



Keynotes

Information and updates
for the Mason Community
from Mason Public
Schools

SUMMER 2026

Class of 2026 Graduates
Page 1

Graduates, cont.
Page 2

Class of 2026 Top 10%
Page 2

Mason Promise
Scholarship
Page 3

Kindergarten
Registration
Page 3

2026-27 School Year
Dates
Page 4

New HEC Principal
Page 4

Upcoming Board
Meetings
Page 4

Staff Retirements
Page 5

CAAC Scholar Athletes
Page 5

Community Scholarship
Recipients
Page 6

Team Mason
Page 7



**MASON HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026
COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY**

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

- Darius David Ambs
- Kaitlyn Qingyan Anderson
- Ryleigh Anne Armstrong
- Ella Marie Bahl
- Caleb Walter Ball
- Madison Lee Balmes
- Lukas Aaron Barcelow
- Amelia Elizabeth Barnum
- Jace Lorenzo Bartram
- Laurie Ann Baumer
- Drin Beka
- Anna Christine Bennett
- Grant Robert Bercaw
- Gavin James Boyce
- Gavin Michael Boyce
- Kile David Boyce
- Ashton Dean Bradsher
- Aiyana Rashelle Broughman
- Cassy Marie Bryan
- Julia Rae Budd
- Elliott Jo Lynn Byers
- Brayden Thomas Carl
- Parker Grace Chaney
- Carson James Chapin
- Mykenzie Marie Charbonneau
- Ethan Michael Charlot
- Vivian Grace Chase
- Chloe Alexandria Church
- Amelia Rose Clark
- Grant Alexander Clark
- Oliver Michael Coates-Neely
- Aiden Steven Conn
- Cameron James Crosby
- Molly Grace Dalton
- Marley Michael Dambro
- Drew Preston Davidson
- Kylie Jade Davidson
- Makenzie Elizabeth Davis
- Travis James Davis
- Aster Angelique DeMoss
- Blake Bradley Delaney
- Michael Roy Dennis
- Trinity Lynne Dishaw
- Audree Rose Djurasaj
- Blake Eugene Doty
- Myla Jane Doty
- Mason Ryan Dowdy
- Amelia Rayne Drennan
- Madison Grace Droscha
- Aerin Brooke Duso
- Lilyana Marie Elias
- Azayla Marie Ellena
- Alysa Liam-James Elliott
- Alexander Timothy Engel
- Jordan Matthew Evans
- Anna Grace Marie Felice
- Clemontine Maddelaina-Lorraine Fernando
- Jade Elizabeth Fiser
- Adam Daniel Foster
- Paige AnnMarie Foster
- Addison James Franks
- Malacki Paul Ganguillet
- Haydn Warren Garza
- Joshua David George
- Ethan Richard Giddens
- Emanuel Phillip Gill
- Rene Isaac Gonzalez
- Dylan William Granger
- Evan Jacob Greba
- Ella Norma-Rae Green
- Noah Robert Greenlee
- Chloe Alivia Grimwood
- Kaitlyn Elizabeth Gronowski
- Hannah Violet Hall
- Hannah Renee Haynes
- Alexis Grace Haynie
- Hayden Ray Hendrickson
- Tessa Ann Himebaugh
- Irie Jane Hokulani Hiram
- Amelia Jene Hixon
- Hugh Lars Hodge
- Jaidyn Edmund Holbrook
- Taylor Michael Hopper
- Elisa Kay Houpt
- Michael Edward Houser III
- Serenity Elizabeth Howard
- Samantha Ann Howery
- Ardi Islami
- Jayda Rachelle Jackson
- Brenden Elisjah Frankie Jenkins
- Gian Carlo Jimenez
- Brielle Nickole Johnson
- Layla Shaye Johnson
- Amber Fogle Jones
- Alexander David Juras
- Carson James Kandell
- Johnathan Michael Kandler
- Aidan Joseph Kellogg
- Ashley Renee Kemper
- Xander Edward-Vaughn Kilpatrick
- Benjamin Larry Kish
- Quintin Robert Kolasa
- Evan Bruce Kolonich
- Wesley Korri Kowalczyk
- Kaya Bronwen Immaculata-Kowalewsky
- Zoriana Kravchenko
- Michael Wallace Krysiak
- Yilka Kukaj
- Hunter Jennings Kukla
- Macey Lyn Lamke
- Grant Richard Lange
- Máire Ivy Lark
- Josilyn Marie Lator
- Mya Lyssa LeBeau

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026, CONTINUED.

