



Mason Public Schools Keynotes

November 2024

MPS Strategic Plan
Page 1

MPS Strategic Plan
(cont.)
Page 2

District Needs Survey
Page 3

What's New with the
Bulldog Bark Squad
Page 3

Welcome New
Employees
Page 4

What is WIN?
Page 4

Team Mason
Page 5

Mason Athletic Hall of
Fame Class of 2024
Page 6

Thank You MPS
Foundation!
Page 7



FALL 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE

For more than a year, Mason Public Schools administrators and staff have been actively putting the 2023-28 Strategic Plan into action. This action plan leads our efforts across four key focus areas:

- Instructional Improvement and Innovation;
- Student Supports;
- Staff Recruitment, Retention, and Development; and
- Facilities and Infrastructure.

Work on the plan takes place every day in our buildings and classrooms, but also behind the scenes with professional development, system improvement, strategic decision-making, innovation and forward thinking.

As we implement the Strategic Plan, our staff and stakeholders are working with the executive team to carefully monitor and track progress, providing status updates to ensure that the work stays on track and aligned with the district's goals.

To keep families and the community informed, we will share regular updates about the plan. Status Updates are available for each of the focus areas outlining the progress for each objective on the district website and in print versions, by request.

Each objective in the Strategic Plan has multiple components, the progress shown here is representative of work within each focus area and objective. As activities and projects are completed, additional items may be added to further meet the overall goals of the plan.

We are excited to share the progress we've made so far while focusing on setting and completing additional goals and striving to serve Every student. Every day.

Strategic Plan



An exemplary learning community - Every student. Every day.

FALL 2024 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS REPORT



INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT AND INNOVATION

Goal Statement: Mason Public Schools will cultivate an innovative teaching and learning community to improve educational outcomes for all students and prepare them to become active and engaged citizens.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will provide all prekindergarten-12th grade students with instruction and assessments that are aligned to standards, rigorous, and evidence based.

Objective 2: Mason Public Schools will provide all prekindergarten-12th grade students with experiences that are authentic, relevant, and focused on personalized learning.

Objective 3: Mason Public Schools will build a collaborative culture based on the premise that we are all learners working toward continued growth and improvement.

PROGRESS



STUDENT SUPPORTS

Goal Statement: Mason Public Schools will proactively focus on robust and bold practices that connect students to their learning in order to prioritize and provide a barrier-free, successful education.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will build an intentional culture that generates systems and strategies to increase authentic engagement by promoting positive perspectives toward self and others that will establish healthy relationships.

Objective 2: Mason Public Schools will build structural support systems and strategies that proactively identify and address individual and collective student needs equitably.

Objective 3: Mason Public Schools will build leadership opportunities, cultural awareness, and community partnerships that will provide students and staff with a platform of engagement in 21st century learning.



STAFF RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND DEVELOPMENT

Goal Statement 1: Mason Public Schools will attract a larger and more diverse candidate pool for positions at Mason Public Schools, develop staff to better serve students and improve the employee experience, and retain talent through efforts to build a system of staff supports.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will promote/advertise opportunities to a larger and more diverse audience.

Objective 2: Mason Public Schools will use 'Share our Story' in recruitment efforts.

Goal Statement 2: Mason Public Schools will retain talent through efforts to build a system of staff supports.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will build a culture of mutual support with staff.

Goal Statement 3: Mason Public Schools will develop staff to better serve students and improve the employee experience.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will utilize available development opportunities for professional growth of staff members.

Objective 2: Mason Public Schools will provide position-specific professional development (PD) for new staff.



FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal Statement: Mason Public Schools will continue to modernize our current facilities and plan for future improvements.

Objective 1: Mason Public Schools will be prepared for a bond offering in 2025.

Objective 2: Mason Public Schools will address current and future needs to modernize learning spaces to attract staff, students, and families.

Objective 3: Mason Public Schools will create a plan and priorities to enhance safety and security at all campus locations.



COMPLETE



WORKING
ON IT



NOT YET
STARTED

DISTRICT NEEDS SURVEY

Dear Mason Families and Community Members,

Later this school year, we will be launching a survey to gather your thoughts and opinions about ways Mason Public Schools can continue to improve and elevate our learning spaces, school facilities and district infrastructure. As outlined in our 2023 Strategic Plan, this information will help inform plans for a bond offering for school improvements in 2025.

