

# Popular Pre-K program continues to grow



Above, 3-year-olds in Kellie Sheward's class at Anderson Elementary School have a hair-raising experience, thanks to static build-up as they play games underneath a parachute. At right, Jenna Lamb, 3, spends play time working with building blocks. Children in the class pick from several stations with educational toys, and must ask permission to move from one station to another.



Photos by Phyllis McLaughlin

## Pre-K enrollment at 160 districtwide; Anderson to expand to six classrooms, while Deputy recently added a second

**By Phyllis McLaughlin**  
*Correspondent Editor*

The best part of visiting any of the preschool classrooms in the Madison Consolidated School district is to see the energy and excitement of the children, who work together with their teachers to learn new things each day. To the untrained eye, trying to keep 3- and 4-year-olds on task is a big job – but one the staff at all Madison preschool locations embrace each day. Children in Madison’s preschool program seem to be having the time of their lives, as they learn to socialize and understand what will be expected of them in kindergarten. “We offer a balanced program in all of our preschool locations,” said Tara McKay, assistant director of special services who oversees the district’s preschool program. “Students learn through focused lessons and play ex-

periences to prepare them for kindergarten.” When the newly remodeled and expanded Anderson Elementary School opens next year, the preschool program there will be housed in its own wing, with six classrooms. “Having the preschool program integrated within our elementary schools is important,” McKay said. “I’m excited about having preschool in each of our elementaries; it completes the dynamics of the building. Families like the consistency and convenience of [preschoolers] being where their siblings are attending. It gives our students an opportunity to become familiar with the building sooner, and it’s been good for our preschool and kindergarten teachers to be able to talk with each other about what they need to be doing to make sure students are prepared for that step.”

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## Cub Inc.

### Revamped program focuses on range of business skills

**By Phyllis McLaughlin**  
*Correspondent Editor*

CUB Inc. may be one of Madison Consolidated High School’s best-kept secrets, and business teacher Charlotte Gibson is hoping to change that. Gibson has been the only business teacher at the high school for the last five years. When Principal Michael Gasaway arrived two years ago, he made rebuilding the program a priority. “We have expanded courses, continue to increase our expectations of students, have incredible community partnerships, and added Mr. Mark McFarland to our business teaching staff,” she said. “I’ve been preaching this for years, and Mr. Gasaway understands the importance of business classes. It is exciting to see our program grow.” Entrepreneurship is one of the four Pathway programs at MCHS, which offer students a number of opportunities to explore coursework affiliated with sectors in the regional workforce identified as high-wage, high-demand career fields. Additionally, the Pathways are meant to increase the number of students graduating from the high school with not only a diploma, but the opportunity for technical certifications from Ivy Tech Community College. The other pathways are Advanced Manufacturing, which offers work experience through Cub Manufacturing; Engineering, which offers work



Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin

Students Olivia Kelly, left, and Sophia Backus assemble music scores for one of the music teachers at Madison Consolidated High School. Learning such tasks is part of the requirements for completing Charlotte Gibson’s Administrative and Office Management class, which also earns college credit at Ivy Tech.

experience through Cub Engineering; and Health and Medical Sciences, which has allowed many graduates to start working right away in nursing and continue their education in the medical field. When Mr. McFarland joined the team, “one of the programs we wanted to bring back was the I.C.E. (Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education) program,” Gibson said. “A lot of people remember it as DECA or VICA, where kids go out into our community and work during the school day. Students are at school one period a day with me, where they learn things like checking and banking skills; right now we’re learning about investing. She continued: “They learn about and practice employability skills, learn how to write an impactful resume, and how to draft professional

cover letters. We take aspects of our traditional math, English or social studies classes, put them in a business context, and then help students apply them in everyday life – while preparing them for the workforce.” This year, Gibson created a new class called Administrative and Office Management, which is also a dual-credit class where students can earn high school credit as well as credit for Ivy Tech’s Introduction to Management class. “These students assist our teachers with different tasks as a way to practice what we learn in class,” Gibson explained. “We offer our services to staff within our building to help students develop office-management experience and help our teachers by lending an extra set of hands.

See CUB INC., Page 8

## In Transition

### Horvath outlines what parents can expect in Anderson move

**By Phyllis McLaughlin**  
*Correspondent Editor*

The countdown has begun for E.O. Muncie Elementary School, as students and staff prepare for an exciting transition into their new school at Anderson Elementary. All students from kindergarten through third-grade who currently attend E.O. Muncie will join existing preschool students and start the 2019-20 school year at the remodeled and expanded Anderson school, just off of Michigan Road. Construction is complete on the building, which was expanded to include classrooms for three sections each of kindergarten through fourth-grade, said Principal David Horvath. “We are very excited to get into our new building,” Horvath said. “In hindsight, I’m very glad the transition will take place over the summer. It’s what’s best for the students for several reasons: They will finish out the full year at E.O. Muncie, and when our new kindergartners join our current students, they will all make the transition together.” Horvath said he, his staff, and members of the E.O. Muncie PTO are working to plan an end-of-the-year celebration at Muncie. Plans are in the making for a community event, such as an open house, “so parents, grandparents, and community members can see our wonderful new building and feel at ease when they come here to visit us for future events.”

The first event, Future Cubs Connect (formerly Kindergarten Connect), is scheduled for Monday, April 15. Parents and their preschool- and kindergarten-age students are invited to come to the new building from 6 - 7 p.m. to register for the 2019-20 school year. During registration, the students and their families will be able to explore the building,

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Madison Consolidated Schools operates one high school, one middle school and four elementary schools (each including preschool) serving approximately 2,700 students and their families in the Madison/Jefferson County, Ind., area.

Our goal is to inspire success, boost confidence through critical thinking and problem-solving, and encourage collaborative learning. Our rigorous academic curriculum includes a diverse curriculum path into our Fine Arts Academy, multi-faceted college-and-career-readiness programs, and work-based learning opportunities.

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## From the Superintendent's Desk

# Excitement builds at MCS for spring events, summer break – and more

Spring is always a great time for schools. Warmer weather, outdoor recess, spring sports, spring break, graduation, and the building anticipation for summer break – all of these make this time of year fun for kids and staff, alike.