- Jasmine Marie Leffew
- Avery Lynn LeRoy
- Malachi Maverick Lewis
- Gent Limani
- Kaltrina Limani
- Alexandria Elizabeth Lindsey
- Jenna Leigh Lozon
- Trenton David Lyons
- Gavin Reed Mackinder
- Elizabeth Grace Mackley
- Kylie Corrin March
- Alexander Jose Martinez
- Aireyona Payton Mault
- Cameron Lee Maurer
- Callum Michael Maxey
- Colton Dale McCaleb
- Anderson Ray McElmurray
- Emily Grace Meesseman
- Aubrey Rae Metzger
- Abigail May Miller
- Adellyn Grace Miller
- Halle Rayne Mitchell
- Lucas Dre Montalvo
- Damien Michael Moore
- Nora Jean Motcheck
- Henry Daniel Mullin
- Jayden Jean Mullin
- Charles Lee Murgittroyd
- Linus Allen Myers
- Ryan Lee Myers
- Stormy Ann Marie Nanasy
- Brandon Douglas Nay
- Cole Michael Nims
- Gage Tanner Oliver
- Madisyn Faith Palomo
- Lacey Noel Pelon-Reeves
- David William Petroff
- Stephen Joseph Pickering
- Eddie Alexander Portalatin
- Edward Alexander Portalatin
- William Michael Prelesnik
- Gwyneth Araiza Rangel
- Jadynn Mae Rewerts
- Landon Caleb Rice
- Mikayla Ann Rice
- Adelyn Kay Rivard
- Jacob David Robinson
- Joseph Daniel Rodgers
- Wesley Adam Rogers
- Antonia A Rogovska
- Dominik James Rubio
- Madilyn Louise Rupright
- Jadon Douglas Charles Ryan
- Arton Saidi
- Andyn Matthew Sairls
- Madilyn Mae Savoie
- Matilda Eileen Schafer
- Joseph Ryan Schild II
- Isabella Kathleen Scholtz
- Rebecca Solange Senzoga
- Owen Bim Sheridan
- Triston Charles Short
- Chloe Elizabeth Showers
- Logan Xavier Simmons
- Braedan James Sipsky
- Thomas John Slezak
- Adrie Jace Smith
- Mikylee Marie Smith
- Sawyer Nicholas Smith
- Malakki Houston Soffredine
- Chase Douglas Southwell
- Tylar Ann Southwell
- Olivia Jean Stewart
- Evette Jaclin Stoll
- Audrey Marie Stone
- Brock Dennis Straub
- Jaden Damien Strieff
- Kendall Jane Strouse
- Laila Channoine Summerlott
- Nathan Delano Summers
- Hayden Clara-Emily Surbrook
- Calvin Ryan Sutberry
- Colin Lee Sutberry
- Kehgan Robert Szarka
- Antonio Luis Thomas
- Graysen Noah Thomas
- Mia Ann Trigo
- Briquella Ann Trotter
- Thomas Nathan Trotter
- Sayuri Nihonsei Delta Trout
- Madison Machelie Tucker
- Victor Chukwunonso Uchendu
- Charlie Kico Urquhart
- Michael Steven Utter
- Madeleine Jane VanMalsen
- Cora Jamie Veach
- Laney Nicole Warner
- Addyson Lynn Warren
- Ryan Jacob Washburne
- Gracianna Marie Weissling
- Zachary Tate Wells
- Elizabeth Sue West
- Lauren Carol West
- Cecilia Marie Williams
- Darien Shamarr Williams
- Eric Matthew Wisniewski
- Kahlen Rose Wood-Penzin
- Lilliana Nicole Woodson
- Grayson Robert Woodworth
- Leighlend Thomas Wurzler
- Logan William Yauch
- Donovan Jake Zambrana
- Julian Derik Zambrana

CLASS OF 2026 TOP 10%



Congratulations to the Class of 2026 seniors who rank in the Top 10% academically in their class.