We are committed to inclusive decision-making and want to ensure that your voices are heard and considered as we assess the needs and priorities for our schools and facilities. Your feedback is crucial as we work together to identify areas that need attention and plan for the future.

The survey will be easy to access and complete. You will find it online, accessible through QR codes, in emails, and in a printed format. We encourage all members of the community to participate, as your responses will guide us in making informed decisions for the benefit of our students and schools.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Gary Kinzer
Superintendent, Mason Public Schools



WHAT'S NEW WITH THE BULLDOG BARK SQUAD?



Congratulations to Lewis and Sully for passing their Certified Facility Dog tests with flying colors!

They have been working hard all year with their handlers and their families, as well as staff and students across the district to learn everything they need to know to succeed!

To pass their exam, Lewis and Sully had to individually venture into a store and follow a series of commands without any treats, collars or other supports- and on the first try!

Thank you to Canines for Change, Mark Voss Agency and Dog Gone Fun for supporting Lewis and Sully on their journey! Go Bulldog Bark Squad!



WELCOME NEW EMPLOYEES!

MASON HIGH SCHOOL

- Matthew Albrecht
- Adam Brandt
- Elizabeth Cameron
- Kristen Clark
- Lorrie Dalton
- Hannah Duran
- Brenda Finch
- Avery Fraga
- Sarah Gardner
- Myriah Lillie
- Mitchell Lovell
- Connie Lyke
- Lyn Mcnamara
- Emily Meesseman
- Scott Rathbun
- Nathaniel Schwarzbek
- Kara Sweet
- Miles Warren
- Elizabeth West
- Kyle Wills

MASON MIDDLE SCHOOL

- Bette Barve
- Jeff Booher
- Holly Flynn
- Sylvie Kandell
- Jason Kline
- Brian Martin

STEELE ELEMENTARY

- Catherine Addy
- Morgan Blair
- Stephanie Faber
- Karen Wells

ALAIEDON ELEMENTARY

- Aaron Francis
- Kerry Getts
- Colleen Oswill
- Rebecca Timmer

HARVEY EDUCATION CENTER

- Stephanie Craddock-Heraux
- Spring Every
- Yongjin Kapp
- Eric Knapp
- Abigail Lautzenheiser
- Kalynn Ryan
- Lauren Simmons
- Dawn Svacha
- Sage Wymer

NORTH AURELIUS ELEMENTARY

- Tiffany Kozlowski-Harder

DISTRICT-WIDE STAFF

- Annadelia Gonzales
- David Groenewoud
- Terry Vanhorn



WHAT IS WIN TIME?

Focused on meeting each students' individual needs, What I Need (WIN) time is a part of the school day for MPS students in kindergarten through 12th grade.

Each student is placed in WIN based on their individual needs and abilities using data from standardized tests and benchmarks, classroom performance and teacher input. Older students are given autonomy to identify their own needs and seek appropriate support. Teachers tailor WIN to meet individual student needs, whether students require intervention, extra practice or enrichment opportunities. WIN supports are reviewed and adjusted throughout the year to ensure supports and activities match student needs as they grow.

In addition to academic support, WIN can help younger students build foundational skills like independence, following classroom expectations, pencil grip and emotional regulation. For older students, WIN also offers opportunities to explore topics with creative approaches, individualized projects and extra support when needed.

WIN is a key part of our mission to serve "Every student. Every day." By providing support to students where their needs are, we help them grow and succeed.

TEAM MASON- SO, DOES KINDERGARTEN MATTER?

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



When I first heard about Robert Fulghum's book, "All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten", I laughed and thought, "Now that's a catchy title!"

In further investigation, I found his text consisted of 50 essays focusing on essential lessons such as telling the truth, putting things back where you found them, being kind to one another and washing your hands before eating. Yes, these skills do apply to adults, too!

The importance of kindergarten was brought to my attention again recently in reading Adam Grant's latest book entitled, "Hidden Potential". In the prologue he cites Raj Chetty, one of the world's influential economists who did a series of experiments regarding the variables that impact learning. One of the most stunning results he found was that excellence depends less on natural talent than you might expect. He found you can trace the success of adults by what happens to them in kindergarten - now that is profound!

My brain started dancing and I decided to spend the first week of school at Harvey Education Center (HEC). I visited all sections for extended periods of time to get a heavy dose of the kindergarten launch. To be honest with you, I was awestruck!

