



Mason Public Schools

# Keynotes

December 2019

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New materials for the Gifted and Talented and enrichment programs

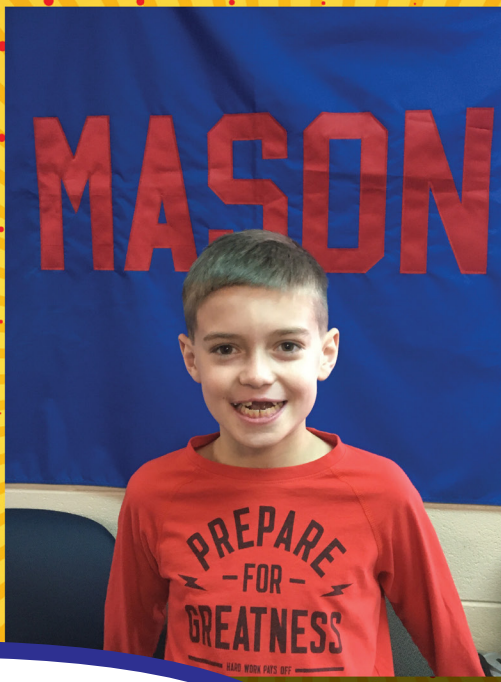
## DISTRICT CREATES NEW ENRICHMENT AND GIFTED AND TALENT PROGRAMS

Beginning in late January, students at all grade levels will have the opportunity to participate in new STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math) enrichment and Gifted and Talented (GT) offerings, which will occur after school.

Through a first-of-its-kind pilot partnership with Lansing Community College (LCC), Mason students in grades 2-12 can participate in after school LCC Youth Enrichment Classes at the Harvey Education Center, Mason Middle School and Mason High School. To learn more about course offerings, cost, scholarships, times, locations and transportation please visit: <http://bit.ly/LCC-Mason>.

Thanks to a generous \$8,000 grant from the Mason Public Schools Foundation (MPSF), the District is offering new after school GT programming, taught by Mason teachers, in English Language Arts and math starting winter 2020. Courses will be available for students in grades 2-3, 4-5 and 6-8. The GT courses will expose qualified students to curriculum and instruction that's several years advanced for their grade level while building on what's taught during the school day. Qualified students will be invited to participate based on academic aptitude, teacher nomination and parent/guardian and student nomination. There is no cost for these after school courses. Please look for more information in the coming weeks.

**INSPIRE | EMPOWER | SUCCEED**



Brenden Scott,  
Sparrow's Miracle Child 2020

## **NORTH AURELIUS STUDENT NAMED SPARROW HOSPITAL'S MIRACLE CHILD 2020**

Last year, 10-year-old North Aurelius Elementary student, Brenden Scott was hit by a car crossing the road. Brenden was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries and was given a very small chance of survival.

Over the last year, Brenden has made an incredible recovery. Recently, Brenden has been named Sparrow Hospital's Miracle Child 2020. Brenden is working hard each and every day to make a full recovery.

From everyone at Mason Public Schools, we are rooting for you Brenden!

## **VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE WITH THE DISTRICT**

Mason Public Schools is excited to share opportunities for the public to get involved with the schools. We are seeking community members to become reoccurring and occasional volunteers within Mason Public Schools. As a matter of safety, all volunteers will need background checks prior to being able to participate in activities.

We are looking for people who wish to support Mason Public Schools and be able to designate some time to this program. Types of volunteer opportunities for regularly scheduled volunteers include library assistant, tutor, mentor, special activity supervisor, club leader, supply management support, bus pick-up and drop-off monitor, cafeteria supervisor, and athletic event assistants support as well as other types of roles.

If you are interested in applying to be a regularly scheduled volunteer, please visit [www.masonk12.net/volunteer](http://www.masonk12.net/volunteer) to fill out an application.

If you have any questions, please contact the Human Resources Department at 517.676.6533. Individuals that are interested only in occasional opportunities such as field trip chaperones or one-time activities may contact the school office directly.

