

TOP 10 GRADUATES ANNOUNCED

Madison Central School is proud to announce the students who have achieved top ten academic standing in the Class of 2024.

VALEDICTORIAN: MACKENZIE COTTER

Mackenzie Cotter, daughter of William and Roxanne Cotter of Oriskany Falls, is this year's Valedictorian. Mackenzie has an overall weighted average of 104.5 and plans to attend college in the fall to major in Biochemistry. She has been an active and well-rounded member of her school community. A proven leader, Mackenzie has served as a class officer for four years along with two years of student council and a stint on the prom committee. She is a member of the MCS National Honor Society chapter and was elevated to NHS from the National Junior Honor Society during her sophomore year. Mackenzie also had the honor of participating in the Empire Girls' State program after her junior year. Cotter is an accomplished musician who has participated in senior band, jazz band, marching band, and senior chorus for four years. She is a two time all-county chorus participant, and a one-time all-county band participant. Mackenzie has also amassed a wide range of accolades in the athletic arena. She has participated in four sports at Madison and is a four year member of the varsity basketball and varsity soccer teams. She has earned Central Counties League First Team All-Star recognition in basketball, soccer, and softball. Always one to try something new, Mackenzie is competing on the Morrisville-Eaton track and field team this spring. She has also been a member of the MCS Foreign Language Club for two years.



SALUTATORIAN: GRACE LUTKE

Grace Lutke, daughter of Jake and Beth Lutke of Oriskany Falls, is this year's Salutatorian. Grace has an overall weighted average of 103.71. She will be attending Herkimer College in the fall to study in the Physical Therapist Assistant program. Grace has made tremendous contributions to the school community over the last four years. She has served as a class officer and on the student council throughout high school. Lutke has been in the honor society ranks continuously during her four years, and was promoted from the National Junior Honor Society to National Honor Society as a sophomore. Our Salutatorian has been a four year member of senior band and marching band and added jazz band to her repertoire as a senior. She is a four year member of senior chorus and a two time All-County chorus participant. She has been on Madison's varsity soccer team, and Morrisville-Eaton's varsity track and field team for three years.



Completing the list of top 10 students for the Class of 2024 are:

Emily Turcotte, daughter of Kristen Smith of West Edmeston & Jamie Turcotte of Waterville
Ayden Zbock, son of Laurie Zbock of Madison & Jason Zbock of Hamilton
Kyle Peavey, son of Colleen & Kurt Peavey of Madison
Isabella Champion, daughter of April & James Staelens of Madison
Summer Butler, daughter of Kalynn Williams of Madison
Molly Eastman, daughter of Wendy & Robert Eastman of Madison
Michael McBride, son of Bonnie McBride & Chad McBride of Madison
Camryn Parmon, daughter of Christine & Blaine Parmon of Knoxboro

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MCS Community Members,

I would like to begin this year's budget letter with a brief update on the progress made on the capital project that our community graciously approved in May 2022. The following renovations have been completed:

- Elementary classroom floors, ceilings, lighting, bathrooms
- 1988 wing flooring and vestibule doors

These renovations are in progress:

- Library
- Upgrades to announcement, clock and alarm systems

In addition, the following renovations will also be completed by the end of this summer:

- Soccer field resurfacing
- Nurse's Office
- Parking behind athletic field
- Parking lot resurfacing
- Some roofing replacement
- Additional flooring, door and window replacement

Please feel free to stop by to check out the improvements. Once all portions of the project are completed, we will host an Open House and provide tours of the updated spaces. We look forward to hosting you.

As always, this year's budget process was guided by the goals set for the District by the Board of Education. You can review our Board goals on our website at <https://www.madisoncentralny.org/board-of-education/index>. I would like to highlight one major success related to our District goals. In 2018, as part of New York State's new accountability system, MCS was placed on the original "Comprehensive Support and Improvement" list by the NY State Education Department because of inadequate student performance on the NY State 3-8 ELA and math assessments. Subsequently, our faculty, staff and administration has been focused on improving student achievement. I am proud to share that our student performance on the 3-8 assessments has improved significantly and MCS is no longer designated as a "Comprehensive Support and Improvement" school. Please join me in celebrating this achievement.

