



# Mason Public Schools Keynotes

## Summer 2025

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## BOARD APPROVES ZERO-TAX-RATE INCREASE BOND FOR NOVEMBER 4, 2025, VOTE

Mason Public Schools (MPS) is committed to creating safe, modern learning spaces that match the high-quality education our students receive. On June 26, 2025, the MPS Board of Education (BOE) voted to place a bond proposal on the November 4, 2025, ballot. If approved, the bond would generate an estimated \$66 million without raising the current tax rate for Mason homeowners.

This proposal reflects months of community engagement including work from the Bond Steering Committee and feedback from more than 1,000 community members through a survey conducted in January 2025. Based on that input and assessments of our current facilities, the bond would fund priority needs projects including:

- Extensive renovations at Mason Middle School
- High School renovations
- A new transportation facility

These updates build on the extensive renovations completed at our elementary schools during the 2017 bond and align with the district's long-term vision and our Strategic Plan goals to continuously improve and update school facilities.

"Mason is a place where families choose to live, and stay, because of our outstanding schools and this bond proposal thoughtfully outlines the priority needs of our district facilities in order to match the high-quality education our staff delivers every day," said MPS BOE President Liz Evans.

More information, including full survey results and project details, is available on the Mason Bond website [www.masonk12.net/district/bond](http://www.masonk12.net/district/bond) or by scanning the QR code.

For questions, please contact Superintendent Dr. Gary Kinzer at [kinzerg@masonk12.net](mailto:kinzerg@masonk12.net).

Scan the QR code to learn more  
about the bond!



**An exemplary learning community - Every student. Every day.**

# Congratulations Class of 2025!

Owen Adaway  
Jakob Adolphson  
Shelby Algate  
Hannah Anderson  
Jayson Anderson  
Maddox Armour  
Antonio Arnett  
Matthew Ausel  
Kristine Backus  
Emma Bailey  
Lucy Baker  
Rylee Balaker  
Reese Ball  
Wyatt Ball  
McKenzie Ballard  
Daniel Barth  
Jonathan Batdorff  
Avery Beach  
Hailey Blackshear  
Johnathan Bolton  
Novah Bowen  
Megan Bozung  
Liam Bradford  
Aiden Bradsher  
Ella Branch  
Karlie Brandt  
Brayden Braughton  
Nathaniel Brooks  
Kendall Brown  
Skyler Buck  
Jayci Burkhart  
Cooper Byrum  
Mathew Caltrider  
Jackson Cargill  
Teagan Carl

Cason Carswell  
Mckayla Chaney  
Benjamin Chouinard  
Ashley Corbett  
Nicolas Cordano  
Sam Corey  
Rowyn Cortez  
Aidan Coulter  
Laine Crawford  
Cooper Cross  
Caylin Cutter  
Aidan Daenzer  
Sophia Davis  
Gabriel De La Fuente  
Colin Denny  
Aimee Depew  
Logan Doerr  
Macy Domrase  
Alexander Doneth  
Joshua Dys  
Hunter Fanslau  
Kayleigh Fiszer  
Alaina Flanders  
Dane Floyd  
Alethea Foster  
Avery Fraga  
Evelyn Fry  
Samuel Furton  
Talan Gardner  
Madalyn Gleason  
Christopher Goins  
Jenna Goins  
Jillian Gould  
Collin Grant  
Jolee Graves

Ryan Greathouse  
Ava Greenlee  
Kaelin Griffin  
Colton Grimwood  
Owen Gustafson  
Chellis Hall  
Kyler Hamel  
Gabriella Hanover  
Ava Hauser  
Isabel Hauser  
Travis Hayhoe  
Jaydin Haynes  
Colin Haynie  
Sarah Hebert  
Max Hendrickson  
Ava Hensley  
Cassidy Henson  
Landon Hoffman  
Kaleb Hollenbeck  
Madison Hon  
Darius Horne  
Brooklyn Houser-Stanton  
Mariah Howard  
Jalan Howell  
Bryce Huguelet  
Amelia Jackett  
Breslin Jacob-Croley  
Kobe Jacquart  
Blendi Jahiri  
Samuel Jaskowski  
Abigail Johanson  
Lindsey Jolley  
Marissa Jones  
Gavin Kellogg  
Riley Kerschke