Add in other events, such as Easter and the NCAA basketball tournament, and you have one of the very best seasons of the year for all of us.

This spring is no different. We have many great things to look forward to over the remaining weeks of the school year, and we hope our children are as excited as we are.

One of those is the Future Cubs Connect registration event, formerly known as Kindergarten Connect. This big event is for our incoming preschool and kindergarten students.

This year, we are inviting parents and their 3-, 4-, and 5-year-old children to come in to register for either preschool or kindergarten. On Page 4 in this edition of the *District Correspondent*, you will find details regarding the locations and times for this districtwide event.

This spring we will formally launch our in-depth work toward our next Strategic Plan. Since my arrival, we have been working to determine how we want to approach this work. We have determined that community involvement is a must.



Dr. Jeffery Studebaker

In the last edition, I had extended the invitation to our community to become involved with our planning process, and we have begun to talk with those who have expressed interest. Committees will be finalized shortly, and will focus on Facilities Planning, Student Affective Needs, Financial Planning, and Curriculum & Instructional Programming.

The Board of School Trustees and I plan to launch concerted work in the next several weeks, with a goal for completion and roll-out by August 2019.

Madison Consolidated Schools offer a wide array of opportunities for our children. Starting at an early age, students are encouraged to explore academic teams; athletics; creative and dramatic arts; music; agriculture; leadership; and innovative, ever-expanding course selections.

These opportunities continue to increase each year as our administrators, teachers, and students learn about new and exciting things that have become available. We have an incredible number of students who have recently represented and championed our school district at the local, state, regional and national levels in a number of various activities.

We very much appreciate our many teachers, coaches, and administrators who provide our students with the necessary knowledge, support, resources, and encouragement to be their very best each day.

Congratulations to our future scientists, entrepreneurs, engineers, dreamers, athletes, critical-thinkers, movie-makers, problem-solvers, screenwriters, musicians, farmers, welders, technicians, nurses, attorneys and community leaders, or anything you've ever dreamed of being – we are so very proud of your achievements.

Come and join us! Even if your child is not entering preschool or kindergarten next year, we would like to invite you to join us for Future Cubs Connect at our elementary buildings in April.

Come and see why our students are growing, learning and reaching for excellence every day in each of our buildings.

It's truly a great time to be at Madison.

Have a great spring!

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# An amazing experience

By Ashley Schutte  
*Communications Coordinator*

Two MJHS students outperformed more than 30 fifth- through eighth-grad-

ers to win the second Amazing Shake competition Friday, Jan. 18. Jack Heckler and Mia Mires took the top spots,

earning the opportunity to represent their school at the Amazing Shake National Competition last month at Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Ga.

The event is designed to emphasize valuable life lessons, such as professional human interaction, including how to craft a proper handshake, “work a room,” and how to remain composed under pressure.

The MJHS competition was comprised of five stations, where students interacted with and were scored by volunteers from the community. “Each of the interview sessions is designed to make the student a little uncomfortable; they have to maintain focus through various distractions, think on their feet, and provide thoughtful answers to

probing questions,” said Jill Mires, principal and organizer of the event.

“We ask our community leaders to have fun with this, but to also really push our students to be their best.”

Leading up to the competition, the students learned how to conduct themselves with help from Sally Plass of Etiquette Enrichment.

Session topics included a mock emergency situation; an etiquette course application, where students had to remember their manners as they answered questions while having a snack; focusing on a discussion of their career goals, while tactfully navigating numerous interruptions from alarms and cell phone calls; and presenting a promotional ad featuring their favorite things about Madison.

“After going to the national level with our students last year, we learned a lot about the level of competition and expectations once they arrived for the Gauntlet Round at RCA,” Mires said. “We knew we needed to ramp things up for our local competition to

get them ready for some of the incredible opportunities they were likely to see at the national level.”

## The Atlanta experience

The Gauntlet Round is a “speed round” at the national competition, where 266 participants from all over the U.S. and the world, had to complete 30 challenges in 30 minutes. The students had to navigate some tricky waters in order to advance.

Only 40 students survived the Gauntlet Round to advance to the next round on Saturday.

Following a gruelling day of competition, the students were treated to a dance party Saturday evening.

On Sunday, 20 finalists returned for the last day of competition, with each



Above, 33 MJHS students participated in the school's second Amazing Shake competition in January. At left, the school's top winners, Jack Heckler, left, and Mia Mires, pose with Ron Clark during the national Amazing Shake event at the Ron Clark Academy in Atlanta, Ga.

round eliminating several more. In the final round, the top three students normally compete for the title, but a tie this year saw four in that round.

Both Jack and Mia survived the Gauntlet Round. Jack finished placed 143rd of the 266; Mia placed 92nd.

The competition was “an experience like no other,” said Jack, and Mia agreed.

“We were able to meet other kids from all over,”

Mia said. “They came from as far away as Honduras and Nigeria to participate,”

Her favorite part was the practice round. “We had to jump right into the competition and implement what we had learned,” she said.

The timed responses required in the “Are You Smarter Than a Fifth Grader” threw both Jack and Mia for a loop.

“I think we were prepared well to meet people, but the timed responses was a big

surprise,” Jack admitted.

The competitors had just 50 seconds to explain complex concepts, like “Why are humans so fascinated by chemical reactions?”

“You have to be memorable, you have to make an impression and give thoughtful answers to some very difficult questions,” Jack said.

Both students say they highly recommend this

See SHAKE, Page 5



Gage Fox

## Fox competes in Skills USA event at Vincennes

MCHS student Gage Fox was one of three area students from the Ivy Tech Community College's Madison Campus who participated in a Skills USA welding competition held Feb. 2 at Vincennes University.

They represented the College's Industrial Technology program and competed against 50 students from across Southern Indiana. The competition included a written test and hands-on welding skills test.



Above, MJHS band students and, below, choral students participated in regional and state competitions in February.



