

# EAGLE EYE

Mason Consolidated Schools  
Volume 5, Issue 2

January 2026

## Building Pathways to the Future

Mason Senior High School is proud to share an exciting new addition to our building: an Apprenticeship Wall, provided by Conduit to the Trades. The giant display highlights the many career pathways available to our students and reinforces an important message: **success can be built in many different ways.**

not the only road to success and that rewarding, respected careers are available through hands-on learning and skill development.

Conduit to the Trades designs each Apprenticeship Wall to reflect the local district and regional workforce, ensuring that the careers highlighted are relevant, attainable, and connected to real opportunities in our area. Their mission is rooted in hope; hope for young people who are searching for direction, purpose, and a future that fits their strengths and interests.

Mason Senior High School is grateful for this partnership and for the opportunity to provide students with tools that empower them to envision their future. Thank you to Principal Bates and Mr. Hodge for their hard work on securing the grant for this program. Mr. Hodge would like to also thank Betsy Mauk, Justin McManaway, Carly Neely, and Kelli Tuller for their help bringing this program to Mason.

Whether a student plans to attend college, pursue an apprenticeship, or explore multiple paths, the Apprenticeship Wall reinforces what we believe as a school community: every student deserves to see themselves in a successful future... and to know there are many ways to get there. ■



The Apprenticeship Wall is designed to help students explore meaningful, in-demand careers in the skilled trades and beyond. Featuring 16 distinct occupational opportunities such as electricians, roofers, and carpenters, the display showcases careers that are directly connected to local registered apprenticeship programs. Each occupation includes two QR codes: one linking to a short video that brings the career to life through real-world examples, and another that provides detailed information about the corresponding apprenticeship opportunity.

Apprenticeships offer a powerful alternative to traditional postsecondary pathways. Through apprenticeship programs, students can earn while they learn, gain hands-on training from skilled professionals, graduate debt-free while building a career, and step directly into high-demand, well-paying jobs.

For many students, seeing these opportunities displayed so clearly can be transformational. The wall, located right at the entrance to the student lounge, serves as a daily reminder that college is



SPOTLIGHT

# SUPERINTENDENT

Hey, Eagles...

Remember when winter meant bundling up until you could barely bend your knees and heading straight outside anyway? Snow days weren't for sleeping in. They were for snow forts, red cheeks, wet mittens, and boots that somehow never stayed dry. As I have had to cancel school a few times over the past couple of weeks, it has had me thinking about those winter days from childhood. When was the last time you made a snow angel, went sledding until your legs burned, or tasted snow just once, (not the yellow kind, of course)? And what did you wear on your feet back then? Moon boots, hand-me-down snow pants, bread bags on your feet, or sneakers that absolutely did not qualify as winter gear?

Those simple outdoor moments still matter. There is something special about fresh air, laughter, and doing something a little messy together. We encourage families to bundle up and step outside when they can, even if it is just for a short walk or a quick snowman attempt that leans a little to the left.

And for those who are not able to get out in the snow, that is just as important. Winter memories do not have to be outdoors. Share your favorite winter pastime with your family or friends. Maybe it is baking something warm, playing cards at the kitchen table, reading a favorite book, or watching the snow fall from the warmth of your living room. Those moments count too.

As for me, in my old age, I tried something brand new for the very first time about a month ago. I went snowshoeing and skiing up north in our great state. I can confirm that gravity still works, balance is optional, and laughter is guaranteed! I toured a couple of trails on a snowmobile and returned back home remembering how great winter can be.

However you enjoy winter, outside or in, we hope you take a moment to make a memory and maybe even start a new tradition. Do me a favor...send me a picture of your best winter activities and we will add it to our Facebook page. [ktuller@eriemason.k12.mi.us](mailto:ktuller@eriemason.k12.mi.us)

Bundle up and have fun!

*Kelli A. Tuller*

Kelli Tuller, Superintendent



*Thank you*

**Dr. Benjamin Smith**

for nine years of service on the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education, supporting our students, staff, and community. You will be missed.

# Winter Sports Update



## Basketball

Our Eagle Varsity Boys' Basketball team currently sits in 2nd place in the TCC with 4-1 conference record. A big matchup looms as they travel to Whiteford.

