



Mason Public Schools Keynotes

Spring 2025

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Harvey Education Center Students Celebrate Reading Month

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS 2025 BOND

As outlined in the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, Mason Public Schools (MPS) is actively exploring a Bond offering for voters in November 2025. As our school community grows and changes, it is important that we look ahead in order to support long-term growth, enhance learning environments and address facility needs.

A dedicated Bond Steering Committee, made up of Mason community members, educators, administrators and parents began meeting regularly in February to review survey data, examine district needs and collect community feedback. This committee is working to shape the final bond proposal, ensuring it reflects the community's priorities as well as the needs of the district.

To help determine the bond proposal's scope and priorities, Mason residents shared input through a District Needs Survey this winter. Residents submitted more than 1,000 responses providing valuable feedback as we assess the district's needs, community support and our shared vision for the future of Mason Public Schools. The survey results, along with resources and plans are available on the 2025 Bond website www.masonk12.net/district/bond/ or by scanning the QR code below.

Mason residents are invited to a **Community Forum on May 12 at Mason City Hall at 6 PM** to hear about the bond planning process, learn more about the proposed Bond and provide feedback directly to district leaders.

Your input and insight will help shape the district's path forward and help us continue providing high-quality education in safe, modern schools. Stay engaged and watch for more updates in the coming months!



An exemplary learning community - Every student. Every day.

MACC EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION AWARD WINNER



Congratulations to Allison Altenberger from North Aurelius Elementary, this year's MACC Excellence in Education Award winner!

Mrs. Altenberger has taught special education at North Aurelius Elementary for seven years and supports students in grades 1-5 helping them grow academically and socially.

Her students consistently achieve academic growth especially in reading and math. She is known for her sense of humor and compassion as well as her work to build strong relationships with students and families. In addition, she communicates effectively with parents and colleagues creating a positive learning environment.

In her nomination, North Aurelius Principal Mike Prelesnik said, "One of Allison's greatest strengths is her caring nature for each of her students. She is an advocate for them and truly makes a difference in each of their lives."

A leader at North Aurelius, Mrs. Altenberger serves on the Building Leadership Team and is piloting new math curriculum and interventions. North Aurelius and MPS are lucky to have her, and we celebrate her well-deserved recognition.

The MACC Excellence in Education award is presented to one educator each year during their annual awards dinner.

CONGRATULATIONS COACH!



Congratulations to Mason High School Varsity Boys' Basketball Coach Lee Chaney, who is officially the Bulldogs' winningest coach in history with 226 career wins!

Coach Chaney has led the Bulldogs for 20 years and in that time, he has set the CAAC Red league record for winning 29 consecutive league games.

Thank you to Coach Chaney for all your years of lead-

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE BARK SQUAD?

Meet Willow! The Bulldog Bark Squad grew by four more paws this winter with the addition of Willow!

Willow and her handlers, Stephanie Faber and Alexis Woodruff, will be primarily working at Steele Elementary! Thank you to **Shaheen Chevrolet of Lansing** for sponsoring Willow and Canines for Change for their continued support of the Bark Squad!





Students at Steele Elementary Won a Visit from Michigan Construction

MEET THE NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

The Mason Public Schools Board of Education welcomed new members Matt Bennett and Lacy Harding for their terms as newly elected officers.

Regular Board of Education meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7 PM in Mason City Hall. Learn more about the Board of Education at www.masonk12.net/district/board-of-education/



2025-26 Board of Education

Liz Evans, President- Elected: 2016, Term Expires: 2028

Steve Duane, Vice President- Elected: 2020, Term Expires: 2026

Christopher Mumby, Treasurer- Elected: 2016, Term Expires: 2026

Amy Lark, Secretary- Elected: 2022, Term Expires: 2028

Bryan Droscha, Trustee- Elected: 2022, Term Expires: 2028

Matt Bennett, Trustee- Elected: 2024, Term Expires: 2030

Lacy Harding, Trustee - Elected: 2024, Term Expires: 2030

SAFE DRIVING COMES TO MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Mason High School students brought their *Drive Safe, Someone Loves You.* campaign to Mason Middle School to share information and influence younger students to be safe passengers and safe drivers.

Students had the opportunity to try out a distracted driving simulator, impaired driving goggles, sign a pledge to ride and drive safely, and learn more about safe driving.