The 2026 Top 10% are Lukas Barcelow, Anna Bennett, Brayden Carl, Adam Foster, Emanuel Gill, Chloe Grimwood, Kaitlyn Gronowski, Benjamin Kish, Wesley Kowalczyk, Zoriana Kravchenko, Maire Lark, Jenna Lozon, Linus Myers, Brandon Nay, Mikayla Rice, Wesley Rogers, Chloe Showers, Thomas Slezak, Mikylee Smith, Laila Summerlott, Mia Trigo, Addyson Warren, Gracianna Weissling and Elizabeth West.



MHS DECISION DAY 2026

2026 MASON PROMISE SCHOLARS

Congratulations to the 2026 Mason Promise Scholars! The Mason Promise Scholarship awardees are selected at the end of eighth grade and over the following four years, receive mentoring, support and career exploration as they prepare for life after graduation. Students awarded the scholarship at graduation are guaranteed two years of Lansing Community College tuition as well.

The Mason Promise Scholarship program is a volunteer-run organization funded through a community endowment held by the Capital Region Community Foundation, ensuring its impact for years to come. Congratulations to this year's scholars — your community has been in your corner since day one and celebrates alongside you. To learn more or donate, visit www.masonk12.net/district/mason-promise-scholarship/.

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| • Lukas Bateman | • Kamryn Mankey |
| • Jayda Benson | • Amasa Maynard |
| • Jayden Body | • Derek Munson |
| • Zayne Boyce | • Emily Par |
| • Nathaniel Brown | • Cameron |
| • Izabel Dailey | • Rockafellow |
| • Addison Farero | • Selma Saidi |
| • Liam Fitzpatrick | • Hunter Schneider |
| • Lia Greba | • Riley Stewart |
| • Curtis Kraus | • Kenzie Tindall |
| • Lionel Lara | • Anjilina Tamang |
| • Liliith Lawrence | • Esperanza Yates |

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION CONTINUES

There is still time to register for kindergarten! Mason families with children who will be five years old by September 1, 2026, can sign up now to begin school in the fall. Students who will be five years old by December 1, 2026, are also eligible with an age waiver.

Registration must be completed in the Skyward system for both new families and families with established Skyward accounts. Learn more about kindergarten and register at <https://bit.ly/MPKindergarten> or by scanning the QR code.



All kindergarten students attend school at the Harvey Education Center- where Bulldogs begin!



NEW HARVEY PRINCIPAL JOINS STAFF

This spring, Emelia Brown was selected to be the next principal of the Harvey Education Center (HEC). She will begin her role in July and welcome students this fall for the new school year.



Mrs. Brown has been an educator for more than 20 years and has extensive experience in both elementary and early childhood education.

She previously taught third grade and kindergarten at Holt Public Schools and has also worked as an academic interventionist and instructional coach in both Holt and Lansing Public Schools.

Mrs. Brown has also served as the executive director of the Spartan Child Development Center and has worked as a preschool teacher and early childhood specialist.

Welcome to Mason Public Schools and HEC!

2026-27 CALENDAR & IMPORTANT DATES

Mark your calendar for important dates in the 2026-27 School Year. Important dates are listed below and the full calendar is available at www.masonk12.net/district/calendars/.

- Open Houses for all buildings- Monday, August 24, 2026
- **First Day of School- Wednesday, August 26, 2026 (1/2 day for all students)**
- First Late Start Wednesday- Wednesday, September 2, 2026
- No School- Friday, September 4 and Monday, September 7, 2026
- Winter Break- December 21, 2026- January 1, 2027
- No School- Friday, March 26, 2027
- Spring Break- March 29, 2027- April 2, 2027
- Last Day of School- June 9, 2027 (1/2 day for all students)

UPCOMING BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETINGS

The Mason Public Schools Board of Education (BOE) holds regular board meetings the second Thursday of each month. Special meetings are scheduled as needed. Regular meetings begin at 7:00 PM at Mason City Hall.

A full list of committee meetings and meeting minutes are available at www.masonk12.net/district/board-of-education/

- July 9, 2026
- August 13, 2026
- September 10, 2026
- October 8, 2026
- November 12, 2026
- December 10, 2026
- January 14, 2027



STUDENT ARTWORK AT STEELE
ELEMENTARY



**TED BERRYHILL AND SHERRY DODENDORF
CELEBRATE THEIR RETIREMENTS FROM
MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL**

STAFF RETIREMENTS

Along with our 2026 graduates, Mason Public Schools wishes good luck to our teachers and staff on their retirements. Thank you for your years of service to MPS! Congratulations!