Anthony Kilgore  
Devlin King  
Avery Kirschensteiner  
Jared Kline  
Aubrey Kolberg  
Elizabeth Koppin  
Anthony Kouzmanov  
Kyler Kowalski  
Leah Kruger  
Jennifer Laclear  
Emme LaLonde  
Evie Ducker Lamb  
Benjamin Lanford-Swain  
Eh Ter Lar  
Lucas Latimer  
Tori Lator  
Jennah Lattig  
Kaidance LaVigne  
Elizabeth Leibrand  
Sabrina Leifker  
Valton Limani  
Josiah Linsley  
McKenzie Lockwood  
Colin Lomax  
Landon Lucas  
Taylor Lukavsky  
Tate Lyons  
Chaase Makley  
Britt Marshall  
Aubrey Martin  
Isabel Martinez  
Katelyn McCann  
Brooke McClure  
Conner McCormick  
Brody McDonald  
Erin Mehan  
Elizabeth Meninga  
Amelia Messier  
Abigail Meyers  
Vance Miller  
Donavon Minnaar  
Izabelle Mitchell  
Wyatt Molnar  
Caden Moore  
Derek Moran  
Desimis Morgan  
Charlotte Motcheck  
Layla Mulka  
Lumine Mumby  
Isabel Muschong  
Riley Ngubeni  
Joan Nguyen  
Grace O'Berry  
Tyler Oberlin





Lucas Orlando  
 Kortney Osborn  
 Nolan Osburn  
 Jackson Page  
 Alexander Palmer  
 Noah Parrish  
 Isabella Patterson  
 Aryana Peterson  
 Toby Pickering  
 Sarah Pluff  
 Gessica Portice  
 Gavin Prelesnik  
 Skyler Prosser  
 Keira Redman  
 Scot Reinecke  
 Teagan Remale  
 Eliana Richardson  
 Luke Richmond  
 Jayden Roach  
 Sydney Roche  
 Dominic Rodriguez  
 Jaden Rodriguez  
 Chandler Rogers  
 Taylor Rowe  
 Clara Rue  
 Mariana Ruiz  
 Ava Ruster  
 Hannah Sanders  
 Jake Sanders  
 Lilian Sawyers  
 Hunter Schaeffer  
 Audrey Schmidt  
 Neilah Sellen  
 DeKoda Shaft  
 Jocelyn Shattuck  
 Jenna Sheldon  
 Jacob Shell  
 Matthew Shoemaker  
 Tyler Short  
 Bryce Smith  
 Keating Smith  
 Andrew Stahle  
 Levi Stambaugh  
 Grayer Stowers

Grace Surato  
 Teagan Taylor  
 Jesse Taylor II  
 Michael Thomas  
 Ethan Thompson  
 Kaelyn Tindall  
 Isabelle Tostevin  
 Landen Truax  
 Jackson Truman  
 Daniel Tuttle  
 Zachary Tyler  
 Walker Van Halst  
 Kendall VanderGiessen  
 Gavin VanKirk  
 Caleb Vaughn  
 Landon Veach  
 Caleb Vincent  
 Reece Vincent  
 David Ward  
 Joshua Welling  
 Rory Wendt  
 Joshua Wenzel  
 Dominick Wetmore  
 Emma Wilkinson  
 Collin Winters  
 Adam Wiseman  
 Blake Wojen  
 Kyleigh Woll  
 Tyler Wood  
 Connor Worden  
 Aaron Yergler  
 Vienna Pastuszka Zechar  
 Ava Ziegenhagen

## STAFF RETIREMENTS

Along with our 2025 graduates, Mason Public Schools wishes good luck to our teachers and staff on their retirements. Thank you for your years of service! Congratulations!

**Rebecca Doxtater-Wright**

**Inger Hammond**

**Lisa Harless**

**Penny Kaiser**

**Laura Lange**

**Laura Lewis**

**Julie Tackaberry**

**Ruth Tatara**



# WHAT'S NEW WITH THE BULLDOG BARK SQUAD?



The Bulldog Bark Squad finished off the school year with lots of events, activities and special visits! Lewis, Sully, Coco and Willow continue to support students and staff across the district.

This spring Mason High School (MHS) launched a Student Handler program. Student handlers received training from Canines for Change and were able to share responsibility for Lewis throughout the school day taking him from class to class, giving him bathroom breaks and helping with his general wellbeing. The student handlers can also take Lewis to class with them when his (very busy) schedule allows.

The Bark Squad also attended MHS Prom, ran the Commercial Bank Mason 5K Run/Walk, helped students log miles in their schools' Mileage Clubs and so much more! Keep up with the Bark Squad on their Facebook page! [www.facebook.com/bulldogbarksquad](http://www.facebook.com/bulldogbarksquad)



## 2025-26 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

The 2025-26 School Year calendar is available on the website and includes dates and events for elementary, middle and high schools and includes open houses, scheduled breaks, parent-teacher conferences, half-days and late-start Wednesdays.