The JV Boys' Basketball team is currently undefeated under first year head coach, Aidan Keane. A tremendous accomplishment as the season begins to wind down!

## Swim

Boys' Varsity Swim continues to impress. The most recent MHSAA rankings have Erie-Mason as the 9th ranked team in the State for Division 3 teams! Keep it up boys!

Middle School Co-Ed Swim is nearly complete with their season. All that remains are the State events for those who have qualified. Erie-Mason has 9 qualifiers: Clara Meyer, Meridith Hasley, Abby Pugh, Maria Cousino, Aviyah Cowdrey, Aiden Healey, Carter Gordy, Jacob Tunison and Easton locoangeli.

## Wrestling

Recently, Erie-Mason State Champion Danny VanEeckhoutte retained his ranking of #1 in the state at the 126-weight class with a finals victory against the #6 ranked wrestler from Grass Lake, which also secured his 100th career win. Way to go Danny!

Middle School Wrestling will be hosting their big Jamboree on February 6th (tentatively). The High School's big date will be January 28th where we are hosting a quad on senior night!

## Cheer

Be sure to catch our Girls Cheer team in the student section for every home Boys' Varsity Basketball game!

-C. Phillips



# ATHLETICS

## Lego Robotics Team Competes

Mason Central Elementary's LEGO Robotics team, "Lego Legends: Rise of the Robosaurs," showcased outstanding teamwork, creativity, and collaboration during the 2025 FIRST® LEGO League Challenge season. This enthusiastic group of 4th and 5th graders fully embraced the FIRST Core Values and demonstrated what it means to work together toward a common goal.

FIRST LEGO League Challenge is a global robotics and STEM program that introduces students to real-world engineering and research challenges. Teams design, build, and program an autonomous LEGO robot to complete missions in the Robot Game, while also developing an Innovation Project that addresses a real-world problem connected to the season's theme.

This year's theme, UNEARTHED™, is archaeology-based and encourages students to explore the past to design solutions for the future. Lego Legends: Rise of the Robosaurs focused their Innovation Project on the problem of artifacts breaking over time, proposing a creative solution that uses scanning technology to generate holograms and 3D models showing what artifacts looked like long ago and what materials they were made from.

The team competed at the Columbia Schools FIRST LEGO League Challenge Qualifier on December 7, 2025, where students demonstrated strong teamwork, problem-solving, and confidence while presenting their robot, innovation project, and core values to judges.

The team was led by rookie coaches Jeff Miller, 5th Grade Teacher and Dianna Synowiec, Resource Teacher at Mason Central Elementary, who guided team sessions and learned alongside the students throughout the season. Youth Mentor Elliott Synowiec, a former MCES LEGO Robotics competitor, supported the team by helping students learn and strengthen their coding skills. Jazzy Gear (Dan Synowiec) assisted with t-shirt design and generously donated custom

team shirts.

Team members filled a variety of roles, including coders Ave Cowdrey, Kyle Johnson, Hayden Clark, and Joaquin Guzman; robot builders Jackson Eurenus, Tanner Morgan, Troy Frank, and Brantley Redford; and setup crew Alisyn Leichty, Casimiro Guzman, Jace McKnight, and Raegan Allen. Project leaders Emily Rosenberger and Beau McDonald guided planning and organization, while Innovation Project and presentation team members Krista Snare and Wyatt Grochowski shared the team's ideas with confidence. Poster, t-shirt, and design creators Everly Spencer and Braelyn Eriksen brought the team's spirit to life visually.

Throughout the season, Lego Legends: Rise of the Robosaurs stood out for their cooperation, positive attitude, and strong teamwork, making the experience a meaningful and successful STEM journey for all involved.

Looking ahead, the LEGO Robotics team is excited to grow next year, build on this strong foundation, and explore opportunities for fundraising and community sponsorships to support future seasons. With such a dedicated group of students, parents and supporters, the future of LEGO Robotics at Mason Central Elementary is bright. -D. Synowiec



"Let's do a silly one!" The Robosaurs pose for a photo at competition.

## PTA News



The PTA is excited for our upcoming events!

**Pizza Bingo:** A well-loved family event!

**Pal-Entine's with the PTA:** A brand new event! Two different dates after school 02-09-26 and 02-11-26. (This is an after-school event and will require a permission slip.)