On May 21st, the first item on the ballot for your consideration will be the proposed 2024-25 budget. Highlights of the budget include:

- Total adopted budget of \$12,947,322, a 4.32% spending increase over 2023-24
- Total State Aid of an increase of \$57,487, only a 0.75% increase over last year
- A proposed tax levy increase of 3.35%
- Maintenance of all student academic and extracurricular programs

The second and final item on the ballot will be the vote to fill two (2) Board of Education seats. The names of the candidates for the Board seats will appear on the ballot as follows:

- Laura Billings
- Jona Snyder

Our Budget Hearing will take place in our Auditorium on May 7, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. We will also hold a budget presentation at the Knoxboro Town Office Building on May 16, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. We encourage you to attend one of these informational sessions. If you are unable to attend one of the presentations, please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have. The annual budget vote will occur at Madison Central School on May 21, 2024 from noon until 8:00 p.m.

On behalf of the Board of Education, our students, faculty and staff, thank you for your continued support for MCS as we strive to move our district forward. Go Blue Devils!

In partnership,
Jason A. Mitchell
Superintendent



Voter Information

Tuesday, May 21st - Noon to 8 PM - Madison Central School

Voter Requirements

- Must be a citizen of the United States
- Must be at least 18 years of age
- Must be a resident of the school district at least 30 days prior to the meeting which he/she offers to vote.
- Must not be prohibited from voting under the provisions of Section 5-106 of the Election Law (having been convicted of a felony or adjudged mentally incompetent)
- Must present proof of residence with a picture, such as a driver's license or non-driver identification. (upon request)



Absentee Ballot Procedure

- Qualified voters who wish to vote using an absentee ballot can request an application from the District Clerk at Madison Central School.
- Completed applications for absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk no later than 5 p.m. on May 15th, 2024 in order to receive an absentee ballot by mail.
- Application requests after May 15th must be made in person at the District Office, located in Madison Central School at 7303 State Route 20, Madison, NY, to pick up an absentee ballot. Completed absentee ballots must be received by the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on May 21, 2024. Completed ballots received after this time cannot be accepted.

A Library For The Future

You may have noticed the recent closure of the MCS Library, which has moved operations to the small gym for the time being. We are pleased to announce that the Library renovations from the 2022 capital project are progressing well. We appreciate the cooperation of our school community as we continue preparing this space for future-focused learning that will serve current students and the next generation well.



Madison Central School District Budget Notice

Overall Budget Proposal	Budget Adopted for the 2023-24 School Year	Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year	Contingency Budget for the 2024-25 School Year *
Total Budgeted Amount, Not Including Separate Propositions	\$ 12,410,918	\$12,947,322	\$12,932,332
Increase/Decrease for the 2024-25 School Year		\$536,403	\$512,414
Percentage Increase/Decrease in Proposed Budget		4.32 %	4.20%
Change in the Consumer Price Index		4.12%	
A. Proposed Levy to Support the Total Budgeted Amount	\$3,708,748	\$3,832,820	
B. Levy to Support Library Debt, if Applicable	\$0	\$0	
C. Levy for Non-Excludable Propositions, if Applicable **	\$0	\$0	
D. Total Tax Cap Reserve Amount Used to Reduce Current Year Levy	\$0	\$0	
E. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy (A + B + C - D)	\$3,708,748	\$3,832,820	\$3,817,830
F. Total Permissible Exclusions	\$0	\$0	
G. School Tax Levy Limit, <u>Excluding</u> Levy for Permissible Exclusions	\$3,708,748	\$3,850,066	
H. Total Proposed School Year Tax Levy, <u>Excluding</u> Levy to Support Library Debt and/or Permissible Exclusions (E - B - F + D)	\$3,708,748	\$3,832,820	
I. Difference: G - H (Negative Value Requires 60.0% Voter Approval - See Note Below Regarding Separate Propositions) **	\$0	\$17,246	
Administrative Component	\$1,137,046	\$1,295,274	\$1,295,224
Program Component	\$8,797,723	\$9,091,062	\$9,084,922
Capital Component	\$2,476,149	\$2,560,986	\$2,552,186

* Provide a statement of assumptions made in projecting a contingency budget for the 2024-25 school year, should the proposed budget be defeated pursuant to Section 2023 of the Education Law.

