle School Fall Open House was a success with numerous families attending on October 5, 2016. Teachers were available in the classrooms to discuss curriculum and answer questions. A variety of student work was on display and the library held a book fair as well. Administrative members were present to greet families, as were MACS Board of Education members and MACS Faculty Association (MACSFA) members. Along with a number of community information tables, there was a bus demo outside the building. Refreshments were provided in the form of homemade apple crisp.



The Searor family, of New Haven, shopped at the book fair during Mexico Middle School Fall Open House. Pictured, from left to right, are: MACS Teacher Aide Lisa Brooks, MACS Library Teacher Kim Julian, Preston Searor (4th grade), Tara Searor, Shane Searor, and Payton Searor (6th grade).

MACS 2016-17 Board of Education



Seated front left to right: Amy Shaw, Janice Clark, Student Board Member Emily Blunt, Merrilee Gorton. Standing back row left to right: Chad Bigelow, Connie Douglas, Vice-President: Darlene Upcraft and President: James Emery.

DownBeat Percussion Performance at Mexico Elementary

The students at Mexico Elementary School enjoyed a lively performance by DownBeat Percussion, of Syracuse, on October 6, 2016. Five drummers engaged, entertained,



encouraged, and educated the students, all while keeping a beat. Members of DownBeat Percussion highlighted the importance of reading, perseverance, and teamwork, and explained that they read music, they persevere, and they work as a team. Notably, DownBeat Percussion is the official drum line of the Buffalo Bills Football Team. This presentation was a CiTi Arts-in-Education program.



Mexico Elementary Students drumming on stage, from left to right: Kerrigan Walpole (4th grade), Angel-Lee Halsey (4th grade), and Carter McCaw (2nd grade).

MACS JROTC Travels to Washington D.C.

The Mexico High School Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) traveled to Washington D.C. on October 13 – 15, 2016. The group traveled on Thursday, and started out on Friday with a visit to the Iwo Jima Memorial, tour of the Capital Building, pictured here. They then took a tour of the Capital Building, guided by the Office of Congressman Hanna. Next, they traveled to the National Museum of the United States Marine Corps, in Quantico, Virginia. On Saturday the cadets took a two – four hour walking tour of the major monuments and memorials around the reflecting pool, which included the Lincoln



and Vietnam War Memorials. They returned to Mexico on Saturday night. The trip gave the cadets opportunities to apply leadership instruction and develop esprit d'corp and teamwork, reports Mexico High Senior Marine Instructor Lt Col, John W. Freda.

Mexico High Students Take to the Project Adventure Outdoor Course



Students at Mexico High School are now using the Project Adventure Outdoor Course located behind the school. October 11, 2016, saw the first two physical education classes, under the supervision of MACS Physical Education Teacher Shawn Parkhurst, braving the rock wall and high ropes.

Before climbing, the students completed a ground training competency exercise which, when passed, allowed them to climb. On that first day, 15 students climbed and completed sections of the course, and all the students in the classes participated by either climbing or serving on the ground level. Considering the initial experiences on the course, Shawn Parkhurst says, "I thought the first day was a huge success!" Multiple physical education classes followed.

Pictured is: Dayton Corl up top and Katelyn Belcher is below

Mexico High School 2016 Fall Band and Choirs Concert



The Mexico High School 2016 Fall Band and Chorus Concert was held Tuesday, October 11, 2016, at Mexico Middle School.

The Mexico High Jazz Ensemble and the Mexico High Symphonic Band were directed by Mexico High School Director of Bands Brian Carnes. The Mexico High Concert Choir, pictured, had special guests performing with them ~ the Brick City Singers from Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT). The Brick City Singers, wearing ties here, is an a cappella group that has as their president, Ben Gilmore, a 2013 MACS Graduate. The choir was conducted by Hope Greco-Gaham, Mexico High School Director of Chorus.



MACS Elementary School Aquatics Program

Each fall, all fourth grade students in the Mexico School District participate in the MACS Aquatic Program. The program runs for five weeks, with a total of 10, 30 minute, swimming lessons in the Mexico High School pool.

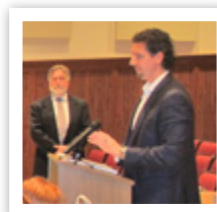
These lessons include water safety, a swimming test, beginning skills, stroke development/refinement, and free swim time. Shawn Parkhurst is the MACS Aquatic Program Instructor/Coordinator. Pictured here are Palermo Elementary School fourth grade swimmers practicing the flutter kick on September 20, 2016

Mexico High School Fall Open House



Many families attended the Mexico High School Annual Open House on Wednesday, September 21, 2016. Students toured the building with their parents and siblings, visited teachers and classrooms, and enjoyed refreshments in the main foyer of the school. Pictured here; several families gathered in as MACS English Teacher Anne Michaelis, left, described what the students experience in her classroom during the school year.

