

THE DISTRICT CORRESPONDENT

Connecting our community



BUILDING THE FUTURE

Celebration Edition! Coming Soon!



Artist rendering of the finished Early Learning Center - estimated completion is fall 2027.

Funding for the \$32 million facility comes from a fusion of community partnerships and grants, as well as bonds secured by the district. The seed money came from a \$750,000 grant from the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA). The Bethany Legacy Foundation contributed \$3 million, with a \$1 million match from local partners including Royer Corporation, the Tylin Foundation, Duke Energy, city-backed bonds, and a \$280,000 pledge from the Economic Development Council.

The ELC will stand on the grounds of the former E.O. Muncie Elementary School on Lanier Drive on Madison's hilltop. Centrally located, this space has been designed for family convenience, a community hub for families with young children, for all things conveniently located for families.



The celebration was commemorated with a live-capture rendering of the event commissioned from Mr. Eric Phagan, local artist and MJHS art teacher.

On Wednesday, April 29, 2026, members of the School Board of Trustees, Bethany Legacy Foundation, Madison Early Learning Center staff and students, families, friends, and community partners gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking of the **NEW** Madison Early Learning Center (ELC).

More than a building, the ELC is a strategic investment in our community. As a shared vision for fulfilling a community need for access to quality childcare, this building for our littlest learners ages birth to five, will provide a strong learning foundation and a seamless integration from early care to preschool.



Pictured L to R:

Madison ELC Principal, Ms. Shelley Marshall, MCS Board President David Storie with his grandchildren Jackson and Elizabeth Bird, MCS Board member John Wallace, Owner of Royer Corporation, Roger Williams, MCS Board Secretary Jodi Yancey, Bethany Legacy Foundation President, Dora Anim, MCS Superintendent, Dr. Teresa Brown, MCS Board Vice President, Dustin Bentz, and MCS Board member Michael Scott, Mayor Bob Courtney, Ashtyn Haggard and her children Oliver and Hazel Haas.



KUDOS AND WELL DESERVED!

Madison Consolidated High School Receives National Recognition for Theatre Education Program

Madison Consolidated High School has been named a Premier Community for Theatre Education, a national distinction presented by the Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) to schools that demonstrate exceptional achievement in providing meaningful, high-quality theatre education and access for all students.

The EdTA Premier School recognition honors communities that prioritize theatre education by investing in the people, resources, and support systems that help students thrive through the arts.

To qualify for the distinction, MCHS completed a comprehensive application documenting its support for theatre education in areas including funding, curriculum, instructional time, facilities, student participation, teacher development and evaluation, and overall institutional commitment to the program. All responses were verified with official documentation and reviewed by the Educational Theatre Association.

Research continues to highlight the educational and social-emotional benefits of participating in school theatre. Studies have shown that students involved in theatre programs can develop stronger confidence, creativity, collaboration, resilience, responsibility, and a deeper sense of belonging. Drama-based instruction has also been shown to help students make stronger connections to academic content, while 95% of school administrators believe that theatre experiences improve students' overall academic skills.

"Theatre education gives students the opportunity to discover their voice, build confidence, and develop skills that serve them for life," said Jay Gerlach, Interim Executive Director of the Educational Theatre Association. "This recognition celebrates communities that understand theatre is not extracurricular in the traditional sense, but an essential part of a well-rounded education."

About the Educational Theatre Association

The Educational Theatre Association (EdTA) is an international nonprofit that serves as the professional association for theatre educators. EdTA is the parent organization of the International Thespian Society, the honor society for theatre students that has inducted more than 2.5 million Thespians since 1929, and the Educational Theatre Foundation, the organization's philanthropic arm dedicated to broadening representation and increasing access to school theatre for all students. Visit schooltheatre.org to learn how EdTA inspires theatre educators to transform lives.

MADISON CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

JOIN OUR TEAM!
SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TRAINING

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN A STUDENT'S DAY.
DISCOVER A FLEXIBLE SCHEDULE.

TRAINING DATES & TIMES (All sessions at the ADMIN BUILDING on WILSON AVENUE)		
DATE	MORNING SESSION	AFTERNOON SESSION
JUNE 8	10 AM	2 PM
JULY 6	10 AM	2 PM
JULY 20	10 AM	2 PM

**1. BEFORE YOU ARRIVE:**
GO ONLINE to madison.k12.in.us and APPLY for a Substitute Teaching Position. (Required for all attendees.)

**MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:**

- ✓ 18+ years old
- ✓ Highschool Diploma

**3. COMPENSATION & CONDITIONS:**
DAILY RATES: \$105.00 - \$150.00
Employment is dependent on background check and drug screen results.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT HUMAN RESOURCES:
CALL: 812 274 8105
EMAIL: csealbrowning@madison.k12.in.us



Congratulations to the Class of 2026

*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 7
2:00 p.m.
Connor K. Salm
Gymnasium

2025-26 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 Kira Brittain - \$1,250	Farmers Bank of Milton Scholarship Emmianna Dowell - \$1,000	German American AIM Scholarship Elliott Kozenski - \$1,000	Brad O'Leary Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$700
Dianna Risk Peer Counseling Scholarship Kyra Ayler - \$1,000 Kylie Montgomery - \$1,000 Kira Brittain - \$1,000	SEI Communications Scholarship Abigail Everage - \$500 Hannah Richart - \$500 Gracie Evans - \$500 Emily Laufer - \$500	Custer Oratory Contest Participant Abigail Everage - \$550 Savannah Hall - \$550 Will Zheng - \$550	Indiana Kentucky Electric Corp. Scholarship David Corral - \$750 Marley Stivers - \$750 Addison Roark - \$750
Molly Dattilo Follow Your Dreams Scholarship Kylie Montgomery - \$1,000	Ralph and Robyn Jones Family Memorial Scholarship Aaron Brown - \$1,150	Dennis Holt Memorial Scholarship Mylee McQueary - \$1,500	Vernon W. Gudkese Memorial Engineering Scholarship David Corral - \$250
Tri Kappa Beta Scholarship, Beta Omega Chapter Audrey Miller - \$1,000 Kinlee Marshall - \$500	Lindsey Sachleban Scholarship Kylie Montgomery - \$1,500 Kyra Ayler - \$1,500	Carolyn Brucer Spicer and Gene E. Spicer Nursing Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$1,150	Friendship State Bank Wilkie S. & James W. Lemon Scholarship Marley Stivers - \$3,000
Canaan Community Scholarship Hunter Surrentt - \$500	Broadway Alumni Scholarship Mahleah Perry - \$600	Ivy Tech Madison Scholarship Devon Riley - \$1,000	Cheatham Family Scholarship Hannah Combs - \$1,000
Dallas Lamb Visual Arts and Arts & Crafts Scholarship Emily Laufer - \$1,000	Mayor Damon Welch Memorial Scholarship Hannah Combs - \$900	Fraternal Order of Police Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$500	Charles H. and C. Chris Keller Scholarship Emmianna Dowell - \$500

2025-26 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Rainbow Youth Scholarship Anonymous - \$1,000	Trevor Woodward Art Scholarship Julia Litchfield - \$500	Lifespring Foundation Teralyn Scharlau - \$500	Phi Beta Psi Sorority Scholarship Teralyn Scharlau - \$500
Custer Oratory Contest Scholarship Endowment Ellie Whitaker - Winner - \$4,350 + \$550 Kolton Lock - Runner Up - \$2,900 + \$550	Jefferson County Extension Homemakers Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$500 Hannah Richart - \$500 Teralyn Scharlau - \$500	Dupont Alumni Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$1,500 Addy Colen - \$1,500 Emily Laufer - \$900	Madison Teachers Association Scholarship Elliott Kozenski - \$500 Ellie Whitaker - \$500
Thomas D. Craft, Jr. Memorial Scholarship Savannah Hall - \$1,100	Sharon Thom Alcorn Memorial Scholarship Anna Guzman - \$1,800	Frank O'Bannon Scholarship Abigail Everage - \$5,300	MCHS Class of 1966 Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$2,800
Ivy Tech Student Ambassador Abigail Everage - Certificate	Gary Chapman Memorial Scholarship Magnolia Elles - \$1,000	Madison Kiwanis John Hawk Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$5,700	Dr. Fred S. Henderson Family Scholarship Laura Boles - \$2,400
Carl J. & Mary M. Hoefling Memorial Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$5,125	Bonnie & Printis Shelton Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$11,800	Knights of Columbus Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$1,000	Class of '84 & Frances K. Eisan Memorial Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$1,300
Troy Allen Pyles Memorial Scholarship Mya Kemp - \$1,700	Meyers - Hoefling Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$7,700	Norma A. Cull Memorial Scholarship Magnolia Elles - \$2,800	Denise Gillette Memorial Scholarship Kylie Montgomery - \$500
Deputy Alumni Scholarship Emily Laufer - \$2,000 Laura Boles - \$2,500 Bridgett Boles - \$4,000	Rotary Club: Carter Memorial Scholarship Maylie Skinner - \$1,300 Hannah Richart - \$1,300 Ellie Whitaker - \$1,300	Glenn G. & Dorothy Ebel Huntington Scholarship Mylie McQueary - \$1,600	Dorothy B. Lotz Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$2,150 Will Zheng - \$2,150
MCHS Archery Scholarship Alaina Alexander - \$500	Community Foundation Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$1,500	Shawn Barnes Memorial Scholarship Elliott Kozenski - \$300 / Certificate	Mayor's Eagles Community Service Scholarship Audrey Miller - \$250

