

EAGLE EYE

Mason Consolidated Schools

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October 2025

National Principal's Month

October is National Principal's Month, a time to recognize the hard work, vision, and dedication of the administrators who guide our schools every day. At Mason Consolidated Schools, our leadership team exemplifies what it means to lead with integrity, compassion, and a deep commitment to students and community.

Debra McCain: Principal, Mason Central Elementary School

With a career spanning more than three decades, Principal Debra McCain has been a cornerstone of Mason education since joining the district in 1991. Over the years, she has taught multiple grade levels and physical education, and since 2006, she has led Mason Central Elementary with unwavering dedication. Mrs. McCain also serves as Director of State and Federal Grant Programs, a role she has held since 2004. "The best part of my job is the students at Mason—past and present," she says. "They are above and beyond the most accepting, caring, kind students who are truly Bucketfillers for life." Beyond her professional accomplishments, Mrs. McCain is a proud wife, mother, and grandmother whose love for her family mirrors the warmth she brings to her school community.

Dustin Pollard: Assistant Principal, Mason Central Elementary and Mason Middle School

Now in his 17th year in education and 8th with Mason, Assistant Principal Dustin Pollard brings a wealth of experience to his dual role. His background includes serving as a Social Studies teacher, Restorative Justice Coordinator, Athletic Director, and Dean of Students. One of his favorite memories involves spreading holiday cheer by dressing up as Buddy the Elf alongside Principal McCain to greet students before winter break. "Seeing their smiling faces and hearing their laughter was the greatest reward of all," he recalls. Pollard believes the heart of Mason lies in its strong community bonds, where "teachers go beyond the classroom to mentor and encourage, and families and local businesses actively support one another."

Ben Russow: Principal, Mason Middle School

Celebrating his 25th year in education and 16th as principal, Mr. Ben Russow's leadership

has been defined by a steadfast belief in the power of teachers to change lives. "For us, it's about understanding who we are as a district and embracing the dynamic of our community," he explains. "Our teachers believe they can make a difference in the academic and social aspects of our students' lives despite the many challenges they face. This idea of teacher efficacy is what we hang our hat on." His pride in Mason's educators and students shines through every initiative he leads.

Brandon Bates: Principal, Mason Senior High School

For more than two decades, Mr. Brandon Bates has been an integral part of Mason Senior High School, serving as Principal for the past 12 years. Known for his calm leadership and commitment to student success, he finds his greatest rewards in the long-term outcomes of his work. "My most rewarding moments over the years have been watching former students become successful in their post-high school endeavors after graduating from Mason," he shares.

Derrick Hayes: Dean of Students

With fifteen years in education and three at Mason, Dean of Students Derrick Hayes brings enthusiasm, energy, and heart to his daily interactions with students. He began his career as a substitute teacher in 2010 and has since served in multiple leadership roles, including Athletic Director. "Even though I've only been here for a short time, everyone has embraced and supported me as part of the Erie Mason family," he says. His favorite moments come during passing time, greeting students in the hallways with smiles and fist bumps. "Those simple moments remind me every day that I'm here for a purpose and a plan. My heart's desire is that they feel the same way."

Leading with Heart and Purpose

National Principal's Month serves as a reminder of how vital strong leadership is to the success of every school. At Mason Consolidated Schools, our administrators model dedication, compassion, and the belief that education is a shared journey between students, staff, and community. Their leadership not only guides our schools today but also shapes the legacy of tomorrow's Eagles. ■

SPOTLIGHT

SPRINTENDENT COMMUNITY

Together, We Make Mason Strong

At Mason Consolidated Schools, we believe the strength of our district comes from the partnerships we build with our families, local organizations, and community members who care deeply about our students. When we work together, wonderful things happen for kids!

Each day, I see this collaboration in action. Parents generously give their time, local businesses provide valuable work-based learning experiences, and community partners invest in programs and make donations to support student needs. These connections help our students grow socially, emotionally, and academically, preparing them for success beyond the classroom. Most importantly, they remind our students that community matters. You'll see many examples of this teamwork throughout the year, and I encourage you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram or visit our website for more district information.