** List Separate Propositions that are not included in the Total Budgeted Amount: (Tax Levy associated with educational or transportation services propositions are not eligible for exclusion and may affect voter approval requirements)

Description	Amount
	\$
	\$
	\$
	\$

*NOTE TO SCHOOL DISTRICT BUSINESS OFFICIALS: Please submit an electronic version (Word or PDF) of this completed form to: emscmgts@nysed.gov

Under the Budget Proposed for the 2024-25 School Year

Estimated Basic STAR Exemption Savings¹

\$537

The annual budget vote for the fiscal year 2024-25 by the qualified voters of the Madison Central School District, Madison County, New York, will be held at Madison Central School in said district on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 between the hours of 12:00pm and 8:00pm, prevailing time in the Madison Central School, at which time the polls will be opened to vote by voting ballot or machine.

1. The basic school tax relief (STAR) exemption is authorized by section 425 of the Real Property Tax Law.



PROPOSED EXPENDITURES

ADMINISTRATIVE (10.0%)	2023-24 BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
BOARD OF EDUCATION	\$18,080	\$18,580	\$500	2.77%
CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION	\$344,205	\$370,411	\$26,206	7.61%
FINANCE	\$85,168	\$87,409	\$2,241	2.63%
STAFF	\$45,796	\$69,931	\$24,135	52.80%
SPECIAL ITEMS	\$216,200	\$210,662	(\$5,538)	-2.56%
ADM. & IMPROVEMENT	\$223,249	\$325,501	\$102,252	45.80%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$204,348	\$212,780	\$8,432	4.13%
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL	\$1,137,046	\$1,295,274	\$158,228	13.9%
PROGRAM (70.2%)	2023-24 BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
INSTRUCTION	\$2,582,406	\$2,623,344	\$40,938	1.59%
SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$1,925,581	\$2,195,993	\$270,412	14.04%
INSTRUCTIONAL MEDIA	\$133,414	\$128,335	(\$5,079)	-3.81%
PUPIL SERVICES	\$514,185	\$538,248	\$24,063	4.68%
TRANSPORTATION	\$619,583	\$472,279	(\$147,304)	-23.77%
COMMUNITY SERVICE	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$3,022,554	\$3,132,863	\$110,309	3.65%
PROGRAM TOTAL	\$8,797,723	\$9,091,062	\$293,339	3.3%
CAPITAL (19.8%)	2023-24 BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
CENTRAL SERVICES	\$614,271	\$665,075	\$50,804	8.27%
REFUND OF TAXES	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0	0.00%
DEBT SERVICE	\$1,567,424	\$1,595,423	\$27,999	1.79%
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	\$291,954	\$297,988	\$6,034	2.07%
CAPITAL TOTAL	\$2,476,149	\$2,560,986	\$84,837	3.4%
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES	\$12,410,918	\$12,947,322	\$536,404	4.32%

ESTIMATED REVENUE

REVENUE TYPE	2023-24 BUDGET	2024-25 PROPOSED	DOLLAR CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
REAL PROPERTY TAX	\$ 3,708,748	\$ 3,832,820	\$ 124,072	3.35%
COMBINED STATE AID	\$ 7,677,892	\$ 7,735,379	\$ 57,487	0.75%
OTHER	\$ 624,278	\$ 879,123	\$ 254,845	40.82%
FUND BALANCE	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ -	0.00%
DEBT SERVICE TRANSFER	\$ 250,000	\$ 350,000	\$ 100,000	40.00%
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 12,410,918	\$ 12,947,322	\$ 536,404	4.32%

Madison Central School and Brookfield Central School present....

DISNEY'S

THE LITTLE MERMAID

Two schools under one sea!

On March 22nd and 23rd, the Madison and Brookfield Central School Districts teamed up to present Disney's "The Little Mermaid." Led by Alex Palese and Jona Snyder, the blended ensemble cast and crew was brilliant across two performances of this bright and humorous musical adaptation of the classic animated film. This year's performance also featured a live orchestra, which has not been a feature in recent MCS musicals.

We'd like to thank all who supported this production by attending, participating or sponsoring.

Use this QR Code with your mobile device for a copy of the program!



NEWS AND NOTES

3RD MARKING PERIOD HONORS ANNOUNCED

Madison, NY - Madison Central School is pleased to announce that 74 students in grades 6-12 have earned academic honors for the third marking period of the 2023-24 academic year. 28 students received high honor roll status for the quarter after achieving an overall average of 94 or higher, while an additional 46 students secured honor roll commendations for an average between 88.0 and 93.9.