**Read-A-Thon:** 02-16-26 to 03-16-26. Students, read your hearts out and have a chance to win a credit for the spring book fair!

**Daddy-Daughter Dance:** 03-07-26. Dads and daughters, come and rock around the clock at the Sock Hop!

As always the PTA welcomes any and all volunteers and support. We are so thankful for all the help we've had this year! Look for more exciting events on our Facebook page.



Scan to like our Facebook page!

Mason Central PTA Presents

You are invited to the

### Father-Daughter Dance

Fantastically Fun

# SOCK HOP

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

5:30PM-7:00PM

Mason Middle School Gym

Admission is \$25/couple  
\$10 each additional student

Money needs to be turned in by 2/27/26

## Youth in Government

We are thrilled to share the phenomenal success of our Youth in Government (YIG) students at this year's conference, held from November 23-25, 2025. Under the guidance of our dedicated advisors—Ms. Blackburn, Mr. Chysochoos, and Mrs. Otting—28 students from grades 6-8 committed two months to intensive preparation. They wrote real legislative bills, mastered complex parliamentary rules, and honed their debate skills, showing amazing dedication to civic leadership.

Our students didn't just attend—they were leaders, taking on a huge range of responsibilities and earning top honors! Seven students stepped up to fill critical roles at the conference, including Inspiration Speakers, Committee Chairs, and Reading/Writing Clerks. This depth of participation shows how ready our students were to take charge. A major highlight was the election of Madeline Kolbe, who won her race and served as the highly respected Speaker of the House AND acted as committee chair when the House was not in session. This is a massive achievement and a testament to her skills and hard work.

The hard work paid off with incredible individual and team achievements:

- **Legislative Triumph:** A bill co-authored by Henley Stubleski and Emmy Heck was successfully debated, passed by the youth legislature, and formally signed into law by the Youth Governor! This is a standout success, showing they can turn an idea into real policy.
- **Top Delegate Awards:** Our students earned two of the conference's most prestigious individual honors:
  - Riley Brighton was named Outstanding Committee Chair for their excellent organizational skills and leadership in guiding

discussions.

- Easton Cousino earned the Outstanding Delegate award in the Red Legislature, recognizing their superior performance in debate and legislative knowledge.

This year marked our first time competing in the Contemporary Issues Forum, and our students absolutely excelled. The Contemporary Issues Forum is a debate between two-member teams based on the Big Questions Debate format. It is specifically designed to encourage students to research, explore, and engage in thoughtful discussion on complex public topics. Six of our students participated in this challenging area, coached by Jamie Otting. They did an incredible job building and executing their arguments, demonstrating sophisticated research and public speaking skills. Their success in a program area new to our group is a testament to their adaptability and dedication.

The Youth in Government program is a powerful opportunity that goes far beyond the classroom. The success of these students in debates, elections, and committee roles proves they are developing the critical thinking, public speaking, and leadership skills necessary to become engaged, successful citizens and future leaders. We are incredibly proud of their accomplishments! -N. Blackburn



## Robotics Team "Riptiders" Compete

The Robotic Riptiders (Team 23589) represented our school during the 2025 FIRST® Tech Challenge DECODE season, taking on a fast-paced robotics competition that blends engineering, coding, creativity, and teamwork. FIRST® Tech Challenge challenges students to design, build, and program a robot while working

collaboratively and demonstrating the FIRST Core Values, including innovation, inclusion, teamwork, and gracious professionalism.

The team dedicated over 30 hours of preparation, building and refining their robot, developing code, practicing match strategies, and designing team displays, t-shirts, and buttons. While students had defined roles, they consistently supported one another wherever help was needed.

At the Bedford Qualifier on 11/7/2025, the team competed in five qualification matches, finishing with a 2-3 record, earning two match wins, and placing 21st out of 36 teams. The team worked closely with alliance partners, brainstormed strategies together, and rotated match roles so most students experienced competition on the field.

(continued on next page)



## WIN Career Readiness for High School Juniors

Beginning in Spring 2026, WIN Learning’s Work Readiness Assessments will be one of the three required components of the Michigan Merit Exam for 11th graders: SAT with Essay, WIN Learning Assessments, and M-Step (Science and Social Studies). Completing these tests is a requirement for a student to earn a diploma in the state of Michigan.

