



Mason Public Schools Keynotes

Fall 2022

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Steele Elementary Ribbon Cutting

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS COMPLETES STEELE ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION

On September 7, Mason Public Schools officially cut the ribbon on Steele Elementary after 16 months of construction. This project, along with the completed renovations of the Harvey Education Center, Alaiedon Elementary and North Aurelius Elementary, was funded through the District's \$69.7 Million bond.

Improvements to Steele include a new 55,000 square foot addition as well as additional furniture, equipment, technology devices and infrastructure upgrades to the existing portions of the building. In addition, site improvements and expanded parking will make student pick-up and drop-off safer for families. The completion of this project completes Phase 2 of the three-phase capital improvement project for the District.

In addition to the ribbon cutting, families and members of the community were invited to tour the building for an Open House. Thank you for joining us and for the continued support.



Secure Entry & Extended Learning Space



Gymnasium



Classroom



Playground

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A COMMUNITY LETTER FROM SUPERINTENDENT, DR. GARY KINZER

Hello Mason! As this is my first opportunity to address the entire community, I would like to introduce myself. I am a long-time resident of Ingham County with 29 years of experience serving as a teacher and administrator in Okemos Public Schools and most recently as Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources for Novi Community School District. Over my career in public education, I have had diverse leadership experiences that have prepared me for my first year as the superintendent of Mason Public Schools.

It is truly an honor to serve this community as superintendent. In my first weeks on the job, I have been warmly welcomed by board of education members, administrators, teachers, students, and members of the community. It is clear to me that there is a strong community in Mason as well as a commitment to consistently providing students with exemplary learning experiences. I am fully committed to that same objective!

I would like to share my top priorities for this year with you. First, building relationships with staff, students and community members is very important to me. I am eager to get to know the people that make Mason Public Schools, as well as our community, special. To do that, I am prioritizing spending time in our school buildings and classrooms and attending community events.

The safety of our students and staff is essential. Prior to the beginning of the school year, the district contracted with a school security consulting firm to conduct assessments in each of our buildings. We will carefully consider the strengths and areas of improvement that are identified and will take steps to implement improvements where they are most impactful.

I am appreciative of the many forms of diversity that exist within our community and am committed to working with all stakeholders to ensure that Mason Public Schools is an inclusive and welcoming place for all of our students regardless of their background. We will work to build a stronger and more unified school district that provides a top-quality, equitable learning environment for all students.

I look forward to meeting parents and all members of the community and ask you to please introduce yourself to me when the opportunity presents itself. If you have a question or concern, please reach out to me at kinzerg@masonk12.net.

Dr. Gary Kinzer
Superintendent
Mason Public Schools



Level UP! Participants & Teachers

LEVEL UP! SUMMER LEARNING LAB

This summer, Mason Public Schools offered the Level UP! summer learning opportunity to students in grades K-8. Over 250 MPS students participated in this robust learning opportunity. The goal statement for the program this summer was, "Level UP! summer labs give students a safe space to read and write, and give teachers a chance to collaborate and try new strategies."

Level UP!, which was launched in the summer of 2021 to address student learning loss after two years of school were impacted by the pandemic, focuses on enrichment activities and project-based learning rather than on intervention.

"Our goal was to create a program that students *wanted* to participate in," said Christie Lehman, Level UP! Summer Program Administrator and Literacy Coach for MPS. "It was really exciting to come in everyday and see students and teachers with smiles on their faces, collaborating and supporting one another."

