

THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

CONNECTING OUR COMMUNITY



ALL IN. ALL ALIGNED. ALL FORWARD.

Explicit Instruction

In February, several of the district's teachers convened after school to learn more about Explicit Instruction. Stefany Bragg, Literacy Support Specialist, from the Center for Vibrant Schools at Marian University visited to deliver this course based on the book Explicit Instruction: Effective and Efficient Teaching. This may seem a bit odd, seeing as how our teachers instruct all day long, but this was an excellent reminder and support of our continued focus on intentional instruction. "Our teachers do a lot of this work naturally," shared Janet McCreary, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment. "However, it is always beneficial to come together across grade levels and share ideas, best practices, and learn from each other."

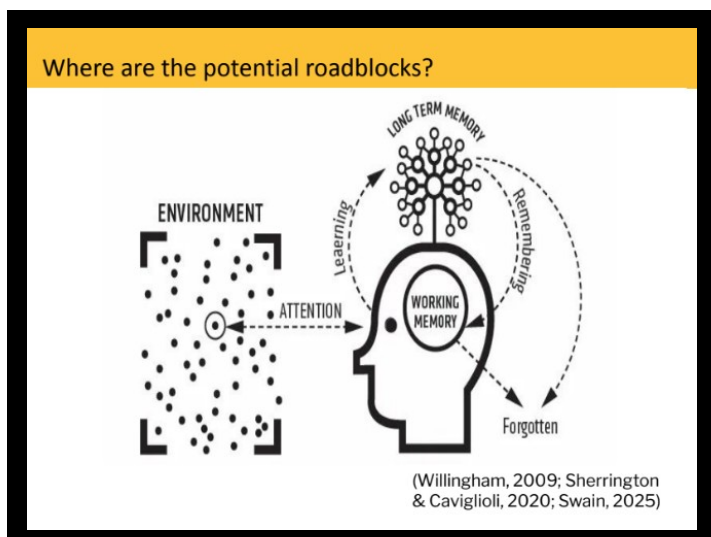
Explicit Instruction is a systematic, instructional approach that includes a set of design and delivery procedures derived from school research... (segment from Ideas that Work). It is a reminder that Good Instruction is Good Instruction, no matter the grade level, content area, or material; other things are fighting for our students' attention.

This may seem like a tale as old as time to some of us. You may be thinking, "Isn't that the way it has always been?", but over the years, a number of things have changed. Technology is ever-present, information is available at your fingertips, and attention spans are getting shorter and shorter. Instant results, faster turnaround, surface reading, and information overload are taking over.



However, the very essence of learning, at its core, lies in engagement, and how we invite students to learn each day is critical to their success now and as they prepare for college or the workforce. Explicit Instruction simply reminds us that students need a structured framework, they need practice opportunities, they need modeled instruction (and learning) from adults around them, and experiences can bring learning to life.

Our teachers have been implementing tried and true methods of instruction for the past several years. You may recall hearing about our leadership team's book studies of Focus: Elevating the Essentials, where we are re-establishing the foundational lesson elements of what and how we teach. We also dove into Learning by Doing as we implemented our Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), where we meet within our teams each Wednesday, review data, share what has worked well, what has not, and develop strategies to ensure all students are engaged and learning. This leads into our monthly MTSS (multi-tiered systems of support) meetings, where we can bring together several resources and individuals, including teachers, administrators, counselors, and sometimes students, to discuss in depth individual situations discovered through data collection, which allow us to address the needs of the whole student. We truly want to understand the challenges, explore solutions, and ensure that they have everything and everyone they need to help them be successful.



Explicit Instruction, cont.

“With the help of Shaun Pennington, we are building systems that identify trends in student achievement,” McCreary continued. “We are able to target instruction across our student body, identify intervention needs much sooner for small groups in need, and further develop individual plans for students who need additional supports. MCS is leading the way on intentional instruction, and our incredible teachers are forging the path.”

Just a little over a year into district-wide implementation, MCS saw a strong improvement in scores last year. “Reading has been the focus, and we are seeing great results,” shared McCreary. “Math is next, and it is professional development like Explicit Instruction that energizes us as professionals, while reminding us that sometimes simple is best. When we are making connections, engaging one another while we learn, and enjoy the process; the sky is the limit!”



