



Mason Public Schools

Keynotes

Fall 2020

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MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS CUTS THE RIBBON ON THE NEW TENNIS COURTS

On September 17, Mason Public Schools (MPS) officially cut the ribbon to open the new tennis courts at Mason High School. Prior to the match against Williamston, Board of Education members, players, coaches and parents helped the District celebrate the occasion.

In March, the MPS Board approved plans to move forward with the renovation and expansion of the existing tennis courts located at Mason High School. Utilizing sinking fund dollars, the District began renovation of the eight existing courts and built four additional courts to accommodate the competition level of Mason High School tennis teams. The courts are open to the public when they are not in use by the District.





Krista Voss, Special Education Director

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS WELCOMES NEW SPECIAL EDUCATION DIRECTOR

This summer, Mason Public Schools announced the hire of a new Special Education Director, Krista Voss. Ms. Voss brings 25 years of special education experience to the District and has worked in both Dansville Public Schools and Potterville Public Schools during her career. Most recently, Ms. Voss served as Special Education Director and Teacher at Dansville Public Schools.

“I am very excited to join the Mason Bulldog education team and community. I am looking forward to working alongside Mason students, families and staff to help each student reach their fullest potential,” said Krista Voss. “As a nearly lifelong Ingham County resident and Dansville Schools graduate, I have a great passion for the community and area. I look forward to getting started.”

“Mason Public Schools is happy to welcome Krista Voss to the team,” said Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S., Superintendent of Mason Public Schools. “She is a wonderful fit for the Mason community and will help the District continue to serve our students in special education programs and be sure they continue to receive comprehensive supports from our team.”

Ms. Voss will provide leadership to plan, organize, administer and evaluate comprehensive special education programs for Mason Public Schools. Ms. Voss received her Bachelor of Science in Special Education from Eastern Michigan University and her Master of Arts in Teaching from Olivet College.

COVID-19 Dashboard

Beginning October 12, 2020, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is requiring K-12 schools to provide public notice of any probable or confirmed COVID-19 cases in their district per emergency order. The information will be provided to Mason Public Schools (MPS) by the Ingham County Health Department (ICHD). To comply with this order, MPS has created a COVID-19 Dashboard on our website. This dashboard will be updated as we receive information from the ICHD.

MPS will continue to work closely with and seek guidance from the ICHD in determining who needs to receive notification about probable/confirmed cases through contact tracing, and they will determine the need for any classroom or building closures.

The COVID-19 Dashboard will be accessible from the homepage of our website or by visiting www.masonk12.net/covid-19/dashboard.



MPS EXPLORES EQUITY AND INCLUSION

By Dr. Karlin J. Tichenor

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. We define safety as physical, psychological and emotional and maintain that safety includes all students, educators, families and community members. We recognize that in creating this safety, we must support a learning environment that celebrates the diversity within and between our students, staff and community at large.

During the last year, Mason has embarked upon an effort to become more intentional about our investment in diversity, equity and inclusion. Most notably, we have convened a Diversity Committee and are moving forward on a plan to improve ourselves individually and collectively.

During the 2020-21 school year, we will highlight concepts to help guide our increasing understanding as a learning community. We will use these concepts

in our classrooms and our discussions with students, staff and community members to increase our awareness and knowledge. We will work to create a culture and climate which understands the benefits and value of diversity for the future of our community, state and nation. As Marco Bizzarri said, “Diversity and inclusion, which are the real grounds for creativity, must remain at the center of what we do.”

Last fall, Mason Public Schools (MPS) created a committee consisting of teachers, students and community members to examine the District’s strengths and weaknesses when it comes to diversity and inclusion. This spring, Dr. Karlin J. Tichenor of Karlin J & Associates, LLC was hired to guide the direction of the team as well as support the District’s Strategic Plan. With his support, MPS will establish goals, an action plan and strategic plan alignment to provide learning opportunities for the diversity committee, the District and community as a whole. MPS will focus on supporting families, programs and departments through this work.



Alaiedon Elementary Ribbon Cutting



North Aurelius Elementary Ribbon Cutting

MPS COMPLETES ALAIEDON & NORTH AURELIUS ELEMENTARY BUILDINGS

In August, Mason Public Schools officially cut the ribbon on both Alaiedon and North Aurelius Elementary buildings after 15 months of construction. Both projects, which were funded through the District's \$69.7 Million bond, broke ground in April 2019.

Improvements to both schools included a new multi-purpose room, additional classrooms and a new secure entry. Mechanical and electrical upgrades, layout changes and remodeling were also included in the project. In addition, site improvements and expanded parking will make student pick-up and drop-off safer when in-person instruction resumes.

The completion of these two projects wrap up Phase 1 of a three-phase capital improvement project for the District. Phase 2 of the project will primarily focus on the renovation of Steele Elementary. A District committee has been meeting to plan for the renovation of Steele Elementary for several months.

