

THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

Connecting our community



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Celebration Edition!

Suiter Takes First Place in Braille Challenge



Above: Drake pictured with Mrs. Angie Edwards (left), Blind/Low Vision Instructional Support and certified Braille Specialist, and Principal, Mrs. Jackie Thurston (right).

Below: Drake is sharing his carnival game invention with classmate Kole Barrett.



What Is the Braille Challenge?

The Indiana Braille Challenge is an annual academic competition designed to promote braille literacy among blind and visually impaired students in grades 1–12. Hosted by the [Indiana School for the Blind and Visually Impaired](#) (ISBVI) in Indianapolis.

The Braille Challenge is the only academic competition of its kind in North America that motivates students to practice and develop their braille literacy skills. Participants compete in five skill areas: braille reading and comprehension, speed and accuracy, spelling, proofreading, and tactile graphics. The competition is divided into five levels based on age and grade: Apprentice (grades 1–2), Freshman (grades 3–4), Sophomore (grades 5–6), Junior Varsity (grades 7–9), and Varsity (grades 10–12).

Drake Suiter, a third-grade student at Rykers' Ridge Elementary School, competed in his second Braille Challenge in January, placing first in the State in the Apprentice category. Drake is a dual media literacy learner in Mrs. Erin Thomas' class. This means he is learning to read and write in both Braille and print. Drake works with Mrs. Angie Edwards three days a week, reading Braille and writing his assignments using a Braille, and is successfully developing his skills while simultaneously excelling with his print skills, currently reading visually at a high school level.

Drake's future goal is to score in the top 10 in the country so that he can qualify for the National Finals held in Los Angeles. We think he is well on his way! Congratulations Drake! We are proud of you!

Fighting Hunger, One Back Sack at a Time: Support Madison Consolidated Schools' Back Sack Program

Did you know that many children in our community face food insecurity? For some students, school meals might be the only reliable source of food they receive. To bridge this gap and ensure that kids have nutritious meals throughout the weekend, Madison Consolidated Schools (MCS) partners with the Madison Presbyterian Church, the House of Hope Food Pantry and many community partners who generously donate their time to the Back Sack program.

What is the Back Sack Program?

The MCS Back Sack program provides participating students with a bag filled with kid-friendly, nutritious food items to take home every Friday. This free and confidential service is made possible by many individuals working together. Volunteers sort and pack the "Back Sacks", Madison staff from all over the district including teachers, counselors, clerks, social workers, bus drivers, bus aides, and custodians all collaborate each week to ensure the program runs smoothly and food is discreetly delivered to students' "Back Sacks" (backpacks). This initiative helps ensure that children in our district have access to food during the weekends when school meals may not be available.

The Need is Real

Food insecurity affects families in every community, and ours is no exception. Many children rely on school meals, and without additional support, they may go hungry during weekends and school breaks. The Back Sack program is a vital resource that addresses this need and provides essential nutrition to students who might otherwise go without.

Connie Huntington, Back Sack program coordinator and liaison to MCS, reported that in 2023-2024, the program provided 9,935 meals to students. During the 2024-2025 school year, the program provided 13,038 meals. "Each week, the counselors and/or social workers from each school record the number of meals they will need for the week," shared Lori Slygh, Assistant Director of Programs for the district. "That number, which fluctuates by school location, is then shared with Connie and her team of 35 volunteers who are always willing and anxious to come together each week to prepare the bags for delivery to our schools." The highest number of recorded students served in a week this school year was 407 students.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE...
AND OURS IS INCREDIBLE!

How You Can Help

The success of the Back Sack program depends on the generosity of our community. Your donations can make a significant difference in the lives of children facing food insecurity. Here's how you can help:

- **Donate Funds:** Monetary donations help the House of Hope Food Pantry purchase food items for the Back Sack program. A donation of \$6.00/week, or \$216/year, can feed a student. Every dollar counts and helps ensure that we can continue to provide this essential service to our students.
- **Spread the Word:** Share information about the Back Sack program with your friends, family, and colleagues. Increased awareness helps us reach more people who may want to contribute or benefit from the program.
- **Volunteer:** If you have time and would like to get involved, consider volunteering at the House of Hope Food Pantry. Your help in packing and distributing Back Sacks can make a direct impact on the lives of our students.

How to Donate

To make a monetary donation to support the MCS Back Sack program, you can **send a check made payable to the Madison Back Sack Program by mail to Madison Consolidated Schools, 2421 Wilson Avenue, Madison, IN 47250**. There is a designated fund at the school that collects and distributes the donations to the House of Hope Food Pantry specifically for this program.

Join Us in Making a Difference

Together, we can ensure every child in our community has access to nutritious food. Your support of the MCS Back Sack program can provide comfort, stability, and hope to children and families. "This program began as a small ministry, and we are blessed to have many, many people who believe they can make a difference," shares Huntington. "This program includes EVERYONE who cares about children and their needs. We are strong and dedicated together!"

Let's work together to fight hunger, one Back Sack at a time. Thank you for your generosity and support!



Congratulations to the Class of 2025

*We wish you all of the very best as
you begin the next chapter of
your journey!*

*Sincerely,
Your Madison Family of Faculty and Staff*

Commencement
Sunday, June 8
2:00 p.m.
Connor K. Salm
Gymnasium

2024-25 Scholarship Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following of the many generous scholarships available to students through various community members and organizations. As Madison Consolidated Schools, we appreciate your investment in our very deserving students. We know they will be responsible stewards of your generosity!