2025-26 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Ivy Tech MVP Maxwell Way - Certificate Braden Hassfurder - Certificate Tracent Chatham - Certificate	Education Foundation Academic Team Scholarship Clara Kempton - \$1,500 David Corral - \$1,000 Abigail Everage - \$500	Jefferson County 4-H Scholarship Sydney Huff - \$500 Addison Colen - \$325	Mabel Green Memorial Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$1,450 Maylie Skinner - \$1,450
Glenn G. & Dorothy Ebel Huntington Scholarship Mylie McQueary - \$1,600	Terry and Wanda Wood Memorial Scholarship Kennedy Rowlett - \$1,100	Sheila Surrett Memorial Allied Health Scholarship Bridgett Boles - \$300	Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship Lillian Canida - Full Tuition
Indiana Sheriff's Association Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$1,000	National Honor Society Scholarship Kyra Ayler - \$500 Marley Stivers - \$500	Nick Shadday Memorial Scholarship Maylie Skinner - \$1,000 Zane Skinner - \$1,000	Joseph V. Cline Scholarship Alaina Alexander - \$20,600 Ellie Whitaker - \$20,600
Nathan Wilson Memorial Mathematics Scholarship Will Zheng - \$3,600	Kenneth E. & Mary Lou Dunbar Scholarship IHO Perry and Dunbar Employees Scholarship Bridgett Boles - \$1,100	Jefferson County Farm Bureau, INC Scholarship Sydney Huff - \$1,000 Addison Roark - \$1,000	Centra Credit Union - Loretta M Burd Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$2,500
Mary Louise Eisenhardt Scholarship Bridgett Boles - \$3,114 Elliott Kozenski - \$3,114 Kyra Ayler - \$3,114 Emily Laufer - \$3,114 Maylie Skinner - \$3,114 Hannah Richert - \$3,114 Kira Brittain - \$3,114	American Legion Major Samuel Woodfill, Post 9 Scholarship Zoey Coy - \$500 Kylie Montgomery - \$500 Ellie Whitaker - \$500 Hannah Combs - \$500 Teralyn Scharlau - \$500 Jaden Wooldridge - \$500 Elliott Kozenski - \$500	Madison FFA Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$400 Addison Colen - \$300 Hunter Surrett - \$100 Paislee Chambers - \$100 Sawyer Felts - \$100	MCHS Bowling Team Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$500 / Certificate Taylor Miller - \$500 / Certificate Max Way - \$250 / Certificate Braylen Smith - \$250 / Certificate

2025-26 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Marshall & Norma Banks Nursing Scholarship Jaime Rodriguez-Ortiz - \$500	Steve Kunkel Sportsmanship Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$500 / Certificate	Indiana FFA Scholarship Sydney Huff - \$400	Charlotte Knox Canida - Taylor University Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$48,000
LaVon Cartwright Gudkese & Ann Gudkese Offerman Nursing Scholarship Alaina Alexander - \$250	Rotary Club: Betty Sebree Good Citizen Award Ellie Whitaker - Plaque	Jefferson County Retired Teachers Association Scholarship Maleah Perry - \$200	Jefferson County Kiwanis Club Scholarship Zane Skinner - \$250
Mountjoy Family Memorial Scholarship Maylie Skinner - \$7,000 David Corral - \$7,000 Kyra Ayler - \$7,000 Bridgett Boles - \$7,000 Emily Laufer - \$7,000 Colton Brooks - \$3,676.50 Jaden Wooldridge - \$3,676.50 Addison Roark - \$3,676.50 Eliza Burnette - \$3,676.50 Teralyn Scharlau - \$3,676.50 Marley Stivers - \$3,676.50	Jobs for America's Graduates Scholarship Kyra Ayler - \$150 Jasmine Bell - \$150 Paislee Chambers - \$150 David Corral - \$150 Rachel Couch - \$150 Aeryonna Dews - \$150 Trevor Duncan - \$150 Dellah Gibson - \$150 Savannah Hall - \$150 Sydney Huff - \$150 Kinlee Marshall - \$150 Kylie Montgomery - \$150 Addison Roark - \$150 Jason Romero - \$150 Kennedy Rowlett - \$150 Trenton Schafer - \$150 Tera Scharlau - \$150 Lily Wester - \$150	Jefferson State Community College Golf Scholarship, David E. Simon Indiana Golf Foundation Scholarship, Joe Goodman Indiana Football Coaches Scholarship, and the Charles and Chris Keller Scholarship Emmianna Dowell - \$7,000	University of Evansville Aces Opportunity Grant + Academic and Athletic Scholarship Della Gibson - \$32,000+
		Hanover College Trustee Scholarship, Legacy, Multi-Child, and Visit Scholarships Aiden Pettit - \$34,000	Hanover College Founders Scholarship Hannah Combs - \$36,000
		University of Indianapolis Momentum Award Rachel Couch - \$46,288/year	Indiana University Southeast Grenadier Gold Scholarship Jadelyn Abbott - \$4,000
			Grace College Academic Honors Scholarship Emily Laufer - \$52,000
Kiwanis Indiana Foundation Scholarship Maylie Skinner - \$2,500	Shannon Thomas Memorial Scholarship Marley Stivers - \$300	Next Generation Hoosier Educator Scholarship Abigail Everage - \$10,000/year Ellie Whitaker - \$10,000/year	SEIRD Students Making an Environmental Contribution Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$500 / Certificate

2025-26 Scholarship Award Recipients Cont.

