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Winter 2022

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Photo credit: M Buck Studio

MASON TENNIS COURT PROJECT WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The American Sports Builders Association (ASBA), the national organization for builders and suppliers of materials for athletic facilities, has announced the winners of its annual awards, and the Mason Public Schools tennis court project and architecture partners, GMB received a 2021 Distinguished Facility Award.

Awards are presented each year to facilities built by ASBA members, which best exemplify excellence in sports facility design and construction, as well as an understanding of the technical requirements and current professional standards for athletics facilities.

The tennis courts project at Mason High School is located within the heart of the Mason community and are one of the few publicly accessible courts in the greater area, serving thousands of players each year. The existing asphalt tennis courts were in complete disrepair resulting from age, improper drainage strategies and organic subsoils and required a complete reconstruction. During the project, the District was notified by the United States Tennis Association that it was awarded their “Facilities Services Grant” and met the criteria for design and construction, largely because of the extensive programming the facility could support.

This project included the demolition and removal of eight existing tennis courts and the associated fencing and replacing them with twelve post-tensioned concrete tennis courts. The redesigned space provides new electrical hookups for ball machines, windscreens, new netting and better drainage around the tennis courts to ensure longevity of the facility. The landscaping is intentionally simple, utilizing the existing large canopy trees to the south and north to provide the context for the site, and the use of movable planters within the facility soften the area while keeping maintenance requirements low. Congratulations to the design and construction teams!

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MASON FOCUSES ON EQUITY

Mason Public Schools believes that all students can learn and deserve access to an educational experience that understands, appreciates and responds to the needs of all students. By using a strength-based approach to valuing and integrating the students' lived experiences, we aim to strategically and intentionally reduce any barriers to accessing high-quality education in an environment that is physically, psychologically and emotionally safe to learn, contribute, and grow.

Over the course of the 2021-22 school year, MPS has taken numerous steps to ensure equity for all students in line with the District's diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) goals. Some of these actions include:

- A Board of Education resolution that states and reaffirms the District's commitment to DEI.
- Ongoing and expanded work by the MPS Diversity Committee and its various subcommittees including logic planning, in-house professional development (PD), curating educational resources, cultivating community interaction and supporting equitable student outcomes.
- Continued engagement and partnership with Dr. Karlin Tichenor, the District's diversity consultant.
- The creation of the Director of Student Supports position and hiring Craig Kueffner to fill that role. Mr. Kueffner oversees and facilitates the District's DEI efforts and participates at the county and state level with other DEI directors and leaders.
- Opening day PD for staff on August 23, 2021 that focused on "Education Equity: Creating Conditions for Teaching and Learning for Independent Learners."
- August 24, 2021 was another full day of PD for all staff. Many of the choice PD sessions had a focus on "Equity for All."
- The District, in conjunction with Dr. Tichenor and his associates, has offered a free series of "Teaching for Equity" PD sessions for all Mason educators. There is one session per month throughout the school year.
- Full-day professional development on February 25, 2022 for instructional staff focused on ensuring students have equity in access by affirming and supporting students so they receive equitable benefits from school.
- Providing resources and information for educators to be able to celebrate Black History Month and other events honoring DEI in their teaching and classrooms.
- The Diversity Committee is sponsoring a community event in March celebrating diversity and strengthening inclusivity entitled Mason Moves Forward.



Students participating in the MACUL Student Technology Showcase

MPS defines equity as championing the individual cultures, identities, talents, abilities, languages, and interests of each student by ensuring they receive the necessary opportunities and resources to meet their unique needs and aspirations (adapted from the Chicago Public Schools).^[1] Achieving equity across the District requires attention from every member of our staff, schools and the broader Mason Community. Please join us in making Mason a place where all students and families feel safe and supported to reach their fullest potential.

^[1] *Chicago Public Schools (August, 2020). Chicago Public Schools (CPS) Equity Framework: Creating and Sustaining Equity at the Individual, School and District Level, Chicago, IL*

REMEMBER TO TAKE YOUR LEARNING MATERIALS HOME

Just in case there is an emergency closure of our classrooms and/or buildings, it is important for our teaching staff and students to be prepared for possible online learning. We have no current plans to switch to remote learning, but we wanted to remind everyone to take materials home on the chance that a decision is made after school hours in the future.

MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS AT MACUL STUDENT TECHNOLOGY SHOWCASE

On December 8, 2021, Joe Anongdeth, Sami Scott, Kole Rhodes and Chase Gloden, 7th graders at Mason Middle School, traveled to the MACUL Student Technology Showcase at the state capitol building in Lansing to present video games that they created. During the first trimester, the four students took Mr. Robert McKay's *21 Things* technology class. Using a coding platform developed by MIT called Scratch, they created their own unique video games by assembling code for characters, backgrounds, sounds and movement. The students presented their games to the general public, principal Ted Berryhill, superintendent Ronald Drzewicki and state house representative John Damoose.