- Michelle Bartlett, 19 years
- Ted Berryhill, 24 years
- Staci Carl, 32 years
- Sherry Dodendorf, 32 years
- Steven Edgerly, 8 years
- Christy Evans, 31 years
- Susan Fountain, 16 years
- Susan Ferguson, 8 years
- Christine Hursey, 27 years
- Gary Ireland, 15 years
- Kathleen Oakes, 23 years
- Gerald Parsons, 31 years
- Cheryl Simison, 32 years
- Mark Sundermann, 26 years
- Mindy Wood, 3 years
- Peter Hudson, 24 years
- Jencina Riegert, 21



*Retiring Mason High School teacher
Mark Sundermann receives
recognition from principal Myriah Lillie*

CAAC SCHOLAR ATHLETES



Congratulations to this year's Capital Area Activities Conference (CAAC) Senior Scholar Athletes! These student athletes earned recognition for being the top 10 academic achievers from among student athletes who received letters in two or more sports during their senior year.

This year's honorees were (back row) Carson Chapin, Wesley Rogers, Thomas Slezak, Ben Kish, Wesley Kowalczyk; (front row) Kaitlyn Gronowski, Mikayla Rice, Travis Davis, Addyson Warren, Chloe Showers

COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Thank you to our Mason community sponsors who continue to support graduates with scholarship awards and funding. This year more than \$100,200 in scholarships was awarded. Congratulations to all of this year's scholarship winners!

Helen F. & Arthur B. Ziegler

Scholarship

- Maire Lark
- Rebecca Senzoga

Jean Howlett Byron Memorial

Scholarships

- Molly Dalton
- Mikayla Rice

Mason Area Chamber of Commerce

(MACC) Scholarships

- Laila Summerlott
- Wesley Kowalczyk

Mason College Club Scholarships

- Molly Dalton (Jenny Bond Memorial)
- Elizabeth West (Laurence Hart Memorial)
- Josilyn Lator (Wilder Umbarger Memorial)
- Chloe Showers (Mason High School Teachers & Staff Memorial)
- Sayuri Trout (Mason High School Teachers & Staff Memorial)
- Kaitlyn Anderson (Mason College Club)
- Lukas Barcelow (Mason College Club)
- Amelia Barnum (Mason College Club)
- Aidan Kellogg (Mason College Club)
- Vivian Chase (Mason College Club)
- Laila Summerlott (Mason College Club)

Mason District Michigan Education Association (MEA) Memorial

Scholarship

- Aireyona Mault
- Chloe Grimwood

Mason Kiwanis Club Scholarships

- Emily Meesseman (Service)
- Isabella Scholtz (Citizenship)
- Gwyneth Rangel (Art)

Mason Lions Club Scholarships

- Thomas Slezak (Ray Collar)
- Laurie Baumer (Bud Swinehart)
- Adam Foster (Stanley Jordan)

Mason Public Schools Foundation

Scholarship

- Ethan Charlot

Mason Rotary Club Scholarship

- Anna Bennett (Community Hero)
- Calvin Sutberry (Memorial)

Scott R Judd Memorial Scholarship

- Mikayla Rice
- Olivia Stewart

Virginia Elliott Scholarships

- Trinity Dishaw
- Mikylee Smith
- Gracianna Weissling
- Jadynn Rewerts
- Hannah Haynes
- Jenna Lozon
- Maire Lark

Vision Real Estate Scholarships

- Addyson Warren
- Laila Summerlott

Mason Area Youth In Action

- Thomas Slezak

Amanda's Be the Change Legacy

Scholarship

- Madison Balmes
- Joseph Schild
- Madilyn Savoie
- Anna Bennett
- William Prelesnik
- Vivian Chase
- Irie Hiram

American Legion Browne/Cavender

Post #148 Scholarships

- Madison Balmes
- Elizabeth West
- Owen Sheridan (Mike and Sandra O'Malley Memorial Scholarship)
- Carson Chapin
- Caleb Ball

Ava Michelle Saade Memorial

Scholarship (Ava's Heart, LLC)