The Madison Junior High School sixth-grade Science Bowl team: front row, from left: Maya Gordon, Donavon Rush, Josey Chapin, Aaron Hanson, Will Livingston. Back row, from left: Kyle Roney, Bodie Harsin, Mr. Adam Jones, Lincoln Sheets, Alexie Jones, Reilly Kuppler. Not pictured: Colton Rutledge and Bige Asher.

## MJHS state Science Bowl success

Science is on fire at MJHS! The fifth-grade, sixth-grade and Olympiad Science Bowl teams competed against schools from throughout the state, bringing home top honors. Coach Adam Jones had this sixth-grade team, above, well-prepared for the annual competition, which focused on the topic of physics and engineering, as well as calculating the mechanical advantage of certain machines.

The annual competition is sponsored by the Indiana Association of School Principals.

“The online aspect of this competition is wonderful,” said Jones, who also is a math teacher at MJHS. “Schools and students are able to participate with minimal expense, since there is no travel involved, and apply valuable learning using online tools that will help them down the road, as they take secondary and post-secondary courses

that require familiarity with the internet. Students are tested and scored in an individual, team, and experimental round. The rounds are totalled for the final overall team score.”

MJHS scored 87.5 points to finish as the state champion in the Green Class, ahead of Throop Elementary School, Paoli, 85.5 points, and third-place St. Philip Catholic School, Mount Vernon, 84 points.

See SCIENCE, Page 7

## Band, choral students participate in regional, state competitions

MCHS Choral and Band students competed in the Indiana State School Music Association Regional Solo and Ensemble Contests.

Seven students participated in the vocal and piano contest Jan. 26, and seven others participated in the wind, percussion, and strings contest on Feb. 2. Both events were hosted by Floyd Central High School.

The MCHS students were entered in Group 1, which is the highest and most difficult level.

Choral students receiving a Gold Superior rating were soloists Erika Hazelwood, Autumn Hedgepeth, Justin Perdue and Emily Skirvin; ensemble included Jayman Birge, Chance Estes, Justin Perdue and Connor Stevely.

The students then participated at the State competition Feb. 16 hosted at Perry Meridian High School.



MCHS Band students receiving awards were:

Paige Morris, silver, clarinet solo; Ariadin Vest, Britta Hess and Hannah Owen, gold, flute trio; soloists Alida Flores, Jalen Wilson and Isaac Boone, gold. They all attended the State Solo & Ensemble competition Feb. 23 at North Central High School in Indianapolis.

Boone received a perfect score on both his saxophone solo and piano solo.

Boone was chosen to represent MCHS in the Indiana All State Honor Band on March 10 at Purdue University.

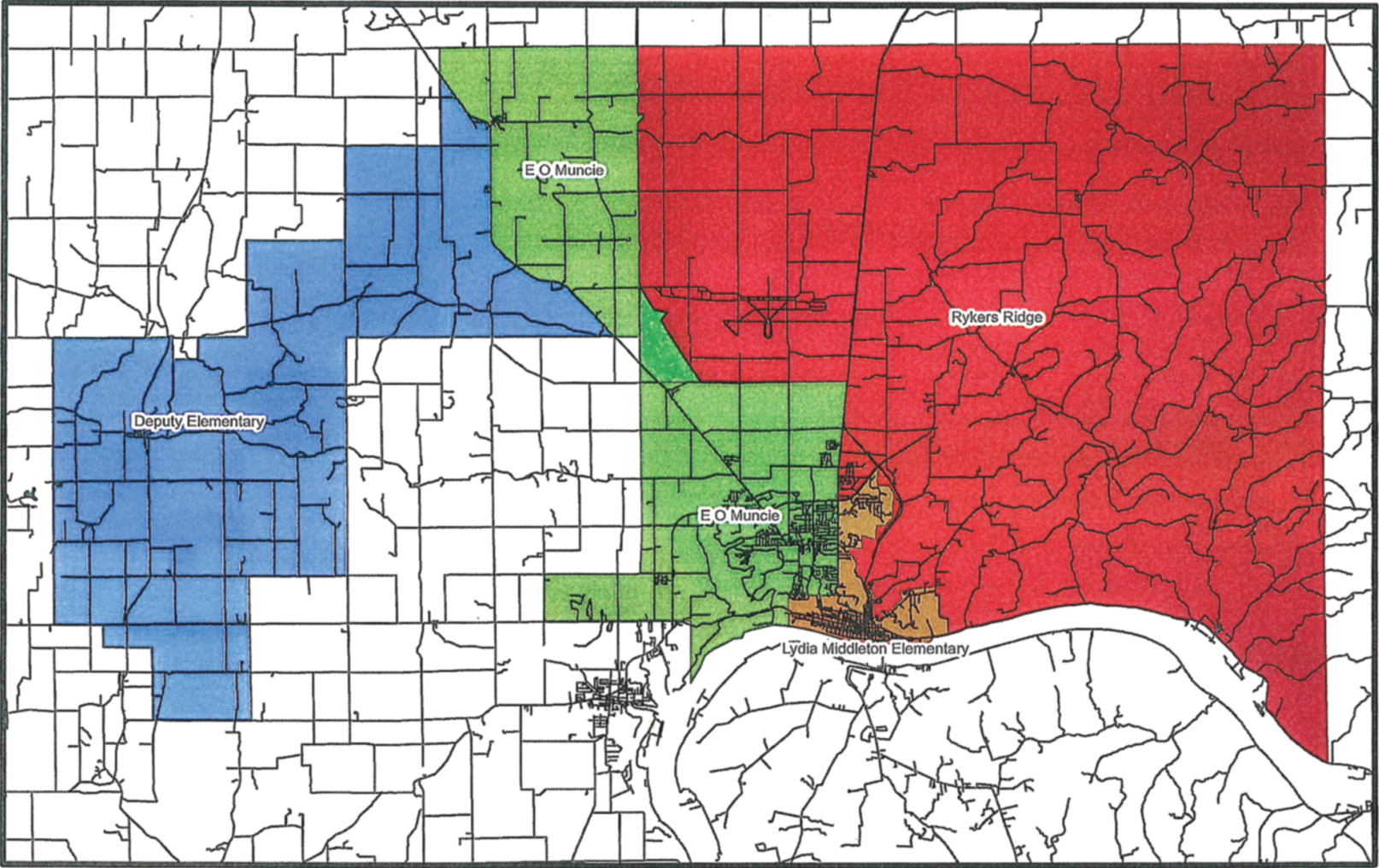


Isaac Boone earned perfect scores for piano and saxophone solos and represented MCHS in the Indiana All State Honor Band.

