

THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



Bethany Legacy Foundation Grant Announced in September

The lack of quality, affordable childcare is a barrier to workforce participation, child development, and economic growth.

Madison Consolidated Schools is launching a new Early Learning Center that will expand childcare from a 4-room pilot program to a 23-classroom facility serving up to 366 children and their families. This project will help address Jefferson County's childcare desert and strengthen the local workforce.

To support this vision, the Bethany Legacy Foundation has awarded a \$3 million grant to Madison Consolidated Schools and pledged a \$1 million community match. Every dollar contributed by local businesses, organizations, and residents will be matched up to \$1 million.

The Early Learning Center will feature an Indoor Play Space for enrolled children, a Community Sensory Room and Play Therapy Space for families across the county, and an Immersive Garden and Playscape that combines outdoor learning and play for both students and the community.

Projected opening in Fall 2027, the Early Learning Center is a key step in creating a healthier, more self-reliant Jefferson County for generations to come.

From their September 9, 2025, press release, "We are grateful to Madison Consolidated Schools for leading this effort and excited to partner in building brighter futures together."

To read the full release, [click here](#).



MATCHING FUND PLEDGES

"Our team has been hard at work talking with other community stakeholders so that we can maximize this match opportunity," shared Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown. "We are always so very grateful for the generosity of our community partners and have had great conversations about the importance of early learning and helping one another solve a community issue with quality childcare availability. We are very excited to get started on this project!"

Donations from individuals or organizations count toward the matching grant. If you would like to contribute, please send a check made payable to Madison Consolidated Schools (ELC) and mail it to Dr. Teresa Brown, 2421 Wilson Ave., Madison, IN 47250.

**THANK YOU to these
Additional Donors:**

**TyLin Foundation
\$350,000**

**Royer Corp.
\$250,000**

**Duke Energy
Foundation
\$10,000**

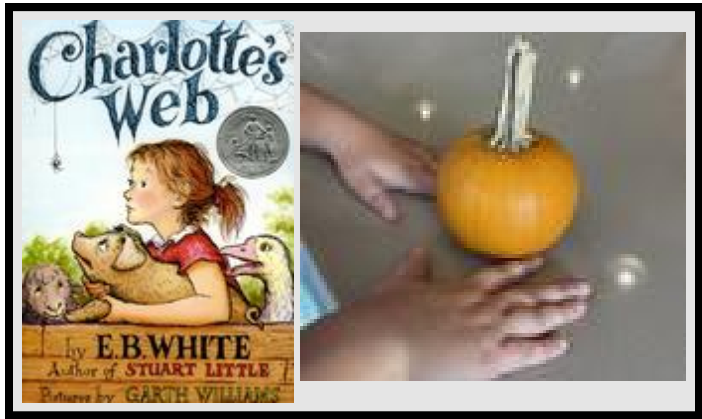
Growing Minds Farm Stop - Pumpkin Palooza

Madison third graders wrapped up their district-wide book read of Charlotte's Web with a visit to the Growing Minds Farm Stop to learn more about farming and to purchase their very own pumpkin.

"Our students have really enjoyed the story, but we wanted to provide them with a hands-on experience," shared Lydia Middleton third-grade teacher, Mrs. Katie Burress. "In addition to the story, students have been learning about farming, money, planting, and gardening as all elementary schools have their own gardens on campus."

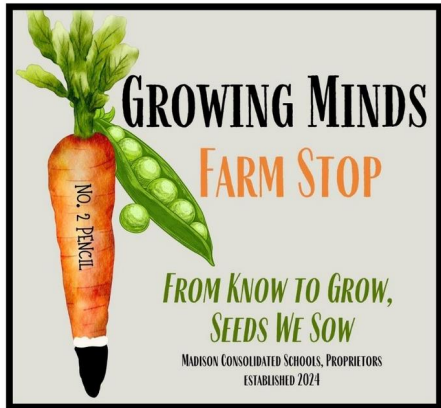
Mr. Trent Whaley, Lydia Middleton Principal and John Schutte, Farm Stop Coordinator worked out the details. "We were very excited to get the call and the timing worked out perfectly," shared Schutte. "Our pumpkin farmer, Dugan Hollow Farms, had just come on board and have provided the perfect selection."