Leading the way once more was the Class of 2024 with 24 total students recognized. Meanwhile, the Class of 2026 saw a sharp increase in recognition this quarter with 11 students recognized. That total is up from four in the second marking period.

The full roster of students earning these honors is below.

High Honor Roll

12th: Mackenzie Cotter, Grace Lutke, Camryn Parmon, Molly Eastman, Ayden Zbock, Emily Turcotte, Isabella Champion, Kyle Cucci, Kyle Peavey, Lauren Zehr, Danika Curtis, Simarah Samson Davall, Mackenzie Moyer

11th: Janet Coleman, Kendra Winterton, Xavier Jones

10th: Emma Bergeron

9th: Madelyn Hill, Lillian Reichert, Lucas Neff, Lillian Kazlauskas, Andrew Cameron

8th: Elijah Zbock

7th: Nicholas Lollman, Ryan Gallagher, Liam Nolan

6th: Austin Croniser, Kenleigh Winterton

Honor Roll

12th: Andrew Nichols, Emma Godfrey, Malloy Brouillette, Max Sykes, Daniel Kazlauskas, Colin Pittman, Michael McBride, McKenzie LaMunion, Summer Butler, Rylee Loucks, Ashley Soule

11th: Catherine McBride, Matilyn Hackett

10th: Matthew Post, Kyra King, Taylor Phillips, Gibeli Jimenez-Ramirez, Reagan Kitchen, Deverey Livermore, Samantha Soule, Alexis Werner, Alexandra Parmon, Keyara Nichols

9th: Blake Butler, Jeremiah Rutkowski, Myia Liberatore, Bianca DeFazio, Alexis Peck, EmmaLee Mullenax, Lewis Joslyn, Garrett Weaver

8th: Zackery Kirley, Novalee Foster, Alexis Rundle, Alyssa Braun

7th: Arlo Brouillette, Alexis Stanfield, Jacob Powers, Nicole Gage, Lana Pisiak, Brayden Young

6th: Jacob Turk, Johnny D'Imperio, Avery Gallagher, Miranda Liebel, Andilynn Staring

10 INDUCTED INTO NTHS



The Madison Central School District is pleased to announce that ten members of the Class of 2024 have been inducted to the Madison-Oneida BOCES chapter of the National Technical Honor Society. The honor was made official in a ceremony held on Wednesday, March 27th at the Vernon Verona Sherrill High School Auditorium.

NTHS is an honor society recognizing exceptional student achievement in career and technical education. To be eligible for membership, students must maintain a minimum 3.0 grade point average in their CTE program and their high school. Accepted members must also participate in extracurricular activities at BOCES and/or their home school, demonstrate exceptional character, and carry the endorsement of their CTE teacher. They must also exemplify and uphold the NTHS values, consisting of knowledge, skill, honesty, service, responsibility, scholarship, citizenship, and leadership. NTHS membership is a distinction achieved by less than five percent of CTE students nationwide.

Madison's representatives were part of a historic induction class for the MOBOCES Chapter. The Chapter inducted a record 146 new members, and for the first time, every senior-level Career and Technical Education program had an inductee recognized in the same ceremony.

The occasion was also special for one member of the Madison Central School community. Richard Engelbrecht, a 1963 graduate of Madison, was honored by the chapter with an honorary lifetime membership. Engelbrecht is the current MOBOCES Board of Education President and has represented Madison on the board for over 50 years. He started his time on the MOBOCES Board in 1972 and was on the Madison Central School District Board of Education prior to his current post.

Congratulations to the following students on their induction!

Mackenzie Cotter – Allied Health Partnership
 Simarah Samson Davall – Automotive Collision Repair
 Charles Jordan, Shawn Murray & Maxwell Sykes – Conservation
 McKenzie LaMunion & Rylee Loucks – Equine & Animal Science
 Malloy Brouillette – HVAC
 Olivia Crane – New Visions Advanced Health Science
 Lauren Zehr – Cosmetology

Six make Spring All-County



The Madison Central School Music Department is pleased to congratulate its six participants in the MCMEA Spring All County Festival. The Festival was held from March 15th to March 17th at Vernon Verona Sherrill.

Elementary ensembles were chosen by teacher recommendation. The Middle School and High School ensembles were selected via a comprehensive audition process that requires students to prepare a solo piece to perform in front of an adjudicator.

Andilynn Staring, Nataleigh Godfrey, and Brandon Cudak (not pictured) were in the Elementary All-County Band.