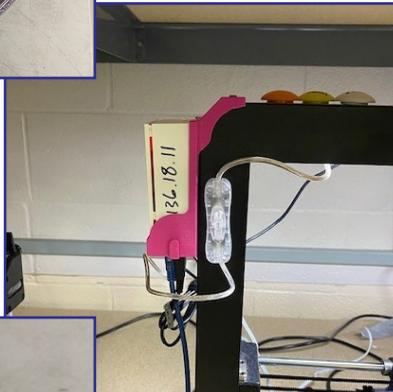
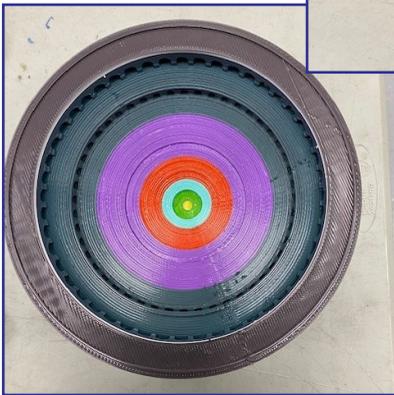
ROBOTICS PROGRAM RECEIVES STATE-OF-THE-ART 3D PRINTER, EXPANDS PROGRAMS

Mason's robotics programming continues to grow throughout our schools. Students of all ages can participate in programs focusing on 3D printing and robotics. Mason High School students have been practicing their skills using 3D printers by creating coasters, a Colosseum replica and upgrading the tools in their workspaces. Students also printed a support shelf for the Raspberry Pi computer programming tool.

Utilizing equipment through the Robotics Center and the *Fusion 3* 3D printer, which was donated by Dart Foundation in 2019, high school students, Ally Buzard and Joe Gorishek, participated in an independent study project this year. Ally and Joe built a large CNC machine using recycled materials and 3D printed materials. This CNC machine supported the construction of the Robotics Team's FIRST Robotics competition robot.

Additionally, robotics teacher and team advisor, Ben Shoemaker, won a state-of-the-art 3D printer through FIRST Robotics and Stratasys. This 3D printer uses dissolvable support material and industrial-level filament for better accuracy and precision of the printed parts.

Mason will be hosting the Lansing Region's High School FIRST Robotics Competition on March 24-26 at Mason High School. More information can be found at www.firstmichigan.us/FRC/lansing.

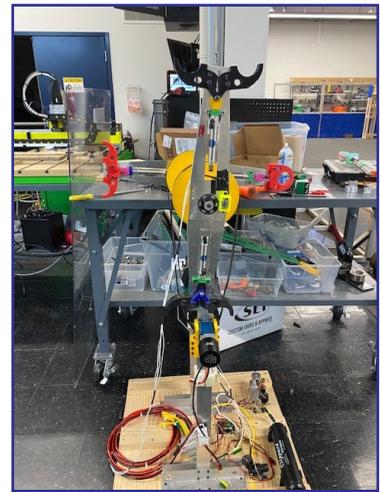




Student-built, custom CNC machine



Student-built FIRST Robotics competition robot
(95% recycled and 3D printed parts)



Save the Date



The 2022 Commercial Bank Red Carpet Gala, benefiting the Mason Public Schools Foundation, will be held on April 23, 2022 at the University Club of MSU. Find out more at www.masonpdf.org.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION IS OPEN

It is time to register for Kindergarten! Children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2022, are eligible to begin Kindergarten this fall. Required materials include the child's certified birth certificate, current proof of residency and immunization records. All required documents can be uploaded to the online application.

Remember: Students enrolled in early learning, preschool, Head Start or GSRP must still enroll for Kindergarten. Students are not automatically enrolled.

To begin enrollment, visit www.masonk12.net/Kindergarten or scan this code with your mobile device. An in-person Kindergarten Round-Up will take place in May, by appointment. Staff from the Harvey Education Center office will reach out to all registered families to schedule a time.



MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**WHERE
BULLDOGS
BEGIN**



STUDENT NAMED MHSAA SCHOLAR ATHLETE

Colin Koot, Mason High School student, has been named a Michigan High School Athletic Association (MHSAA) Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award. Colin is a member of the boys varsity basketball, baseball and tennis teams. Additionally, he participates in Youth in Government, National Honor Society and FFA. Colin is just the second student in Mason Public Schools' history to receive this award.

According to the MHSAA, to be considered for this award, students must be carrying at least a 3.5 grade-point average and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport for their districts. Candidates must also be actively involved in school and community activities and produce an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

In Colin's essay submission, he wrote, "Overall, competitive sportsmanship is the most important facet of educational athletics. The ability for an individual to compete at a high level while maintaining good sportsmanship is crucial in transforming from a person who wins to a person who succeeds. Success is measured in many different ways, but a successful athlete understands that there is more to athletics than just the scoreboard."

Colin will receive the award at the MHSAA Boys Basketball Finals at the Breslin Center on March 26. Congratulations!

SCHOOL BOARD RECOGNITION MONTH

Each January, we celebrate School Board Recognition Month. We recognize these individuals who approach their volunteer work like it is a full-time job and with extraordinary dedication to public schools. They are citizens whose decisions affect our children and build our community.

The role of a Board of Education member has changed a great deal in the last two years. Being a Board Member has been extra challenging as school districts work to make decisions which are best for students, families and staff. Mason's Board of Education has been working tirelessly to support district planning as Mason Public Schools works to continue to keep students and staff safe while attending school.

Those serving Mason Public Schools are Kurt Creamer, Liz Evans, Christopher Mumby, Michael Kelly, Patrick O'Connor, Steve Duane and Matt Hall.

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



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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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