- Molly Dalton

Mark Bartlett Memorial Scholarship

- Zach Wells
- Mia Trigo

Masonic Foundation Mason Lodge #70

Scholarship

- Elizabeth West
- Kendall Strouse

Mason Optimist Club Scholarship

- Kaitlyn Anderson
- Aubrey Metzger
- Calvin Sutberry
- Wesley Rogers
- Anna Bennett
- Elizabeth West
- Vivian Chase
- Kahlen Wood Penzin
- Adam Foster
- Kendall Strouse
- Carson Chapin
- Madison Balmes
- Ashley Kemper

Orthopedic Rehab Specialists

Scholarship

- Madilyn Rupright

Don Fackler Basketball Memorial

Scholarship

- Hayden Hendrickson
- Mason Dowdy

Mason Athletic Boosters Scholarship

- Travis Davis
- Carson Chapin
- Aubrey Metzger
- Elizabeth West
- Parker Chaney

Mason Band Boosters Scholarships

- Maire Lark (Luke Granger Memorial)
- Mikayla Rice (Kathleen Dickerson Memorial)
- Manny Gill (Band Booster)
- Zoriana Kravchenko (Band Booster)
- Mati Schafer (Band Booster)
- Bella Scholtz (Band Booster)
- Rebecca Senzoga (Band Booster)

Mason High School Performing Arts Boosters Scholarship

- Aster DeMoss
- Larue Jones
- Mikayla Rice
- Lauren West

Mason Boys Soccer "The Rich Madery Memorial Scholarship"

- Brandon Nay

Mason FIRST Robotics Scholarship

- Ethan Charlot
- Aiden Conn
- Henry Mullin
- Taylor Hopper

Mason Firefighters Association Memorial Scholarships

- Vivian Chase (Mason Firefighters Association Memorial)
- Anna Bennett (Mason Firefighters Association Memorial)
- Kahlen Wood Penzin (James Pelton Memorial)

Mason High School Bulldog Bowling Scholarships

- Joshua George (Art Kieselbach Bowling)
- Edward Portalatin (Dick/Rheda Ried Bowling)

Senior Scholar Athlete Award,

Sponsored by Dart Bank

- Brock Straub
- Chloe Showers



**GRADUATES PLAY WITH THE GIANT PARACUTE
DURING CAP AND GOWN WALK AT NORTH
AURELIUS**

TEAM MASON

Team Mason articles shine a spotlight on students, teachers and projects across 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.



Learning comes in many forms, and Michele Sander's fifth grade class was a perfect example. Her students were making a video to send to a class in Pretoria, South Africa. So how did that come about, you might ask?

It all started when a group of educators from a school in Pretoria were on the Michigan State University campus and lined up a visit to Mason Public Schools. One of the educators was eager to have his students benefit from his connection – the net result is the virtual pen pal initiative.



Fifth grade students record a virtual pen pal video.

By way of introduction, Michele, a member of the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging (DEIB) Committee, volunteered to pilot the idea in her classroom by creating a video of the school and providing context about their community, including climate, geography, occupations and more.

Students at Steele Elementary selected what they wanted to showcase, wrote scripts and - with support from the communications team - filmed spaces including the playground, their classroom during a lesson, lunch in the cafeteria, library learning, gym and with their beloved therapy dog, Willow.



Fifth grade students update their video script for a virtual pen pal video.

After the much-anticipated exchange, lots of questions will no doubt emerge and relationships will be established. Who knows where the initiative will lead? Long term virtual pen pals? A potential student exchange when they reach high school?

At the very least, they will have acquired an organic way to celebrate diversity – realizing people are more alike than different. They have the same basic needs. Their differences are explained by their geography, culture, economic resources and other factors. While a book version can provide a perspective, learning from each other and their experiences provides another “spin” on learning. Beyond books? You bet!

MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
201 WEST ASH STREET, SUITE 2A
MASON, MI 48854

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
LANSING, MI
PERMIT NO 718

*****ECRWSS*****

Local
Postal Customer



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

Dr. Gary Kinzer
kinzerg@masonk12.net

CHIEF FINANCE OFFICER

Tracey Wooden
woodent@masonk12.net

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF ACADEMIC SERVICES

Randy Barton
bartonr@masonk12.net

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

Melissa Netzel
netzelm@masonk12.net

DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Rick Brooks
brooksr@masonk12.net

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Lisa Bercaw
bercawl@masonk12.net