# Positive Office Referral

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Referring Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

I am being sent to you because \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## MIDDLE SCHOOL LAUNCHES POSITIVE OFFICE REFERRAL PROGRAM

This fall, Mason Middle School rolled out a new program to recognize students who continue to do the right things but maybe don't get recognized as often as they should.

Mason Middle School expects students to be respectful, responsible and ready to learn each and every day. Students that are being recognized with Positive Office Referrals are demonstrating these qualities.

In the first trimester, 54 Positive Office Referrals were processed. The goal for second trimester is to double this number. The Positive Office Referral program has been well received by our students and parents. After a Positive Office Referral is processed, Mr. Berryhill or Mr. Kueffner call home and talk to parents and guardians about their students. The team feels this recognition is very important to reinforce a positive school culture at Mason Middle School.

## DISTRICT PRIORITIZES LITERACY BY HIRING FULL-TIME LIBRARIANS

As students returned this fall, they were welcomed back with additional supports that have not existed in many

years. Three full-time, certified librarians, which have been continually cut from district budgets throughout the State, are now a part of Mason Public Schools' staff to support student literacy. These new librarians join three full-time literacy coaches to form a unified team of individuals available to students and staff to assist with data, curriculum and instruction.

The primary focus of these librarians is to support the K-5 literacy curriculum. Goals include, promoting a love of reading for all students, providing background knowledge associated with reading selections in the existing Wonders curriculum and engaging in pre-teaching and application of the essential standards with an eye on improving student achievement. A priority of our Strategic Plan is to integrate literacy skills across all subject matters. By investing in these types of supports throughout all district buildings, it is evident that Mason's commitment to student success is strong.

"Literacy is certainly a hot button issue right now. Mason has been committed to improving literacy at all grade levels and subject areas for many years," said Ronald Drzewicki, Ed.S., Superintendent of Mason Public Schools.



**Penn State Blue Band at  
Mason High School**

“We have made the commitment to provide internal supports to teachers and students to improve reading skills. By providing these resources to dig into the data and trends of student learning, we have seen strong growth and success for students.”

## **PENN STATE BLUE BAND VISITS MASON HIGH SCHOOL**

On Friday, October 25, the Penn State Blue Band was in town in advance of the Michigan State University vs. Penn State football game which was to be played the next day in East Lansing. The Penn State Blue Band asked to borrow the Mason High School football field to conduct their rehearsal. The community was encouraged to attend to see the college band in action.

## **KINDERGARTEN TEACHER ONCE TAUGHT HARVEY EDUCATION CENTER PRINCIPAL**

When Angie Vandecar accepted the position of Principal at the newly renovated Harvey Education Center, she knew she’d be stepping back onto her old stomping grounds of the former Cedar Street Elementary. In addition to the familiar walls, would also be a familiar face.

Nadeen Mills has taught in Mason since 1988. One of Mrs. Mills’ former students happens to be Mrs. Vandecar. When speaking about Mrs. Vandecar, Mrs. Mills said, “I remember how sweet she always was and her wonderful parents.”

When asked about what it is like leading a colleague who was once her teacher, Mrs. Vandecar said, “I have loved to come full circle with Nadeen as a staff member, and friend. I trust her judgement and expertise; intuitively understanding the needs of kindergarten children and families. Her commitment to remain a kindergarten teacher over three decades is remarkable despite the many changes she has endured in the profession. Nadeen is a pillar in the Kindergarten team, and we all appreciate her experience, and insight as we build our kindergarten team and grow our skill set at Harvey. She’s truly a master of kindergarten!”

When asked about how it felt to have Mrs. Vandecar as her leader, she added, “I am really thrilled to have her as a boss. I finally have someone who understands teaching 5-year-old children because she has been in my shoes.



Seniors interacting with HEC students

She has wisdom to share and understanding. I could not be prouder to work for one of my former students. She has a real gift and is a blessing to Mason.”

The District is proud to have both Mrs. Mills and Mrs. Vandecar working with our youngest students.

