

EAGLE EYE

March 2022

Robotics Team Wins Rookie Awards at Competition



Mason Senior High School's Robotics team, Bubo's Parliament, debuts at their first in-person competition after a year of virtual matches! The competition, held at Milford High School on March 11th and 12th, featured 36 teams from across Michigan all competing for a chance to qualify for the FIRST in Michigan State Championship in April. Among the awards given for design, engineering, and highest points, there are two awards for 'rookie' teams, (teams new to competition).

Bubo's Parliament won them both!

The Highest Rookie Seed Award is awarded to the rookie team with the highest-earned points in the 'seed'; our Erie-Mason team worked hard to earn this award and it paid off!

The Rookie Inspiration Award is given to celebrate a rookie team's outstanding success in advancing respect and appreciation for engineering and engineers, both within their school and in their community. This award is sometimes hard to come by if the judges don't feel a team meets this honor; sometimes it isn't given out at all! That was not the case with our team, however; Bubo's Parliament impressed the judges and competing teams alike, and our students were honored first at the awards ceremony! These accomplishments reflect the hard work that all team members have put in during this year's build.

Name Change Coming Soon

Thanks to a very generous donation during the team's formation year, our students had all the tools needed

to build a strong robot. They named their team Bubo's Parliament, a cheeky nod to the robotic Eagle Owl from *Clash of the Titans*. However, after being a part of the excitement from their very first competition, the team felt that the name "Iron Eagles" better represents the community's ironclad bond when it comes to school spirit! The name change will be complete by the next season in 2023 for the team's sophomore year of competition!

FIRST on Disney+

FIRST Robotics' mission is to inspire young people to be science and technology leaders by engaging them in mentor-based STEM programs that build science, technology, engineering, and math skills. FIRST ('For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology') believes that with hands-on learning, working as a team on real-life problems, and exposure to careers and adult mentors, student interest in STEM increases substantially and helps them become well-rounded contributors to society.

You can learn more about the FIRST Robotics competition by watching the in-depth documentary called "More Than Robots", which is now streaming on Disney+!

Thanks to Jason Burt, Erin Ziems, Mark Monarch, and Daniel Gapp for being excellent and caring mentors for our FIRST team!

Birds of a feather flock together!

-J. Hopper & J. Burt

SPOTLIGHT

SUPERINTENDENT

Greetings from Mason Consolidated Schools!

We are excited to bring Eagle Eye, the Mason Consolidated Schools newsletter, to the homes of our residents and families. Some of you may recall a district newsletter called The Action Newsletter. It is our hope that our updated newsletter will provide our friends, families, and future partners with information regarding our District's current events and news. Please expect to receive this newsletter again in June.

I feel blessed to have been selected as the Superintendent of MCS last year. We all know that entering a new position is challenging but entering during a pandemic is indescribable. I am grateful for the warm welcome and support from students, staff, parents, and community members and look forward to the many others I have yet to meet. Please feel free to call me, email me, stop to say hello, or attend a board meeting whenever possible. The overall theme I have learned thus far from these amazing individuals is that MCS is full of great students, staff, families, and community members who understand we have significant opportunities to make Eagle Nation-Your Destination.

It is with great enthusiasm that I share that the District is wrapping up the final pieces of our 3–5-year Strategic Plan. A team of forty stakeholders met to establish Mission, Vision, Beliefs and Goals to help create the District we all envision. The key areas our plan are Academics and Programs, Culture and Learning Environment, Communication and Community Engagement, Personnel and Leadership, and Operations. The goals in these five areas will drive the work necessary for improvement. Once complete, the Mason Consolidated Schools Board of Education will approve and monitor the plan with the assistance of Michigan Association of School Board consultants. Stay tuned for the wonderful things to come!

We need your support! Mason Senior High School has established work-based learning opportunities for students wishing to explore various career pathways. The Michigan Department of Education defines work-based learning as a program to provide students with a planned program of job training and other employment experiences related to a chosen career. There are six major recognized types of work-based learning experiences for secondary students in Michigan, as well as an additional school-related component, regarding the employment of minors as follows:

1) student/visitor; 2) volunteer; 3) work-based learning non-CTE programs (paid and unpaid student learner); 4) work-based learning state-approved CTE programs (paid and unpaid student learner); 5) in-district/in-school placement (unpaid student learner); and 6) minor employee with a work permit.

If you are interested in hosting and supporting a WBL student in any of the ways listed above, please contact me at ktuller@eriemason.k12.mi.us or 734-848-9304. We look forward to growing our partnerships in our community.

It is great time to be an Eagle!