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# Madison Consolidated Schools Boundary Lines



## Map shows 2019-20 boundaries for schools

Future Cub Connect events, planned for parents to enroll their preschool and kindergarten students for the 2019-20 school year, will be held during the third week of April.

The above map shows families where the boundaries are for each of the four elementary schools.

Families with new students heading for Anderson Elementary School can register from 6-7 p.m. at the school on Monday, April 15.

Students who currently attend E.O. Muncie and/or live within the Anderson Elementary school district will be given enrollment precedence at the time of registration.

At the other schools, registration is set for 6-7 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, at Lydia Middleton Elementary; 6-7 p.m. Wednesday, April 17, at Deputy Elementary; and 6-7 p.m. Thursday, April 18, at Rykers' Ridge Elementary.

"Our school district has designated boundaries which help us to determine where students should attend based on their primary address of residence", said Dr. Jeff Studebaker, MCS superintendent.

"Our district map (combined with annual county birth-rate data and projections) drives a number of daily operation items within our district from transportation needs and bus routes to staffing."

The information from the data helps the district "balance class size and determine how many sections of each class to offer at each building," Studebaker continued. We watch classroom sizes as much as possible throughout our district."

This year, MCS is expecting a larger kindergarten class during registration this year, "which is always exciting," Studebaker said.

Parents can also opt for the open-enrollment plan, which allows families to select the school they prefer to send their students next year, if that choice is different from the school their district is assigned to, he added.

"We realize there are things such as childcare location, proximity to parent workplaces, and other matters of convenience that may prompt a family to request a transfer," the superintendent said. "In as many cases as possible, we try to grant transfer requests. However, we do anticipate an increased number of requests with the opening of our new school."

Those who wish to request a transfer are asked to complete the transfer form at the administration building on Wilson Avenue as soon as possible, he said.

The requests will be evaluated based on the class sizes and space available at each location. Consideration also will be given to the date the request was received.

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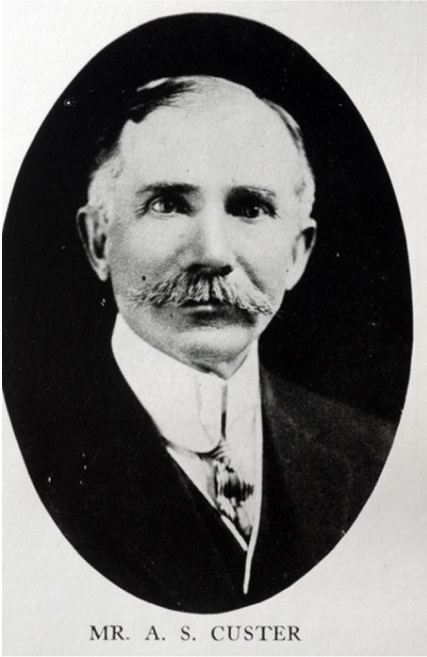
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# Fisher fulfills L.A. dreams

After Luke Fisher graduated from MCHS in 2007, he earned a bachelor’s degree in film studies and telecommunications from Indiana University. He minored in German and economics, also earning a certificate in business.

After studying in Austria (think lederhosen, not kangaroos, Fisher says), “I was an intern at the ‘Late Show with David Letterman’ one summer.”

He decided to further his education in filmmaking and, after looking at the elite “coast” schools, attended Ohio University, to avoid graduating with six-figure school-loan debt.

“Being that much in debt from something as mundane as tuition didn’t settle well with me,” he said, adding “I really liked the vibe at OU. It seemed

more collaborative and easier to learn all aspects of filmmaking. During my initial visit, one student told me ‘They’ll teach you how to make films on a shoe-string budget.’

“I didn’t have money, but I did have shoestrings so it seemed like a good fit,” he joked. Also, he met his wife, who also was studying film at OU.

While a graduate student, Fisher landed an internship at 20th Century Fox in Los Angeles. The next summer, he returned to work as a producer’s assistant, working on a feature film being shot on the studio lot.

“It was amazing, and I knew I wanted to live and work in LA after that.”

Fisher and his wife now live in L.A. The couple earned an Academy Award nomination

recently for a film they wrote and co-directed.

“Out of over 1,600 films we were in the top eight,” he said. “We didn’t win, but it was an honor to be nominated by the same group that puts on the Oscars.”

Today, he is the in-house director/producer for a health and lifestyle company. “It’s a lot of responsibility and has a lot of opportunity for creativity and expansion.”

Thinking about his experience at Madison, Fisher waxed nostalgic.

“I loved being a student at MCHS,” he said. “I had so many great teachers and experiences. The teachers really seemed to care about the students, and there were a lot of extracurricular activities.”

He learned teamwork and



Luke Fisher, a 2007 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, now lives and works in Los Angeles, living his dream of being a filmmaker.

sportsmanship as a member of the soccer team. He said he doesn’t consider himself a good player, but he worked to run fast and developed a skill for harassing the ball away from more skilled players.

“I can remember being at an away game, and this guy just kept aggressively running into me and pushing me. Eventually I just stopped dead in my tracks and he, expecting me to

continue on my trajectory, ran into the air and then fell face first onto the ground,” Fisher recalled. “It seemed like an apt metaphor for dealing with conflict: Use momentum to your advantage rather than fight against it.”

Fisher participated in academic competitions, which, he said, “challenged me to learn more,

See SPOTLIGHT, Page 6

## SHAKE from Page 3

experience to their classmates.

“There are a ton of great kids here at MJHS,” Jack said. “I would like to see all students get involved in our school competition.”

Mia agreed. “You are always going to need soft skills. It is something which will benefit every student.”

Both Jack and Mia feel the bar needs to be raised even higher

for next year’s competition, which is already in the planning stages.