Helyn Bishop Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$1,200	Madison Pilots Club Scholarship Ellie Whitaker - \$500 / Certificate	Knights of Columbus Scholarship Hannah Richart - \$1,000 & Certificate	Nucor Foundation Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$5,000/year
Miami University Red Hawk Excellence Scholarship + Direct Admittance to Farmer School of Business Audrey Miller - \$9,000	DePauw University Distinguished Scholarship, University Grant and additional awards - Bode Heckler - \$66,944+ / year	Ball State University Presidential Scholarship Jaden Wooldridge - \$22,000	DAR Good Citizen Award Ellie Whitaker - Certificate 2026 Honor Graduate Ellie Whitaker - Certificate

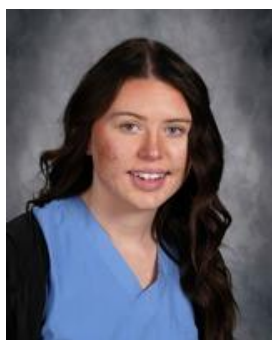
Seniors,
This isn't goodbye, only farewell!
I wish you the very best on your next adventure. Don't forget to come visit, join us for a ballgame, or just keep in touch...I would love to know what you're up to!

**Cubbie**





Jadelyn
Abbott



Alaina
Alexander



Alex
Anderson



Jailyn
Arthur



Kyra
Ayler



Mystical
Barrett



Nya
Baskin



Xander
Bauer



Jazmine
Bell



Alixa
Bentz



Sofia
Bentz



Rellik
Birge



Autumn
Bladen



Bridgett
Boles



Laura
Boles



Josie
Boyd



Carson
Branstetter



Kira
Brittain



Colton
Brooks



Aaron
Brown



Jocelyn
Brown



Eliza
Burnette



Preston
Bush



Layla
Calhoun



Lillian
Canida



Dalton
Caudle



Paislee
Chambers



Cooper
Chandler



Jaxson
Chandler



Tayler
Chatham



Tracent
Chatham



Branson
Cline



Ava
Clubb



Jaylin
Coker



Addison
Colen



Marijose
Colin



Hannah
Combs



Kamryn
Conboy



Berlynn
Conover



Beckham
Cornelius



David
Corral



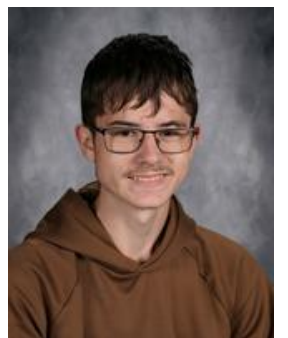
Rachel
Couch



Ryan
Cox



Zoey
Coy



Tristan
Crabtree



Miguel
Cullum



Kale
Cumbie



Chelsea
Dattilo



Bridger
Davis



Juliana
Davis



Jackson
Dean



Alexander
Dew



Aeryonna
Dews



Emmianna
Dowell



Trevor
Duncan



Benjamin
Edwards



Magnolia
Elles



Gracie
Evans



Abigail
Everage



Sawyer
Felts



Abby
Ferguson



Ludovica
Foresi



Ethan
Frazier



Corbin
Fullenkamp



Yannisha
Gardner



Yasmin
Gardner



Dellah
Gibson



Janessa
Gonzalez



Anna
Guzman



Kaden
Hackney



Jason
Hall



Savannah
Hall



Michelle
Hatton



Lillian
Hayes



Boden
Heckler



Bishop
Heiderman



Tyler
Hook



Lili
Horne



Sydney
Huff



Sirenia
Innamorato



Jordan
Jaynes



Colten
Jester



Nicholas
Jines



Kirsten
Johnson



Maya
Kemp



Claira
Kempton



Caleb
Kincaid



Alexander
Kindle



Elliott
Kozenski



Cale
Kreegar



Taye
LaBolt



Aayush
Lad



Reese
Lane



Emily
Laufer



William
Laufer



Julia
Litchfield



Kolton
Lock



Jacob
Luenebrink



Fiona
Magrath



Keevan
Malone



Noah
Manning



Kinlee
Marshall



Marta Neus
Martinez Castillo



Jack
Maxwell



Matthew
McCarty



Grayden
McDarment



Cassius
McDowell



Tiana
McIntosh



Collin
McKay



CheyLAN
McQueary



Mylee
McQueary



Audrey
Miller



Taylor
Miller



Ashley Abigail
Mireles Nunez



Kylie
Montgomery



Matthew
Morrison



Elizabeth
Neal



Riley
Nickell



Emmitt
Parker



Dakota
Perry



Maleah
Perry



Morgan
Perry



Savannah
Petro



Aiden
Pettit



Blake
Pettit



Logan
Pettit



Brookellen
Prosser



Leetis
Rahn



Lilia
Ramirez



Ava
Rice



Hannah
Richart



Devon
Riley



Roberto
Rios-Alonso Jr.