As we move through the school year, I encourage everyone to stay connected and involved. Attend a performance or meeting, cheer on our teams, or visit one of our schools to see the incredible things happening here. Your involvement truly makes a difference, and we welcome you to be part of it.

Kelli A. Tuller

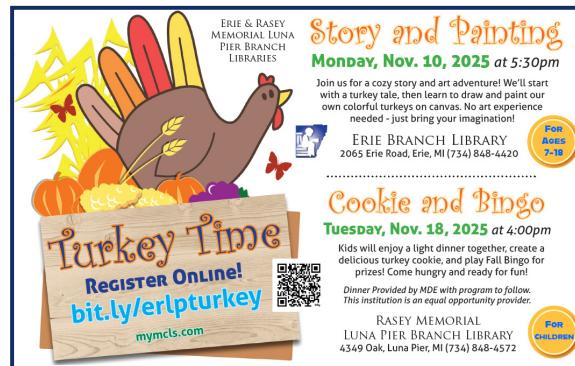
Kelli Tuller
Superintendent



Community Events



Be sure to check out some great local events taking place this next month! The Luna Pier library is offering Dinner & Delight every Tuesday at 4:00pm, and Brains & Games on Wednesdays at 3:30pm. Go see the 12th Annual Veterans Day parade on November 8th in Luna Pier! The Erie branch library is hosting Story and Painting, and Cookie and Bingo for kids, too! Be sure to watch for Elf School in December!



New Year, New Faces



Kelsey Cole, 6th Grade English Language Arts Teacher

Mrs. Cole graduated from the University of Toledo with a degree in Education, and then continued to earn her Master of Science in Educational Leadership degree from Concordia University. She loves spending time with her family (pictured, with Mason, Waylon, and Wyatt), trying lots of new foods, and listening to podcasts. **Fun Fact:** She beat Mr. Simmons in an arm-wrestling competition!

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "I had the pleasure of being an Eagle for many years. I took a year away to explore other opportunities, and what I discovered was I'm meant to be an Eagle. This school district is truly special, and I'm grateful to have the opportunity to come back!"

Karen DuRocher, 5th Grade Teacher

Mrs. DuRocher earned an Associate's Degree Monroe County Community College and graduated with a Bachelor's of Education degree from the University of Toledo. She loves baking, singing, and traveling! She is pictured here with her family; Devin, Rayann, Payge, and Baylie.



Fun Fact: Christmas is her most favorite time of year. Her tree goes up November 1st!

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "I get to teach with those who taught me what it means to be a great teacher!"



Traci Fackelman, Mason Middle School Resource Room Teacher

Mrs. Fackelman earned an Associate's Degree from Monroe County Community College and graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor's Degree in Education. She loves crafting, reading mysteries and thrillers, and recently became "RV-ers" with her family (pictured, with Nick, Ivy, and Maverick; also two "bonus children" Jimmy and Grace, not pictured). **Fun Fact:** She has a 30-lb cat, heavier than her 27-lb son! **What makes you excited about being an Eagle?:** "I am very excited to be in a small district where I can build relationships with many students and their families to help make a big impact on their education!"

Carly Ferrante, 10th Grade ELA Teacher

Ms. Ferrante graduated from the University of Toledo with a Bachelor's Degree in Adolescent and Young Adult English Language Arts. When she's not teaching English, she's a part-time tennis instructor at the Monroe YMCA, and likes to hang out with her friends, boyfriend, and family.



Fun Fact: She was adopted from Guatemala when she was a year old!

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "I am so excited to learn about Mason's community and culture. The staff and students have been so welcoming, and I know that will only continue."



Caden Foster, High School Health & PE Teacher

Mr. Foster graduated from the University of Toledo in 2024. He loves golfing, taking his dog Obi-Wan on runs, working out, and watching Survivor. He is pictured here with his fiance Abby, and also has two cats named Ginger and Anikan.

Fun Fact: Over the summer he began coaching football here at Mason as the new Varsity Running Backs Coach and JV Assistant Coach.

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "One thing I am very excited about being a new Eagle is getting to know more about the tight-knit community!"