“Now that we have a few students who have participated, we hope to get them involved in developing a more complex preparation experience for next year,” Principal Mires said.

Mia, who moves on to high school next year and won’t be eligible, is planning to team up with Amazing Shake alum Taylor Harsin to be part of the planning committee.

Jack plans to compete again

next year and is “all in” to make the principles of the Amazing Shake a part of the daily student experience at MJHS.

“I feel like these things are something we should practice every day,” he said. “We can easily practice memorable first impressions, talking face to face with one another in class, practicing respectful classroom discussions, making eye contact and improving our handshake.”

Overall, Jack and Mia said they realized they had spent

most of the weekend at the Academy with their cell phones off.

“We were connecting with new friends face to face, and practicing our soft skills and making memories,” Mia said.

As a parent, Kevin Heckler said the most rewarding part of the experience for his son, Jack, was learning early how to be comfortable in new situations.

“Jack is a smart kid and he will always have that, but I feel that will only take him so far,” said Heckler, who is an assis-

tant principal at Trunnell Elementary School in Louisville.

“I want him to be comfortable in a situation where he can meet a complete stranger, carry on a meaningful conversation, present ideas, appreciate other opinions, and have a positive impact,” Heckler said. “We should be supporting these activities and encouraging all kids to take advantage of the preparation process, embrace being a bit uncomfortable, and relish the growth this competition can foster in our young people.”

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# Bringing new life to MCHS Hall of Fame

By Anne Grady  
Madisonian Staff Reporter

Madison Consolidated High School is experiencing some changes to the beloved Hall of Fame (or affectionately known as the Wall of Fame). The MCHS athletic department has announced that the Wall of Fame will be utilizing a digital showcase of the history of Cubs' athletics. However, they have recently come under fire from members of the community for reportedly removing some of the real pictures of Cub athletes from the traditional wall.

According to MCHS athletic director Joe Bronkella, the pictures currently displayed in Madison's Hall of Fame will not be taken down. The ultimate plan is to preserve and expand the memorabilia.

"Our current Hall of Fame display has been incomplete for some time due to missing or damaged photos. Our goal was to identify a platform where we could, if necessary, recreate images to make sure all athletes were represented and honored," Bronkella said.

Due to construction and renovation efforts, many pieces of Cub memorabilia have been uncovered throughout the school, some of which had suffered water damage or broken glass and frames.

"We would like to use the digital images we have created to get printed photographs of those individuals which are missing or have been damaged in order to create a uniform, physical display of photographs which will remain on our wall. We are taking them down to update and reformat. They will be back on display afterwards. We don't have all of the pictures listed on the physical hall of fame. The board will display all 98 that should be up there," stated



Above, MCHS Athletic Director Joe Bronkella demonstrates the features of the new digital board for MCHS Hall of Fame. At right, photos of Hall of Famers as they had appeared on the wall for years.

Bronkella. "The negative to this is that it is a very long process. We have been working on it for over a year."

The project began in January of 2018, and continued ever since.

"Collectively, we had several meetings with in-depth discussions regarding location, platform, and structure and together we determined a digital platform, similar to ones used at other high schools and universities, would be a great option to meet our needs," Bronkella added.

After re-imaging of the photos, they will all be put up and displayed in a uniform manner. Madison Schools has been working with the MCHS student athletic council, and they will be discussing their ideas on how to continue the preservation of Cub history.

In addition to the re-envisioned



Hall of Fame, The first ever "Decades Game" was hosted at MCHS. It was created to honor senior male basketball athletes from past decades. The former athletes and students of MCHS were invited to walk on the court for recognition during half-time.

"This idea was something Coach McFarland brought to us and wanted to bring to life as a way to honor Madison's basketball programs," said Bronkella.

According to Bronkella, the intent of the revamped Hall of Fame is to bring higher visibility

to the traditional Hall of Fame and provide a way to share the history of the Madison Cubs. However, it appears MCHS will also be sticking with the conventional Hall of Fame, as well. The digital Hall of Fame will not only be displayed in the school, but you can also access it digitally: <https://madisonathletics.org/main/alumnitr>.

"We realize the importance of a comprehensive archive that includes each athlete who achieved Hall of Fame status," Bronkella said.

## SPOTLIGHT from Page 5

and also challenged me to stay awake for 6 a.m. academic decathlon practice."

Theatre, though, was already calling. "I was probably more involved in the theatre at MCHS than anything. I managed to snag just about the only lead role in a musical I could have done, Harold Hill in 'The Music Man,'" which was more fast-talking than singing, he said.

"I remember one night the band and the synthesizer got caught on a loop during a solo I had. This meant I was stuck on stage dancing around and repeating parts of the song until the group could get back on track. That's where I learned to never let them see you sweat. As long as it looks like you know what you're supposed to be doing, most people will believe everything is going according to plan."

What was the most important lesson he learned at MCHS?

"The theatre really taught me to be aware and conscious of myself and how I'm perceived by others," he said. "In a way, we're all acting every day. We're making specific choices on how to behave and how we present ourselves. Playing someone else on stage helped me understand myself better."

His advice to MCHS students today: "Be thankful for what you have and don't waste it; honor it. A good friend and family is the best privilege you can have in this life and is the surest way to shape reliable, honest, hard-working, and creative people. MCHS was part of my family, and set me up to succeed when I left its doors."

His goal in 10 years is to be financially secure, so that he can come back to Madison for visits more frequently. "It's where my family has been for over two centuries, and that edge of Indiana is as near paradise on Earth as I've yet seen. And I've been farther than North Vernon!"



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and former Rotarians are  
invited and encouraged to  
attend.





# Operation Menke II



## Troop 721 collects more than 2,000 toys in honor of Iraq War casualty Spc. Jon Menke

Madison Boy Scout Troop 721, led by Scout Master Robert Getz and his wife, Sharon, launched Operation Menke II in December, during which they collected 389 Hot Wheels cars and 1,650 Beanie Babies.

The scouts placed donation boxes in Madison Consolidated schools, the VFW, the American Legion and the Moose Lodge, along with other locations, from Dec. 15 through Jan. 18.

The donation boxes were created by art students at MCHS, Getz said.