Kevin Scanlon Memorial Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$2,000

Dianna Risk Peer Counseling Scholarship

Emma Wynn - \$1,000
Sarah Adams - \$1,000
Sophie Guirguis - \$1,000

Molly Dattilo Follow Your Dreams Scholarship

Katherine Johnson - \$1,000

Lifespring Foundation

Colton O'Neal - \$500

Custer Oratory Contest Scholarship Endowment

Emma Wynn - \$2,410
Lincoln Sheets - \$3,340
Avery Clayton - \$550
Sophie Guirguis - \$550
Evan Cammack - \$550

Mayor Damon Welch Memorial Scholarship

Isabella Jones - \$800

Rainbow Youth Scholarship

Avery Clayton - \$1,000

Farmers Bank of Milton Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$1,000

Sheila Surrett Memorial Allied Health Scholarship

Sarah Adams - \$300
Spenser Aldridge - \$200

Phi Beta Psi Sorority Scholarship

Laken Dickerson - \$500

Madison Teachers Association Scholarship

Colton O'Neal - \$500
Allison Palmer - \$500

Tri Kappa Beta Scholarship, Beta Omega Chapter

Sarah Adams - \$1,000
Bailee Marshall - \$1,000

Madison Railroad Scholarship in Memory of Robert Griffin

Laken Dickerson - \$1,000

Dallas Lamb Visual Arts and Arts & Crafts Scholarship

Paige Weaver - \$1,000

German American AIM Scholarship

Colton O'Neal - \$1,000

Trevor Woodward Art Scholarship

Paige Weaver - \$500

Indiana Kentucky Electric Corp. Scholarship

Allison Palmer - \$1,000
Mitchell Cammack - \$1,000

Madison Chautauqua Scholarship for the Arts in Memory of Bob Fourhman

Isabella Burley - \$1,200

Ralph and Robyn Jones Family Memorial Scholarship

Skyy Brackin - \$765

Canaan Community Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$500

Broadway Alumni Scholarship

Aaron Hanson - \$550
Lincoln Sheets - \$550

Ivy Tech Madison Scholarship

Adison Nott - \$1,000
Trenton Bivens - \$500

SEI Communications Scholarship

Layne Laufer - \$500
Riley Jines - \$500

Friendship State Bank Wilkie S. & James W. Lemon Scholarship

Avery Clayton - \$1,000

Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Scholarship

Travis Hoffman - \$500
Natalie Bye - \$500

Dupont Alumni Scholarship

Colton O'Neal - \$1,300
Riley Jines - \$1,300

Cheatham Family Scholarship

Maya Gordon - \$1,000

Fraternal Order of Police Scholarship

Travis Hoffman - \$300

Charles H. and C. Chris Keller Scholarship

Laken Dickerson - \$400

Brad O'Leary Scholarship

Alexander Kendall - \$700

2024-25 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Mountjoy Family Memorial Scholarship

Spenser Aldridge - \$1,000
Travis Hoffman - \$1,000
Skyy Brackin - \$1,000
Mitchell Cammack - \$1,000
Jake Dyer - \$3,500
Allison Palmer - \$3,500
Bailee Marshall - \$3,500
Ava Armbrecht - \$3,500
Lincoln Sheets - \$3,500
Maya Gordon - \$8,495.62
Aleigh Wilson - \$8,495.62
Sarah Adams - \$8,495.62
Natalie Bye - \$8,495.62

Thomas D. Craft, Jr. Memorial Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$1,100

Sharon Thom Alcorn Memorial Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$1,800

Dennis Holt Memorial Scholarship

Ava Armbrecht - \$1,500

Dr. Fred S. Henderson Family Scholarship

Natalie Bye - \$2,000

Troy Allen Pyles Memorial Scholarship

Alexander Kendall - \$1,700

George and June Miller Scholarship

Laken Dickerson - \$4,000

Larry and Charmaine Owens Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$1,300

John & Maureen Galvin HMI Scholarship

Avery Clayton - \$1,000

Mary Louise Eisenhardt Scholarship

Maya Gordon - \$2,770.85
Travis Hoffman - \$2,770.85
Colton O'Neal - \$2,770.85
Aleigh Wilson - \$2,770.85
Jake Dyer - \$2,770.85
Ava Armbrecht - \$2,770.85
Camdyn Sever - \$2,770.85

Gary Chapman Memorial Scholarship

Natalie Bye - \$1,000

Glenn G. & Dorothy Ebel Huntington Scholarship

Michelle Laguna-Rafael - \$4,000

Class of '84 & Frances K. Eisan Memorial Scholarship

Lincoln Sheets - \$1,300

Dorothy B. Lotz Scholarship

Lincoln Sheets - \$2,150
Avery Clayton - \$2,150

Madison Kiwanis / Connor K. Salm Scholarship

Sarah Adams - \$1,800

Carl J. & Mary M. Hoefling Memorial Scholarship

Alexa Davis - \$5,065

Norma A. Cull Memorial Scholarship

Evan Cammack - \$2,800

Jefferson County 4-H Scholarship

Riley Jines - \$2,250
Hunter Thompson - \$500
Allison Palmer - \$500
Lillian Cox - \$500
Jake Dyer - \$500

Carolyn Brucer Spicer and Gene E. Spicer Nursing Scholarship

Destiny Nicholson - \$1,100

Terri Nighbert Memorial Scholarship

Aleigh Wilson - \$1,200

Mabel Green Memorial Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$1,450
Michelle Laguna-Rafael - \$1,450

Chan Chilton Memorial Scholarship

James Schafer - \$1,500

Curtis Wright Memorial Scholarship

Penelope Bibbs - \$1,600

MCHS Class of 1966 Scholarship

Evan Cammack - \$2,700

Nathan Wilson Memorial Mathematics Scholarship

Lincoln Sheets - \$3,600

Madison Kiwanis John Hawk Scholarship

Emma Wynn - \$5,500

Joseph V. Cline Scholarship

Avery Clayton - \$20,500
Michelle Laguna- Rafael - \$20,500

American Legion Major Samuel Woodfill, Post 9 Scholarship

Maya Gordon - \$500
Graham Klein - \$500

Education Foundation Academic Team Scholarship

Bethany Kempton - \$750
Aaron Hanson - \$750
Lincoln Sheets - \$750
Joseph Shope - \$750

