



Mason Public Schools Keynotes

June 2021

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Steele Elementary Ground Breaking

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS BREAKS GROUND ON STEELE ELEMENTARY CONSTRUCTION

On May 17, Mason Public Schools officially broke ground on the second phase of construction of the Capital Improvement Project. Members of Mason's Board of Education, District leadership and members of the construction team were in attendance. In lieu of a community event, a video of the groundbreaking is available on the District's Facebook page.

The District will spend \$19.2M on the second phase of construction, which includes a 55,000 square foot addition to Steele Elementary as well as additional furniture, equipment, technology devices, infrastructure upgrades and school buses for the District.

The design of Steele Elementary is a collaboration between members of the Steele Elementary design committee and the District's architecture firm, GMB.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN

Kindergarten registration is open for the 2021-22 school year. All kindergarten classes will be housed at Harvey Education Center and, we can't wait to meet the next class of bulldogs! Please visit www.masonk12.net/harvey-education-center for more information on enrollment.

Proof of residency, a certified birth certificate and immunization records are required for enrolling in kindergarten and Young 5's programming. Teacher placements will be posted via Skyward in August.

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SUMMER PROGRAMMING AVAILABLE

LEVEL UP Free Summer Learning Experience

The 2021 LEVEL UP Summer Learning Experience is FREE for all current students attending Mason Public Schools in Young 5s/kindergarten through grade 8. The summer's themes include:

Habitats are Hip Camp: Let's explore the natural world around us and be like an animal. We will discover the critters hiding in plain sight! Find out which species are on the prowl, which are clever in the way they escape, and how all the living things are connected in their natural habitats.

Robofun Camp: Using a hands-on approach to learning, students will build and program robots, learning to creatively problem-solve along the way. Children work with their own ideas and move from concept to testing their actual prototype! Robots are created using LEGO, custom bots and art material allowing children to explore their creativity.

FUSE Summer Teaching Experience

Mason Public Schools is partnering with Davenport University to offer a course called FUSE this summer to Mason High School students. FUSE introduces high school students to what it's like to be a teacher.

Students learn about science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines through modules designed to engage students in local problems (e.g. water pollution, overpopulation, urban farming, etc.) by utilizing engineering and scientific principles.

Students then create lessons and activities which they will use to teach middle school students on four occasions throughout the summer through the LEVEL UP program. Upon successful completion of this course, high school students will be awarded half of an elective credit.



Mason Promise Scholar Award Ceremony

MPS HONORS 25 MASON PROMISE SCHOLARS

Each year, 25 students are selected to be Mason Promise Scholars as they finish their grade 5 year. As we were unable to bring the group together indoors due to social distancing recommendations, students were honored in an outdoor ceremony held on May 12. The Promise Scholarship Board recognized the inducted members of the class of 2028 with a ceremony at Mason Middle School. Each student received a certificate and bag full of goodies.

The Board is grateful for the support of the following for providing gifts to each scholar: candy bars and balloons from Jodi Somerville, Artfully Delicious cookies from a friend, pens and a ruler with a calculator from Dart Bank, a Bestsellers Bookstore/The Vault Deli gift card from Bestsellers and Promise Board, candy from Kean's Store Company, an A & W certificate, a t-shirt from the Promise Board and a Dairy Hill gift certificate from Melissa Oesterle. Additionally, cash donations were provided by Shireen Luther, Gerald Luther, TOMCO Asphalt, Inc., Karla Spoor and the sound system was donated by Susie Chatfield.

“We are so grateful to have found a safe way to celebrate this year's Promise scholars. The Board, along with our fifth grade teachers and principals, enjoy the ceremony and ability to recognize and reward each student for their hard work. It was wonderful to see the smiles on the faces of our scholars and their families as we celebrated this great opportunity awarded them. The Board and I look forward to the rest of their educational journey in Mason Public Schools,” said Melissa Oesterle, Mason Promise Scholarship Board Chair.

Congratulations to the 2021 Mason Promise Scholars!

DISTRICT PURCHASES CHROMEBOOKS USING FUNDS FROM MPSF AND DART

In 2017, the Dart Foundation and Mason Public Schools Foundation (MPSF) provided funding (\$750,000 and \$90,000 respectively) for the purchase of Chromebooks for students. Funding was to be provided over a three-year period. MPS has fulfilled the final phase of these gifts and has purchased the remaining 1,500 Chromebooks and carts for student use. We are so grateful to the Dart Foundation and Mason Public Schools Foundation for this support!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021!