A generous donation from **Royer Corp.** covered the cost of the pumpkins for all students. "We are so very grateful for the generosity of Royer," shared Burress. "By covering the costs, each student was able to select their pumpkin, it was weighed by Farm Stop staff, and each student was responsible for exchanging their cash, experiencing a hands-on retail sales experience."



STEM Integration Grant Awarded

MCS was awarded the STEM integration grant from IDOE for a total of \$37,500. Funds will be used to purchase Sphero robotics kits and teacher professional development that are aligned to Indiana State Standards and promote computer science in each elementary school. MCS is one of 63 districts in the state to be awarded the grant, and the only district in Jefferson County.



- FRESH SEASONAL PRODUCE
- FROZEN FARM-RAISED MEATS
- FRESH FARM EGGS
- FULL COFFEE SHOP
- EXPANDING BAKERY ITEMS

M - W FROM 1-6 PM
TH - F FROM 1 - 7 PM
SA FROM 8 AM - 4 PM
SU FROM 11 AM - 3 PM

HOURS MAY VARY DEPENDING
ON STUDENT SCHEDULES,
CHANGES WILL BE POSTED
ON OUR SOCIALS.

SHOP WITH US AT THE CORNER
OF VINE & MAIN
IN THE LITTLE GOLDEN FOX
602 W. MAIN ST.



Are you interested...
In a flexible work schedule?
Making a difference?

We invite you to attend one of our upcoming
OPEN Substitute Teacher Training
sessions to learn more!

Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 3 pm
Friday, November 14, 2025, at 9 am or 3 pm
Monday, November 24, 2025, at 3:30 pm

MCS Administration Building
2421 Wilson Ave., Madison, IN

Per diem rates:

\$97.50 - HS diploma,

\$105 - Associate's or 60+ hours

\$120 - IN licensed or retired teacher or Bachelor's
from an accredited institution



It is the policy of Madison Consolidated Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, handicap, or age, in its programs or employment policies as required by the Indiana Civil Rights Act (I.C. 1971, 22-9-11), Public Law 218 (I.C. 1597), Title 201, Titles VII and VI Civil Rights Act 1964; the Equal Pay Act of 1970; Title IX (1972 Education Amendment); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 94-112, Section 504.

Community Foundation Grant Expands Rooftop Garden

Earlier this year, Lydia Middleton School Social Worker Catherine LeSaux pursued an opportunity to fulfill her vision of an outdoor sensory space. "The grant cycle of the Community Foundation of Madison Jefferson County opened, and I applied," shared LeSaux. "It was a collaborative effort to put a plan together that would enhance and continue to expand our existing rooftop garden space/classroom into an area that would support our overall goal of student and staff wellness."

Lydia Middleton was awarded \$4,500 to expand the space from the current rooftop garden, to incorporate elements which support behavior regulation, health and wellness, and more outdoor learning spaces that can be enjoyed by all students and staff.



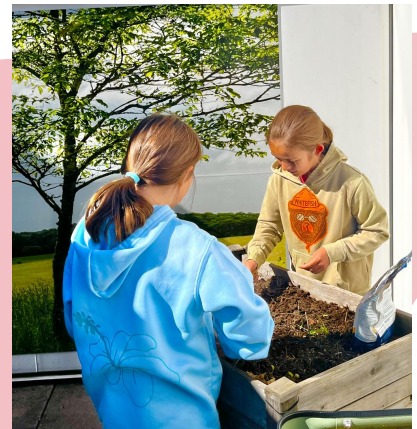
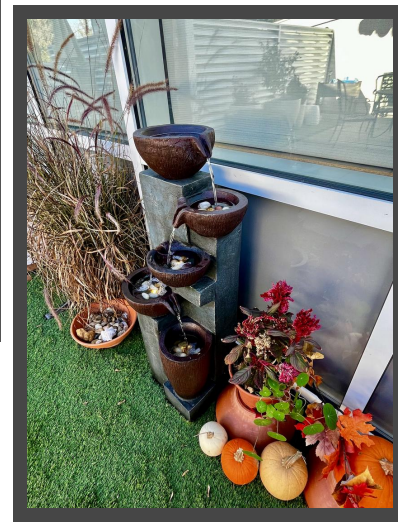
Above, MCHS students visiting Mrs. Taylor's 3rd grade class try out the tree stump cushions.

