



Mason Public Schools
Keynotes

Spring 2023

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NORTH AURELIUS TEACHER HONORED WITH EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD

For the first time ever, a Mason Public Schools teacher received a Michigan Lottery Excellence in Education Award. Allison Altenberger-Olson, a special education teacher at North Aurelius Elementary, was showcased on Fox47 News and received an award, cash prize and stipend for her classroom.



"It brings me joy to see the students I work with build confidence, make progress, and gain academic and life skills," said Altenberger-Olson. "I take pride in consistently advocating for my students and creating a positive school environment for them."

Her parents, spouse, principal, fellow teachers, current and former students, board members and administrators gathered to honor her on November 22. In addition, Mason Mayor Russell Whipple proclaimed November 30, 2022, as "Allison Altenberger-Olson Day" in the city.

Altenberger-Olson provides academic and behavioral support to students in first through fifth grade. She enjoys forming strong connections with her students and their families and is thankful for a supportive and collaborative team in her building.



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

The Mason Public Schools is embarking on an update to the district's Strategic Plan for the first time since 2015. During this process, we are committed to engaging the community, along with our students, staff, and families, to create a plan that will shape the focus of our district for the future.

In January, families were invited to complete an online survey aimed at identifying the district's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. More than 165 responses were returned to the Strategic Planning Advisory Team.

In addition, a series of in-person stakeholder meetings were conducted with middle and high school students, teachers, administrators, support staff and community members. We are thankful for the candid and informative feedback and input received during these sessions.

As we move forward in the process, the Strategic Planning Advisory Team will meet to utilize the information collected through the survey and stakeholder forums to:

- Update or reaffirm our vision and mission statements along with our core values.
- Establish areas of focus for our strategic plan.
- Draft a suggested strategic goal for each area of focus.

Our administrative team will also work to:

- Establish objectives for each strategic goal.
- Identify strategic actions that will be required to achieve each objective.
- Determine how progress will be monitored.

Each part of this process will be presented to the Strategic Planning Advisory Team for review and feedback and then presented to the Board of Education for approval.

Thank you for your continued interest and engagement in this important process that will help propel The Mason Public Schools into the future with focus, meeting our collective goals and providing the best future for our students and our community.

GARY KINZER, ED.D.
SUPERINTENDENT
MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS



JOIN THE CLUBS!

Mason Middle and High School students have access to a wide variety of clubs and organizations to enrich and expand their interests outside of the school day. A comprehensive list of club and organization offerings is now available on the middle school and high school webpages, along with descriptions of each and contact information for interested students. Student clubs and organizations include:

Middle School Clubs

- Chess Club
- Eighth Grade Book Club
- Leo's Club
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS - 8th)
- Podcasting Club
- SAGA
- Sixth Grade Homework Matters Club
- Student Government
- Unified Partners' Club
- Yearbook Club

High School Clubs

- The Alliance
- Art Club
- Competitive Robotics
- E-Sports
- Equestrian Club
- FFA
- German Club
- Indoles (Talent Show)
- National Honor Society (11th & 12th grade)
- Student Leaders Inspiring Change
- Water Polo
- Youth in Government



Leading for Equity

Karlin J and Associates, LLC is providing a leadership series for district leaders and administrators entitled Leading for Equity. The focus of this leadership series is to address topics related to diversity, equity and inclusion from the perspective of leadership.

The overall goal of the series is to build the capacity of district leaders to develop their skill, confidence and acumen on issues and topics related to educational equity, diversity, inclusion, access and belongingness for staff, students and the broader community. The primary desired outcomes include increasing the cultural responsiveness of school communities in three areas:

- Leading courageous conversations (expanding vocabulary and confidence).
- Seeing themselves as agents of change.
- Leveraging data for equity.

Participants engage in bimonthly professional learning sessions focused on the following topics:

- Courageous Conversations
- Identity Development
- Implicit Bias
- Privilege, Oppression and Marginalization
- Educational Equity
- Approaching Data through a lens of equity

After each session, participants are encouraged to implement one of the sample experiential activities provided during the workshop to translate learning into the school community with educators. Leaders are then asked to provide reflective feedback about their experience facilitating the learning with their team members and staff.

At the conclusion of the series, leaders will be asked to demonstrate their learning by presenting a Plan of Action for themselves and their departments or school communities to continue the work and to align with the district's strategic plan.





MACC EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR



The Mason Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) selected Mason Middle School teacher Tiffany Henfling as its 2023 Excellence in Education award winner. Individuals honored by the MACC have made a lasting impact on the community and were recognized during their annual awards dinner on March 16, 2023. Tiffany was also recognized in her classroom for her contributions to education. Congratulations!

LEVEL UP FOR SUMMER

Level UP! is a free summer enrichment program designed to maintain academic skills through engaging ELA, math and STEM activities for Mason Public



Schools students! For five weeks, students from Young 5s- 8th grade will learn, play and grow during half day sessions at Steele Elementary.



THANK YOU BOARD OF EDUCATION

January marked National School Board Recognition Month. Mason Public Schools also welcomed newly elected Board of Education members, Bryan Droscha and Amy Lark, and thanked outgoing members, Matt Hall and Patrick O'Connor, for their service. Thank you to our Board of Education members for your services and commitment to our schools.

2023 Board of Education
Christopher Mumby, President
Liz Evans, Vice-President
Kurt Creamer, Treasurer
Steve Duane, Secretary
Bryan Droscha, Trustee
Michael Kelly, Trustee
Amy Lark, Trustee

MPS FOUNDATION EVENTS

Thank you to the Mason community for attending the Mason Public Schools Foundation (MPSF) Commercial Bank Red Carpet Gala!

A night of fun and excitement, the Gala raised funds for the MPSF which exists to support and enhance the student experience and educational opportunities in the district.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming MPSF Commercial Bank 5K! The 5K, Kids 1 Mile and 100 Yard Dash will take place on Friday, May 5 in Downtown Mason.



SPRING SPORTS ARE COMING

The Mason Bulldogs will once again take to the field, court, course, track and diamonds as spring sports begin for the 2023 season.

Thank you to Moore Trosper Construction Company for donating time and materials to improve the Mason High School soccer shelters.

Be sure to come out and support the Bulldogs baseball, softball, track, golf and tennis teams this spring!





KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN



MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHERE
BULLDOGS
BEGIN

Online Kindergarten Registration opened on February 1 for the 2023-2024 school year! Go to the Mason Public Schools website to register in-district students. All kindergarten classes are held at Harvey Education Center and Roundup will be in May for registered students. We can't wait to meet the next class of Bulldogs!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION OFFERINGS

Whether you're looking to learn a new skill or get more active this spring and summer, MPS Community Education has something for everyone. Scan the QR code for registration.

Classes include:

- Open Swim and Water Fitness
- Red Cross First Aid Certification
- Nail Art (make a Block "M")
- Cartoon drawing- Superheroes and animals
- Art Club
- Horsemanship 101
- Yoga for Injury Prevention and Strength (ages 15-105)
- Ukulele Basics
- Zumba



Mason Public Schools
201 West Ash Street, Suite 2A
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INSPIRE | EMPOWER | SUCCEED

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

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