Above, posing with the collected toys, are Troop members Boyd Long, a seventh-grader at MJHS; Noah Getz, a seventh-grader at MJHS; Hunter Getz, a sophomore at MCHS; Andy Furnish, a sophomore at Shawe Memorial High School; and Thomas Ott, an eighth-grader at Shawe.

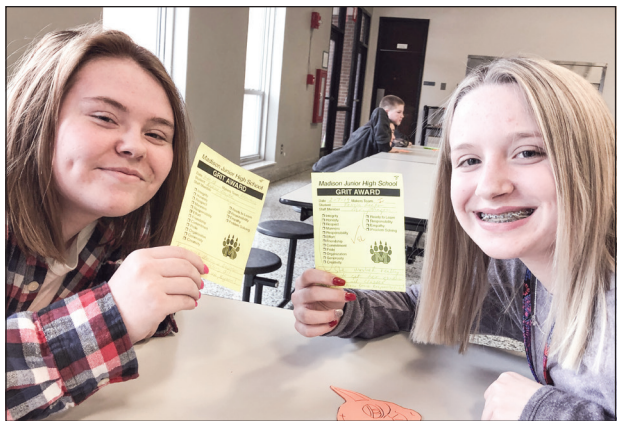
The toy drive honors Spc. Jon Menke,

an MCHS graduate who was killed in Iraq on Aug. 4, 2008. While he had been stationed there, Menke had asked his father, Daniel, to collect toys and shoes for Iraqi children, as part of a mission of the 38th Military Police Company, Jon’s unit, to do something meaningful for the Iraqi people. The Menke family packed a “care package” for Jon every Friday, which included Beanie Babies and Hot Wheels for the children.

After Menke’s death, Lindsie Wilson of Grote Industries conducted the first Operation Menke toy drive, collecting more than 8,000 of the toys, which were packed up and shipped to Menke’s unit in Iraq.

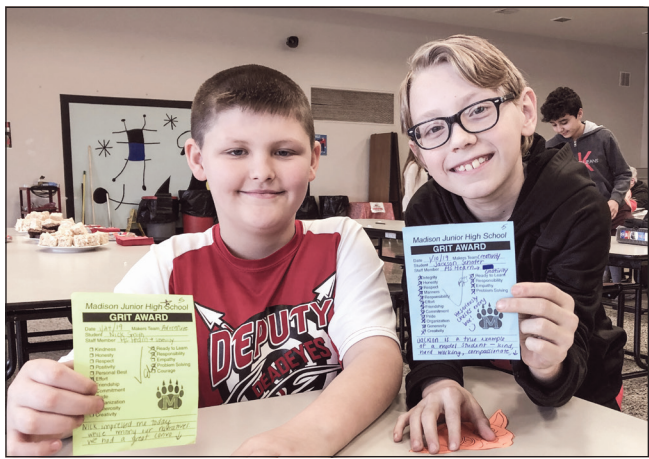
The 2018 toy drive marks the 10th anniversary of Menke’s death, Getz said.

The toys, being stored at the Madison National Guard Armory, will be delivered to the 638th ASB later this year.



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The fifth-grade Science Bowl Team finished the state competition in the top 10: Team members, from left, are Lillian Hayes, Addy Colen, Dakota Surratt, Sawyer Felts, Jaxson Chandler and Alex Dew.



Kenton Mahoney, left, poses with members of the MJHS Science Olympiad Team, which earned a state bid at Indiana University at the regional competition at Butler University in February.

## SCIENCE

from Page 3

The fifth-grade Science Bowl team finished sixth in the state in the Orange Class, with an overall team score of 82.5.

Coached by Mrs. Debbie Bennett, these young scientists also explored the world of simple machines.

Additionally, the MJHS Science Olympiad Team participated in the regional competition held at Butler University on Saturday, Feb. 23, earning a berth in the state competition this month at Indiana University.

The Butler regional is consistently the most competitive regional in the state of Indiana, said science teacher and

Coach Kenton Mahoney.

“The winners of this regional almost always come away as state title contenders,” he said. “Our students competed hard and came away as the fifth-ranked team out of the 15 teams represented at the regional.”

MJHS had 10 individual medal winners and 14 medals overall:

Annie Zhang and Katie Watkins took third place in Anatomy and Physiology; Nicholas Biallas and Anne-liese Crumley took third place in Density Lab; Nicholas Biallas and Karson Couch took fourth place in Dynamic Planet; Owen Schmidt and Kylie Shields took fifth place in Potions and Poisons;

Taylor Owen and Nathan Wu took fifth place in Road Scholar; and Taylor Owen and McKayln Steward took fifth place in Write It/Do It.

To find out the state results, check the social media feeds at MCS\_Indiana and mjhs\_Indiana, and be sure to follow the teams on Facebook and Instagram.



## Culinary Arts student Cardinal named CTE Student of Month

Madison Consolidated High School culinary arts student Emerson Cardinal, third from left, was recognized as the Career & Technical Education Student of the Month for February. He was presented a plaque created by students in Cub Engineering/Cub Manufacturing using the Chef Cub logo designed by a student in the MCHS graphic arts program. The culinary arts program is led by teacher LeAnne Blackerby, far right.



## CUB INC.

from Page 1

Student tasks have included organizing packets for a recent regional choral event, helping to coordinate a mailing for FFA, assisting main office staff with customer service as students come and go, and lending extra administrative support in the Student Services area.

It’s a win-win for students and staff.

“This allows our teachers and counselors to spend more time with students and less time on tasks,” Gibson said.

While it’s very much a hands-on class for the students, it’s more hands-off for Gibson. “I never stand up in front of them and lecture,” she said.

Rather, she is there to help them with their classwork, answer questions and be a mentor.

“We’ve had several occasions where [a job] didn’t meet expectations, and I have asked the students how we are going to make it right.

“And I love it,” she said, “because then I’ve got them talking with each other, working together as a team. It’s wonderful to see that collaboration. Kids who may not normally talk to one another come together and they figure it out. It’s one of my favorite parts of this whole thing.”

