



# Mason Public Schools Keynotes

June 2022

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L to R: Noel Dolan, Jennifer Schlosser, Karlin Tichenor, Joshua Langford, AmySue Hopkins and Summer Issawi

## MASON MOVES FORWARD WORKS TO UNIFY MASON COMMUNITY

The Diversity Committee of Mason Public Schools successfully hosted the Mason Moves Forward event on Saturday, March 12, to engage with the Mason community. Events like this one provide a safe space to have important conversations, including: How do we continue to enhance the amazing community we have? How can we be more inclusive? How can we learn to understand those who have had different life experiences? How can we be supportive?

The event was held at Mason High School and included guest speakers, Joshua Langford, former Michigan State University basketball player, and Dr. Karlin Tichenor, Diversity Consultant for Mason Public Schools.

Additionally, winners of the district multi-media contest “What Diversity Means to Me” were announced. Those students are:

- Delaney Hamers – Alaiedon Elementary
- Mason Ellis – Steele Elementary
- Ms. Haudek’s classroom – Alaiedon Elementary
- Gailee Maynard – Mason Middle School
- Elizabeth Leibrand – Mason High School
- Lily Ware – Mason High School
- Kelsea Barcelow – Mason High School
- Sulia Yang – Mason High School

“The Mason Moves Forward event was an opportunity for the Mason Public Schools’ Diversity Committee to engage with the Mason community by making connections, celebrating diversity, and strengthening inclusivity,” said Mason Public Schools Director

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Alaiedon Students and Staff

of Student Supports, Craig Kueffner. “Our speakers, Joshua Langford and Dr. Tichenor, gave voice to our goal of embracing differences.”

Kueffner added, “The student winners and their creations spoke to our goal of valuing equity and each other. This initial event was well attended, the enthusiasm was high, and we look forward to future opportunities to interact and learn with the greater Mason community.”

Organizations like Dyslexia Institute, Child and Family Charities, The Equity Taskforce, the Salus Center, and Mason’s Promise Scholarship were also present to provide resources to families.

## **ALAIEDON RAISES NATIONAL BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL FLAG**

Last fall, it was announced that Alaiedon Elementary, one of Mason Public Schools’ exemplary elementary schools, was named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School (NBRS). The award from the U.S. Department of Education is based on a school’s success in maintaining high academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. This prestigious award has been given to Alaiedon Elementary for consistently maintaining high M-STEP (Michigan Student Test of

Educational Progress) scores for all grades and being a top performing school in the State of Michigan.

In October, the district held a celebration and ceremonial ribbon cutting with the community and district leadership. Since then, the U.S. Department of Education has given Alaiedon a flag to fly above the building in perpetuity.

On May 31, students, staff, members of the community and Board of Education came together to officially raise the flag.





# SUMMER 2022

# COMMUNITY EDUCATION ENRICHMENT GUIDE

## COMMUNITY EDUCATION GUIDE COMING SOON

The Fall Community Education Guide will be available for download at the end of July. The Fall guide will include classes available to the public for the months of September through December. To download the Community Education Guide, visit [www.masonk12.net/activities/community-education](http://www.masonk12.net/activities/community-education).

To enroll for classes, visit <https://mason.revtrak.net>.

## DISTRICT SELECTS NEW SUPERINTENDENT

On June 1, the Board of Education voted to offer Dr. Gary Kinzer the position as the next Superintendent of Mason Public Schools. The district is currently working on contract negotiations to determine a start date and terms of employment.

Dr. Kinzer is currently the Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources at Novi Community Schools. Prior to his time at Novi Community Schools, he served at Okemos for 24 years as a High School English Teacher, Middle School Assistant Principal and Elementary Principal. His wife, Marcy, also worked at Mason Public Schools for over 14 years.

## LEGISLATORS PRESENT CERTIFICATE OF TRIBUTE TO RON DRZEWICKI

At the May Board of Education meeting, State Representative Kara Hope, presented Superintendent Drzewicki with a Certificate of Tribute honoring his time in public education and as Mason Superintendent. The Tribute was signed by State Senator Curtis Hertel, Jr., Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilcrest II and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.





# CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022!

Alivia Ali  
Izabell Allen  
Cierra Allingham  
Allen Alward  
Ashley Anderson  
Brayden Anderson  
Grace Anderson  
David Badgley  
Dylan Badgley  
Joseph Bahl  
Samuel Barna  
Tyler Barrows  
Nicholas Bass  
Christian Batdorff  
Alexis Beach  
Haley Beck  
Albiona Beka  
Hoyt Bennehoff  
Elijah Bennett-King  
Kyle Benson  
Lauren Bliesener  
Ashton Bonner  
Liam Boomer  
Jack Bradley  
Mya Brewer  
Elizabeth Brown  
Evan Brown  
Madelynn Brown  
Emma Bunting  
Karissa Burns

Brandon Burton  
Alex Bushey  
Landon Buskirk  
Ally Buzard  
Alec Byrnes  
Adam Carpenter  
Matthew Carpenter  
Leilani Castele  
Lucas Chouinard  
Emma Chrome  
Madeline Chrome  
Sydney Chrome  
Haley Clark  
Stephanie Clark  
Austin Clink  
Maxwell Cook  
Zoe Cook  
Conrad Courtland  
Kendall Craddock  
Logan Crandall  
Parker Crandall  
Sydney Cross  
Kooper Daugherty  
Thomas De La Fuente  
Chloe DeMott  
Brook Dodendorf  
Nathan Dolton  
Allison Doneth  
Jesus Ellena  
Aubrey Elliott

Hayden Falardeau  
David Fancher III  
Esther Foster  
Joseph Fraga  
Monica Garcia  
Matthew Gearhart  
Evelyn Glasl  
Joshua Glynn  
Joseph Gorishek  
Jacob Goulding  
Noah Goulding  
Anthony Grace  
Chloe Graham  
Emily Gridley  
Hope Groth  
Logan Guthrie  
Nicolas Hale  
Grace Halstead  
Nathan Hamel  
Colin Hannah  
Julia Harns  
Kaitlyn Hatfield  
Hayden Haynes  
Thomas Hebert  
Ayden Heinig  
Savannah Hernandez  
Mackenzie Hills  
Bradley Hischke  
Jaelyn Hixson

Audrie Hoffman  
Makenna Hon  
Trevor Hornberger  
Ava Houghton  
Kaylee Hubbard  
Victoria Huston  
Serrae Ingison  
Bleon Jahiri  
Ava Janson  
Deverion Jefferson  
Billy Johnson  
Owen Johnstone  
Brianna Judkins  
Gabriel Kallio  
Dylan Kanouse  
Harleigh Keast  
Dakota Keith  
Jacob Kelly  
Mitchell Kelly  
Amelia Kerschke  
Chloe Ketchum  
Caedmon Keyes  
Olivia Kinney  
Elijah Klages  
Colin Koot  
Denis Kukaj  
Morgan Kuula  
Eliott Labrador  
Philomena La Fave





Kaitlyn Lane  
Sofia Lara  
Camron Leasure  
Lucas Leibrand  
Jasmine Livingston  
Ethan Lockwood  
Hunter Lott  
Kourtne Mackley  
Emily Madery  
Makenna Maher  
Brenna Marshall  
Gage Martin  
Isabella Martinez  
Lilianna Martinez  
Justice Mataya  
Bryce Mathews  
Easton Matteson  
Wayne Matthews  
Emma McCaleb  
Kira McDonald  
Mercedes McGee  
Matthew McGonigal  
Amanda Meninga  
Madilyn Merritt  
Calder Meyers  
Chase Miller  
Miles Miller  
Cailey Mills  
Lauren Montalvo  
Collin Moore

Lane Morris  
Bridget Motcheck  
Elizabeth Muenzenmaier  
Mary Muenzenmaier  
Allison Muschong  
Breanna Niswonger  
Mikaila Orlowski  
Cody Paul  
Landon Peiffer  
Rachael Peters  
Mardeen Peterson  
Rinor Pira  
Aiden Placer  
Natalia Pluff  
Kaeddie Portalatin  
Justin Pressley  
Karly Pulford  
David Quinlan  
Carter Quinn  
Grant Quinn  
Chase Ramey  
Elizabeth Rapson  
Mark Ravelo  
Payton Ray  
Nevaeh Reasoner  
Madison Reedy  
Eric Rice  
Brendan Richardson  
Taylor Richardson  
Gianni Rodriguez

Savannah Rodriguez  
Adrianna Romanek  
Evan Ross  
Haley Roush  
Talon Rowe  
Jayln Sartor  
John Scott  
Magnus Shipman  
Brett Showers  
MacKenzie Smith  
Madison Smith  
Jacob Spear  
Lauren Spencer  
Noah Stambaugh  
Kirra Stentoumis  
Logan Stewart  
Aydin Stirling  
Mackenzie Streeter  
Sydney Sturgis  
Tasmin Taylor  
Riana Therrien  
Owen Thompson  
Jackson Thomson  
Kira Tindall  
Tyler Tomlinson  
Sylvia Torok  
Samara Trout  
Devin Tyler  
Rachel Valk