“We are so grateful for the continued support of the community. It was very important to us to include the community in the celebration of these two projects even though we could not do so in person,” said Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S., Superintendent of Mason Public Schools. **“Thank you to the community, the Board of Education and the construction teams as well as the staff in the buildings for working together. We are eager to begin Phase 2 and start planning for the renovations of Steele Elementary.”**



MPS EXPANDS CUSTODIAL SERVICES IN PREPARATION FOR IN-PERSON INSTRUCTION

This summer Mason Public Schools released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to increase custodial services throughout District facilities. The purpose of the RFP was to add additional custodial capacity to the existing custodial operations of the District. In preparation of returning to some in-person instruction this fall, MPS has enhanced existing cleaning measures to maintain a safe environment for students and staff. The company selected to receive the contract was DM Barr.

“This RFP has allowed the District to expand our custodial services capacity and ensure student and staff safety as in-person instruction resumes,” said Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S., Superintendent of Mason Public Schools. “This work has not taken the place of the District’s existing custodial staff but has allowed us to expand our abilities to respond to additional cleaning measures or potential exposure to COVID-19.”

STEELE ELEMENTARY DESIGN COMMITTEE FORMED

This year, a Steele Elementary design committee was formed to begin addressing faculty and staff needs, which are necessary to plan for the building's future construction.

The committee is collaborating with GMB architecture firm on this portion of the Capital Improvement Project, to put together a plan. Members of the committee will present the draft design to the Capital Improvement Committee, which will make a recommendation to the full Board of Education to receive the approvals necessary to move forward on the design.

The renovation of Steele Elementary will begin the second phase of a three phase Capital Improvement Project. \$19.2M in bonds will be sold in April 2021 to fund the projects in Phase 2. The construction on Steele will break ground in April as well. The building is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2022.

Thank you to the committee members, Michele Sanders, Abby Strachan and Alexis Woodruff.



North Aurelius Principal, Mike Prelesnik and Riley Copeland

MPS HONORS 25 MASON PROMISE SCHOLARS

Each year, 25 students are selected to be Mason Promise Scholars as they finish their grade 5 year. These Scholars are traditionally honored at a ceremony held in May. As we were unable to bring the group together due to social distancing recommendations, students were honored in a drive-up ceremony on August 5.

The Promise Scholarship Board recognized the inducted members of the class of 2027 with a drive-up ceremony at Mason Middle School. Each student received a certificate and bag full of goodies. The Board is grateful for the support of the following for providing gifts to each scholar: candy bars and balloons from Jodi Somerville, cookies from Becky Hinman, a gift bag of activities from Modern Woodman and Quincie McCalla, plastic cups and hand sanitizer from Dart Bank, puzzle books from Bestsellers Bookstore, toys and candy from Kean's Store Company and a t-shirt from the Promise Board. Additionally, cash donations were provided by Shireen Luther, Gerald Luther, Tomco Asphalt, Inc., Melissa Oesterle, Douglas Dancer, Sally Trout and Karla Spoor.

“Our yearly induction ceremony is very special to us. The Promise Board looks forward to recognizing and rewarding our scholars for their hard work and celebrating with their families,” said Melissa Oesterle, Mason Promise Scholarship Board Chair. “While this year was different in format, we desired to maintain that same recognition and distinction for each student. We loved seeing the smiles on the faces of our scholars and their families and hope this is a great jumping-off point for the rest of their remaining educational journey.”

Congratulations to the 2020 Mason Promise Scholars!

**STRONGER.
SMARTER. SAFER.
TOGETHER** ❤️



STAFF MILESTONES

10 YEARS

Nicole Brier-Hartwick
 Ashley Brown
 Sue Fountain
 Georgia Harns
 Tiffany Henfling
 Christy Lehman
 Nichole Lenneman
 Deb Lobdell
 Kristin Rouse
 Jerry Runyon
 Jeannine Sanders
 Lori Stid
 Robin Vallejo
 Carla Viscomi
 Cathy Wilson

15 YEARS

Holly Dornbush
 Sydney Estrada-McKay
 Penny Haudek

Steven Jackson
 Monica Norton
 Jencina Riegert
 Michele Sanders
 Jen Sauser
 Jodi Somerville

20 YEARS

Sarah Baker
 Roger Brock
 Beth Bousfield
 Connie Cantrell
 Terry Dunivon
 Jasen Filipiak
 Troy Haney
 Amysue Hopkins
 Ben Johnson
 Paul Kato
 Ellen Kerr-Dunsmore
 Ruth Kleckner
 Dawn Matthews

Lana Miller
 Julie Tackaberry
 Kristin Sandel
 Phyllis Selleck
 Krista Sherman
 Shalane Shirey
 Tammy Sowels
 Mark Sunderman
 Wendy VanBeelen

25 YEARS

Christy Evans
 Jerry Parsons

30 YEARS

Linda Belman
 Dan Guyski
 Inger Hammond
 Lynn McCoy
 Tracey Yallup

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INSPIRE | EMPOWER | SUCCEED

Mason Public Schools
Keynotes

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