Brenna Ackley
Matthew Adado
Isabelle Adams
Maryssa Adaway
Bekim Ademi
Eleanor Agnew
Kaleb Ahner
Benjamin Ali
Bailey Anderson
Casey Anderson
Mallorie Anderson
Tomas Arambula
Charles Bahl II
Ashley Baker
Davis Baker
Marian Barnhart
Emma Barnum
Connor Baughman
Josiah Beauchaine
Alissa Betts
Skyler Binger
Jaron Blassingame
Derek Bocek
Jordyn Bodell
Elise Boisclair
Ethan Bond
Rylie Boyko
Claire Boynton
Erin Brodberg
Caitlyn Brown
Katelyn Brown
Tanner Brown

Mariah Burch
Rebecca Burch
Amara Burke
Elayna Cady
Maclaren Cady
Kayleigh Cameron
Jonas Cantrell
Anthony Casali II
Easton Chance
Alexander Charlot
Hayden Cheney
Austin Conley
Jenna Corey
McKenna Couchenour
Jack Creamer
Alex Curry
Sullivan Daman
Hannah Davies
Jada Davis
Karsyn Delbridge
Kylie DeWitt
Alisun Dingman-Sanchez
Dalton Douglas
Samara Dowding
Regan Drake
Julia Droscha
Isaac Duso
Grace Edick
Colleen Eibl
Rylee Elkins
Coe Emens IV
Alexandra Erbe

Imagyn Feldpausch
Isabella Fredericks
Hunter Fuller
Drew Gibbs
David Gilchrist
Elijah Gill
Kara Gillespie
Mackenzie Ginter
Katherine Goss
Alaina Graham
Chase Graham
Ethan Greathouse
Johnathon Green
Lilly Greenshields
Julianna Griffin
Paityn Grimwood
Ethan Gustafson
Derek Hampton
Joshua Harrison
Emily Hauser
Alex Hawk
Gavin Heikkila
Emilee Hendershot
Jenisys Henley-Wild
Hunter Hill
Olivia Hines
Dylan Hollon
James Horn
Morgan Huisken
Nicholas Hunter
Amanda Ingalls
Floran Islami

Ava Janson
Dawson Jenkins
Madison Kamae
Ryan Keller
Hannah Kern
Logan Ketchum
Madison Kidd
Kierstin Kilpatrick
Jeremy King
Morgan Kirk
Sage Kissman
Isabella Klages
Sevaughn Kolb
Savannah Kowalski
Ella Kremkow
Mackenzie Kruienga
Alivia Kuch
Ellen LaFleur
Mya Lehnert
Zachary Leibrand
Garret Lewis
Jackson Lockwood
Gage Losey
Dayton Luna
Conner Maas
Joshua Madery
Breanna Maltby
Jackson Marlan
Jenna Martin
Sydney Martinez
Natasha Mason
Alexander Mathews



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2021!

Alivia McMaster
Skyler Miller
Carson Mills
Elizabeth Mills
Ethan Mogyoros
Mateo Montalvo
Ross Moore
Emily Morris
Chancelor Mullins
Brendan Mumby
Evan Murray
Madison Murray
Vy Nguyen
Matthew Onze
Deja'na Otis
Kannen Pallas
Emma Palmer
Lauren Pekrul
Hayden Pell
Caleb Personius
Avery Peters
Gavyn Peterson
Rinor Pira
Kyle Poe

Audree Putman
Hannah Putnam
Chandler Ramos
Faith Reed
Samuel Reed
Isabel Reemsnyder
Kendall Repins
Jacob Rice
Logan Rice
Austin Ricketts
Peyton Ried
Donavon Riley
Emily Rockhold
Johnathan Rodgers
Isaac Rodriguez
Ruth Rotta
Kayleigh Rowell
Leigha Rue
Olivia Ruiz
Chandler Sairls
Nicholas Sanders
Trent Scanlon
Savannah Schafer
Jillian Schroeder

Khailey Searing
Sydney Shaft
Rinesa Shefkiu
Isabella Sheneman
Anna Shoemaker
Blake Showers
Carter Simpson
Ava Singh
Kristasue Small
Adriana Smith
Angelina Smith
Emma Smith
Kylie Sorrow
Austyn Southwell
Lauren Spencer
Mason Stewart
Michael Stone
Chance Strickland
Gavin Sutton
Allyson Tatroe
Alexis Taylor
Mercedes Thomas
Hayleigh Townshend
Logan Trimmer