Building Condition Survey Presentation



Joseph Kosiorek, at microphone, and Phil Wise, both of SWBR Architects, Syracuse, NY, gave a Building Condition Survey Presentation during the MACS Board of Education (BOE) meeting on October 13, 2016, at Mexico Middle School. Kosiorek and Wise distributed copies of the Building Condition Survey Master Plan and reviewed the organizational structure and content of said plan. The New York State Education Department requires a Building

Condition Survey every five years and this current survey, which took one year to complete, meets this requirement. The survey covers the condition of each building in the district including such areas as: structural, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical. Work that needs to be done is noted, as well as deficiencies and priorities, construction dates, and the cost of future projects. The usage of space in all of the district's buildings is contained in the survey, as well as the floor plans and the property surveys. The Building Condition Survey is said to be a living document that allows for change and updates. SWBR Architects worked closely through the year with the MACS Facilities Department to create this document. "This is a really valuable tool for us," notes MACS Director of Facilities Michael Wood.

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Author/Illustrator Visits Palermo Elementary School

Kelly Light, author and illustrator of *Louise Loves Art* and *Louise & Andie: The Art of Friendship*, posed for a photo with first grade students following an engaging, educational, and motivational all-school presentation at Palermo Elementary on September 26, 2016.

Light, standing back, left, told the students about her childhood, her love of reading, drawing, and animation. She shared about attending Syracuse University for illustration and animation, working in animation in Hollywood, and in illustration in New York City. Light read the children two of the books, aforementioned, that she wrote and illustrated. Finally, she drew an illustration of her book character “Louise”, and answered questions the students had.

Light’s visit kicked off Palermo Elementary School’s 2016-17 Reading Celebration “Make Friends with Books”. The celebration week included: friendship bracelets and bookmarks for the students to encourage the love of

reading, a book bag, a new book, and a book fair as well.

Light encouraged the students to read saying, “Your imagination is a muscle. You have to feed it. When I read, I feed my imagination. When I draw I use my imagination.”



The year-long goal for Palermo Elementary is that 100% of the students will increase their reading levels. In addition to the class work during the school day, students are encouraged to read five out of seven days a week at home. “Reading is the most important thing we can teach you here at school,” said Palermo Elementary School Principal Peggy Scorzelli, standing back center, as she greeted the students at the beginning of the presentation. Palermo Elementary School Teacher Rita Jardin stands back right.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November - December Calendar

- Nov. 11 No School, Veterans Day
- Nov. 14 New Haven Readers from Birth, 6pm
- Nov. 21 National Honor Society Induction Ceremony
- Nov. 23-2 No School, Thanksgiving Recess
- Nov. 28 National Honor Society Blood Drive
- Dec. 6 High School Winter Concert I, Band/Chorus, 7pm
- Dec. 7 High School Winter Concert II, Band/ Chorus, 7pm
- Dec. 8 MACS Board of Education Meeting, 6pm
- Dec. 13 Grade 5/6 Band/Chorus Concert, MS, 6:30pm
New Haven Readers from Birth, 6pm
- Dec. 14 Mexico Elementary 3/4 Chorus Concert, MS, 6pm
- Dec. 15 Palermo 3/4 Chorus Concert/ Book Fair, 6pm
- Dec. 20 New Haven 3/4 Chorus Concert, 6pm
- Dec. 21 Grade 7/8 Band/Chorus Concert, 7pm
- Dec. 22 High School Holiday Jazz
- Dec. 26- Jan. 2 No School, Winter Recess

MACS French Teacher Stewart Smith Presents at NYSAFLT’s Annual Conference



Mexico Middle School French Teacher Stewart Smith was a presenter at the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers (NYSAFLT) Annual Conference in Liverpool, NY, on October 21-22, 2016. This conference was the third 2016 NYSAFLT conference that Smith attended, the result of having been awarded a full Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship for attendance. Through the conferences, Stewart expanded his resources and connected with others in his

field locally, statewide, and nationally. He acquired new tools to use in advocating for his students and implementing a better course of study for them. Stewart’s presentation at the October conference was titled “Borderless Learning for Spontaneous Speaking,” and highlighted using technology in the form of Schoology in foreign language teaching. “My main goal is that my students become productive thinkers using the foreign language, and not simply docile learners,” Stewart says. “Leaders of Tomorrow gave me the tools and the opportunity to learn how to do this and to implement it,”