Want to learn more?

Want to dive a little deeper into the sweeping changes we are making in the classroom?

Would you like to understand more about our PLC time?

Are you curious about how our teachers are collaborating to address specific student needs?

Links in red below:

Visit our [YouTube stream - MCSCStream](#)

[February 12, 2025 meeting](#) - Janet McCreary and Shaun Pennington outline work being done to improve the instructional framework and delivery across the district.

[September 10, 2025 meeting](#) - district Coaches Cadre presents Student Centered Coaching and Staff Collaboration. Presentation starts at the 16:40 mark.



From *Explicit Instruction*, Anita Archer shares some of her "Archerisms". Great reminders for all of...after all, we are all teachers of some sort!



April 2, 2026
4:00 - 7:00 p.m.
All Elementary Locations

Find your home school from the link included

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Visit your home school location to register
for the upcoming school year!

Questions? Contact your school today!

For a complete list of elementary school contacts see link included below

You will need to bring:

- Your student for pre-registration assessments
- Certified copy of your child's birth certificate
- Copy of child's immunization records
- Proof of residency valid within the last 60 days
Ex: drivers' license, utility bill, etc.

Choose us!



student centered
achievement focused
everyone valued

[Click here](#) to learn more
about Kindergarten
Registration!

Meet the Custer Contest Seniors

2026 marks the 115th year of the annual Custer Oratorical Contest. **This is a FREE community event.** Mark your calendar and come join us for a great evening of entertainment and marvel at the exceptional student talent of the Class of 2026.

*115th Annual
Custer Contest*

*Madison Consolidated
High School*

*Friday
April 17th 2026
7:00 pm*

*Opal E. Sherman
Auditorium*



Abigail Everage
The Bell Jar

Ellie Whitaker
Flora & Ulysses

Will Zheng
Moby Dick

Kolton Lock
The Stranger

Savannah Hall
Little Women

115th Annual Custer Contest

Kolton Lock



The Stranger
by Albert Camus
Coach - Krista Lee

Kolton plans to attend Northwestern University, where he intends on majoring in Chemical Engineering.

While at Madison, Kolton has been involved in many activities. He participates in musical theater, volleyball, Academic Super Bowl, Science Olympiad, and Student Council. He is also a member of National Honor Society and Thespian Society.

The Stranger by Albert Camus is about a man named Meursault who lives in Algeria and seems emotionally distant from the world around him. After committing a sudden crime, he faces a trial that focuses more on his behavior and beliefs than the crime itself. The story explores ideas about life, meaning, and society.

115th Annual Custer Contest

Abigail Everage



The Bell Jar
by Sylvia Plath
Coach - Ally Fife

Abby plans to attend Indiana University Southeast, where she intends to major in Education.

While at Madison, Abby has been involved in several activities. She participates in archery and Quiz Bowl, is a member of National Honor Society, and serves as a Junior High Theater assistant.

The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath is about a young woman named Esther Greenwood who struggles with her mental health while trying to find her place in the world. The story follows her experiences with pressure, identity, and recovery.

115th Annual Custer Contest

Ellie Whitaker



Flora & Ulysses
by Kate DiCamillo
Coach - Amy Whitaker

Ellie's college choice is currently undecided, but she intends to major in Elementary Education.

While at Madison, Ellie has been involved in many activities. She is a member of National Honor Society, Pep Club, Student Council, FCA, and FFA. She also plays Varsity Girls Volleyball and serves as a basketball manager. Outside of school, she is a dancer at Mires School of Dance and an active member of her church youth group.

Flora & Ulysses: The Illuminated Adventures by Kate DiCamillo is a funny and heartwarming story about a girl named Flora and a squirrel named Ulysses. After a strange accident with a vacuum cleaner, Ulysses gains superpowers, including the ability to think and write poetry. Together, Flora and Ulysses go on an adventure that teaches them about friendship, courage, and believing in the good in others.