Morgan Vander Giessen  
Joey VanMeter  
Kaleigh VerHage  
Sabrina Vickery  
Dominick Virag  
Zachary Walkington  
Jackson Walters  
Andrew Ward  
Mackenzie Ward  
Landon Warren  
Jaiden Weber  
Thomas Wickens  
Joshua Wiles  
Elizabeth Williams  
Connor Williamson  
Colby Winger  
Nevaeh Witherspoon  
Diane Worden  
Gwyneth Zamora  
Madalynn Zuke



Seniors who have placed in the top 10% for academics

## CONGRATULATIONS TOP 10%

Congratulations to the following graduates who have placed in the top 10% for their academics. More information about each one of them and their plans for the future have been shared on the Mason High School Facebook page.

Landon Buskirk  
 Amanda Meninga  
 Allison Doneth  
 Allison Muschong  
 Thomas De La Fuente  
 Colin Koot  
 Brendan Richardson  
 Lauren Bliesener  
 Madeline Chrome  
 Eric Rice  
 Amelia Kerschke  
 Ally Buzard  
 Sydney Chrome  
 Elizabeth Muenzenmaier  
 Liam Boomer  
 Mary Muenzenmaier  
 Grace Anderson  
 Maxwell Cook  
 Riana Therrien  
 Hayden Falardeau  
 Mitchell Kelly  
 Albiona Beka  
 Makenna Hon  
 Makenna Maher

## CONGRATULATIONS MASON PROMISE SCHOLARS

Each year, 25 Mason Promise Scholars are selected as they finish their grade 5 year. These Scholars will receive guaranteed funding toward two years of Lansing Community College tuition, mentoring and support. Congratulations to the 2022 Mason Promise Scholars!

Anthony Arealos	Layken Johnson
Harmeny Babcock	Chloe Laclear
Cayden Balmes	Savannah Lewis
Steven Brady	Antoneyo Mata
Madison Chapman	Julia Ortega
Cole Cowles	Abigail Palmer
Zaine Dillard	Nancy Par
Saide Droscha	Thomas Peng
Elijah Emanuel	Tyler Stokes
Liliana Escutia Perez	Sawyer Thompson
Grace Evans	Cynthia Upton
Liam Flintz	Ayden Young
Mercilee Frisell	







## **MASON ROBOTICS TEAM ADVANCES TO CHAMPIONSHIP**

Congratulations to the Mason High School Robotics team, the Tractor Technicians, who after taking home a Chairman's Award at the *FIRST* in Michigan State Competition, were invited to participate in the *FIRST* Championship robotics competition in Houston, TX in April. Way to go!

## **BUSINESS AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS REMAIN LOW**

The Michigan Department of Education has recently published the annual Bulletin 1014. In this report, Mason Public Schools has maintained a ranking for low total business and administrative costs per student compared to other Michigan districts for the years ending June 30, 2015 – 2021.

For the year ending 2021, MPS was ranked 666 out of 821 schools, maintaining a position in the lowest 4.1% of schools in Michigan for the lowest business and administrative cost per student. This is one of those instances when it's good to be ranked at the bottom. For the last six fiscal years, Mason Public Schools has been ranked in the lowest 8.4% of all school districts in the state, for the lowest business and administrative cost per student.

Business and administrative expenditures excluding capital outlay, include Board of Education, superintendent, office of

the principal (school administration), fiscal services, other business services, communication services, human resources, technology services and building and site improvement services.

## **SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER HONORED BY STATE ASSOCIATION**

Mason Board of Education member, Patrick O'Connor has been honored by the Michigan Association of School Boards (MASB) for his efforts to improve his leadership skills, demonstrating his commitment to student achievement and his own continuous improvement. Mr. O'Connor received both a Certified Board Member Award and an Award of Merit from MASB at the April 11 Board Meeting. Awards are earned for classes completed in MASB's leadership training program, as well as for conference attendance, years of service and leadership activities.

This training and professional development helps board members keep pace with the fast-moving and complex changes in public education. Last year, more than 1,300 school board members statewide participated in MASB's professional development program for elected school leaders. The hours devoted to this training are above and beyond the time members spend at their local meetings, events, and reviewing policies and board packets.

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**

Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S.  
drzewickir@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