The WIN Work Readiness Assessments are designed to evaluate foundational and employability skills. Students will take three areas of WIN: Work Ready Math, Work Ready Reading, and Work Ready Data. Each assessment lasts an hour. Together, they form a portable Career Readiness Certificate or credential recognized by employers and educational institutions. Students will be able to see their results and print their certificates the same day that they take the tests. Results are available until December 31, 2026 for students to access and print.

These career assessments are aligned to O\*NET job zones and are recognized in many states. They are scored on a scale from 1-5. In order to earn the Career Readiness Certificate, students will need to earn a 3 or above on each of the assessments. A score of 4 or 5 shows readiness for more complex roles and may be a factor in hiring. The overall credential level is determined by the lowest score. Students may earn a credential level of 3, 4, or 5.

This certificate is something students should add to their resumes for potential employers.

The WIN is replacing the ACT WorkKeys assessment.

If your student is taking the Michigan Merit Exam assessments this spring, they will receive more information closer to testing in April.

-Dr. Mahailey Albain  
Student Advancement Coordinator  
albain@eriemason.k12.mi.us

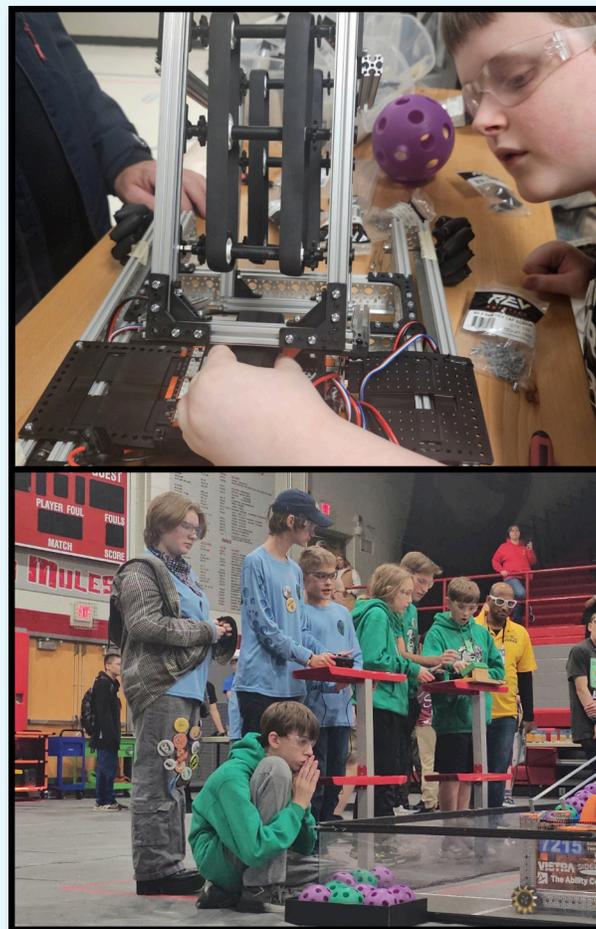
## Robotics Team “Riptiders” Compete *continued*

*(continued from Middle School page)*

Team members included builders Landon Rosenberger, Camden Harman, James Collins, Abe Perry, and Cameron Loth; coders Elliott Synowiec, Ryker Allen, and Hudson Harman; and design/spirit/media team members Abigail Sedlock, Pyper Ziegler, Kynzie VanDaele, and Addyson Russeau. Landon Rosenberger put in exceptional time designing and building the robot, while Elliott Synowiec led the coding efforts. Pyper Ziegler headed the design team, helping lead the team’s visual identity and spirit efforts. The team was supported by Youth Mentor Logan Rosenberger from Mason High School.

The 2025 team was coached by Dianna Synowiec and Kristan Ziegler, with Dan Synowiec serving as a mentor by assisting with tools, construction, and sponsoring custom team t-shirts. In addition to their robotics work, students began brainstorming ways to build support for the team through fundraising efforts, community sponsorships, and social networking, with the goal of strengthening the program and becoming even more competitive in future seasons. The Robotic Riptiders demonstrated strong collaboration, adaptability, and school pride throughout the season.