Educationally yours,

Kelli A. Tuller

Kelli Tuller, Superintendent



Winter Season Recap

Another successful winter sport season has come to an end! The boys' and girls' basketball teams have both captured Tri-County Conference championships. This makes back-to-back conference championships for both teams! Additionally, the boys also captured a district title and are continuing a playoff run [at the time of publication]. Our wrestling team sent four wrestlers onto the regional tournament and two additional wrestlers qualified for the girls' state finals. The boys' swim team also represented Erie-Mason at the state meet with multiple qualifiers! Thank you athletes, coaches and fans for a wonderful season!
-D. Pollard



Spring Season Begins

Spring practices officially began on March 16th! Our boys' baseball and track teams will look to defend their Tri-County Conference titles. All schedules are available on the Athletics webpage. (eriemason.k12.mi.us/athletics) One event you won't want to miss is the annual Mason Track and Field Invitational on May 14th, 2022. This is the longest-running track and field invite in Monroe county! We wish our baseball, softball, co-ed track, and co-ed golf teams the best of luck for the upcoming season. Let's Go Eagles!
-D. Pollard



Teachers Donate Parking Lot Scholarships

Thanks to one teacher's idea, two Mason Seniors will earn a \$500 scholarship each this year.

Floyd Martin came up with an idea to 'auction' off staff parking spaces for a small fee. The staff would then be free to decorate or paint the space however they like, and then the funds would be donated to a graduating Eagle as a scholarship. The idea was such a hit with the rest of the staff, however, that they raised enough money for two students to earn \$500 scholarships!

Staff had a blast painting and collaborating on their colorful parking spaces. The lot now looks cheerful and bright, and since the plan is to continue this scholarship program each year, Eagle students will now benefit from this fun idea for years to come!



Family Literacy Night a Success



On Thursday, March 17th, Mason Central Elementary hosted a Family Literacy Night for students, parents, and grandparents to attend. The theme for the evening was "Olympics: Go For The Gold!" and families were treated to fun literacy-focused mini centers throughout the gymnasium to explore and 'win' an Olympic medal! Centers with fun titles such as 'Bobsled Build-a-Word' and 'Olympic Mad Libs' were a big hit with our Eagles!

The annual Young Author contest entries were on display for everyone to read, and the grade-level winners were announced. Congratulations to Brantley Jennings (K), Bennett Gordy (1), Ava Nehrig (2), Gabby Oyerbides (3), Carter Gordy (4), and Violet Kaufman (5)!

The stations weren't just confined to the gymnasium, however. Storytime was held in the library, and our PTA sponsored a Book Fair in the PTA portable. The PTA also just announced that this year's Book Fair had the largest turnout in school history!

A BIG shout out to Mrs. Kristen Donnelly, our reading intervention teacher, and Mrs. Christina Swaile, our music teacher, for organizing this event. Thank you to all of our teachers and paraprofessionals who helped run the centers. Over 150 students, parents, and grandparents attended literacy night!

-J. Hopper & D. McCain



Young Author Winners, from left: Carter Gordy, Bennett Gordy, Ava Nehrig, Gabby Oyerbides, and Violet Kaufman. Not pictured: Brantley Jennings.



MathCounts Team Excels in Competition

MathCounts is a nationwide non-profit organization that highlights mathematics for middle school students across the country. Their program builds problem-solving skills and positive attitudes about math so that students embrace challenges and expand their academic and career opportunities in the future.

Our Eagles participated in the MathCounts Southeastern Chapter competition held at the Woodhaven Community Center on February 11th. Grace Albright, Weston Albright, Zayla Brown, JoAnne Cai, Jackson Carner, Bowie Jacobs, Lilliah Michalski, David Mills, Anderson Moore, and David Sweeney represented Mason Middle School at the competition. Mason Middle School teachers Carson Manthey and Tara Stubleski were the coaches for the Eagles!

All students compete in an individual test first, and then each school selects 4 students for the Team event. Not only did three of our Eagles place in the Top 10 during the Individual round (see our Facebook page for the full story!), Mason Middle School's selected Team worked hard and 'battled' a lot of fierce competitors...and won the 1st place title, earning them a spot at the States competition! (See photo)

Before heading off to States, our Eagles also took part in a virtual competition on February 17th, in which three more of our Eagles placed in the Top 10! Congratulations to JoAnne Cai (2nd place), Lilliah Michalski (9th place), and Jackson Carner (10th place).

During these competitions, students complete a series of timed tests, challenging their mathematical problem-solving skills. The tests include a Sprint round, a Target round, a Team round, and a Countdown round. The Sprint round focuses on speed and accuracy; students have 40 minutes to complete 30 math problems without a calculator. In the Target round, students receive 4 pairs of problems and have 6 minutes to complete each pair, focusing on mathematical reasoning. As mentioned above, the Team round consists of 4 students per school, and focuses on collaboration; having only 20 minutes to complete 10 difficult math problems, students must be able to work together to solve them quickly. Finally, an optional round involving speed and accuracy called Countdown takes place, where students are given only 45 seconds to solve problems, using no calculator.



From left to right: JoAnne Cai, Grace Albright, Anderson Moore, and Jackson Carner at the MathCounts State competition in Saginaw.

Our Eagles had an amazing time at Saginaw Valley State University on March 12th for the State competition, the first time Mason Middle School has ever qualified! The competition was fierce, but our Eagles weren't discouraged. They were filled with honor and excitement, as was Eagle Nation! Competing in States was a great experience for our students to challenge themselves against some of the top competition in the state.