Tiffany Lee Carter Memorial Scholarship

Graham Klein - \$1,100

Calvin Family Scholarship

Michelle Laguna-Rafael - \$1,300

Kenneth E. & Mary Lou Dunbar Scholarship IHO Perry and Dunbar Employees Scholarship

Lincoln Sheets - \$1,500

CAM Car Club Scholarship

Laken Dickerson - \$1,750

Lynn A. Maricle Music Scholarship

Aaron Hanson - \$2,900

Bonnie & Printis Shelton Scholarship

Evan Cammack - \$7,000

Terry and Wanda Wood Memorial Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$7,500

Bill Oldaker Scholarship

Laken Dickerson - \$1,000

2024-25 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Community Foundation Scholarship

Lincoln Sheets - \$1,500
William Livingston - \$1,500
Emma Wynn - \$1,500

National Honor Society Scholarship

Alexa Davis - \$1,000
Lincoln Sheets - \$500

MCHS Archery Scholarship

Allison Palmer - \$500

Shawn Barnes Memorial Scholarship

Colton O'Neal - \$300

LaVon Cartwright Gudkese & Ann Gudkese Offerman Nursing Scholarship

Aleigh Wilson - \$250

Mayor's Eagles Community Service Scholarship

Maya Gordon - \$500

Rotary Club: Betty Sebreo Good Citizen Award

Colton O'Neal

Rotary Club: Charles O'Banion Memorial Scholarship

Natalie Bye - \$700
Travis Hoffman - \$700

University of Evansville Presidents Scholarship, Pep and Vim Award, FAFSA filing Award, Visit Scholarship, Hoosier Aces

Maya Gordon - \$62,299

Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship

Bodie Harsin - Full Tuition

Anchor Club Scholarship

Sarah Adams - \$500

Madison Pilots Club Scholarship

Hunter Thompson - \$500

Madison FFA Scholarship

Hunter Thompson - \$100
Peighton Chatham - \$200
Jenna Martin - \$400

Madison Lions Club Scholarship

Aleigh Wilson - \$1,000

Jefferson County Farm Bureau, INC Scholarship

Allison Palmer - \$2,000
Colton O'Neal - \$2,000
Natalie Bye - \$2,000
Laken Dickerson - \$2,000

West Sixth Law Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$500

Indiana FFA Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$400

Franklin College Founder's Scholarship

Graham Klein - \$20,000

Hanover College 1827 Scholarship, HC Visit Award, HC Indiana K-12 Employee Award, and HC Legacy Award

Allison Palmer - \$40,500

French Club Scholarship

Avery Clayton - \$250

Jobs for America's Graduates Scholarship

Taytem Anderson - \$200
Trenton Bivens - \$200
Skyy Brackin - \$200
Jason Cosby - \$200
Jake Dyer - \$200
Travis Hoffman - \$200
Riley Jines - \$200
Katherine Johnson - \$200
Gracey Kincaid - \$200
Destiny Nicholson - \$200
William Peyton Obertate - \$200
Ethan Pettit - \$200
Kyle Pettit - \$200
Hunter Thompson - \$200
Mikel Thornton - \$200
Rylee Vaughn - \$200

Ball State University Presidential Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$22,000
Michelle Laguna-Rafael - \$22,000

DAR Good Citizen Award

Kyle Roney

Knights of Columbus Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$400

Franklin College Certificate of Academic Scholarship

Graham Klein - \$23,000

Indiana Junior Golf Program Scholarship

Landon True - \$2,500

2025 Honor Graduate

Michelle Laguna-Rafael

MCHS Bowling Team Scholarship

Adison Nott - \$250

Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$200

FFA License Plate Scholarship

Lillian Cox - \$250

Jefferson County Free In Need Scholarship

Penelope Bibbs

Helyn Bishop Scholarship

Evan Cammack - \$1,200

Shannon Thomas Memorial Scholarship

Emma Wynn - \$300

Marshall & Norma Banks Nursing Scholarship

Allison Palmer - \$500

IU East Scholarship

Landon True - \$24,000

S & O Farmers Mutual Insurance Company Scholarship

Colton O'Neal - \$250

Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship

Bailee Marshall - \$10,000 / 4 years
Michelle Laguna-Rafael - \$10,000 / 4 years
Evan Cammack - \$10,000 / 4 years