The lesson: As an employee or boss, you have to talk to and interact with co-workers and work together, even if you don’t like them personally,” she said.

McFarland teaches personal finance, business math and marketing, as well as a dual-credit computer class. He is also responsible for the



Photo by Phyllis McLaughlin

Ariel Hall, left, and Lucy Lynch found their passion for business taking classes with MCHS teacher Charlotte Gibson. Lynch eventually wants to study business law; Hall wants to either start her own business, or become a business manager. Both girls have taken all the classes offered in the high school’s business department.

internship program, where students are matched with local businesses and work there for part of the school day.

Some internships are paid, while some are experience only. Students are required to work six to eight hours a week – two hours a day for three or four days a week. McFarland pays regular visits to each of the intern workplaces to ensure everything is going well and that each is a good fit.

Currently, McFarland’s interns are working at SuperATV, Rivertown Dentistry, All Kids Can, King’s Daughters’ Hospital, Lowes and other locations.

“These provide a lot of great experience high school kids don’t otherwise get,” he said. “We have some excellent partners in education offering our students real-life, hands-on training and work experience in a career field they may be interested in.”

Additionally, the internships are resume builders and can

help students earn scholarships, boost their college applications, or provide the foundation for a work resume if they plan to enter the workforce directly after graduation.

### Discovering their passion

Two of her students, juniors Ariel Hall and Lucy Lynch, have taken every business class Gibson has taught.

Lynch said she fell in love with Gibson’s Business Law class. “I liked how she explained things, so I tried her other classes and they made sense to me. I discovered that I really like law. I’m not sure where I want to go to [college], but I want to start out with business classes and then gradually go into law. I think I found law kind of intimidating until I began taking the classes, and realized I’m capable of more than I thought I was.” “When I first started taking

her classes, I wasn’t interested in business,” Hall admitted, adding that these have been the most beneficial classes she’s taken at MCHS. “I realized it’s something I’m passionate about.”

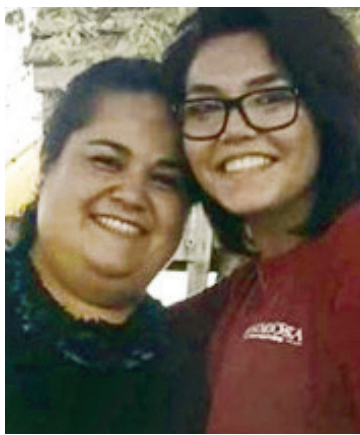
In personal finance, “we learn how to file our taxes, we learn about banking, we learn about the Federal Reserve, and those are things I think our generation is lacking,” Hall said. “They’re life skills.”

When she graduates in 2020, Hall said she hopes to get accepted into the Kelly School of Business at Indiana University. “The ultimate goal, for me, would probably be becoming an entrepreneur and starting my own business.”

Because the business classes offered at MCHS are all electives, Gibson hopes more parents will encourage their students to take them. Gibson said she often gets frustrated when she sees comments on social media from people who believe the schools don’t teach things kids really need to know.

And that’s just not accurate. “I’ve been doing it for 32 years,” she said. Because they are electives, “kids have to choose to take them. If a parent wants their kid to know how to balance a checkbook or how to invest, we have a class for that.”

Most of the business classes also offer the dual-credit opportunities with Ivy Tech. Students who complete the requirements at the high school can also then graduate with a Technical Certificate in Business. If you are interested in learning more about the course offerings at MCHS, visit our website and view the curriculum guide or contact your student’s counselor.



Evangelina Delgado poses with her mother. Delgado, who graduated from MCHS mid-year, earned high praise in a supervisor’s review during her internship at Arvin Sango, where she now works full time.

## Internship leads to career with Arvin Sango for one MCHS grad

By Sophia Hall  
Madisonian Staff Reporter

Madison Consolidated High School Senior Evangelina Delgado received a perfect employee evaluation and special recognition from Arvin Sango, while she worked 30-40 hours a week through the Interdisciplinary Cooperative Education (I.C.E.) program.

Arvin Sango is required to evaluate their employees on work ethic, maturity, and other characteristics necessary for employment.

Delgado “got a perfect score from them, and then they went out of there way to type up a letter and explained what a great employee she is.

It ended with ‘she is one

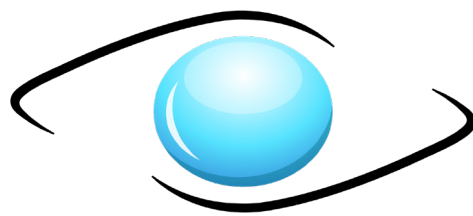
See DELGADO, Page 9



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“Do the best you can, because people always look at that. Hard work and effort pays off eventually. Maybe you don’t see it right now, but it will.”

### Delgado

from Page 8

to be emulated,’ or basically for everyone to follow; she’s that good of a student,” said MCHS business teacher Charlotte Gibson.

Some comments Delgado’s supervisor made comparing her to her adult co-workers:

- She has gone from being the newest member to an ‘A’ member on the most difficult stamping press;
- well ahead of her peers;
- production is outstanding;
- she is the perfect example to emulate;
- definitely the future of ASI.

Delgado did not think her busy supervisor would take the time to write her a personal letter, and only found out about it when her math teacher congratulated her in the hallway one day.

“It meant a lot” when Gibson showed her the letter, Delgado said. “Honestly, I was surprised.”

The I.C.E. program has helped Delgado get her foot in the door, but it has also helped her in her day-to-day job. “In this class (I.C.E.), we talk about job safety (and learn about) different kinds of hazards,” she said.

In ICE, students learn workplace skills like understanding their paycheck and insurance, as well as workplace laws on topics such as sexual harassment and discrimination. Then they head to work for a portion of the school day. The minimum work hours required for ICE students is fifteen per

week, but the hours can be done on weekends.

“(ICE) allows students to leave for part of the day and go out and work,” said Gibson.

“This is a senior level class. It’s good because kids can go out and start earning money, and the school also gets vocational money for students who are enrolled.” said Gibson.

In the station she runs at Arvin Sango, Delgado has to be able to identify hazardous materials like hydraulic fluids, or other potential dangers to herself and others, so her experience in ICE has benefited her in that aspect.

