



Tiger TRADITIONS

Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!

Graduation 2023 Volume 28 • Issue 4

Congratulations CLASS OF 2023



MORE GRADUATION PHOTOS ON PAGE 2

For district information including a calendar of events, MACS Board of Education meeting dates and times, contact information and more, visit the district website at

www.mexicocsd.org



A message from the Superintendent

Dear MACS School Family and Community,



Congratulations to the Class of 2023! These students traversed a path that was unlike any other, marked by unprecedented challenges and unforeseen circumstances. Two-thirds through their first year in high school, the world was gripped by a pandemic that would shape the rest of their educational experience. This group of scholars not only started their educational journey with COVID-19 but also

overcame its impact with resilience, determination and unwavering spirit.

As we end another school year, I want to express my gratitude and share my excitement for the future. First, I want to extend my appreciation to our incredible students. Your achievements, both in and outside the classroom, have made us immensely proud, and we look forward to witnessing your continued success in the coming year.

To our outstanding educators and staff members, thank you for your unwavering dedication to our students' growth and well-being. Your tireless efforts to provide education have made a profound impact on the lives of our students. Your passion and commitment drive our district's success, and I am deeply grateful for your hard work.

I would also like to express my gratitude to our parents and guardians. Your support and collaboration have been invaluable. We recognize your significant role in your children's education and value your partnership in the learning process.

Looking to the fall, our district remains committed to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive. We will continue to invest in the professional development of our educators, ensuring that they have the tools and resources they need to deliver high-quality instruction. We will continue to use the ARP Stimulus funds to offer additional academic supports to decrease noted

learning gaps and offer summer enrichment opportunities for our students. We will also use those funds to purchase supplies and make some needed repairs to the facilities. You can read more about the use of those funds on the district website and participate this summer in a Thought Exchange to share ideas. Our collaboration with ConnexCare allows us to offer medical and dental services for all our students at two sites, the Middle School and Mexico Elementary. Please go to our website or call your child's school for more information on how to enroll.

We will also focus on nurturing our students' social and emotional well-being. As we continue to partner with Liberty Resources, we plan to expand to New Haven Elementary and fully staff the other locations. Collaboration and open communication will remain at the heart of our efforts as we strive to build strong connections between our schools, families and the community.

Let us celebrate the achievements we have made together. Let us cherish the bonds we have forged. The new school year promises new opportunities, fresh beginnings, and continued growth. Together we will confidently navigate the future, knowing that our district is built on a solid foundation of collaboration, dedication and unwavering support.

I wish you all a safe, relaxing and peaceful summer. Take this time to recharge and rejuvenate; we have an exciting journey ahead!

Respectfully,

Donna Runner

Dr. Donna Runner
Superintendent

ThoughtExchange
for Stimulus Funding



SCAN ME!



Congratulations CLASS OF 2023



Champs! Mexico wins OCAY League title for '22-23

Students from Oswego County school districts recently competed in the fourth and final Oswego County Academic Youth League competition of the 2022-23 school year; with Mexico Academy & Central Schools taking first place and snagging league champions of the season.

"It's all Fun and Games" was the theme of the final event; each team was responsible for competing in four different, timed activities as well as a fifth closure activity: Trivia, The Price is Right (math), a Chromebook Challenge (literature), Who What Where? (geography, history, science) and Puzzle Mania.

The first-place Mexico winning team was comprised of members Ethan Becker, Ainsley Bigelow, Sarah Marsden, William Mills, Payton Seator, Matthew Shaffer and Anna Trimble.

OCAY League was organized in the spring of 1997 with the idea that academics merit a standing comparable to athletics. Students' academic skills are challenged and showcased in a wide variety of competitive events that emphasize scholastic excellence, team building, leadership and creativity. OCAY League is coordinated through the Center for Instruction, Technology & Innovation's gifted and talented program.



Proud to be MACS

Kim Holliday
Principal | Mexico Middle School
April 2023

Jessica Ardizzone
Bus Monitor | Transportation Dept
May 2023

The Board of Education recognizes staff monthly throughout the school year as nominated by their peers for going above and beyond. Nominations can be made at <https://www.mexicocsd.org/PTBMnominations>

MACS honors Top 100 students

Mexico High School celebrated its top academic students from each grade during its 16th annual Top 100 Dinner on June 5.