The first day of school for the 2025-26 school year will be **Wednesday, August 20** which will be a half day for all students. The first full day of school is Thursday, August 21. View the full calendar at [www.masonk12.net/district/calendars/](http://www.masonk12.net/district/calendars/)

August 2025							September 2025							October 2025							November 2025						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6			1	2	3	4							1	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
17	18**	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
31																					30						

December 2025							January 2026							February 2026							March 2026						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
											1	2	3														
	1	2	3	4	5	6	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
28	29	30	31																		29	30	31				

April 2026							May 2026							June 2026							July 2026								
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa		
				1	2	3	4					1	2			1	2	3	4	5	6					1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	12	13	14	15	16	17	18		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	19	20	21	22	23	24	25		
26	27	28	29	30			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30					26	27	28	29	30	31			

Check the MPS website for Back-to-School information in August!

- School supply lists
- Open house dates
- Important forms
- Picture Day dates

Elementary teacher assignments will be shared via Skyward in mid-August.

Elementary Schools	
1	Full Day of School 8:40am-3:47pm
1	Half Day of School 8:40am-12:07pm
1	Student Late Start 9:40am-3:47pm

Middle School	
1	Full Day of School 7:40am-2:35pm
1	Half Day of School 7:40am-11:00am
1	Student Late Start 8:40am-2:35pm

High School	
1	Full Day of School 7:40am-2:40pm
1	Half Day of School 7:40am-11:00am
1	Student Late Start 8:40am-2:40pm

All Schools	
1	No School
1	No School, Teacher Professional Dev. (*8/14 New Teachers, only)
1	No School, **Teacher workday

Trimester end dates: Nov. 14, March 6, June 4

Elementary Parent-Teacher Conferences  
November 11 (evening), November 13 (afternoon & evening)  
March 3 (evening), March 5 (afternoon & evening)

Middle/High School Parent-Teacher Office Hours:  
24-25 Pilot to be continued for 25-26

# CLASS OF 2025 TOP 10%

Congratulations to the members of the Mason High School Class of 2025 who have placed in the Top 10% of graduates for academics.

This year's Top 10% students are Shelby Algate, Jayson Anderson, Maddox Armour, Reese Ball, Wyatt Ball, Megan Bozung, Jackson Cargill, Alexander Doneth, Alethea Foster, Avery Fraga, Ava Hensley, Avery Kirschensteiner, Lucas Latimer, Conner McCormick, Riley Ngubeni, Sarah Pluff, Gessica Portice, Skyler Prosser, Keira Redman, Hannah Sanders, Jocelyn Shattuck, Matthew Shoemaker, Grace Surato, Kendall VanderGiessen, Blake Wojen and Connor Worden.



## CONGRATULATIONS SGT. DEMO



Mason Public Schools School Resource Officer (SRO) Justin Demo was promoted to Sergeant with the Mason Police Department earlier this year. Sgt. Demo has served as the district's SRO since 2023 when the program was reinstated through a partnership with the Mason Police Department.

The Mason Police Department and the district will work this summer to hire a new SRO who will continue to support students across the district.

## SUMMER CONSTRUCTION NOTICE

The South parking lot at Mason High School will be renovated over the summer. The project is expected to begin July 14 and be completed by August 16. There will be no access to the South parking lot during construction.



## UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Mason Public Schools Board of Education holds regular board meetings the second Thursday of each month. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. Regular meetings begin at 7:00 p.m. at Mason City Hall, unless otherwise noted.

### Upcoming Board of Education Meetings

- Thursday, July 10, 2025
- Thursday, August 14, 2025
- Thursday, September 11, 2025
- Thursday, October 9, 2025

# COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thank you to our Mason community sponsors who continue to support graduates with scholarship awards and funding. Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship winners.

MPS Foundation Scholarship, Frank Guerriero Scholarship:

**Alexander Doneth**

Mason Rotary Community Hero Scholarship:

**Riley Kerschke**

Mason Rotary Memorial Scholarship:

**Sarah Hebert**

Masonic Foundation Mason Lodge #70 Scholarship:

**Aidan Daenzer, Keira Redman**

Orthopaedic Rehab Specialists Scholarship:

**Kendall VanderGiessen**

Richard C. Leonard Memorial College Scholarship:

**Alethea Foster**

Scott R. Judd Memorial Scholarship:

**Lucas Latimer, Kortney Osborn**

Senior Scholar Athlete Award, Sponsored by Dart Bank:

**Cason Carswell, Jocelyn Shattuck**

Virginia Elliott Scholarship:

**Avery Kirschensteiner, Abigail Meyers, Lumine Mumby, Riley Ngubeni, Grace O'Berry, Taylor Rowe, Kendall VanderGiessen**