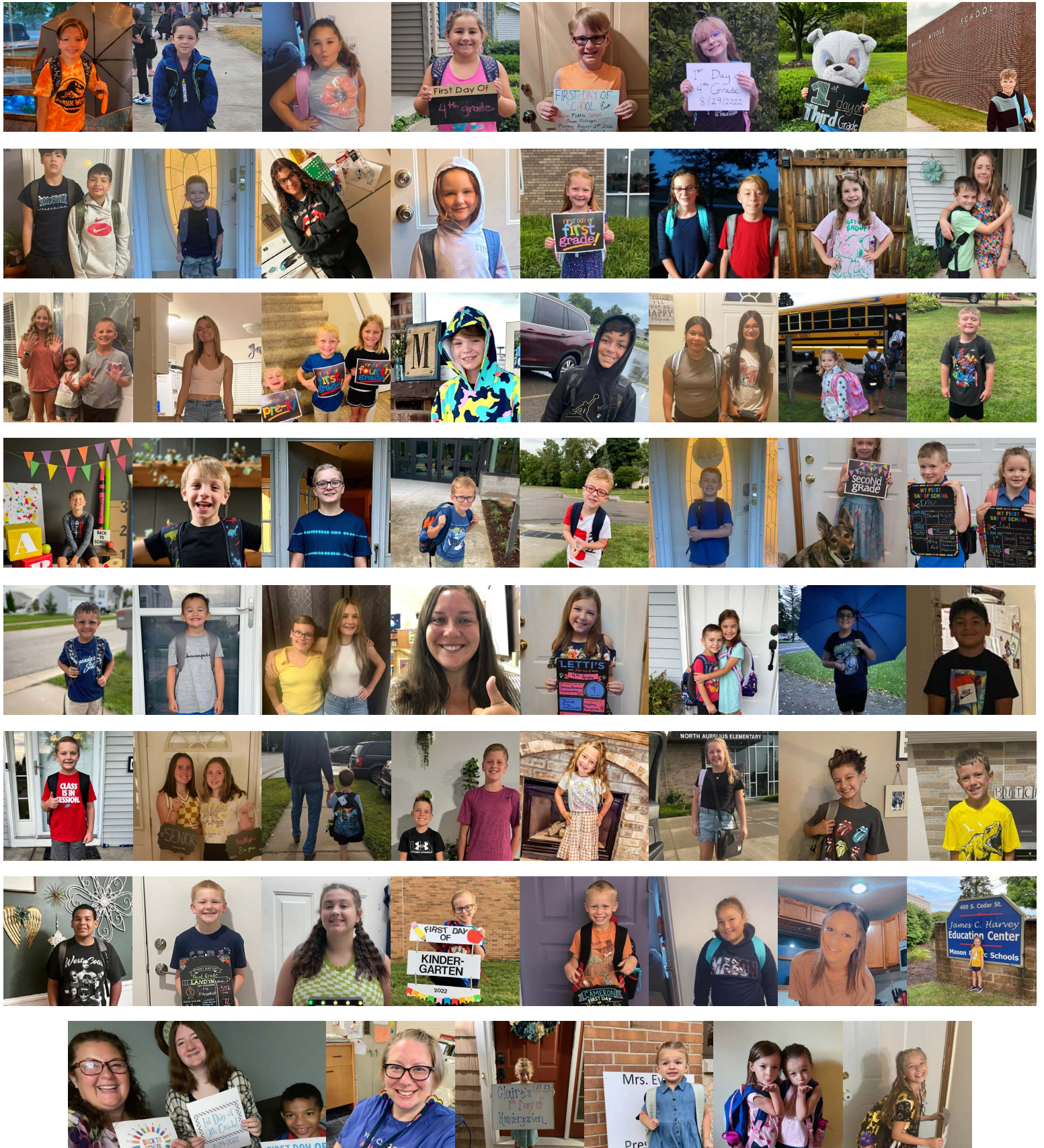
Over the 6-week program, students participated in lessons about STEM/STEAM, robotics and coding, animal

rehabilitation and ecosystems. Students traveled to Potter Park Zoo, Impression 5 Science Center and the Mason Airport and had visitors from the Capital Area District Library, Pruess Pets and Dart Container. Additionally, members of the community provided learning experiences for students like a hotair balloon demonstration, classic car show and the Michigan Steam Engine and Threshers Club. Thank you to our partners for making this summer's program unforgettable.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM) ANNUAL NOTICE

Pesticides may occasionally be used in a school building or grounds. Parents or guardians of students attending that school or will be notified at least 48 hours before a pesticide, other than a bait or gel formulation, is used. However, in an emergency, a pesticide may be applied without providing advance notice. Parents or guardians will be promptly notified after the emergency pesticide application. More information is available at www.masonk12.net/district/facilities.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL SMILES





GROWTH IN COMMUNITY ED

Last year, Mason Public Schools hired a new director of community education, Jessica Miller. Since then, Ms. Miller has been working to expand community education courses and activities and offer new types of programming.