Delgado graduated early and is now working full time in at the manufacturing plant.

She talked about important skills she had learned through working at Arvin Sango like adapting to whatever situation you are in, working hard every-day, and being open to learning new things.

Delgado was given increasing amounts of responsibility in her job, and it was a lot to handle, she admitted. But she took the challenges one day at a time.

“Try to keep a positive attitude and if something doesn’t work out, just say, ‘Okay, it didn’t work out right now, but that doesn’t mean it isn’t going to work out later,’” she said.

When asked whether she had any advice for others, Delgado said, “Do the best you can, because people always look at that. Hard work and effort pays off eventually. Maybe you don’t see it right now, but it will. It really does. Always try to set goals, whether you’re at work, or school, or wherever.”

## Hess, Reece earn state art awards



Caitlin Reece, left, with her drawing “Madison Railroad,” and Britta Hess with her drawing “Unself Portrait,” received Silver Keys in the Drawing and Illustration category in this year’s Scholastic Art and Writing Competition sponsored by the Butler University Arts Center in Indianapolis. The MCHS students joined other winners from throughout the state for a “Visions & Voices” Exhibition at Clowes Memorial Hall and the Schrott Center for a reception March 17. Hess did her work in Aaron Kelsey’s art class; Reece produced her work in Melanie Torline’s class.

## Kelsey selected for Lilly Fellowship

After spending another school year inspiring his students, MCHS art teacher Aaron Kelsey will spend part of this summer to renew his spirit and find his own inspiration.

Kelsey is one of 100 Indiana teachers selected to receive the Lilly Endowment Teacher Creativity Fellowships – a \$12,000 award. This is the second grant he’s received from the program; teachers can only win the grant twice, so it also is his last, he said.

“I feel fantastic! I’m excited to see so much of our country, and to share it with my family,” he said of the award. “I spend so much time on school projects that I end up sacrificing a lot of personal time and family time.”

Kelsey plans to pack up his family in a rented RV, Polaroid camera in hand, and navigate historic Route 66 to the Pacific Highway in California, and then back across the Western Plains “to discover the quirky and sublime landscape west of the Mississippi,” Kelsey wrote in his grant application.

He and his family “will be able to slow down, be spontaneous, relax and enjoy each other” while they take in the sights of a large part of the United States.

The family will depart Madison June 17; the plan is to return July 8. Then he will put together an art show based on the trip, “Cross-Country Kitsch,” which will be installed in the

new Performing Arts Center lobby at Madison Consolidated High School

An opening reception is planned for Aug. 5.

“I look forward to sharing with my students and teaching community the travel experiences and art this grant will afford me,” he wrote.

The grant program has been in place for more than 30 years, according to Sara B. Cobb, the Endowment’s vice president for education. “We have learned how important it is for educators to have the time to create and explore. They return to their schools with a greater commitment to their students and to the vocation of education.”

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Primary colors and lots of windows brighten the entrance and foyer at the new Anderson Elementary School.

## TRANSITION

from Page 1

See Page 4 for 2019-20  
MCS district map.

talk with the staff, see the drop-off and pick-up plan, and understand traffic flow on campus.

Also in April, Horvath said, there will be one school day set aside to allow each grade level at Muncie to travel to Anderson to tour the new building.

Spring will be a busy time around the new building. Furniture will be delivered in a couple months, which will give staff plenty of time to move in before school starts in August.

Horvath said there is a tentative schedule in

place for moving everyone to the new location. “We will work with our summer maintenance staff to help ensure this is an easy transition for our staff, which will lead to a great opening day in August for our students.”

The move, of course, will be bittersweet.

“We have lots of fond memories surrounding E.O. Muncie with our current and former students, staff, and our community,” Horvath said. “I know that sentiment will travel with us as we open our new school. But, we are very excited to begin making new memories.”

## PRE-K

from Page 1

Today, there are approximately 160 pre-school students enrolled throughout the district’s four elementary schools. She expects that number to expand for the 2019-2020 school year. The increase in students correlates with the decision to offer free tuition for children whose families qualify for the free-and-reduced lunch program, qualify for “On My Way Pre-K,” or qualify for vouchers through the Child Care Development Fund. The program began this school year.

The funding options now available have been a game changer. Recent changes have allowed the district to fund some families whose children otherwise couldn’t attend.

“It’s great to see how many students we can serve, and to help them receive an early education,” McKay said.

Keys to the program’s success have been participation in the Paths to Quality state rating system, and especially the teachers’ work to foster Kindergarten Readiness Skills through exploration, play, and social-emotional learning. The data collected on student outcomes for the preschool students is important, too.

“Understanding where each student enters and exits preschool helps teachers and parents un-



Above, preschool teacher Donna O'Neill works to familiarize a group of 4-year-olds at Anderson with the letter “J.” practicing the sound it makes by learning words and looking at pictures of objects that begin with the letter.

At right, Karen Lowry reviews the ABCs – aloud and in American Sign Language, with her class at Deputy Elementary School.

derstand exactly where their students are, in terms of preparation for kindergarten,” said David Horvath, principal at E.O.Muncie who will serve as principal at Anderson.

Horvath said strong evidence exists supporting the idea that students who come into kindergarten after attending preschool have an advantage over those who do not.

Madison Consolidated Preschool offers a part-day and full-day program that includes an after care option in each of their elementary build-



Photos by Phyllis McLaughlin

ings. A full-day summer program also is available, offering educational opportunities to students ages 3-5. Families may visit the district website for additional information. Specific cost and time information will be available to families during the Future Cubs Connect events sched-

uled for April at each school location.

Applications for the CCDF are available at River Valley Resources, located in Suite E at The Clearinghouse, 100 E. Second St., in Madison.

For more information, McKay can be reached via email at [tmckay@madison.k12.in.us](mailto:tmckay@madison.k12.in.us).



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**Tuesday, April 16 - Lydia Middleton Elementary**

**Wednesday, April 17 - Deputy Elementary**

**Thursday, April 18 - Rykers' Ridge Elementary**

*All registration events run from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.*

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