Sanger Leadership Scholarship at DePauw University

Reilly Kuppler - \$50,000 / 4 years



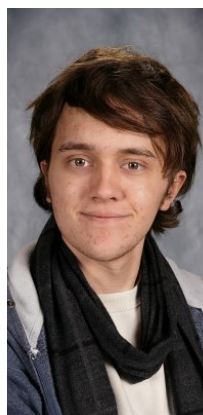
Keegen
Adams



Makenzie
Adams



Sarah
Adams



Spenser
Aldridge



Taytem
Anderson



Ava
Armbrecht



Owen
Austin



Bree
Bannon



Isaac
Bear



Penelope
Bibbs



Kera
Bishop



Trenton
Bivens



Skyy
Brackin



Clayton
Branstetter



Ashton
Brierly-Pangburn



Caden
Bright



Rhiannon
Briner



Isabella
Bryant



Isabelle
Burley



Kira
Buxton



Natalie
Bye



Evan
Cammack



Mitchell
Cammack



Piper
Caswell



Peighton
Chatham



Avery
Clayton



Michael
Combs



Chase
Copeland



Jason
Cosby



Keagan
Cosby



Lillian
Cox



Taylor
Cox



Benjamin
Crouch



Austin
Dailey



Alexa
Davis



Mason
Davis



Mason
Dawson



Laken
Dickerson



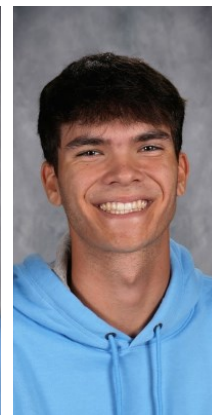
Jake
Dyer



Solomon
Eaglin



Timothy
Everhart



Kaid
Fink



DeAnthony
Gibson



Giovanni
Gomez Rojas



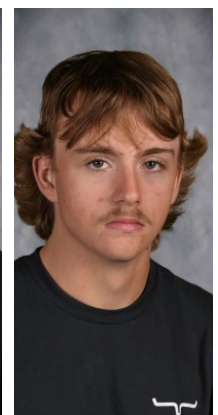
Maya
Gordon



Sophie
Guirguis



Wyatt
Hamilton



Spencer
Hancock



Aaron
Hanson



Damon
Hardin



Taylor
Hardymon



Bodie
Harsin



Kolson
Hartman



Leonardo
Harvey



Creedence
Helton



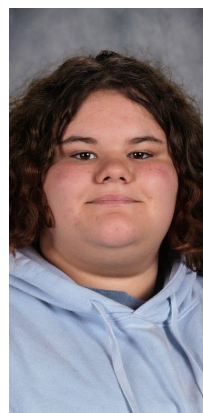
Spencer
Higdon



Travis
Hoffman



Jeremiah
Huey



Ciara
Hughes



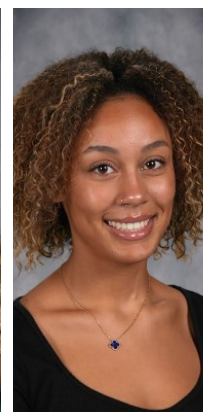
Faith
Innamorato



Haileylyn
Innamorato



Riley
Jines



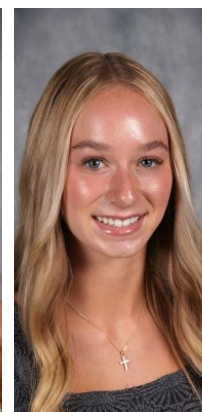
Avery
Johnson



Nickolas
Johnson



Alexie
Jones



Chloe
Jones



Isabella
Jones



Benjamin
Juraskovich



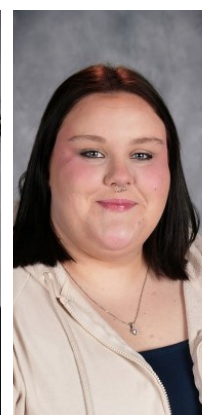
Alicia
Keller



Bethany
Kempton



Alexander
Kendall



Gracey
Kincaid



Graham
Klein



Reilly
Kuppler



Michelle
Laguna-Rafael



Michael
LaPine



Brady
Lathrem



Layne
Laufer



Kendall
Leach



Jayda
Lee



Alexis
Littrell



William
Livingston



Brady
Lock



Kieran
Lock



Natalie
Louden



Danny
Mack



Bailee
Marshall



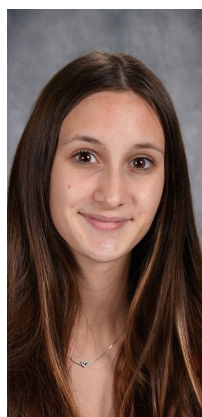
Jenna
Martin



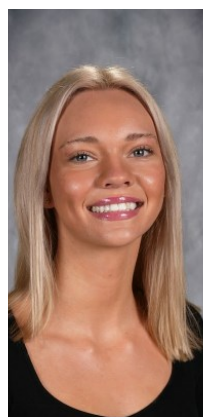
Giovanni
Maya Zapata



Stephany
Mitchell



Lea
Moore



Peighton
Mundt



Sean
Neff



Carson
Nelson



Destiny
Nicholson



Adison
Nott



William
Obertate



Colton
O'Neal



Silvia
Palmateer



Allison
Palmer



Nolan
Pearson



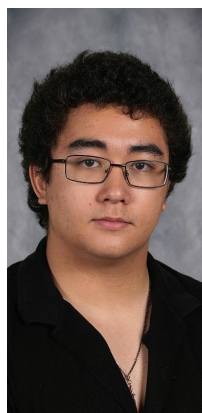
Savannah
Pence



Ethan
Pettit



Kyle
Pettit



Lucas
Potter



Allie
Rector



Abraham
Reetz



Quincy
Reynolds



Kyle
Roney



Alivia
Rose



Autumn
Ross



Nicholas
Rowlett



Donavon
Rush



Colton
Rutledge



Steven
Sarinana



James
Schafer



Brodee
Schmidt



Jayden
Scroggins



Camdyn
Sever



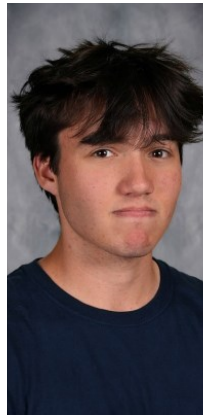
Lincoln
Sheets



Karisa
Shelton



Thomas
Shipp



Joseph
Shope



Nathaniel
Smith



Keragan
Spry



Ashur
Stenger



Elijah
Stewart



Peyton
Stewart



Addie
Stitsworth



Bryce
Stone



Lillian
Sullivan



Trinity
Swartz



Landon
Tharp



Hunter
Thompson



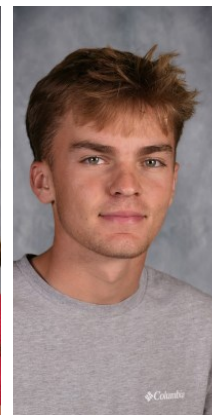
Mikel
Thornton



Audrey
Tingle



Allyson
Trader



Landon
True



Nathaniel
Trueblood



Aidan
Ulery



Rylee
Vaughn



Brooklyn
Verble



Ayden
Waggoner



Matthew
Wahl



Lillian
Waller



Paige
Weaver



Aleigh
Wilson



Emma
Wynn



**Graduates with no photo
available:**

Brody Bear

Trenton Boldery

Parker Dorten

Charles Griffin

Alejandra Jones

Megan Maddox-Grubbs

Grayson Mahoney

Dawson Schafer

Taylor Stearns

Isaiah Thompson

Attention Class of '25

**Student Email & Google Drive
Account Access**

will **terminate on 7/1/25**

You can visit

<https://takeout.google.com/>

**from any computer to export what you
need from your Google account.**

**If you do not have access to a computer, you can
contact the IT Department and make an appointment to
use a school device.**

**Please reach out to info2025@madison.k12.in.us to
schedule a time.**