Our Mason Public Schools (MPS) mission is to "Create an Exemplary Learning Community: Every Student, Every Day" and to see our phenomenal teachers attempting to enact these words the first week of school was nothing short of amazing!

I observed a host of songs being sung, children's stories read, opportunities for free play, short videos being watched, calming strategies being practiced, modeling cutting and pasting and practicing using play dough by following certain rules - all of this in the spirit of learning how to function with 20 other friends.

When digging a little deeper you realize these students are learning a ton of skills essential to not only K-12 school, but for successful adulthood. The children are learning to be proactive by asking questions, volunteering answers and engaging with the teacher. They are acquiring prosocial skills such as getting along with peers and working together as well as learning how to self-monitor, how to pay attention and how to resist the impulse to disrupt. They are also learning how to become resilient in the face of trying things they've never experienced before.

No question, Fulghum was definitely on to something when he wrote his book. While it would be hard to claim children potentially learn all they need to know in kindergarten to be highly successful adults, they are exposed to a lot. When families and friends reinforce these powerful life skills, our MPS kindergarteners, taught by our five-star kindergarten faculty, hold enormous promise for our future! So, what are your thoughts on kindergarten? Do you think it matters?



MASON ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

Each year, Mason High School (MHS) honors a group of standout student athletes, coaches and supporters by inducting them into the MHS Athletic Hall of Fame. The 2024 honorees are the 1987 Girls Basketball Team, Chris Howe, Abby Perkins, Marv Pulver, and Ryan Thelen. The Athletic Hall of Fame honorees were recognized during the Mason High School football game on Friday, September 27, 2024.

Read more about each honoree by scanning the QR code or visiting www.masonk12.net/activities/athletics/high-school-athletic-hall-of-fame.



Hall of Fame



The 1987 Girls Basketball Team:
Shelly Lawson, Cindy Howell, Lynn Chaney, Chris Ingalls, Becky Fuller, Kristen Glennie, Kelly Ziegler. Back row, from left: Missy Hills, Jenny Wagner, Molly Pacyna, Nikki Collins, Denise Friend, Melanie Austin, Karla Smith, Lisa Lund, Coach Clair Wilhelm, Assistant Coach Jill VanDouser, and Assistant Coach Betty Philo.



Chris Howe
Class of 1987
Football, Wrestling, and Baseball



Abby Perkins
Class of 2014
Tennis



Marv Pulver
Boys Golf Coach 35 seasons,
Girls Golf Coach 14 seasons



Ryan Thelen
Class of 2009
Soccer



THANK YOU MASON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION!

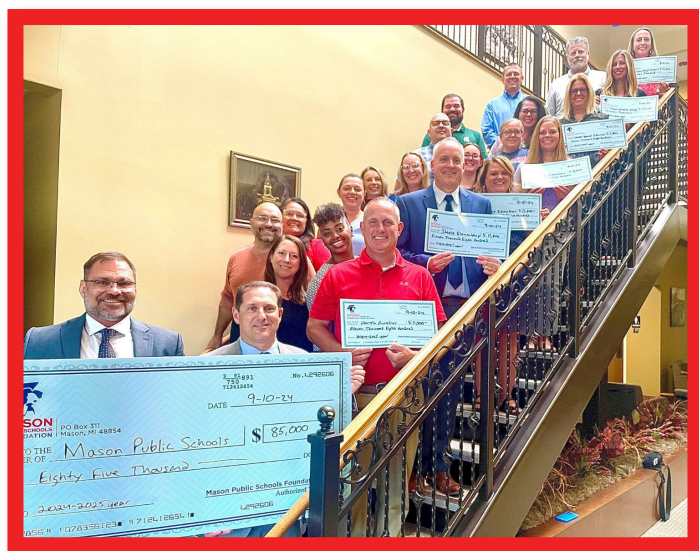
Thank you to the Mason Public Schools Foundation for their generous donation of \$85,000 to the district this year!

During the check presentation on September 10, 2024, each building principal received a ceremonial check and shared how the funds have impacted their buildings, staff and students including new playground equipment, field trips, transportation, motivational speakers and technology upgrades.

The MPS Foundation works with community members and business partners to raise money for MPS that allow for expanded and enhanced learning experiences for students.

Community members are encouraged to get involved with the Foundation by donating, sponsoring, or joining the MPS Foundation board. Learn more about the MPS Foundation by scanning the QR code or visiting the website www.masonpsf.org.

MPS Foundation



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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