115th Annual Custer Contest

Savannah Hall



Little Women
by Louisa May Alcott
Coach - Cortney Arrowood

Savannah plans to attend University of Cincinnati, where she intends to major in Accounting.

While at Madison, Savannah has been involved in many activities. She serves as the National Honor Society treasurer and the student school board representative. She is also a member of Thespian Society, JAG, the Farm Stop Co-op student program, and Student Council.

"Little Women by Louisa May Alcott tells the story of four sisters—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—growing up during the Civil War. The book follows their family life, challenges, and dreams as they learn about love, kindness, and growing up.

115th Annual Custer Contest

Will Zheng



Moby Dick
by Herman Melville
Coach - Emeka Koren

Will plans to attend Purdue University, where he intends to major in Engineering.

While at Madison, Will has been involved in several academic activities, including Quiz Bowl, Academic Super Bowl, Esports Club, and Science Olympiad.

Moby-Dick by Herman Melville is about a sailor named Ishmael who joins a whaling ship led by Captain Ahab. Ahab is determined to hunt a giant white whale called Moby Dick. The story follows their dangerous journey at sea and Ahab's strong obsession with catching the whale.

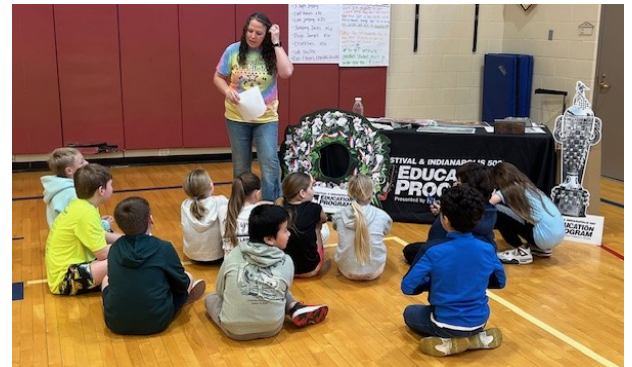
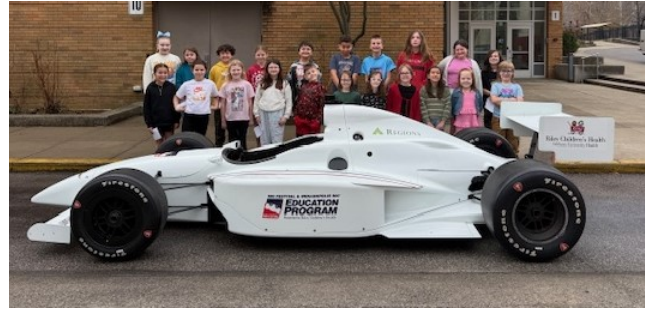
Drivers....start your engines!

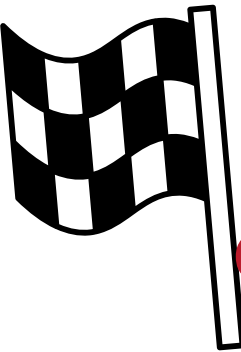
Sure signs of Spring are wet weather, bulbs blooming, and the roar of IndyCar engines as they prepare for the upcoming Indianapolis 500.

Lydia Middleton Elementary School was selected to participate in the 500 Festival & Indianapolis 500 Education Program, presented by Riley Children's Health. This is a free program for Indiana fourth-grade classrooms that immerses students in the world of the Indianapolis 500!

Fourth-grade classrooms at participating schools also have the opportunity to participate in a Mobile Trip in March, held at their school. For a Mobile Trip, the 500 Festival brings an in-school field trip to Indiana schools that includes fun and interactive lessons for students.

These trips include interactive stations led by 500 Festival staff and volunteers, racing equipment, and an actual IndyCar, all provided by the 500 Festival!



 We extend a HUGE THANK YOU to Riley Children's Health, the 500 Festival, and the 500 Education Program for this amazing experience!

Innovative Program of the Year Award

The Growing Minds Farm Stop team is adding more accolades to the growing list of student accomplishments. In February, the GMFS was recognized by the Indiana Chamber of Commerce and the Institute for Workforce Excellence (IWE) at their 20th Annual Impact Awards as the 2026 Innovative Program of the Year in the state!