Addison
Roark



Gunner
Robak



Maliki
Robak



John
Robbins



Jaime
Rodriguez-Ortiz



Jason
Romero



Kennedy
Rowlett



Jessie
Ruble



Olivia
Russell



Cooper
Rutledge



Maya
Sakaïda



Carl
Sargent



Emma
Schafer



Jackson
Schafer



Trenton
Schafer



Teralyn
Scharlau



Griffin
Schwartz



Olivia
Scroggins



Daelin
Scudder



Kimberlei
Sells



Johanna
Simmons



Sylvia
Singleton



Maylie
Skinner



Zane
Skinner



Jacob
Slade



Aiden
Smith



Braylen
Smith



Carly
Smith



Arthur Soares
Pereira Geronimo



Joseph
Stanley



Ashur
Stenger



Marley
Stivers



Eli
Storm



Colton
Stotts



Hunter
Surret



Gabby
Sutherland



Bianca
Swartz



Ava
Thomas



Ivan
Tome



Julian
Torres



Kalista
VanKuren



Caden
Vaught



Gabrielle
Vest



Joseph
Vester



Nagore
Vigiola Zabala



Zachary
Vinup



Maxwell
Way



Joseph
Weaver



Mashya
Wells



Lily
Wester



Karah
Whicker



Dameon
Whitaker



Ellie
Whitaker



Sebastian
White



Logan
Wiley



Melanie
Wilhelm



Andre
Williams



Ruby
Willoughby



Jonathon
Wilson



Jaden
Wooldridge



Brenten
Wright



Conner
Yantz



Will
Zheng

Graduates without photos available:

Ana Alvarez
Landon Bryson
Nicholas Edgar
Lief Estes
Makayla Galloway
Meadow Glerum
Braden Hassfurther

Jayden Hayes
Carl Johnson
Bailey Marion
Ethan May
Brooke Nolan
Mason Peelman
Jordan Rickerson



Madison Anglers Cast for Success

The Madison Consolidated Bass Fishing team recently competed along with 53 other teams from across Indiana for the Indiana Bass Federation State Championship. The tournament, held annually in the Spring at Patoka Lake in Celestine, Indiana, culminates the season-long schedule and is coordinated by the Student Angler Federation.

MCHS qualified seven high school teams for the finals but due to competing extra-curricular events only three were able to attend. Of those three teams the duo of Sophomore Gabe Wall-Polley and Freshman Kohen Smith nearly qualified for a berth into the prestigious Student Angler National Championship with their 13th-place finish.

Wall-Polley/Smith and boat captain Larry Hostetler weighed 13.03 pounds of bass with just four fish, finishing just 1.12 pounds out of 5th place. The squad also had to overcome a take-off position of 43 out of 53 boats.

The final season points standings found the team of Wall-Polley/Smith with the highest team finish since the MCHS team began in 2023. They ended the season in 8th place of 60 Southern Indiana teams. The rest of the MCHS team points standing finishes were:

8th Wall-Polley/Smith
17th Brayden Perry/Clayton Ross
21st Jackson Dean/Brantley Conover
29th Grant Comer/Owain Kelsey
43rd Brayden Featherstone/AJ Lamb
43rd Carson Cammack/Brezden Leahigh
53rd Ayden Liter/Braxton Bray

With the conclusion of the 2025/2026 season the MCHS Bass Club says farewell to their **lone senior Jackson Dean**. Jackson joined the squad in its first year in existence in 2023 and never missed a tournament despite playing football and working an after-school job. His dedication and commitment will be missed.

FREE SUMMER MEALS

Madison Consolidated Schools will provide

FREE

Summer lunch meals for Kids Ages 18 & Under*

*per USDA program regulations

Weekdays June 15, 2026 thru July 31, 2026

Grab and go lunch will be available for **pick up** from
Anderson Elementary School
2325 Cherry Drive
Madison, IN 47250
DOOR 1

Monday - Friday

10:00 - 11:00 a.m.

No lunch pick up on July 3, 2026

Eligibility:

Open to all Jefferson County, Indiana residents

Children must be 18 years old or younger

Google Form Link reservation found on MCS_Indiana

Facebook page, completed each Sunday by 5 p.m.

The child(ren) must be present with their adult for the first pickup for verification*

This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

The weekly reservation form will be sent via ParentSquare and posted on our Facebook feed each Friday beginning June 12, 2026

MATH

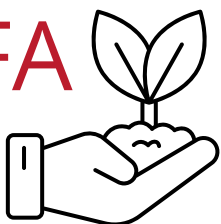


Madison Geyman, Rykers' Ridge third grader has been recognized by the Indiana Department of Education and National Math Stars (NMS).

Madison scored within the **top 2 percent of third grade students in math in Indiana**, based on their ILEARN assessment data.

NMS is a nonprofit organization dedicated to serving extraordinary math students from all communities. Each year, the nation's highest performing second and third grade students are nominated to apply for one of its free, long-term support programs. Accepted students receive support enrolling in and completing advanced math courses, assistance in finding and pursuing enrichment opportunities, family advising to promote strong academic growth, and a community of like-minded peers. Program supports are tailored to each family, with the highest-need families receiving more than \$100,000 in resources, support, and financial assistance through high school graduation, all at no cost to families or schools.