Madison was represented by Alexis Rundle in the Middle School All-County Choir.

In the High School All-County Choir, Grace Lutke and Mackenzie Cotter made the cut after successful auditions. Congratulations!

Ninth Graders Go On Immersive History Field Trip



Mrs. Collins recently took her ninth grade English students on an exciting local history field trip. The group toured some fascinating local sites that have shaped the course of American history.

The day began at the Oneida Community Mansion House for a tour of the premises. The mansion housed one of the nation's most interesting and peculiar religious utopian societies beginning in 1848, and it lasted just over 30 years. At its height, the community had over 300 members. The community had social norms that were very different from the norms of the time, and grew to have a very complex bureaucracy overseeing its activities. It had a growing industrial influence over the years, making products such as hunting traps and silverware. When the community dissolved, the businesses carried on under one of the nation's first joint-stock companies. You know it today as Oneida LTD.

After the mansion, the group enjoyed lunch at the Peterboro General Store. They went on to tour the Gerrit Smith Estate and the Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum. Smith was born in Utica before it was incorporated as a city, was the first-ever valedictorian at Hamilton College, and went on to become a major political figure and abolitionist. His home was a well-known stop on the Underground Railroad, and students got to see a barn that was regularly used to house people as part of that operation. At the Abolition Hall of Fame and Museum, the students learned more about abolitionists, how they supported slaves in their pursuit of freedom, and how Peterboro became the unofficial capital of the Abolition movement in America.

The trip tied into the class's local history research project that they have been working on over the past few months.

Winterton Receives REV Theater Co. Echoes Award



The Madison Central School District is pleased to announce that sixth grader Kenleigh Winterton has been selected as a featured writer in the 2024 REV Theatre Company Echoes program.

Winterton was recognized for her submission, a short story entitled "The Winter I Felt Alone."

The Echoes program is one of the largest writing competitions for Middle School students in the United States. Students across New York State submit approximately 4,000 pieces to the company for consideration each year. From those 4,000 pieces, a few dozen are selected to be incorporated into the script of an original 50 minute production.

The program starts in the Fall with a classroom workshop taught by one of the company's actors. After that presentation, students have the option to work on a submission independently. Winterton completed her story in October and felt the decision to put an entry together was an easy one.

"Writing is my favorite," Winterton said. "I just do it for fun."

The story took approximately one day to write. Once the work is submitted, it becomes part of a lengthy and thorough review process among thousands of talented writers.

Months of review and preparation build the anticipation for an exciting reveal when the event goes on tour. On March 25th, that tour came to Madison and Winterton learned she was one of the winners in front of her peers. She was recognized by the company's actors on stage and received a plaque and certificate.

For teacher Kelly Diehl, the honor is a reflection of the example Kenleigh sets in class each day.

"She's phenomenal at everything she does," Diehl said. "She's a great role model for the other students and an inspiration for her classmates."

In recent years, getting recognized by REV has been somewhat of a family affair for the Wintertons. Kenleigh's older sister, Kendra, was the recipient of the Best Overall Submission award for the 2020-21 academic year as an eighth grader. Kendra is now a junior at MCS.

Eight Picked to CCL Hoops All-Stars

MADISON, NY - The Madison Central School District is pleased to announce that eight Blue Devil student-athletes have been selected to the 2023-24 Central Counties League Basketball All-Star Teams. The honors were released by the league following surveys of the league's coaches.

The Madison girls' basketball program received five selections on this year's list, while the boys' basketball team notched three selections. Both squads advanced to the Section III Quarterfinals this season. The girls' program won the Central Counties League championship and finished with a final overall record of 13-9. The boys' program achieved a final overall record of 12-10 and landed in third place in the Central Counties League.

Headlining Madison's honorees was senior Camryn Parmon, who was voted the CCL's Most Valuable Player in girls' basketball. Parmon averaged 10.1 points per game and is seventh among all Section III players through the end of Sectional Tournament play with 242 rebounds. She logged ten double-double performances this season, and scored in double figures fourteen times. Through March 5th, her 71 blocked shots ranked third among all Section III performers. She also received first team honors.

Joining Parmon on the girls' first team was senior classmate Mackenzie Cotter. Cotter averaged 7 points per game to rank sixth in the league, and was also second among CCL performers with 56 steals. She ranked fourth in the league in field goal percentage.

