

Ben Russow - Mason Middle School
Administrative Report
Date: December 6, 2023

- Mason Middle School sent 31 delegates and three advisors to Youth in Government, sponsored by YMCA. Students spent 3 days in Lansing, participating in a mock government conference, debating bills, and gaining leadership experience with students from across Michigan. Two of our delegates, Mason Guinn, and Katherine Otting, ran for political office. Mason Guinn won his Lieutenant Governor campaign, presiding over the White Senate. Carter Gordy received an award for outstanding senator, and we received several compliments from other advisors about how polite, respectful, and kind our students were. Of the 22 bills to land on the Youth Governor's desk, six of them were authored by Mason students. Unfortunately, the Youth Governor vetoed nine bills, five of which were Mason bills, but our students passionately debated their bills in a general assembly and were able to overturn two of the vetoes, ultimately getting them signed by our Youth Governor to total three bills from Mason that were signed into law. These bills were authored by Alivia Cowdrey, Jaelynn Horton, Kaden Kreger, Mason Guinn, Kerrigan Sedlock, and Elizabethann Tadsen.
- Robotics - Our First Tech Challenge competition was an all-day event Saturday, Nov. 18th, at Bedford High school. We placed 18th out of 36 teams! We competed in 5 matches and won 2 out of the 5 matches. We helped our alliances out by pushing pixels & parking in the backstage on the playing field. Our students worked extremely hard to get our robot coded & able to move for the competition. The building process was a struggle, but our students did a great job at problem solving and working together to figure out solutions. Our team overcame many obstacles and persevered through each issue that arose. In the end, this was a major learning experience for us coaches and the students and we gained so much knowledge to help us be better for next year's season. Our coaches are extremely proud of Mason's little engineers!
- We are taking 95 students to the Walleye Game on December 6th. These students have achieved gold status for our 2 first calibrations of this school year.
- Our Boys basketball season is underway. Both teams are showing tremendous growth and competitiveness. Our 7th grade team is undefeated so far this year.
- Youth in Government will be sponsoring a dance on December 15th. The dance will be a little unconventional this year, and we will be preselling admission during ISP on the 15th so that students can stay after school and get right into the dance. We will also offer games, a cornhole tournament, an ugly sweater contest, and concessions to keep the festivities going.
- Our Student Council hosted a food drive prior to Thanksgiving. The November Food Drive had over 400 items donated for a local food pantry.

- The Student Council will be sponsoring a winter spirit week during the final week of classes in December (18-22) All days are Christmas themed. The week will conclude with an assembly on December 22nd. The Robotics team and winter sports teams will be recognized at this time.
- SPLT is working with the high school team to coordinate an activity for the marijuana initiative on December 14th. Trooper Don Stewart will be on campus to assist these teams in the activity. The middle school SPLT team is currently working on a slogan for this initiative, have posted important information about marijuana and the teen brain in the hallways, and will read facts during morning announcements during the week of December 11-15.