MCHS FFA Chapter



Indiana FFA National Chapter Awards were released on May 15, 2026, and Madison FFA was named a...

GOLD EMBLEM RANKING SUPERIOR CHAPTER

"This is the first time the chapter has received this honor in a long time," shared FFA Advisor Amanda Briggs.

This application-based award is derived from the chapter's Program Of Activities (POA) created by the chapter officers.

This outlines the activities the chapter will participate in including how they will:

- 1) Grow Leaders
- 2) Build Communities
- 3) Strengthen Agriculture

The activities are then compiled into an application written by the officers that focus on each activities goals, plan of actions, impact, and evaluation of the activity.

DON'T MISS OUT!

StudentSquare
Activate your account today!

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 2026 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](#).



Class of 2026

Dr. Robert Cart - Class of '82

Harold Lakeman - Class of '59
Accepted by his son Robbie Lakeman

Hank Bentz - Class of '61
Accepted by his son Brad Bentz

Dr. Robert Cart '82

Growing up in Madison, Robert's journey was defined by a deep commitment to education, music, and artistic excellence. A 1982 graduate of Madison Consolidated High School, he was an active member of the Madison Cubs band and choir, experiences that laid the foundation for a distinguished career as a world-renowned flutist and academic leader. He continued his studies at Indiana University and later earned his Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Maryland, going on to perform on some of the world's most prestigious stages, from Carnegie Hall to the Kennedy Center.

Robert's professional life stands as a testament to the power of the arts to inspire and lead. As the Founding Dean of the John J. Cali School of Music at Montclair State University, he transformed a regional program into a nationally recognized center for musical excellence.

Throughout his career, Robert built an international reputation as both a performer and an innovator. He appeared as a flute soloist with major orchestras across Europe, Asia, and the Americas, while also producing numerous acclaimed recordings. His forward-thinking approach to education led to the development of innovative curricula that bridged traditional performance with modern music technology, ensuring students were prepared for an evolving artistic landscape. In addition to his work in performance and academia, he served on the boards of several national arts organizations, advocating for access to music education, particularly in underserved communities.



**GROWING MINDS
FARM STOP**
FROM KNOW TO GROW,
SEEDS WE SOW
Madison Consolidated Schools, Properties
ESTABLISHED 2021

**BE SURE TO
FOLLOW US TOO!**
@GROWINGMINDSFARMSTOP



**602 W. MAIN STREET
MADISON, IN 47250**

**SUMMER
HOURS**
JUNE 8 - AUGUST 2, 2026

**MONDAY - WEDNESDAY
1 - 6 P.M.**
**THURSDAY - FRIDAY
11 - 7 P.M.**
**SATURDAY
8 A.M. - 4 P.M.**
**SUNDAY
11 A.M. - 3 P.M.**



**GROWING MINDS
FARM STOP**
FROM KNOW TO GROW,
SEEDS WE SOW
Madison Consolidated Schools, Properties
ESTABLISHED 2021

**COME SHOP
WITH US OR
VISIT OUR FULL-
SERVICE COFFEE
CAFE!**

FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS
@GROWINGMINDSFARMSTOP
TO STAY UP TO DATE!

Harold Lakeman '59

Growing up in Madison, Harold's life was grounded in the values of hard work, integrity, and a deep commitment to his community. A 1959 graduate of Madison High School, he distinguished himself as both an athlete and a leader, serving as co-captain of the Madison Cubs basketball team. His early experiences on the court and in the classroom instilled a strong sense of teamwork and discipline that would guide his future endeavors in business and public service.

After completing his education, Harold returned home to build a legacy of professional excellence and civic dedication. His leadership extended into public service, where he served with distinction on the Madison City Council and the Board of Public Works, consistently advocating for the growth and well-being of the city he proudly called home. Harold's impact reached far beyond his business and public roles. He was deeply involved in numerous community organizations and initiatives. He was also a dedicated mentor to young entrepreneurs and student-athletes, encouraging them to pursue their goals with determination and integrity. His commitment to civic engagement included active involvement with organizations such as Historic Madison, Inc. and the Madison Chamber of Commerce, where his leadership and steady presence were widely respected.

Throughout his life, Harold was recognized for his unwavering dedication with multiple honors celebrating his outstanding citizenship and character. He is remembered as a thoughtful and dependable leader who balanced professional success with a genuine sense of responsibility to others. Harold Lakeman's life stands as a testament to the idea that true achievement is measured not only by personal success but by the lasting, positive impact one leaves on their community.



Hank Bentz '61

Growing up, Hank's legacy was built on service, kindness, and deep community roots. A proud graduate of Madison Consolidated High School in 1961, he excelled both academically and athletically, serving as a starting guard on the legendary undefeated 1959–60 Madison Cubs basketball team. He continued his education and basketball career at the University of Dubuque, where he also discovered a gift for storytelling as the university's Charter Director of News and Sports Information.