Madison Anglers Cast for Success

The MCHS Bass Fishing Team sent 4 teams to the Indiana Bass Federation State Championship on Saturday, with the team captained by Larry Hostetler finishing in 10th place.

The IBF/TBF Indiana Bass High School State tournament was contested at Patoka Lake in Celestine, Indiana, with 63 teams competing for the State title. The event also concluded the 2024 season as it comprised the fifth event on the trail. The winning team of Abygale Boyd and Hunter Trainor, captained by renowned bass fisherman Alan Boyd, from Salem, IN, won the State title with 10.68 lbs of fish. Boyd also boated the Big Bass of the tournament with a 5.09-pound bass.

The tournament also awards 6 automatic bids to the Bass Federation National Finals, held this year at Grand Lake in Oklahoma.

The highest finishing team from Madison was the team of Gabe Wall-Polly and Jackson Dean. Gabe boated two bass for the team, 5.74 pounds, just shy of the National Cut.

It was a tough tournament for most teams with high water from the recent torrential rains that complicated pre-tournament practice and created some difficulty moving around to all areas of the lake. Only 24 of the 63 teams were able to boat a 15" or greater length fish.

This event also capped the 2024 fishing season for the MCHS Bass Fishing Team. The final standings for Madison were: Ayden Litter/Braxton Bray 14th - 5 events; Brayden Perry/Clayton Ross 17th - 5 events; Gabe Wall-Polly/Jackson Dean 24th - 5 events; Carson Cammack/Mitchell Cammack 35th - 4 events; Grant Comer/Wyatt Overpeck 37th - 4 events; and Cooper Chandler/Owain Kelsey 51st - 3 events.

After the weigh-in, the Eli Newberry Memorial Big Bass Award was presented to Mitchell Cammack, with his Largemouth Bass caught at Rocky Point in the first event of the 2024 season, that bass weighed in at 5.23 pounds.



Jeremy Newberry, Carson Cammack, Bryan McCutcheon accepting the Eli Newberry Memorial Big Bass award on behalf of his brother Mitchell Cammack



MCHS Bass Fishing Teammates Gabe Wall-Polly and Jackson Dean at Patoka Lake.

The junior division also held their final event of the season at the same time. However, due to a lack of available boat captains, MCHS didn't have any competitors in the event.

The final standings for the juniors were:

- John Brown/Julianne Sorg 491 points
- Bentley Scott/Jaxon Owens
- Logan Stillions/Cooper Hamilton

The highest finishing Madison teams were:

Floyd Davis IV/Gavin Brittain 8th, 291 points 3 events; Brantley Conover/Kaden Ehlers 11th, 228 points; Kohen Smith/Nate Adams 12th, 224 points.

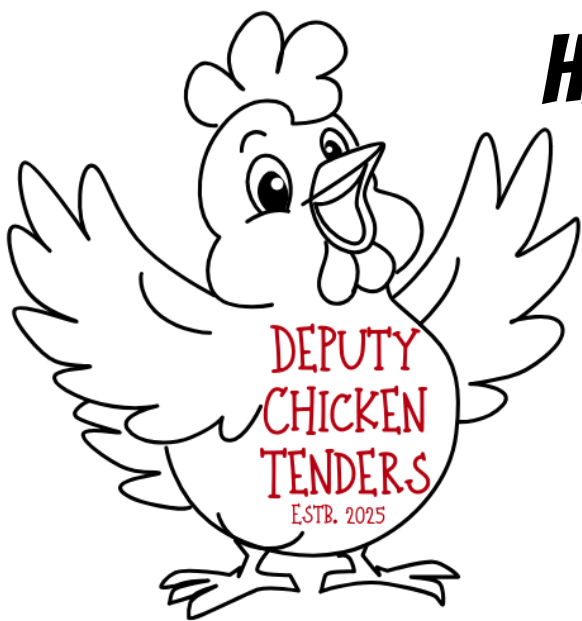
The MCHS Bass Fishing says goodbye to two seniors, Mitchell Cammack and Nick Johnson.

The new season officially kicked off on June 7th back at Patoka Lake for the first trail event of the year. Madison looks to field 8 teams for the 2025 high school season and the junior high has one team ready to go with 7 anglers.

If you would be interested in learning more about the program or would like to help with sponsorship of the team, there is an opportunity to be featured on their jersey, hat, and hoodie.

Additionally, the team is seeking locations of privately owned ponds and/or lakes in the area where they could hold practices.

Please contact one of our coaches: Chris Cammack (cammackfamily@cinergymetro.net), Robert Cooper, or Randy Spry Jr.



HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT OUR CHICKENS?

If you follow Deputy Elementary Preschool on Facebook, you may have seen that the students are raising chicks, an annual event for Mrs. Katie Sowers' class. "This is something we really enjoy every year with the littles," shared Sowers. "To watch this incredible process through their eyes is so exciting."