## HARVEY EDUCATION CENTER WELCOMES MASON SENIORS

A group of Mason senior citizens meets weekly at Mason City Hall to socialize and share a meal. In November, Mason Public Schools sponsored a field trip for the seniors to tour the Harvey Education Center (HEC), which houses the District’s kindergarten and preschool programs. The group traveled from City Hall to the HEC on official Mason school buses.

During the tour, Superintendent Ronald Drzewicki and HEC Principal Angie Vandecar gave a walking tour to highlight the building’s renovated areas as well as the newly constructed kindergarten wing and gymnasium which features the state-of-the-art Lü Interactive Playground (See page 7 for more on this).

"We are so happy that we were able to welcome the Mason seniors group to visit the HEC. During the tour, many people

shared their fond memories of the school and how they are pleased to see the students continuing to enjoy the building," said Ronald Drzewicki, Superintendent.

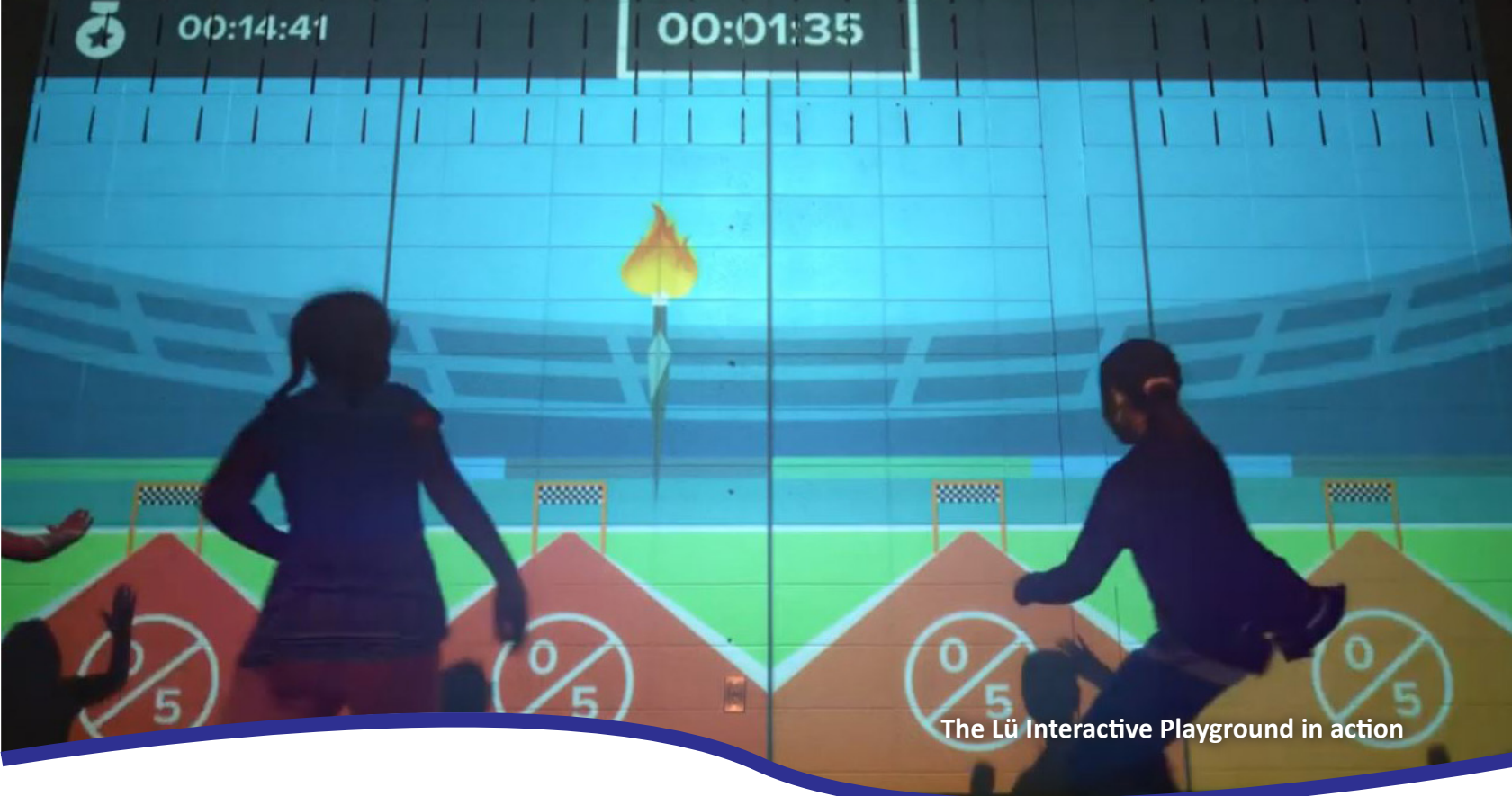
## ATHLETIC DIRECTOR PARTICIPATES NATIONAL EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mason Public Schools' Athletic Director, Greg Lattig is participating in a well-respected Executive Leadership Program through the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association.