Throughout the 2021-22 year, there were 1,580 participants in Community Education & Aquatics programming. For comparison, in the fall of 2021, there were 21 classes/events held, and this fall, there are 58 classes/events scheduled through Mason's Community Education efforts. Programs will continue to grow and we are excited to explore new learning opportunities for the community.

To download the Fall Community Education Guide, visit www.masonk12.net/activities/community-education.

MPS FOUNDATION DONATES \$75,000 TO THE DISTRICT

The Mason Public Schools Foundation (MPSF) has recently gifted the District \$75,000 to expand opportunities for learning at Mason Public Schools. The Foundation historically raises funds from the community at their annual 5K and spring gala.

The MPSF recognizes that the quality of education available to students is an essential factor in maintaining a strong community and creating productive, successful citizens.

Mason Public Schools is incredibly grateful for the continued support from the Mason Public Schools Foundation as well as the individuals who have contributed to their fundraising efforts.





STAFF MILESTONES

35 YEARS

Cynthia Hyaduck

30 YEARS

David Jones

25 YEARS

Lance Delbridge
Kevin Doty

20 YEARS

Heather Bosman
Kimberly Stump
Peter Hudson
Jennifer Harrington
Jeri Loomis
Ted Berryhill
Amanda DeMott
Cortney Ford
Michael Hamers
Laura Lange
Jeremy Mills
Melissa Netzel
Matthew Stuard
Laurel Ritter

15 YEARS

Jennifer Lindsay
Melisa Horton
Michelle Bartlett
Betsy Collins
Yalonda Combs
Jeremy Cunningham
Sarah Rustad
Matthew Slezak

Marilee Wells
Alexis Woodruff
Jayme Fodge Franklin
Steven Stokes

10 YEARS

Andrea Plaxton
Jessica Curtis
Matthew Debow
Amy McVaugh
Jennifer Meeuwenberg
Ashley Glover
Sarah Boutwell
Lynn Goedert
Arturo Rosas
Rachel Lator
Stephanie Keith
Lisa Bercaw

WELCOME NEW STAFF

Max Collins
Rebekah Mills
Miranda Bartlett
Amanda Beard
Laura Bell
Dominica Bradley
Nicole Carr
Natalie Colligan
Jared Copeland
Cynthia Dexter
Lisa Dora
Sheena Dunsmore
Erin Ethers
Ethan Felsing
Crystal Fogarty
Chelsie Fuller
Julie Grech-Kramer
Kimberly Hall
Jacob Hardy
Marigona Hasani

Courtney Hua
Marsha Karazim
Gary Kinzer
Lyndi Logue
Rebecca McKimmy
Hailey McPherson
Shanna Messner
Mallorie Mills
Vicki Morales
Melissa Pathfinder
Peggy Phillips
Tiffany Reeser
Abigail Sawyers
Cara Spence
Robin Stephens
Madeline Tanner
Jennifer Tyrrell
Michelle Wieferich
Kevin Willett



DID YOU KNOW?

Absences add up! Missing just 2 days of school per month means that a student misses 10% of the school year. Studies show by grade 6, being chronically absent is a clear predictor that a student may drop out. Find out how to prevent absenteeism by visiting www.attendanceworks.org.

Mason Public Schools
201 West Ash Street, Suite 2A
Mason, MI 48854



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Mason Public Schools
Keynotes

Mason Public Schools is committed to academic excellence in a safe environment where students develop critical thinking skills, are empowered to succeed, and are encouraged to serve their community.

SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Gary Kinzer
kinzerg@masonk12.net

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Tracey Wooden
woodent@masonk12.net

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CURRICULUM

Matthew Stuard
stuardm@masonk12.net

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Rick Brooks
brooksr@masonk12.net

DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SUPPORTS

Craig Kueffner
kueffnerc@masonk12.net

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Becky Hinman
hinmanb@masonk12.net