In years past, Sowers has taken the chicks back to her family farm once school concluded for the year. For a few years, she had joked with Principal Kathy Stoner, about keeping them at school. "The students are so excited, previous classes have asked to leave them at school, and the more we talked about it, the more excited we got and it has taken on a life of its own," shared Stoner.

The PreK students are responsible for the hatchlings and have had a number of lessons around the process from beginning to end. "They are very curious, attentive, and have learned so much over the incubation period and beyond," shared Sowers.

Enter Mrs. Jennifer Colen, STEM Coach for the district, Jacob and Sara of Big Creek Metalworks (and Deputy Alumni!), and the Deputy third-grade students, who are engineering the design of the upcoming COOP!



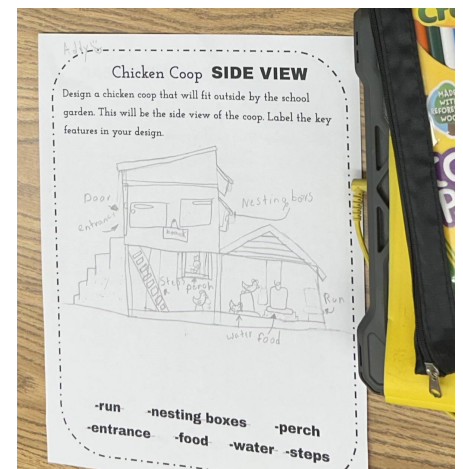
As part of their STEM lessons, third graders are working to design the perfect chicken coop. They have to think about functionality, safety of feeding, watering, and egg collection (all done externally), and creating a space where all students can continue to learn and eventually share the bounty of their harvest with families and their school.



"The energy, creativity, and thought that has gone into the designs has been amazing to watch," shares Colen who works side by side with teachers in grades K-4. "Of the many projects we have worked on across the district, it is fun to know that this one is going to come full circle and these students and our community will be able to continue to learn, watch, and care for our chicks, which has become a very something tradition at Deputy."

And just when you thought things couldn't get any more fun, Mrs. Sowers announced to her class that she would be going to Kindergarten with them! Sowers was recently hired as the new KG teacher at Deputy so she will be moving from PreK with her class, her chickens, and will soon have a new home for them to roost in!

We would like to send a huge THANK YOU to Jacob and Sara of Big Creek Metalworks for your time, guidance, and expertise as you help us bring our vision to life!



Two MCHS Seniors Become First MCS Recipients of Multilingual Proficiency Certificate



This year, MCHS had two students become the district's first to earn the IDOE Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency, indicating they are biliterate in two languages!

The Certificate of Multilingual Proficiency is awarded to Indiana high school seniors who demonstrate not only speaking and listening skills in another language, but also reading and writing skills.

Students must attain the Intermediate High level in another language. At this level, an individual can participate in short conversations based on or around predictable topics, ask and answer simple questions, and handle simple transactions using sentence-level communication.

Performance is with quality and quantity. Individuals communicate with ease and confidence when performing the functions of the level. They are capable of functioning much of the time at the next higher major level, but they are unable to sustain language at that level without evidence of difficulty.

Both of our CoMP earners this year scored at the Advanced level, the highest level!

Avery Clayton earned the CoMP in French. Avery has studied French for four years while in high school (most classes were with Mr. Heitz; this year she took French classes at Hanover College), and she did the IU Honors Program in Foreign Languages in France for a summer. In college, she will have a double major of French and Political Science; she will spend her first two years of college in France and the remaining two at Columbia in NYC.



Avery Clayton

Michelle Laguna-Rafael earned the CoMP in Spanish. Michelle grew up speaking Spanish at home with her parents. She remembers sitting with her grandpa and listening to radio stations in Spanish. They were the ones who also encouraged her to learn to read and write in Spanish. Michelle will study elementary education at Ball State. She has an interest in bilingual education, and this Certificate is proof that she will be qualified.



Michelle Laguna-Rafael



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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Back to School Registration

Anderson Elementary

July 22 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
July 23 | 2 p.m. - 7 p.m.
July 24 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Rykers' Ridge Elementary

July 22 | 12 p.m. - 6 p.m.
July 23 | 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
July 24 | 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
August 5 | 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Madison Junior High School

July 23 | 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.
July 24 | 1 p.m. - 6 p.m.

Madison Consolidated High School

July 29 | 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Lydia Middleton Elementary

July 24 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
July 28 | 1 p.m. - 7 p.m.
August 1 | 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Deputy Elementary

July 30 | 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.
July 31 | 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.
August 5 | 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

School Phone Numbers

Anderson: 812-273-8528 Deputy: 812-274-8007
Lydia Middleton: 812-274-8005 MJHS: 812-274-8003
Rykers' Ridge: 812-274-8006 MCHS: 812-274-8002

Online registration will be available via Skyward for returning students after July 7th.

Online enrollment for **NEW** students is currently open.

*If you were a student at MCS at any time, left, and returned, you need to visit the school building and have the clerk assist you in reactivating your registration.

Visit madison.k12.in.us or contact your school for additional information.

We will send more information later in our Back to School edition, but we wanted to get these dates on your radar for the 2025 - 2026 school year. You can [access the school calendar here](#).

On May 21, the Growing Minds Farms Stop team hosted a community Sneak Peek at their location at 602 W. Main Street, aka, The Little Golden Fox!

The garage door was up, the farmers brought eggs, meat, and produce, and there were baked goods - all given away until the samples ran out. An estimated 150 guests came through and toured with one of our student founders, looked at the floor plans, and asked questions. It was a great night, and the community support and excitement for the project were great to see and experience!