The cohort, which only admits 15 individuals each year, will give Mr. Lattig the opportunity to learn from other leaders all over the country. The program will allow Mr. Lattig to collaborate with colleagues on a national level.

Once the program is completed in 2020, Mr. Lattig will join only 54 other alumnus of the program in Michigan.

Congratulations to Mr. Lattig on this opportunity!



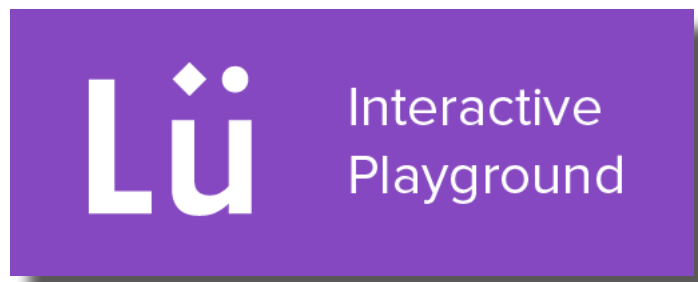
The Lü Interactive Playground in action

## THE LÜ INTERACTIVE PLAYGROUND COMES TO HARVEY EDUCATION CENTER

As the capital improvement work was being completed at the Harvey Education Center (HEC) last year, administrators heard about a new, innovative product. The Lü Interactive Playground (Lü ) is a state-of-the-art audiovisual system which promotes movement alongside learning. Mason Public Schools applied for a grant to purchase this system and this fall when students were coming back from summer break, it had been installed at the HEC and was ready for them to use.

"Lü engages intelligence and learning styles using compelling activities, tools and immersive experiences. It supports health, sports, fitness and physical education leading to a quality active lifestyle. It also transforms traditional school environments into interactive spaces using a vast catalog of purposeful activities and world-class audiovisual equipments," according to the company.

Last month, WILX Schools Rule featured the Lü and HEC on a Schools Rule segment in which we could see the students fully engaging in the system and having fun. If you missed the story, you can find it in the News section of [www.masonk12.net](http://www.masonk12.net).



*Save the Date*

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

**RED CARPET**

*Gala*

*Returns to Mason*

**SATURDAY FEBRUARY 1<sup>ST</sup> 2020**

**DART CONTAINER CORPORATION • Cafe D'Art**

3120 1/2 HOWELL ROAD • BLDG. 5  
MASON, MI 48854



**MASON  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
FOUNDATION**

***Everyone is invited!*** Join fellow Bulldog supporters for fun and fundraising at the annual Mason Public Schools Foundation Red Carpet Gala Dinner and Auction. Enjoy dinner, silent and live auctions, a cash bar and more. Many wonderful auction items have already been donated and fun new activities are planned.

Don't miss out! Tickets are \$60 each. All proceeds benefit Mason Public Schools.

***Tickets available now at [www.masonpsf.org](http://www.masonpsf.org)***

Mason Public Schools  
201 West Ash Street, Suite 2A  
Mason, MI 48854



**INSPIRE | EMPOWER | SUCCEED**

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.

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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