The Mason Safe Driving campaign was launched in 2023 and educates students about safe driving through peer-to-peer education, hands-on demonstrations, and impactful presentations and speakers.



HEALTH TEAM HELPS STAFF INCREASE PREPAREDNESS FOR INJURY

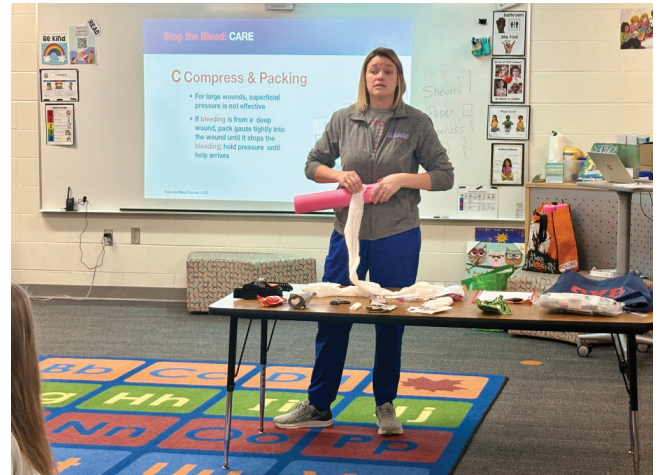
With an ongoing focus on prioritizing safety training and education, Mason Public Schools (MPS) continues to expand Stop the Bleed training by offering hands-on instruction for teachers and staff. The MPS Health Team, with support from the MPS Comprehensive School Safety Team and district administrators, have supported the training in order to benefit the whole Bulldog community.

This year, staff members completed either initial or refresher training in the protocol which prepares them to respond to a variety of bleeding-related injuries. These range from minor incidents, like a bloody nose in the classroom, to more serious accidents and situations.

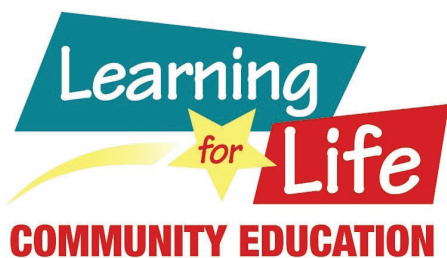
“Having Stop the Bleed kits in buildings and training staff to use them helps keep our schools safer,” said District Nurse Emily Epling. “When we received the kits and rolled out the program in 2022, we trained the building Crisis Teams to use them. Now, we’re working to train all staff and provide refresher courses so staff feel comfortable using the equipment.”

Stop the Bleed kits align with the American College of Surgeons’ national initiative to train bystanders in bleeding control. Initial funding for the kits came from a grant secured by the Charlotte Police Department and the Tri-County Active Violence Incident (AVI) team, as part of Congresswoman Elisa Slotkin’s Community Funding Project. This funding provided enough kits for every classroom in Eaton, Ingham, and Clinton counties.

In 2022, MPS partnered with Eaton Rapids Medical Center and the District 1 Regional Medical Response Coalition to place Stop the Bleed kits in each school building. MPS is grateful for the regional support and partnerships that make this program possible and keep our schools safe!



COMMUNITY EDUCATION



The Mason Community Education Spring and Summer Enrichment Guides are now available. The Spring guide includes programs through May and the Summer guide includes programs and class offerings through August.

The guides are available on the Community Education website www.masonk12.net/activities/community-education/ and registration is available online at <https://mason.revtrak.net>.

**JOIN US FOR A
COMMUNITY
FORUM!**

This is your chance to learn more about the proposed bond, ask questions and get more information about the November 2025 Mason Public Schools Bond offering.

When: Monday, May 12, 6 PM
Where: Mason City Hall

TEAM MASON- “WHAT’S GOING ON IN THE LIBRARY AT MMS?”

Team Mason articles shine a spotlight on students, teachers, program and projects in all buildings and grades in the district. Team Mason articles are written by Dr. Janet Alleman, MPS Instructional Consultant and Professor Emeritus at Michigan State University. Read all of the Team Mason articles at www.masonk12.net/district/team-mason



Well, if you ask the researchers, reading scores nationally have plummeted – not surprising with all the gadgets and online platforms available!