Todd Hodge, High School CTE Construction Trades Teacher

Mr. Hodge, pictured here with his family Katelyn, Aubrey, and Ellie, enjoys trips up north to the family cabin, golfing, hunting, and fishing. He enjoys watching his daughters perform, whether its showing

horses and pigs with their own 4H group "Unlimited Horsepower" or playing sports.

Fun Fact: Animals are a big part of their family's life. They have horses, goats, pigs, chickens, dogs, barn cats, and a rabbit! **What makes you excited about being an Eagle?:** "I have always been an Eagle! I graduated from Mason in 2001. I am excited to be able to share my knowledge of construction with the youth of our community."



Chris Phillips, Athletic Director/Middle School PE Teacher

Mr. Phillips earned a Bachelor of Science in Education from Wayne State University, and continued his education at Arkansas State University graduating with a Masters of Science in Sports Administration. He enjoys golfing, CrossFit, and hanging out with friends.

Fun Fact: He once won a free trip to Mexico from the radio channel 95.5!

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "The strong sense of community and the small-town feel that it has. In just my first month here, I've already noticed how supportive and caring the people are towards our staff and students."



Samantha Quisenberry, 3rd Grade Teacher

Mrs. Quisenberry graduated from Eastern Michigan University with a Bachelor's in Elementary Education, and went on to earn a Masters in Learning Experience Design and Educational Technology from Western Governors University. She and her husband Matthew have 5 "fur babies", and she loves crafting, loom knitting, reading, bird watching, and biking or walking to the lake with her dogs. **Fun Fact:** Each summer she tries to pick up a new hobby and is hoping to learn to can vegetables from her garden. She loves sign language, too, and is currently learning Spanish.

What makes you excited about being an Eagle?: "The community here at Mason is so welcoming! I have only been here for a little bit, but I feel like I am a part of the Mason family already. I love it! I am so excited to continue this next chapter here doing what I love most: teaching and learning!"

WELCOME TO MASON

New Youth Partnership: Youth Advisory Council

Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) exist in all 80 counties across Michigan, originally established through a grant from the Kellogg Foundation in 1994. The Monroe-Erie Youth Advisory Council (MEYAC) was founded in June of this year and is made up of students from Mason Senior High School and Monroe Public Schools, with advisors from both districts. Membership is open to youth ages 12–21, and our focus is on youth philanthropy.

This summer, MEYAC participated in the Community Foundation of Monroe's Philanthropy Playoffs, helping raise funds for the Fan Fund. Our involvement included:

- Promoting the event on social media
- Attending the Pre-Game event at Munson Park
- Organizing a small group of adults to compete in the Philanthropy Playoff event on October 2nd

As a result, our portion of the fund totals \$3,984.71!

What We're Learning

We are exploring what youth philanthropy means to us and how we can make a meaningful impact in our community. Our learning includes:

- Creating community agreements
- Understanding nonprofit organizations
- Exploring endowments and grants
- Participating in the grantmaking process

Our YAC will complete a full grant cycle in partnership with the Community Foundation of Monroe.

What We'll Do

This year, MEYAC will:

- Conduct a Needs Assessment to gather data on community needs
- Meet with state lawmakers to share our findings
- Encourage community partners to submit proposals for grant funding
- Engage in service projects
- Build leadership skills through collaboration and hands-on experience

Mason's YAC Advisor

Dr. Mahailey Albain

albain@eriemason.k12.mi.us



1 Million Book Giveaway



Student Council has partnered with Chick-fil-A for Leader Academy, and our first step was helping give out books for the "One Million Book Giveaway" program!

Chick-fil-A sent 600 books to our Student Council, as part of their program in which students pack children's books into cherished gifts for local elementary schools, fostering a love of reading in their community. Our Student Council put together the gifts and the senior members walked over and personally handed them out to the Kindergarten and 1st grade classes at Central Elementary School.

The Chick-fil-A Leader Academy focuses on cultivating leadership through service, encouraging students to make a tangible difference in their communities. By taking part in this initiative, our Student Council members are learning that leadership is about more than titles—it's about action, empathy, and service. The book giveaway not only supported early literacy but also created meaningful connections between our high school students and the youngest members of the Eagle community.