The boys' squad was led by first team selection Jacob Burns. The dynamic junior guard averaged 15 points per game to set the pace for the Blue Devils and stand third in the Central Counties League in scoring average, and his 90 total assists led the league this year.

The Blue Devil programs secured a total of four second team selections with two from each squad.

For the Madison girls, seniors McKenzie LaMunion and Lauren Zehr were named to the second team. LaMunion averaged 5.3 points per game and shot over 30 percent from the field. Her 136 rebounds ranked fifth in the CCL. Zehr's 27 assists were good for third in the CCL, and she was fifth in the league in steals. She demonstrated tremendous versatility with 4.7 points per game and 87 total rebounds.

For the MCS boys, second team honors went to the frontcourt tandem of senior Malloy Brouillette and sophomore Justin LaMunion. Brouillette logged five double-doubles en route to an average of 8.9 points per game and 177 rebounds. LaMunion averaged 9.7 points per game and hauled in 137 rebounds. He finished the season with 39 blocked shots.

Finally, senior Camryn Stanfield was picked as an honorable mention all-star in girls' basketball. Stanfield was a terrific rebounding guard with 73 rebounds and she produced 54 steals to rank fourth in the Central Counties League. Stanfield averaged 5.0 points per game and came up huge in the postseason with a career-high 16 points in the team's first round game against Stockbridge Valley.



MCS Scholar-Athletes Recognized

The Madison Central School District is pleased to announce that thirteen winter varsity student-athletes and one winter sports team have been recognized by the New York State Public High School Athletic Association for their academic achievements as part of the Association's Winter Scholar-Athlete awards.

The awards recognize high levels of academic commitment while competing in a varsity-level sport.

To achieve team honors, at least 75 percent of a team's roster must achieve an overall average of 90 or above during the season. The girls' varsity basketball team was able to achieve this. Award qualifiers from the team were Janet Coleman, Mackenzie Cotter, McKenzie LaMunion, Catherine McBride, Camryn Parmon and Lauren Zehr.

An additional seven Madison student-athletes were recognized with individual honors. Individual honors are awarded to deserving student-athletes not on a qualifying team who have an average of 90 or above during the season. Athletes from three Madison athletic programs are represented among that group. They are:

Boys Basketball:

Malloy Brouillette

Lucas Neff

Andrew Nichols

Game Day Cheer:

Danika Curtis

Molly Eastman

Emily Turcotte

Wrestling:

Kyle Peavey

Wrestling Season Wrapup

Three student athletes from the Madison Central School District had a successful season with the Morrisville-Eaton boys' varsity wrestling team. The season concluded for the Blue Devil trio after the Section III Division II Championship held on Saturday, February 10th at SRC Arena in Syracuse.

Senior Kyle Peavey polished off an accomplished interscholastic career with a sixth place finish on the Section III Division II podium at 145 pounds. In prior weeks, he was third at the Section III Class D tournament, and also placed second in the Center State Conference tournament in his weight class. He finished his senior season with a record of 35 wins and 13 losses. 21 of his victories came by way of pinfall.

During his career, he placed on four consecutive Section III Class D podiums, and also landed a medal spot in the last two Section III Division II Championships. He is also a three time Center State Conference runner-up. He will finish with 112 career wins.

Alongside Peavey, senior Shawn Murray also represented Madison and Morrisville-Eaton at the Section III Division II Championships. Murray went 1-2 at the tournament in the 138 lb. classification. He was the Section III Class D runner-up at 138 lbs., and has landed in the top 3 of that tournament on three occasions, including his 2020 Class D title at 106 lbs. Murray wraps up his career with 71 wins, with 50 coming by way of pinfall.

The two seniors were joined on this year's varsity squad by ninth grader Davin Peck. He collected 15 wins this season and secured fifth at the Center State Conference Tournament. Through two seasons on the varsity squad, Peck has won 27 matches and has won 12 by pinfall.

Finding Her Voice

Like many students her age, Olivia Crane didn't consider herself to be big on public speaking growing up. With one courageous leap into the arena of competition and two years of experience to draw upon, it's safe to say that reputation has changed. On Saturday, April 27th, Crane advanced in the Optimist International Oratorical Contest by taking first place at the New York/New England District Championships held in New Hartford.

Crane prevailed against nine other high school students from around the region, and ensures her a spot in the regional round at the Optimist International Oratorical Contest World Championship weekend to be held from July 17th to 19th in St. Louis, Missouri. The long-running competition is rich in history as it approaches its 100th anniversary in a few years' time.