But I witnessed reading in action in the Mason Middle School library. One Monday morning, I arrived unannounced at the library to find Carla Richards’ sixth grade class circled up on the rug with Walter, the visiting therapy dog whose specialty is listening to students read.

All were attentively listening to their teacher’s explanation of what book she was currently reading and the character in the book she identified with and why. After all, modeling is the most powerful tool teachers possess!

Quickly, she shifted to asking her students to do the same regarding a character in a book they were reading. If they couldn’t identify with any characters, she asked that they give reasons why not. Giving purpose to silent reading is essential, and asking for accountability establishes expectations that all students need to be actually reading!

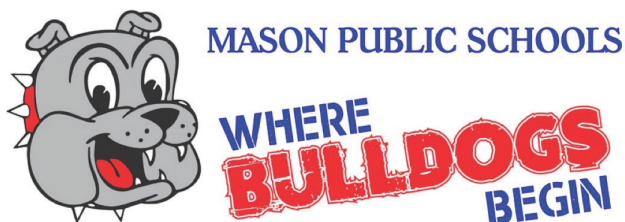


The “frosting” to this Monday morning experience was giving these sixth graders the option of reading with Walter. While you might be rolling your eyes on this one, reading to a therapy dog has been proven to offer several benefits including helping students improve their reading skills, building confidence, developing a positive association with reading, creating a relaxed atmosphere where students can practice reading to a non-judgmental listener without fear of criticism and enhancing motivation.

These things can also all lead to increased levels of serotonin and dopamine chemicals in the body which are associated with positive feelings!

At the conclusion of this amazing library session, students circled up on the rug, once again, to talk about their characters. Walter wagged his tail as if to say, “Great job, kids!” Who would have thought Walter would be praising middle schoolers on a Monday morning in the library?

REGISTER NOW FOR KINDERGARTEN



Families with children who will be 5 years of age by September 1 are encouraged to register now to begin Kindergarten in August!

Learn more about Kindergarten, and the district’s Young Fives program, on the Harvey Education Center website <https://bit.ly/mpskindergarten>

We can’t wait to meet our newest class of Bulldogs!



Mason High School Staff Took on the Mason Unified Basketball Team

TRACK OUR PROGRESS!



The 2023–28 Mason Public Schools Strategic Plan guides our daily work across the district.

As we work toward each goal in the plan, families and community members can track our progress on the Strategic Plan Dashboard at www.strategicdashboard.masonk12.net.

This dashboard shows what the district is doing in each focus area and how it connects to our district goals. It reflects our commitment to being open and transparent as we build a school system where every student can succeed.

THANK YOU MASON!

The 2024 holiday season was brighter for nearly 200 Mason students and their families, thanks to the kindness of our community. The Adopt-a-Family program helped more than 196 students this year, and thanks to many generous donors, every single student was adopted and received gifts.

Thank you to the Mason community, individual donors, companies and organizations who donated to make the holidays brighter for children in our community! The 2024 Adopt-a-Family sponsors included:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bad Brewing • Ben Torok Family • Betty Beanue • Boston Scientific • City of Mason • Danielle McCann • Dart Bank/Leia Cooper • Dockter Family • Howard Hannah Realty/Lauren Flannery • Jenn & Cliff Walkington • Julie Casper • Kelly Gillis • Kylie Olanowski Family • Kym Hall • Laura Lange & Family • Linda Hakim | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mason Community Church • Mason Community Services • Mason First United Methodist Church • Mason Hometown Storage • Mason Mom's • Mason Presbyterian Church • Mason Varsity Cheer • Mendez Family • MHS National Honors Society • Mid Michigan Medical Billing/Alex Houpt • Mindy Wood Family • Nardone Family • Nazarine Students Group/Stu Shattuck • Nicole Anderson Family | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maple Street Mall • Oesterle Family • Ramsey Family • REMAX Realty Kelly Hude • Riley Family • Rotary Club & Shanda Wrozek • Shattuck Family • Spartan Barricade • Teresa Wren & Keans Store • Vision Real Estate/Alissa Pawlowski & Amy Kruienga • Wares Pharmacy • Wieland Construction Co. |
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Mason Public Schools
201 West Ash Street, Suite 2A
Mason, MI 48854



EVERY STUDENT. EVERY DAY.

Mason Public Schools
Keynotes

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.

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