Mrs. Whitaker works with students around the space, exploring the plant scape.

Fourth graders enjoy a quick visit and some exercise after planting fall bulbs in the raised garden beds.



Not pictured are the 2nd grade classes who have also enjoyed the space as part of their class day.



Madison helping others build teacher pipelines

Madison Consolidated Schools is a district to watch! Proving success across the district for academic growth and achievement, unique student opportunities, and a continued focus on student and staff recruitment and retention has attracted some attention.

Shannon Allman, Director of Human Resources & Finance for the district, has been working with BloomBoard for 2.5 years to develop the district's teacher pipeline. "BloomBoard has been a valuable partner in helping us develop internal talent to the next step," she shared. "We have had seven staff members who are already working in our district and expressed interest in obtaining their teaching degree. BloomBoard partnered with us to make it happen, and we have seen great success."

Individuals enrolled through BloomBoard work in Madison classrooms throughout the day, gaining hands-on student and classroom experiences, and attend online courses outside of school hours. "Our budding teachers are committed and work hard to balance a heavy load," Allman continued.

Currently, there are four staff members enrolled in the program and on track to graduate in December 2025. "We have seen great success with our staff and the BloomBoard support for the district, as well as our teacher/students, has been outstanding," Allman stated. Two newly licensed teachers, Katie Sowers and Trina McDaniel, are both May 2025 graduates of the program and have their own classrooms this year.

Allman was selected to participate in the upcoming AASPA (National K-12 HR Leadership Organization) as part of a national webinar panel sharing the MCS model.



Ms. Shannon Allman is the Director of HR and Finance for the district. She has been in education for nine years. Her prior experience is in the mental health field. She has a blend of experience and expertise that lends itself to the business, HR, and employee climate and culture that make her a natural leader within the district.

MADISON THEATRE
25/26 SEASON • WWW.MADISONTHEATREIN.COM • [f](#) [i](#) [MADISON THEATRE_IN](#)

I AM FRANKENSTEIN
Based on the novel by Mary Shelley
OCT. 19, 2025
Presented by special arrangement with Stage Partners
www.stagepartners.com

MEAN GIRLS
HIGH SCHOOL VERSION
Based on the Paramount Pictures film Mean Girls
Book by Tina Fey, Music by Jeff Richmond, & Music by Neil Benjamin
NOV. 21 - 23, 2025
Presented by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI) www.mtishows.com

RUDOLPH
THE RED-NOSED REINDEER
Based on the animated television special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
adapted from the story by Robert L. May and the song by Johnny Marks
DEC. 5 - 7, 2025
Presented by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI) www.mtishows.com

FINDING NEMO JR.
Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
Book Adapted by Lindsay Anderson, Music & Orchestrations Adapted & Arranged by Myrna Conn
Based on the 2003 Disney / Pixar film Finding Nemo written by Andrew Stanton, Bob Peterson,
David Reynolds and directed by Andrew Stanton
FEB. 20 - 22, 2026
Presented by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI) www.mtishows.com

FROZEN
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
Music and Lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez & Robert Lopez
Book by Jennifer Lee. Originally Directed on Broadway by Michael Grondage
Based on the Disney film written by Jennifer Lee & Directed by Chris Buck & Jennifer Lee
Originally produced on Broadway by Disney Theatrical Group
MAR. 6 - 8, 2026
Presented by special arrangement with
Music Theatre International (MTI) www.mtishows.com

BRIGHT STAR
MUSIC, BOOK AND STORY BY STEVE MARTIN
MUSIC, LYRICS AND STORY BY EDIE BOICKELL
APR. 10 - 12, 2026
Presented by special arrangement with
Theatrical Rights Worldwide (TRW) www.theatricalrights.com

Madison Consolidated Schools and Freeport School District 145 for a conversation on how on-the-job degree and certification programs are transforming teacher pipelines. You'll hear success stories from graduates who are thriving in their classrooms—and learn how these programs are driving retention by creating loyal, homegrown educators. In addition, we'll share a practical funding playbook, highlighting how districts are leveraging apprenticeship grants, state workforce dollars, and creative partnerships to cover costs and expand their pipelines—even with limited budgets.



Follow us!

MCS_Indiana



Introducing... CUBBY!