Brandt Trotter
Sarah Turner
Caleb Valk
Cooper Vallejo
Molly VanBeelen
Gabrielle Vandermolten
Anna Van Splintern
Jon von Gunten
James Waller
Avery Walta
Raven Wanger
Anthony Ward
Stephen Way
Shaun Weaver
Lorelei Weber
Tiana Wessell
Grace Ann Whipple
Owen Whipple
Alex Widner
Thomas Wilburn
Gabriel Williams
Addison Yerks
Kevin Zehnder

Important 2021-22 Dates

August 23 & 24: Staff Professional Development

August 25: Half Day Staff Professional Development

First Day of School: August 25, 2021 – half day for students

September 3 & 6: No School

October 22: No School

Thanksgiving Break: No School on November 24, 25, 26

Winter Break: No School December 20-31

January 17: No School

February 21: No School

February 25: No School, Full Day Staff Professional Development

Spring Break: No School March 25 – April 1

May 30: No School

Last Day of School: June 8, 2022 – half day for students



MASON HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS CREATE STORYBOOK WALK FOR PRESCHOOL STUDENTS

Students in Mason High School's Child Development 2 class have recently been working on ways to engage and connect with preschoolers in the District. Along the Hayhoe Trail, students have placed yard signs with rhymes and activities as well as small fairy doors at the base of trees for preschool students to engage their imaginations.

BOND SALE COMES IN UNDER ESTIMATE

In March, the District successfully completed the Bond sale of the \$19.2 million budgeted for the next phase of the District's Capital Improvement Project. Due to Mason Public Schools' high bond rating and a strong competitive bid process, the actual total debt service (principal and interest) for the bond issue was significantly under the estimated total debt service by \$10 million. This is a significant cost reduction secured for the community's taxpayers.

As part of the process, Standard & Poors (S&P) Global Ratings reviewed its Bond rating for the District and S&P has maintained the District's Bond rating of an A+. S&P

takes many factors into consideration to rate a school district for Bond sales. For Mason, access to the greater Lansing-East Lansing economy, strong wealth indicators, stable enrollment and a healthy fund balance supported an A+ rating from S&P.

BULLDOG VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Mason Public Schools will offer a full online option for the 2021-22 school year called the Bulldog Virtual Academy (BVA) in addition to a five days per week in-person option.

BVA will provide a robust learning experience that is fully online with a balance of live and independent instruction. BVA students will engage in virtual instruction that is comparable in content and pacing to in-person instruction. Also, as a Mason Public Schools program, students will have access to social and emotional supports, sports, performing arts and clubs.



MPS PARTNERS WITH FIRE DEPARTMENT ON TRAINING

On Saturday, May 22, MPS and the Mason Fire Department partnered on a day of training exercises for local fire fighters. MPS provided a retired school bus, which otherwise would be sent to a scrap yard, to be used to demonstrate and practice effective evacuation. The school bus was placed on its side (which is rarely done in training exercises) and the Fire Department practiced evacuation and extraction utilizing specialized equipment for the demonstrations.

MASON STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN KIDS READ NOW

Mason Public Schools is thrilled to announce the Kids Read Now (KRN) summer reading program is happening again this summer. Kids Read Now is a non-profit program designed to include best practices for reading engagement and growth. We are delighted to partner and provide a high-quality reading program throughout the summer. Kids Read Now will be mailing materials home to students in grades K-4. These materials will give families everything they need to know about the program. Students in grades K-4, have selected eight books during his/her library time and eight books plus a bonus ninth writing book will be sent home over the summer.

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION GIFTS \$100,000 TO THE DISTRICT

The Mason Public Schools Foundation has recently voted to gift the district \$100,000 to help ease any financial burden. The distribution of the \$100,000 includes:

- \$20,000 to Mason High School
- \$20,000 to Mason Middle School
- \$12,000 to Harvey Education Center
- \$12,000 to Alaedon Elementary
- \$12,000 to North Aurelius Elementary
- \$12,000 to Steele Elementary
- \$12,000 to the Special Education Department

Thank you to the Mason Public Schools Foundation for your dedication to serving Mason's students.

Mason Public Schools
201 West Ash Street, Suite 2A
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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.

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