Renovations continue and, all things remaining on track, the equipment installation will begin the week of June 24. Student ServSafe training for the 20 student employees is set for June 10, and a soft opening is planned for the week of July 7. "A large percentage of our student employees are also heavily involved in 4H," shared John Schutte, CTE Coordinator and project advisor. "So while we are anxious to get started, we will have to manage around lots of schedules as we prepare to open our market."

We have linked our Founding Farmer's socials in the photo caption. If you aren't already, go and give them a follow! You won't be disappointed. You can find us on Facebook and Instagram @GrowingMindsFarmStop.

Our Founding Farmers



Joseph & Abby Monroe of [Valley Spirit Farm](#), Liz Eaton of [The Eaton Farm](#), Jesse Ernst of [Splinter Ridge Farm](#), and Liz Brownlee of [Nightfall Farm](#).



Our Farm Stop team: Reilly Kuppler, Ellie Whitaker, Sophie Guirguis, Emma Wynn, Lilly Canida, John Schutte, and Lilly Cox.

If you have a student in (or entering) grades 5 - 12, be sure they have the StudentSquare app downloaded! It is a quick and easy way to keep them connected.

MCHS Alumni Hall of Fame

In April, MCHS honored the Class of 2025 distinguished alumni inductees. Each year, beginning in February nominations are sought and annual honorees are selected by a committee of former inductees. Learn more by visiting our [website](#) for full bios of all inductees, download the nomination form, or follow us on Facebook [@Madison Alumni & Friends](#).

William F. "Bill" Smith
Class of 1951
(1933 - 1991)

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2025

Born and raised in Madison, Indiana, Bill Smith was one of the most innovative jewelry designers of the 1960s and 70s. Born in 1933, he attended the Broadway Colored School until his senior year, when he transferred to Madison High School after it had been integrated. He was active in the Industrial Arts Club, was involved in MAHISCO, and worked on the set of at least one theatre production. In addition to visual art, he also took an interest in dance, which took him to Indiana University, where he studied dance and performed in many productions. He graduated with a degree in metalsmithing.



In 1954, Bill moved to New York to formally pursue a career in dance. With some success and a great network of professionals, he continued to pursue his passion but also held several other jobs to support himself, including a messenger, a librarian, and a side job at a jewelry store in Greenwich Village. Little did he know it would be a springboard to his legacy.

Bill's work as a jewelry designer eventually took center stage over his performing, and in the late 1950s, he decided to pursue design full time. In 1960, he started his first company, Smith St. Jacques, with his business partner and upcoming actor, Raymond St. Jacques. Then, in 1968, he was named Vice-President of Richeleu Costume Jewelry Company, a first for a black man.

His work often graced the covers of fashion magazines around the world, worn by stars of the time such as Lena Horne, Cher, and Twiggy. Further success came when large department stores such as Lord & Taylor began carrying his work, featuring experimentations with size, texture, and shapes in costume jewelry. Followed closely by others, his extravagant work, often made from industrial materials and inspired by Africa and the Middle East, was featured in editorial pieces as the jewelry accessorized models in *Vogue* and *Harper's Bazaar* magazines.

Throughout his life, Bill was a positive role model for those who were black and gay. He was ostracized and bullied. But his work spoke for itself. Often considered outlandish and genius, he was the first black designer to have his jewelry recognized with a Coty Award in 1970. His designs are part of the permanent collections at The MET in New York City, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Eskenazi Museum at Indiana University, and a permanent collection of his pieces is on display at the Jefferson County Art and History Center.

Bob G. Courtney
Class of 1981

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2025

Bob G. "Bobby" Courtney was born and raised in Madison and graduated from MCHS in 1981. The youngest of six children, Bob grew up spending his days at the Lide White Boys Club and the sporting fields of downtown Madison. From an early age, he was a determined young man with a fierce work ethic and a competitive spirit. He used those qualities to excel in academics and athletics. Bob was a decorated high school distance runner, competing in the state finals, and was a member of Ball State's track and cross-country teams. He still holds the school record of 4:19.0 in the 1600-meter run set in 1980.



Following graduation from Ball State University, Bob returned home to build his life in his beloved hometown. With a background in finance and as a CPA, he worked as an executive with PNC Bank, where he was responsible for \$10 billion in capital market investments and loans and supervised a national investment platform. He has been called upon frequently to speak at the state and national levels on the topics of affordable housing, tax credits, housing finance, blight elimination, and historic preservation. Along with his wife, Tammy, they formed Fountain Holdings, LLC, a real estate investment company, and have renovated and preserved 17 historic properties in Madison.

As a problem-solver and visionary, Bob has had a tremendous impact on Madison. As a two-term Mayor, he has led numerous projects such as renovations to Oak Hill Park, Gaines Park, Crystal Beach Aquatic Park, and the Ohio River Legacy Park as part of his vision to make Madison clean, safe, and beautiful. The addition of the new Sunrise Crossing shopping plaza and apartment complex on the hilltop, in addition to numerous new businesses and venues, has helped Madison be recognized and awarded the titles of 2024 Indiana Chamber of Commerce Community of the Year, the #1 Small Town in the Midwest by USA Today 10Best Readers' and 2024 Greatest American Main Street Award, a national award.

Bob received the 2025 Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the highest distinction awarded by the Governor of the state of Indiana. He is a 2024 Hunt Institute Fellow, past president of the Indiana Conference of Mayors, appointed by the Governor to the state Public Health Commission, was recognized by the Lide White Boys & Girls Club as Alumni of the Year, and was the recipient of the prestigious Dorothy Reindollar Preservation Award. In addition, he has received numerous corporate business awards throughout his career.

More important to Bob than his professional accomplishments has been his spirit of giving back to his hometown. His focus is to help others be their best through leadership, mentoring, commitment, and self-sacrifice. He works hard every day to bring solutions to our community and strives to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Madison.