Up against some incredible competition, the GMFS was recognized for the work they are doing with Madison Consolidated High School students, regional farmer partners, and the service and space they have created in our community.

IWE works to connect workforce ready students and employees with employers across the state in many career fields. Each year, the Impact Awards, recognizes the best of the best.

[Read more from BizVoice here.](#)



Pictured from the left are John Schutte, GMFS Program Coordinator, Senior Co-Op student Savannah Hall, Lilly Cox, GMFS Manager Intern, Senior Co-Op student Addy Colen, and Superintendent Dr. Teresa Brown.

APRIL DATES ANNOUNCED!

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, April 14, 2026, 2 pm

Monday, April 20 2026, 2 pm

MCS Administration Building
2421 Wilson Ave., Madison, IN

NEW, INCREASED Per diem rates:

\$105 - HS diploma,

\$120 - Associate's or 60+ hours

\$150 - 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. 35-50-1; 20-9-1); Public Law 228 (I.C. 35-50-1; Title 20); Titles VI and VII Civil Rights Act 1964; the Equal Pay Act of 1973; Title IX (1972 Education Amendments); Public Law 94-142; and Public Law 93-112, Section 504.



MJHS THEATRE
PRESENTS

INTO THE WOODS JR.

Music and Lyrics by STEPHEN SONDHEIM
Book by JAMES LAPINE

Originally Directed on Broadway by James Lapine
Orchestrations by Jonathan Tunick

Original Broadway production by:
Rocco Landesman, Frederic H. Mayerson,
Heidi Landesman, M. Anthony Fisher,
Rick Steiner, Jujamcyn Theaters

Originally produced by the Old Globe Theatre, San Diego, CA

Thu. Apr 30th 2026, 7:00pm
Fri. May 1st 2026, 7:00pm
Sat. May 2nd 2026, 2:30pm

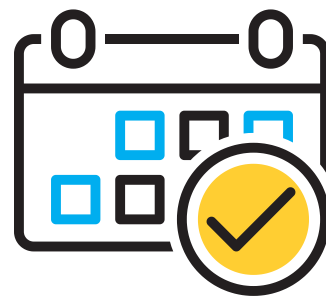
ONLINE TICKETS:
Adult: \$8 K-12: \$5
WALK IN TICKETS:
Adult: \$10 K-12: \$7

For Tickets and Info, visit us at
<https://our.show/mjhs/intothewoods>

MJHS Theatre
Opal E. Sherman Auditorium
743 Clifty Dr. Madison, IN

Into the Woods JR. is presented through special arrangement with and all authorized materials are supplied by Music Theatre International, New York, NY (212) 541-4684 mtishows.com

We love to see you at school!



As we begin the final term of the 25-26 school year, we wanted to send a reminder about student attendance and how important it is that they come to school each day. We want to return from Spring Break, refreshed, present, and ready to finish the year strong!

Chronic Absenteeism is a focus for us and will become more of a priority as we end this year and begin next school year. We have a new tool with ParentSquare Attendance+ that will allow us to better track proactively and identify patterns earlier so that we can support students, remove barriers, and identify early interventions that may be helpful. Our goal is to support our students and families so that coming to and getting to school are priorities for all of us.

Daily school attendance is as important as daily attendance at work. We have used this example with students during attendance meetings. We have asked them to think about school as their job. By attending every day, on time, students can:

- Learn more effectively, as many lessons in all grade levels are sequential, and missing important information can lead to learning gaps.
- Better manage their workload; even missing a day or two can create a backlog of assignments, which often creates stress for students as they work to catch up.

- Develop essential social skills - by creating stable peer relationships and a sense of belonging.
- Assists in creating career-ready habits such as reliability, punctuality, and time management skills - all essential for post-graduate success.

At the beginning of the year, we shared information about a new state law where we are required to monitor attendance more closely and identify Chronic Absenteeism earlier. We hold regular meetings with students and parents as needed to help them understand the importance of attending school. We work together to identify and remove barriers and provide extensive education on new attendance laws, how to monitor attendance in Skyward, and our processes when a chronic absenteeism concern is identified.