-K Roberts

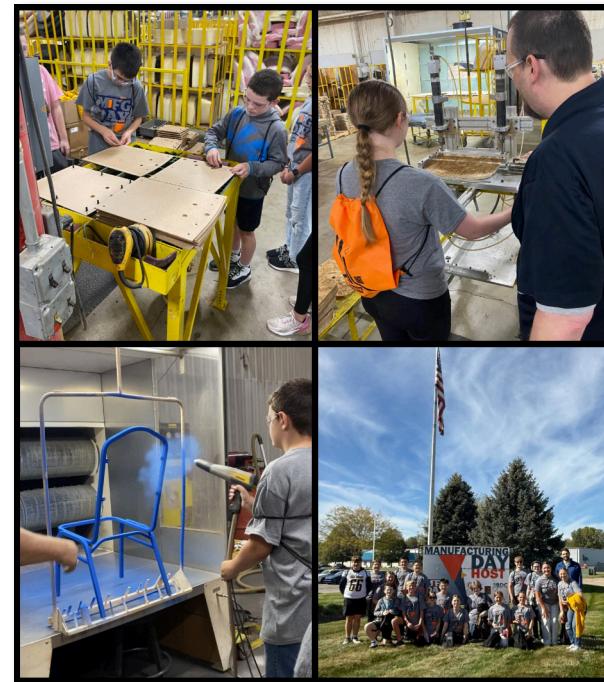
Manufacturing Day

On Thursday, October 2nd, our Mason Junior Honor Society participated in Monroe County's Manufacturing Day where they received an inside look at MTS Seating.

MTS Seating makes furniture for lots of different businesses, including Taco Bell, Arby's, and Mandalay Bay Casinos. Mason students toured the MTS Seating facility and performed several hands-on activities that are involved in creating and building a chair. Our students learned how to operate machinery used to bend the legs and backs of chairs, construct chair seats and backs, install the feet of chairs, and paint the outer shell structure of a chair.

Our students gained valuable knowledge about the process involved in building commercial furniture. In addition, they learned how math can connect to the real world through this opportunity.

Thank you to MTS Seating for being such a great host! -C. Manthey



Friends of Rachel



Rachel's Challenge has already made a positive impact on students at Mason Middle School by inspiring kindness, compassion, and connection across grade levels. The Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club recently teamed up with the high school FOR Club to kick off their first initiative — creating a kindness chain.

Each paper link represents a good deed that students have committed to doing or one they've witnessed, reminding everyone that small acts of kindness matter. Students will keep adding to the chain all year, showing the growing effect of compassion within our school community. Our hope is that this program will continue to strengthen our school culture by encouraging empathy, building stronger relationships, and helping every student feel valued and supported.

The Friends of Rachel (FOR) Club will continue to meet throughout the year to create new initiatives that support the values and mission of Rachel's Challenge. Their projects will focus on spreading kindness, showing compassion, and helping others feel included. By leading these efforts, the FOR Club hopes to keep building a positive and supportive school environment where every student feels seen and appreciated.

-S. Costello

MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Rachel's Challenge Comes to Erie-Mason!

On October 15th and 16th, Rachel's Challenge presented at all three buildings, sending a message of kindness and acceptance throughout the district.

Rachel's Challenge is a youth mental health and anti-bullying program inspired by the life and writings of Rachel Joy Scott, the first victim of the 1999 Columbine High School shooting. The program, founded by Rachel's family, is based on her belief that "if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same".

The nonprofit organization delivers assemblies and training sessions to schools, businesses, and communities to inspire a positive cultural shift toward kindness and connection.

At the elementary level, students were challenged to Be Kind: say kind things and do kind things, accept and include others, choose positive influences, dream big, and start a chain reaction of kindness. Students who accepted this challenge signed a banner that is hanging in the hallway. Students are currently beginning their chain links of kind acts to display in the classroom and eventually in the buildings with the hopes of it becoming connected district-wide!

-K. Hennessey



Soaring Eagle

Central Elementary is continuing their PBIS program, Soaring Eagle, that was started last year.

Students can earn "Eagle Tickets" throughout the day by doing good things, being kind, and treating others with respect; character traits we all strive to do as well as teach to our littlest Eagles. On Fridays, the tickets are entered into a drawing and students whose ticket gets pulled can pick a toy from our treasure chest. The students look forward to it on Fridays and cheer the winners on.