Last spring, the district invested in a customized mascot suit to replace the aging Cub used for decades. "We had some available funding in our marketing budget, and Brandon Frye, Assistant Principal at MCHS at the time, proposed and shared his ideas for the project," shared Ashley Schutte, Communications Coordinator. "And just like that, we were off on an adventure!"

PromoBears is the company that brought our beloved Cub to life. "We sent a photo of our cub logo to their artists and they took it from there," Schutte continued. "They captured every aspect right down to the iconic, signature hat. We had input all the way through the process, they were great to work with, and when the finished product arrived - we were very, very pleased."

The long-term goal is to have Cubby be a part of the schools and become more of a district-wide marketing, recruiting, and school spirit ambassador. Schutte is working with MCHS Principal, Ronnie Lawhead, and Athletic Director, Devin Brierly, to create a new student opportunity to get involved and get Cubby out and about more and more. "We would love to see our mascot more involved in all aspects of the high school, and more at the elementary and middle school levels," shared Schutte. "It is such a fun way to engage students and our community with our schools. We are in the early planning of organizing ways for our high school students to get involved and create a team of individuals who will help launch this to the next level. Stay tuned!"



Earlier this fall, students of all ages were invited to submit name ideas for our mascot. "We got some very creative suggestions," Schutte continued. The final four were: Champ, Rowdy, Rumble, and Cubby. "We then opened it back up for students and families to vote on their favorite. We then posted to our [@Madison Alumni & Friends](#) Facebook page for their input. After two weeks of open voting, Cubby was the overwhelming favorite! Thanks to everyone who participated!"

UPCOMING SHOWS

MADISON THEATRE
2025.2026 SEASON

MEAN GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL VERSION

Based on the Paramount Pictures film Mean Girls
Book by Tina Fey, Music by Jeff Richmond, & Music by Nell Benjamin

NOV. 21 - 23, 2025

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
www.mtishows.com

MADISON THEATRE
2025.2026 SEASON

RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER[®]

Based on the animated television special "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer"
adapted from the story by Robert L. May and the song by Johnny Marks

Script Adaptation by Robert Penola, Music & Lyrics by Johnny Marks
Arrangements by Timothy Splain, & Orchestrations by William C. White

DEC. 5 - 7, 2025

Presented by special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).
www.mtishows.com

Fundraiser & Cooking Demonstration to Benefit Access to Fresh Food

Chef Gabby Hammersley, from Off Broadway Taproom, will join forces with Little Golden Fox to help Madison Community Grocery Project raise funds for the Growing Minds Farm Stop! All funds raised will help the Madison Community Grocery Project sponsor a discount for low-income farm stop shoppers and ensure that the goodness of local food is accessible for everyone.

Chef Gabby will lead a cooking demonstration on incorporating fresh, local food in your Thanksgiving menu, and she'll cook us a delicious, festive meal (with recipes to take home)! Cara, from LGF, will give us some tips for setting a gorgeous holiday table, and we'll hear from the student leaders of Growing Minds about the role the farm stop plays in our community.

Standard admission tickets will not only cover the costs of the event, but will also provide a \$50 donation to the farm stop discount program. Other pricing tiers are available as well.

Seating is limited to 30 people, so don't delay! Visit <https://bit.ly/4hC2hxM> to purchase tickets!



**JOIN US FOR A FUN EVENING &
GREAT CAUSE!**

**MADISON COMMUNITY GROCERY PROJECT
LITTLE GOLDEN FOX
CHEF GABBY HAMMERSLEY**

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2025
5:30 P.M.**

602 W. MAIN STREET

5th Annual CUB CHAOS

Wednesday, November 12, 2025

Doors open at 5:45 pm

Connor K. Salm Gymnasium

FREE Family Event

Hosted by YOUR
Madison Cubs & Cady Cubs
Basketball teams

JOIN US FOR:

- Player autographs
- Photo opportunities
- Skills Challenge
- 3-point shootout
- Feeder teams introduced
- Boys JV & Varsity scrimmage



VETERANS DAY

★ HONORING ALL WHO SERVED ★

Community Program

November 11, 2025

8:30 a.m.

Connor K. Salm Gymnasium

Veteran's breakfast and roll call registration
begins at 7:00 a.m. in the Auxiliary Gym