Mary Frances "Fran" Adams-Eades
Class of 1965
MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2025

Mary Frances (Fran) Adams-Eades dedicated her life's work to the most disadvantaged of Jefferson and Switzerland counties during her 38.5-year career with the State of Indiana.



Her career began in 1969 at the Switzerland County Welfare Department as a food stamp eligibility caseworker. Later that year, she moved with her active-duty military husband to Germany, where she worked at the base education center and encouraged soldiers to continue their education and attain their GED Certificate. In 1972, upon returning to the US, Fran began her work with the Jefferson County Welfare Department as a homemaker. As a homemaker, she visited the homes of clients to help them organize, safeguard, and create a nicer environment with little to no budget. She was promoted to Case Worker and assigned to financially disadvantaged homes that needed help ranging from improvement of living conditions, special health assistance needs, and most importantly, strengthening of the family unit. From there, her career shifted to a Public Assistance Worker, where she helped families navigate public assistance programs, and eventually became a Child Protective Services caseworker.

As an advocate for neglected, innocent infants and toddlers whose families struggled to know how to care for them, she provided guidance and support while keeping a protective eye. With a highly sensitive caseload, her work was admittedly stressful and heartbreaking. Her work ranged from infants to young adults up to age 18, and the prospect of having to remove a child from a home was never easy. Throughout her career, Fran was able to connect with children and families to create lifelong relationships. Whether a foster child in the system who she remained in contact with or a young man who successfully turned his life around following a prison stay, she knew she was making a difference a few children at a time.

As a servant leader with an abundance of mutual respect, Fran gave hope, encouragement, support, and confidence to families for a better tomorrow in situations where it may have felt like they had no chance to succeed. Her life's work as a role model in public service proves it is a rewarding yet challenging career. One vital to our community's survival. Helping the most vulnerable, disadvantaged, and innocent is a selfless commitment that makes us all better. Fran's entire career was based on the idea of helping others succeed. From new mothers, to children, to GI's overseas, and to her fellow mentees who she supervised daily until her retirement in 2010, she served the people of her community with love, honor, and grace.

Josh Newell
Class of '94

MCHS Hall of Fame Induction 2025

Josh Newell graduated from MCHS in 1994. While at Madison, he was a varsity football player, a member of the National Honor Society, and involved with many other organizations. After graduation, he attended Indiana University, majoring in business and communications. His dream job was an ESPN announcer. While attending IU, Josh became involved with a campus organization called Campus Crusade for Christ. During his senior year, he traveled to Turkey on a mission trip sponsored by Campus Crusade. After graduating from IU in 1998, he joined a branch of Campus Crusade called the Jesus Film Project. The project's goal was to bring the message of Jesus to people around the world.



This began a 26-year-long (and continuing) career with Campus Crusade. Josh began as part of a team that went to remote places in Africa, working on translating the film into local languages. After a few years, he moved to France with his wife and three children to work with the Campus Crusade team, ministering around the Mediterranean Sea and the Middle East. Five years later, Josh moved his family back to the United States so he could attend the Darden School of Business at the University of Virginia. After completing his MBA in 2013, he served as Director of the Campus Crusade Marketing and Communications team for five years as he recruited a team that launched a fresh brand strategy, positioning the organization as a media ministry for the 21st century. In 2017, as a co-leader of the U.S. Strategy team, with a new goal, he explored the use of new film content in social media. In 2018, he became the Executive Director of the Jesus Film Project and a Vice President of Campus Crusade. He is responsible for over 400 staff and a multi-million budget. He now travels throughout the U.S. and the world, working with hundreds of organizations that use the Jesus Film in their ministries.

Josh has led The Jesus Film Project from the early days when the movie was shown on a 16mm projector. Tom Meiner, COO of Campus Crusade, describes Josh as a servant leader and visionary. "He has a heart for ministry and always looks for opportunities to serve his team and others." With a unique ability to understand trends and apply those insights to the project, he recruits the right people with the appropriate skills to respond to a need or a market trend. In response to the pandemic, he shifted strategies from an in-person ministry to a digital ministry. The current digital format can be viewed on various digital platforms, including a phone app, anywhere in the world. It has been translated into over 2,200 different languages, making it the "most-seen" movie in the history of the world.

Josh's journey started with success in high school, in both academics and athletics. He found something of interest, and he got involved while in high school and college. His dream job gave him a goal. He pursued the education path required to achieve his dream. He took a risk to travel and live in other countries as a servant leader. All these experiences led to new career opportunities.

Josh's commitment to the Lord gives him the strength to do what needs to be done. His belief gives him tremendous energy to work long hours and take on extra travel because he knows it is his calling. Josh encourages others and can connect easily with anyone he encounters. He genuinely cares for people, and in return, they relate to Josh as a friend and have confidence in him.

Early on, Josh found things he was interested in and got involved. He had a goal, he established a plan, and God has given him a purpose, and together, these are unstoppable.

New High School Mascot Makes Debut at Pep Rally



As students eagerly awaited being released for summer vacation, high schoolers and incoming freshman all gathered in the gym for a final pep rally to end the last day of school. Along with games, cheering, and a ceremonial moving classes in the bleachers, one other surprise was in store for this special day: a brand new mascot!

Madison Consolidated High School's brand new Cub mascot made an appearance at the end-of-year celebration. The Cub was at the door to greet students and give high fives as everyone entered the gym. Students and staff got to take pictures with the new Cub and help welcome it to the district. The high school's previous Cub mascot was also there alongside hanging out with students as well. During the pep rally the torch was officially passed from one Cub to the next.

The brand new mascot will start making more appearances next year, so keep an eye out for our new friend at future events. If you see the Cub out and about, make sure to come say hello and take some pictures.

Also stay tuned because we will have more exciting announcements about our new Cub mascot coming soon! You won't want to miss.