Another aspect of Soaring Eagle is for the classrooms, as each class can earn a "Golden Egg" by listening, following rules, and being respectful in the hallway, lunch, recess, or with a substitute. Every few weeks, the Golden Eggs are collected, and the winning class gets to have Eddie the Eagle in their room until the next count. The students love having Eddie spend time with them in class! The class with the most Golden Eggs at the end of the year will receive a pizza party! -K. Hennessey



PTA News

The Mason Eagles PTA is beyond excited for the 2025/2026 school year! We've already had some fun and can't wait to continue with your support.

We kicked off the year with annual mum sale and send many thanks to who all who participated.

Next, we changed up Penny Wars and made it into a Mario Cart themed extravaganza! To kick it off, a teacher from each grade level and specials raced Mario-Cart-style to earn a coin boost. The kids collected coins and cash the week of 9/29/25! At the end of the week the top 3 grades competed in an obstacle course to determine the winner. 1st Place went to 5th grade, 2nd grade won 2nd place, and 3rd grade got 3rd place!

The first A-Mason Race was held on Saturday October 4th. It was a fun-filled family event and we hope to bring it back bigger and better next time!

For Trunk or Treat this year the candy monster has found its way to Mason Central! The kids voted to name him Mr. Gummy Grumbles. The kids fed him candy that was used for Trunk or Treat on 10/25/25!

The PTA is thankful for all your support! Look for our upcoming events:

- Turkey Trot week of 11/10 during lunch
- The Scholastic Book Fair week of 11/17
- A-Mason Christmas (early December)
- Pizza Bingo January 2026

-Mason Eagles PTA

CareSolace Offered for Mental Health Support

Mason Consolidated Schools would like to remind our students, families, and staff that Care Solace is available as a free and confidential resource to help you navigate mental health care.

Through our ongoing partnership with Care Solace, all members of the Mason Schools community have 24/7 access to a care coordination service that connects individuals with mental health and substance use treatment providers. Whether you're looking for support for yourself or a loved one, Care Solace is here to help at no cost to you.

Finding the right provider can be overwhelming, especially when considering insurance coverage, waitlists, and transportation. Care Solace addresses these challenges by matching individuals with providers that meet their unique needs and preferences. Their team of multilingual Care Companions is available 365 days a year, helping guide you through the process with compassion and care.

"Over the past 10 years as a

mental health clinician, I've seen how difficult it can be to access services," says Mr. Traviss, Restorative Justice Coordinator at Mason Senior High School. "Care Solace makes the process less stressful, bridging the gap between those in need and the care they deserve."

This service reflects Mason Consolidated Schools' continued commitment to supporting the mental health and well-being of our students, staff, and families.

If you or someone you know is in need of support, we encourage you to take advantage of this valuable resource. We can put a referral in for you with a simple verbal consent or you can put a confidential referral in yourself.

If you are interested in additional information, please visit caresolace.com/masonschools or scan the QR code.

If you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Traviss for more information.

-D. Traviss



Youth Sports Matter: Let's Build Eagle Nation

Across the country, and even here in Mason, fewer kids are getting involved in youth sports. Between busy family schedules, costs, and all the other things competing for kids' attention, it's easy to see how it happens. But the lessons kids learn through sports are too important to lose.

At Mason Consolidated Schools, we see athletics as an extension of the classroom. When students play sports, they learn teamwork and grit. They learn to lead, make friends, and experience what it means to be part of something bigger than themselves. They learn that they represent themselves and others in their actions and words. Our feeder programs like youth basketball, baseball, softball, Erie Milers, Erie Aquatics, football, cheer, and volleyball, give students a great start. These programs help kids build skills, develop school pride, learn to balance responsibilities, and discover a love for being active early on.

We'd love to see more families getting involved, so please consider signing your child

up, volunteering with a team, or just coming out to cheer. Together, we can keep Mason's athletic spirit strong and make sure every child has the chance to grow through play, teamwork, and community.

If you'd like more information about youth opportunities, please reach out to your child's building office for contact details.

-C. Phillips



WELLNESS & ATHLETICS



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