Crane will be the first student to represent the Madison Optimist Club at that event. Her win also secured \$2,500 in scholarship money, which she will use to pursue studies in the Health Science program at Mohawk Valley Community College in the Fall. With her education, she hopes to become a Registered Nurse.

The win is the latest triumph on a fulfilling personal journey that began last year. In 2023, she advanced out of the Madison contest as the runner-up, refined her speech to win the Zone competition, and ended up third in the District Championship.

The journey began in early February 2024 as Madison students presented classroom speeches. This year's theme, "How to Change the World with Optimism", brought out the best in several students who applied their own personal experiences to create dynamic and interesting speeches that are 4 to 5 minutes in length.

With a heartfelt reflection on how to spread a positive mindset and a year's experience in tow, Crane was eager to rise above the challenge and take the next two steps on the District podium. She won the school-level competition among a dozen of her peers on February 29th and won the Zone contest for a second straight year before her district victory.

For Crane, a steadfast commitment to live her message has been the key to her success.

"Although getting up in front of a crowd is scary, I remember to tell myself that someone else is going to walk out feeling inspired and motivated," Crane said. "To me, that is beyond rewarding. That is why I'm doing this. My speech was never supposed to be about me, it's about the listener. It's about how life is such a beautiful gift, and how there is no better way to live it than to be kind."

As for the next step, she's excited to put her best effort on a global stage while seeing what her competition from around the world has to offer.

"It feels so daunting, yet unreal," Crane said. "I'm really looking forward to hearing the other speeches, and seeing the talent that brought them to Missouri, just as it brought me. This is such a huge achievement for me, and I am so unbelievably proud to represent Madison Central."



MADE In Madison

Will Cotter '76 Starts Cooking Up His Next Chapter



Stop us if you've heard this story before, but Will Cotter is retiring. You may have heard that story eight years ago, when the longtime executive chef at the White Eagle Conference Center hung up his apron after 30 years, but he had another story to write yet on his culinary odyssey.

That story brought him back to where his career in the Culinary Arts began: Madison Central School, where he has served as cook manager for the last eight years. When he was in school, Cotter worked washing dishes. He began his 48 year professional culinary career working just down the road at the Colgate Inn. He ascended through the ranks at the Inn before heading southward. His goal? Make his way from state to state and learn what he could at each place he worked heading down the coast.

In a way, he got there, but the route was far more drastic than gradual.

For about eight years, Cotter settled in Southwestern Pennsylvania where he worked in a variety of settings including country clubs. He had the privilege of working directly under a certified master chef who was also an experimental chef with the Heinz Corporation. He also worked in a four-star restaurant owned by the highly influential Mellon Family. He became certified with the American Culinary Association, took some classes at the Culinary Institute of America, and headed south to Florida, where he continued to work on the country club circuit in places like Innisbrook, which is currently a host course on the PGA Tour.

Eventually, he came home to Oriskany Falls to live the dream of opening his own restaurant, called the Cassety House. That led into his long career at the White Eagle Conference Center, and his present role we know today. As Cafeteria Manager, Cotter has updated the logistics of his cafeteria lines to help traffic flow faster. He also updated the menus to include a wider variety of foods like paninis and different types of pizza and local favorites like chicken riggies.

For Will, the food has been a focus, but working with the students has been at the center of the plate.

"I love taking care of the kids," Cotter said. "I have a lot of fun with the kids, and I love making them happy."

In June, Will will have a second MCS graduation of sorts - as an employee and parent - alongside his daughter Mackenzie, who is the Class of 2024 Valedictorian. He will remain on through the summer months to oversee the Summer Nutrition Program, before handing over the chef's hat to his successor.

While he is headed off to a well-deserved retirement from his culinary career, don't assume Will is slowing down. He has farmland, and also enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. Coupled with family time, a busy retirement will be on the menu.

PURPLE UP!

For Month of the Military Child

On Wednesday, April 17th, there was a plethora of purple blanketing the hallways as MCS celebrated "Purple Up Day" in recognition of April as the "Month of the Military Child." Throughout the day, it was our pleasure to host some of our military parents for classroom visits. We are proud to have some incredible military families in our district whose sacrifices do not go unnoticed among us. They face some challenges that go along with having a loved one in a military career, and they do it all with grace and resolve each day.



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