Upon returning home in 1967, Hank became known as the "Voice of Madison" in his role as News and Sports Director for WORX Radio. His commitment to civic leadership was immediate, and at just 30 years old, he became the youngest Madison City Council member in history. While serving as Assistant to the Mayor, Hank helped bring transformative projects to life, including the creation of the Rucker Sports Complex, the restoration of the Broadway Fountain, and securing federal grants to preserve the Madison Railroad.

Hank went on to dedicate 29 years to Ivy Tech Community College, where he served as Director of Human Resources and later as Executive Director of Marketing and Communications. His innovative spirit was evident in his design of the college's first mobile computer lab, expanding access to education and training throughout the region.

A man of immense presence, Hank's service to the community was far-reaching. He devoted 40 years to the Miss Madison Racing Team Board of Directors and co-directed major disaster relief efforts following the devastating 1974 tornado. He also held important leadership roles with organizations such as the United Way, the Boy Scouts of America, and Historic Madison, Inc., and was a familiar voice as a master of ceremonies for events like the Regatta Parade and the Hanover College Hall of Fame.

Throughout his life, Hank was honored with numerous recognitions, including the Madison Jaycees Community Service Award, and was named a Kentucky Colonel. He is remembered as a steady and thoughtful mentor who carried himself with pride and dignity while always working to better the town he loved. Hank Bentz remains a premier role model, exemplifying how a life devoted to others creates a lasting and meaningful legacy.

THE YEAR IN REVIEW SPOTLIGHT

Celebrating the 2025-26 School Year Successes

HIGHLIGHTS: BY THE NUMBERS

A quick glance at the major milestones and data-driven achievements shaping our school community this year:

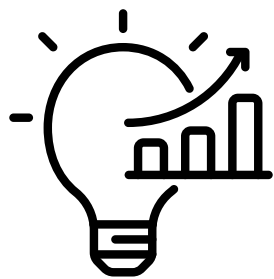
Metric / Focus Area	Current Achievement & Impact
MCHS Graduation Rate	95% – The highest graduation rate in over ten years.
3rd Grade IREAD	On pace to maintain a stellar 95% passing rate .
2nd Grade IREAD	62%+ passing – Marking a massive 26%+ increase since 2024 (surpassing the 50% goal).
Hiring Efficiency	Candidate contact times slashed from 86 days down to just 26 days on average.
Ivy Tech Degrees & Certs	111 degrees earned , including 24 associates, 66 technical certifications, and 21 certificates.
Community Nutrition	11,693 Back Sacks of food delivered to students via the House of Hope.
Staff Job Satisfaction	Remains rock-solid and steady at 82.78% .



These are the things that drive our daily work.

We are excited to share some of our successes, aligned to our Strategic Goals of:

- Academic Achievement & Growth
- Safety & Wellbeing
- Recruiting & Retention



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT & GROWTH

"Driven by evidence-based curricula, expanded higher-education pathways, and advanced tech integration, classrooms are reaching new heights."

Curriculum & Professional Development

- **Science of Reading Alignment:** K-8 teachers are actively selecting a high-quality, evidence-based ELA curriculum from the IDOE approved list.
- **The Writing Revolution:** An ongoing 2.0 book study is empowering K-5 teachers to elevate student writing skills and instructional capacity.
- **Data & Strategy Support:** The district Data Warehouse has been upgraded with a professional development page, pacing guides, and unified student data.
- **Dedicated Growth Days:** Secured an instructional day waiver from the Indiana SBOE for three specialized professional development days focusing on curriculum, data-driven decisions, and TBRI behavioral practices.

Next-Gen Opportunities & Pathways

- **Early College Momentum:** MCHS is partnering with the University of Indianapolis (CELL) for P-CAP participation and is actively working toward becoming an official Early College campus.
- **Future-Ready Tech:** Continued the rollout of SchoolAI and an overall AI strategy integrated into the MCS Strategic Plan.
- **Expanding Horizons:** Rejoined the South Eastern Career Center for the 2026-27, which will offer students 14 additional CTE pathways, and the new MidSouth Athletic Conference will provide more student-athletes opportunities, expanded eSports into MCHS, and introduced advanced math courses for 6th-8th graders.
- **Looking Ahead:** Elementary schools are progressing toward STEM Certification, while a new 6-12 virtual academy is being explored to serve Jefferson County families. Math screeners and K-8 math interventions are fully locked in for the 2026-2027 school year.

SAFETY & WELL-BEING

"True education requires an environment where students feel safe, choosing inclusivity, mental health infrastructure, and comprehensive behavioral support."



Mental Health & Behavioral Frameworks

- **The Haven Project:** The "Grow Our Own Mental Health Haven" secured two more years for a College and Career Readiness Coach, graduated 3 individuals with School Counseling Master's Degrees, and trained 2 certified Trust-Based Relational Intervention (TBRI) practitioners.
- **Specialized Coaching:** DeBruce Agilities Coaches have been placed at every level (Elementary, Middle, High), alongside a District Behavior Coach to lead interventions.
- **Proactive Interventions:** Expanded behavior support through cross-categorical classrooms, increased Crisis Prevention (CPI) training, and maintained the Jefferson County Alternative to Suspension Program (JCASP).