-D. Synowiec



# National Thank You Month

January is National "Thank You" Month, a time to pause, reflect, and express gratitude to those who make a difference in our lives and school community. We are deeply thankful for our students, families, staff, and community members whose dedication and kindness help Mason Consolidated Schools remain a supportive and welcoming place for all.

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Bobby's staff, who have continued to provide weekend support to families in need, as well as holiday assistance for Thanksgiving and Christmas. A heartfelt thank you goes to Mr. Butch, who delivers each week with a smile and is always looking for ways to do more for his community. His commitment and compassion truly make a difference.

Practicing gratitude has been shown to improve mental well-being, strengthen relationships, and increase happiness. This month, we encourage everyone to take a moment to say thank you to a teacher, classmate, friend, or staff member who has made a positive impact.

As a reminder, Mason Consolidated Schools partners with Care Solace to provide free, confidential access to mental health resources for students, staff, and families.

Call 888-515-0595 (available 24/7 in over 50 languages)

Visit [caresolace.com/masonschoools](http://caresolace.com/masonschoools) to connect with care providers

Thank you for helping make our school community strong, caring, and connected.

-D. Traviss

THANK YOU!

WELLNESS & COMMUNITY

RASEY MEMORIAL & ERIE BRANCH LIBRARIES PRESENT

## LIL' BOOKWORM STORYTIME

This story time is geared towards kids who are getting ready for kindergarten. We will sing and dance to songs, listen to a story or two, work on the alphabet & literacy skills through play and fun activities.

**Mondays at 10:30 am**  
Starting January 26, 2026

AT LUNA PIER RASEY MEMORIAL BRANCH  
4349 Oak Street, Luna Pier, MI (734) 848-4572

**Wednesdays at 10:30 am**  
Starting January 21, 2026

AT ERIE BRANCH LIBRARY  
2065 Erie Road, Erie, MI (734) 848-4420

**FOR PRESCHOOL AGES**  
mymcls.com

Register Online! [bit.ly/lilbooklper](http://bit.ly/lilbooklper)

RASEY MEMORIAL LUNA PIER BRANCH LIBRARY

## TWEEN & TEEN Craft Night

- Nov. 5, 2025
- Dec. 3, 2025
- Jan. 7, 2026
- Feb. 4, 2026
- MARCH 4, 2026
- APRIL 8, 2026
- MAY 6, 2026
- At 5:30 pm

If you are a tween or teen who likes to craft, join us each month for a crafting night. Come hang out with friends, enjoy some snacks, and test your creativity with a different project each month.

Register Online!  
[bit.ly/lpcrafty](http://bit.ly/lpcrafty)

Rasey Memorial Branch Library  
4349 Oak, Luna Pier, MI (734) 848-4572

For Ages 11-18

[mymcls.com](http://mymcls.com)

## DINNER & DELIGHT

Tuesdays at 4:00 pm  
Starting September 16, 2025

Join us on Tuesdays for a delightful evening that starts with a nutritious meal and ends with a burst of creativity and fun. Kids will love the blend of good food and exciting activities!

Register at [bit.ly/lpdelight](http://bit.ly/lpdelight)

## BRAINS & GAMES

Wednesdays at 3:30 pm  
Starting September 17, 2025

Wednesdays are all about sharpening minds and having fun! At 3:30pm we'll help elementary kids with homework. Dinner will be at 4:00pm, followed by a session of card and board games that challenge and entertain! (No dinner on Nov. 26, 2025)

Register at [bit.ly/lpbraingame](http://bit.ly/lpbraingame)

RASEY MEMORIAL BRANCH LIBRARY  
4349 Oak, Luna Pier, MI (734) 848-4572



2400 Mason Eagles Dr.  
Erie, MI 48133  
eriemason.k12.mi.us

NON PROFIT  
U.S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #40  
MONROE, MI  
48161

## POSTAL CUSTOMER

.....

**WANT MORE  
EAGLENATION?**

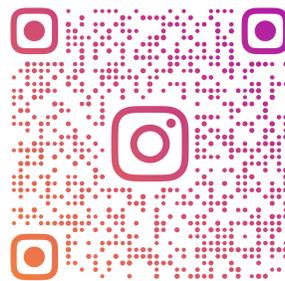


Follow us on Facebook and Instagram! Scan the QR codes for our official social media pages and website for all the latest news and events.

website



instagram



facebook