We're proud of you, Eagles!
-J. Hopper & C. Manthey

High School Welcomes Incoming Freshmen

On Wednesday, February 16th, we held a high school informational meeting in the cafeteria for 8th grade students and their parents. High school is very different from the middle school experience. Our main goal of the evening was for students and parents to be well-informed, excited, and prepared to begin their journey here at the high school in September. We had presentations from Mrs. Spicer, Mr. Travis, Mr. Pollard, and Mr. Burt on several exciting opportunities for Freshman to get involved! Immediately following the meeting, the 8th graders and their parents were our guests at the boys basketball game.



-B. Bates

Youth in Government Heads to Lansing

On March 17th, 14 students represented our district in Lansing at the annual Youth in Government conference, alongside hundreds of students from all over Michigan. YIG is a program established to allow high school (and middle school!) students to serve in model governments. Our Eagles fielded two 4-person teams in the Model Judiciary Program, strongly litigating a case involving Human Trafficking. Senior Monica DeGasto, the only student who participated in the National Issues Forum, was able to argue her proposal through all rounds; it passed in the General Assembly! The remaining students argued their own bills on floors of the House and Senate in the Capitol Building for the Legislative Program. Sophomore Rayann DuRocher had her bill pass all chambers



to eventually be signed into law by the Youth Governor. Mr. Davison, one of our YIG advisors and Social Studies teacher, won the Brokaw Advisor of the Year Award due to the entire Mason delegation representing our district so well! Great job!

-T. Davison



April

04-01 - End of 3rd Qtr. Middle & High School
 04-01 - All Students/Staff Half Day
 04-02 - 04-10 - Spring Recess, No School
 04-15 - Good Friday, No School

May

05-27 - All Students/Staff Half Day
 05-30 - Memorial Day, No School

June

06-05 - Graduation, 5:00 Sunday
 06-07 - All Students/Staff Half Day
 06-08 - Last Day of School
 Students/Staff Half Day

Pool Roof Update



The Natatorium Roof Project is well underway and slated to be finished in time to allow our swim team to practice this summer. Delays in securing materials has proven to be a small challenge, yet we still anticipate the reopening of the pool this summer. We can't wait to see students, athletes, and community using our pool again!

-K. Tuller

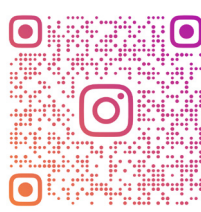
Want more Eagle Nation? Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram! Scan the QR codes for our official social media pages and website for all the latest news and events!



website



twitter



instagram



facebook

Eagle Wellness Resource Center

Ground Yourself for Spring Break!

With Spring comes renewal! A time of change. A time of growth!
 Spring Break for all students and staff begins April 2nd. This is a well-deserved break with your family and friends. All students, staff, and families are encouraged to use this time to refresh, relax, unwind, and enjoy! Be sure to take time to do something for yourself, a friend, or a loved one. This is a great opportunity to unplug and have a break from social media and electronics, too. Take some time, even if only for a few minutes, to get outside and watch nature blossom. Slow down, breathe, and be mindful to the details of your surroundings changing. Notice the new leaves. Hear the baby birds learning to sing. Relate the changes you see **outside** to the changes you feel **inside**.
Be the growth and change that you may have been wanting all winter.

Outdoor Grounding Technique

Use your 5 senses while you are outdoors and take in what it has to offer you in the moment.

-  Find a beautiful spot to sit or stand still.
-  Focus on your breathing. Slowly inhale for 2-3 seconds. Hold for 1 second. Exhale for 2-3 seconds.
-  Find a blade of grass, a flower, a tree, a bug, a bird.
-  Take a moment to notice 5 things you can see.
 -  Notice 4 things you can touch or feel.
 -  Notice 3 things that you can hear.
 -  Notice 2 things that you can smell.
 -  Notice 1 thing that you can taste.

Classes resume April 11th

WELLNESS & INFO



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Kindergarten and Young-5's Round-Up

The annual Kindergarten & Young-5's Round-Up will take place on April 13th this year, from 4:00-7:30pm at Mason Central Elementary. Please bring all of the documents listed below; students cannot be enrolled without *all* documents submitted! Be sure to bring your child along to Round-Up for screening, as well; the Monroe County Health Department will be on-site for hearing and vision screening! Questions? Call 734-848-9400 or 734-848-9401.

MASON CENTRAL ELEMENTARY

KINDERGARTEN & YOUNG-5'S

ROUND-UP!

APRIL 13, 2022
4:00 - 7:30PM

DOCUMENTS YOU MUST BRING*:
CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE (MUST BE 5 BY 12-01-22)
IMMUNIZATION RECORDS
PROOF OF RESIDENCY
DRIVER'S LICENSE (ADDRESS MUST BE IN-DISTRICT!)
CUSTODY PAPERS, IF NECESSARY

*STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ENROLLED UNLESS ALL DOCUMENTS ARE SUBMITTED.
**BRING CHILD WITH YOU TO ROUND UP FOR SCREENING!

save
the
date!

GSRP Pre-K Round up
June 9th, 2022
1:00-4:00pm
Central Elementary