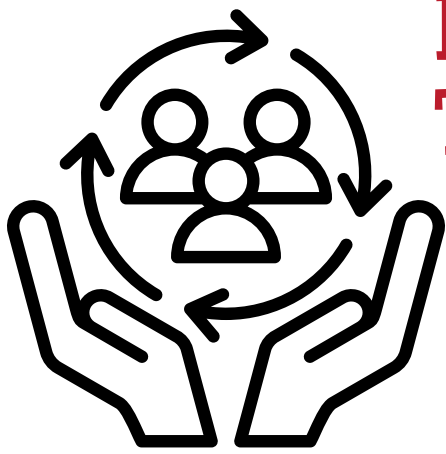
The Student Support Net:

- SRO & Nursing in all buildings
- Telehealth Program Continuation
- District-Wide Behavior Coach
- Restart Program at Anderson Elementary



Nourishment & Inclusive Spaces

- **Combatting Food Insecurity:** Expanded the House of Hope Backsack program to high schools in late spring and successfully established the new MJHS Food Pantry.
- **Award-Winning Ag:** The Growing Minds Farm Stop program won a USDA grant and was named Program of the Year at the Indiana Chamber of Commerce Impact Awards. Every elementary school now boasts its own garden.
- **Playgrounds for All:** Completed a universal-access, inclusive playground and an outdoor sensory garden at Lydia Middleton Elementary, with an Anderson Elementary inclusive playground labeled as "Coming Soon".



RETENTION, RECRUITMENT & TALENT

"Investing in people—by optimizing application response times, expanding early childhood education, and listening to staff feedback—makes us an employer of choice."

Modern Facilities & Competitive Benefits

- **Early Learning Center Expansion:** Broke ground on a brand-new Early Learning Facility on April 29, 2026. Staffing patterns have increased, and a new Director, Shelley Marshall, was hired to oversee construction and operations.
- **Classified Staff Upgrades:** Rolled out TrueTime to streamline hours for classified groups and introduced a year-round compensation model option for full-time classified employees.
- **Competitive Edge:** Implemented new substitute teacher rates to grow the local sub pool and prioritized ongoing compensation and benefit raises across the district.



Communication & Engagement Metrics

- **The Nimble Impact:** Since launching the Nimble application system in August 2024, the district has processed **2,569 applications**.
- **Listening to Staff:** Conducted both exit and "Stay" interviews to keep pulse on staff needs. The recent Employee Engagement Survey revealed strong **Mission Clarity (85% confident)** and highlighted a district-level objective to enhance internal communications moving forward.
- **Proactive Attendance Systems:** Testing "Attendance Plus" via ParentSquare at Rykers' and MJHS to monitor attendance patterns proactively. Full district training and rollout will conclude before the August school start, initiating a strategic attendance campaign for families.

2026–2027 COMMUNICATION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Strengthening Communication. Building Trust. Supporting Our People.

DISTRICT GOAL: Increase the district-wide score for "Communication from District Administration" from 73.68% to at least 80% by Spring 2027.				
	1. LISTEN & LEARN AUGUST – OCTOBER 2026	2. IMPROVE & STANDARDIZE NOVEMBER 2026 – JANUARY 2027	3. ENGAGE & GATHER FEEDBACK FEBRUARY – APRIL 2027	4. MEASURE & IMPROVE MAY – JULY 2027
FOCUS	Building leaders will lead efforts to understand where communication breakdowns exist within their current systems and structures.	District and building leadership teams will create clearer and more consistent communication expectations across all buildings.	Strengthen opportunities for staff feedback using existing structures and ensure timely follow-up and communication consistency.	Review progress, measure impact, and continue improving our communication systems for the 2027–2028 school year and beyond.
KEY ACTIONS	- Staff feedback meetings - Building-level surveys - Review current communication processes - Identify communication gaps and barriers - Collect building-specific data and trends	- Utilize principal meetings to review and track key district communication items - Develop a communication tracking tool/checklist - Determine district-wide communication expectations - Allow flexibility in how buildings communicate with staff	- Use existing monthly building discussion/meeting notes to gather staff feedback - Establish a district process for documenting concerns and questions - Set expected response timelines for follow-up - Review trends and breakdowns during principal meetings - Track concerns, responses, and resolution status district-wide	- Analyze updated survey results and tracking data - Compare data to baseline (Spring 2026) - Celebrate progress and share successes - Adjust communication practices based on data and feedback - Plan next steps for 2027–2028
SUCCESS MEASURE	Each building will identify key communication strengths, barriers, and opportunities for improvement by October 2026.	A district communication tracking process and common communication expectations will be implemented across all buildings by January 2027.	All buildings will consistently document staff communication concerns, track follow-up actions, and maintain established response timelines by April 2027.	District communication score improves from 73.68% to 80% or higher on the Spring 2027 survey. No building below 70%.

OUR COMMITMENT

CONSISTENT Communication

TRANSPARENT Information

INCLUSIVE Feedback

RESPONSIVE Follow-Through

ACCOUNTABLE Results

"Clear communication builds trust. Stronger connections create a better experience for every staff member."