We will be rolling out a new feature in ParentSquare called Attendance+, which we are currently testing in a few locations. It will help us be more proactive around attendance, identify trends earlier, and track interventions to set students up for success!

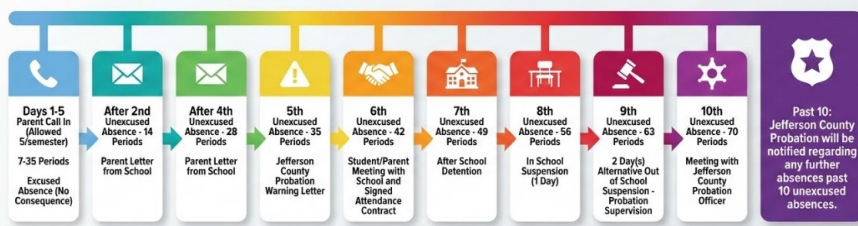
Helpful Resources

[Google Classroom Navigation](#)



[Skyward Family Access Overview](#)

Madison Consolidated Schools Unexcused Absence Progression & Consequences



Girls Inc. - She Knows Where She's Going!

Each year Girls Inc. honors three strong, smart, and bold women in our community. This year's event was on March 17, 2026, and marked the 23rd annual hosting of this very special honor and wildly successful fundraiser. Tickets are a hot item, and the honorees are always a surprise to those in attendance, and this year did not disappoint.

Lilly Cox, a 2025 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School and Apprentice Manager of the Growing Minds Farm Stop, was one of the honorees selected. A part of the unique student opportunity offered only at MCHS, from the beginning, Lilly has played an instrumental role in the project planning, implementation, and day-to-day operations of the growing Farm Stop.

From the beginning, Lilly has embraced the mission and vision of the Growing Minds Farm Stop, supporting efforts that connect local producers with the community and strengthen the local food system. Lilly attended Ivy Tech Community College simultaneously while at MCHS, earning a Business Administration Certificate in 2025, and will complete her Associate's degree in Agriculture in May 2026. She plans to continue studying business while supporting agriculture entrepreneurship and local food initiatives.

A ten-year 4Her, showing sheep locally, regionally, and at the state level with great success, she is also a successful beekeeper, something she shares and enjoys doing with her grandfather. You will always find Lilly pouring into the next generation of young people, whether through her passion for sheep, agriculture, education, or healthy, local food at your fingertips - she is a role model for all.

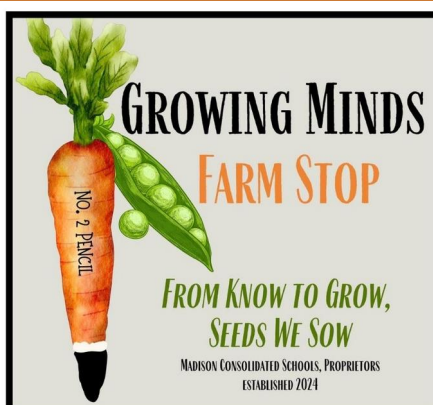
A fun sidenote, GMFS employee, producer, and girls inc. alum, Jane Jenner (Plain Jane Cookies), was the baker who provided the delicious dessert cookies enjoyed by the attendees.



Pictured with young ladies from girls inc. are the 2026 honorees: Dr. Holly Robinson of Infants in Bloom, Lilly Cox, and Gretchen Lindquist, founder and owner of Island Dreams Landscaping.

Thank you to the many, many local businesses, individuals, volunteers, and girls inc. board members for making this such a successful event. Thank you to Director Susan Stahl and her staff for creating a space for young women to learn, grow, and develop long-lasting friendships where they are empowered to be **STRONG, SMART & BOLD.**

To learn more about Girls Inc. of Jefferson County, IN, you can follow them on their socials.



A STUDENT-LED CAPSTONE PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MADISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS & LOCAL FARMERS TO:

- HELP CREATE AN ACCESSIBLE, DAILY RETAIL OUTLET FOR FRESH, FARM-RAISED FOOD,
- PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE NUTRITIONAL CHOICES,
- AND A PLACE TO GATHER FOR FELLOWSHIP!

- 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.