Vision Real Estate Scholarship:

**Logan Doerr, Grace Surato**

Amanda's Be The Change Legacy Scholarship:

**Shelby Algate, Alethea Foster, Gabriella Hanover, Avery Kirschensteiner, Reese Ball, Avery Fraga, Ava Hauser, Sydney Roche, Avery Beach, Madalyn Gleason, Isabel Hauser, Grace Surato, Aidan Daenzer, Jenna Goins, Sarah Hebert, Vienna Zechar**

American Legion Browne/Cavender Post #148 Scholarships:

**Aidan Daenzer, Riley Kerschke**

Ava Michelle Saade Memorial Scholarship (Ava's Heart, LLC):

**Kortney Osborn**

Don Fackler Basketball Memorial Scholarship:

**Jocelyn Shattuck, Levi Stambaugh**

Helen F. & Arthur B. Ziegler Scholarship:

**Riley Ngubeni, Kendall VanderGiessen**

Jean Howlett Byron Memorial Scholarship:

**Megan Bozung, Isabelle Tostevin**

Jonathon D. Strouse Memorial Art Scholarship:

**Aidan Daenzer**

Mark Bartlett Memorial Scholarships:

**Logan Doerr, Riley Kerschke**

*Mason Area Chamber of Commerce (MACC) Scholarships*

MACC Scholarship:

**Alethea Foster, Conner McCormick**

Shirley Grieve Memorial Scholarship:

**Eliana Richardson**

Hometown Champion Fund:

**Avery Beach, Riley Kerschke, Conner McCormick**

Mason Athletic Boosters Scholarship:

**Alexander Doneth, Avery Fraga, Gabriella Hanover, Grace Surato**

Mason Boys Soccer - The Rich Madery Memorial Scholarship:

**Collin Winters**

*Mason Band Boosters Scholarships*

Kathleen Dickerson Memorial Scholarship: **Isabella Patterson**

Luke Granger Memorial Scholarship: **Avery Kirschensteiner**

Mason Band Boosters Scholarships:

**Reese Ball, Clara Rue, Elizabeth Koppin, Hannah Sanders, Gavin Prelesnik, Emma Wilkinson**

*Mason College Club Scholarships*

Mason College Club Scholarships:

**Nathaniel Brooks, Riley Ngubeni, Jackson Cargill, Gavin Prelesnik, McKayla Chaney, Scot Reinecke, Isabel Hauser**

Laurence Hart Memorial Scholarship: **Vienna Zechar**

Carma Philip Memorial Scholarship: **Evelyn Fry**

Mason District MEA Memorial Scholarship:

**Avery Beach, McKayla Chaney**

Mason Firefighters Association Scholarship:

**Owen Adaway**

Mason FIRST Robotics Scholarship:

**Isabella Patterson**

*Mason High School Bulldog Bowling Scholarships*

Terry Dormer Memorial Scholarship:

**Daniel Barth**

Art Kieselbach Bowling Scholarship:

**Avery Beach**

Dick & Rheda Ried Bowling Scholarship:

**Clara Rue**

*Mason Kiwanis Club Scholarships*

Kiwanis Club of Mason Frank Guerriero Service Award:

**Evelyn Fry**

Kiwanis Club of Mason Scholarship:

**Emma Wilkinson**

Kiwanis Foundation & Mason BIG INK Scholarship:

**Hannah Sanders**

*Mason Lions Club Scholarships*

Ray Collar Scholarship:

**Gabriella Hanover**

Ralph "Bud" Swinehart Memorial Scholarship:

**Jackson Cargill**

Stanley Jordan Scholarship:

**Skyler Prosser**

*Mason Optimist Club Scholarships*

Mason Optimist Club Scholarships:

**Reese Ball, Isabel Hauser, Nathaniel Brooks, Sarah Hebert,**

**Jackson Cargill, Riley Kerschke, McKayla Chaney, Avery**

**Kirschensteiner, Aidan Daenzer, Josiah Linsley, Logan Doerr,**

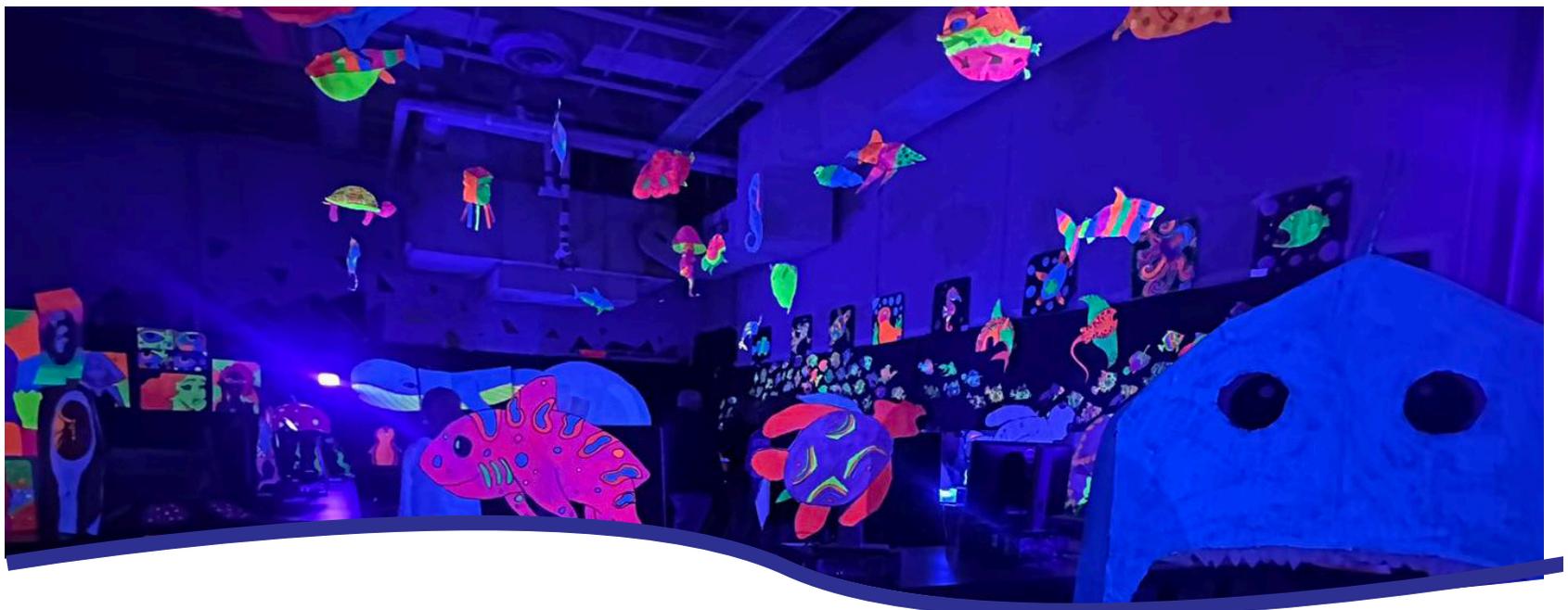
**Mckenzie Lockwood, Alexander Doneth, Conner McCormick,**

**Alethea Foster, Keira Redman, Avery Fraga, Hannah Sanders,**

**Gabriella Hanover, Vienna Zechar**

Mike and Sandra O'Malley Memorial Scholarship:

**Jayci Burkhart**



## TEAM MASON- YOU'D HAVE TO EXPERIENCE IT TO BELIEVE IT!

Team Mason articles shine a spotlight on students, teachers, programs 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](http://www.masonk12.net/district/team-mason)



The hallways of Mason Middle School were jampacked with people admiring student art displayed on tables and walls while the glow room and digital display spaces were overflowing with visitors of all ages during the annual Evening of the Arts. I heard many admirers say things such as, "I'd love to purchase this piece to hang above my fireplace," "I wonder how much this piece costs?" and "How do I contact this artist?"

Of course, I'd be remiss if I didn't describe the happenings in the gym and café where families and friends were "gaga" over the 7th and 8th grade band members' performances with the jazz band and three individuals performing stunning solos. Would you believe those students committed to arriving at practice at 6:30 a.m. two mornings a week to prepare? What motivation!

The choral and drama performers created quite a stir in Café A as they showed-off their beautiful voices and their creative expression. I overheard several adults making laudatory remarks and reminding each other these performers are only 7th and 8th grade students! Wow! What talent!

Can you imagine the thought, time, effort and commitment their teachers have invested to bring this night to fruition? How lucky are our students? As I observed the audience in each of the venues, I was struck by the number of siblings and peers who were there supporting their friends in their passions! Very impressive!

In the book entitled, *10-25: The Science of Motivating Young People*, David Yeager reveals compelling research indicating our new generation wants status and wants to be heard.



How do we accept this challenge to ensure it spreads throughout their educational and personal journey? Without question, this evening gave students a heavy dose of what they want.

If you were an attendee, I can almost guarantee you had a joyful experience and believe the arts at Mason Middle School are alive and well. If you missed the event, put it on your calendar for 2025-26; you'll be glad you did!



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.

**SUPERINTENDENT**

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