This annual tradition at Mexico Academy & Central School District celebrates the top 25 students from its freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes with a dinner and awards ceremony for the scholars and their families.

In addition, 16 members of the senior class of 2023 were honored for being in the top 25 for all four years of high school.

The ceremony featured English teacher Joseph Deckman as master of ceremonies along with remarks from High School Principal James Busco and MACS assistant superintendents Elizabeth DiCosimo and Colleen Root.



CLASS OF 2023



CLASS OF 2024



CLASS OF 2025



CLASS OF 2026

MACS says thank you to nearly 450 years of retiree service

Retirees recognized at the June Board of Education meeting totaled 449 years of service to the Mexico Academy & Central School District. In all, 18 distinguished staff members were honored with their name read in front of the gathered crowd of families, friends and well-wishers.

The list of 2022-23 MACS retirees are as follows: Alicia Archer, Timothy Barnes, James Busco, Michelle Bush, William Cook, Brian DeLola, Heidi Hess, Kathrun LaDuc, Phillip Laux, Michael Johst, Bonnie Krisak, Karlene Krzyewski, Dawn Smith, Margaret Scorzelli, Maureen Spath, Jeffrey Stevens, Daniel Webster and Kathy Yost.

Happy RETIREMENT

Timothy Barnes
Grounds Worker | 21 Years

Daniel Webster
Bus Driver | 26 Years

William Cook
Bus Driver | 35 Years

Jeffrey Stevens
Bus Driver | 20 Years

Dawn Smith
Teacher Aide | 15 Years

Karlene Krzyewski
Teacher Assistant | 25 Years

Alicia Archer
Teacher | 34 Years

Michelle Bush
Teacher | 35 Years

Brian DeLola
Teacher | 29 Years

Heidi Hess
Teacher | 22 Years

Michael Johst
Teacher | 24 Years

Bonnie Krisak
Teacher | 35 Years

Kathryn LaDuc
Teacher | 28 Years

Phillip Laux
Bus Driver - Hourly | 11 Years

Maureen Spath
Teacher | 36 Years

Margaret Scorzelli
Principal | 16 Years

James Busco
Principal | 20 Years

Kathy Yost
Senior Typist | 17 Years



Alumni Banquet connects decades of MACS grads

The 197th MACS Alumni Banquet was held mid-June, bringing together Mexico Academy & Central School District graduates from as far back as the 1940s all the way to the class of 2023 for the annual celebratory gathering.

This year's celebration was held June 17 at The Eis House in Mexico and was open to not just alumni but family, friends and general supporters of MACS.

Following a social hour, officers from the alumni association led the program which featured the class of 2023's Cali Hopp and Avery Oakes. In addition, class of 2023 scholarship winners were recognized, Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner offered remarks and there was one combined induction into the MACS Hall of Fame.

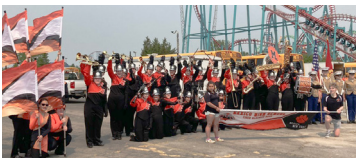
This year, MACS inducted longtime district and community supporters Alice and Eddie Nykaza, who owned Eddie's Big M (now Tops) and offered numerous opportunities to students and alumni.

The 2024 alumni banquet will be held Saturday, June 22, at The Eis House.



Music to our ears

Photos from our MACS Music Department year-end concerts and events - our student-musicians rock!



MACS earns Best Community for Music Education distinction



For the 11th time, Mexico Academy & Central School District has been named a Best Community for Music Education, awarded by The NAMM Foundation to recognize districts that demonstrate outstanding achievement in efforts to provide music access and education to all students.

To qualify for this award, MACS reported information about funding, graduation requirements, music class participation, instruction time, facilities, support for the music program and community music-making programs. That data was then verified by district officials and reviewed by The Music Research Institute at the University of Kansas.

“District and community-wide, we are fervent supporters of the arts and this fabulous honor hammers home that fact,” said MACS Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner. “We are so proud of our staff and student-musicians for all their efforts and hard work; this award wouldn’t be possible without everything they do.”

This year, MACS was among just 830 districts nationwide who received this distinction from the NAMM Foundation.

The NAMM Foundation’s Best Communities for Music Education Award and the state level implementation of the federal ESSA law bring attention to the importance of keeping music education part of curriculum offerings and available to all students.

It also highlights music’s vital role in students’ overall success in school and the personal benefits of making music.



Mexico’s curriculum offers music instruction for kindergarten through eighth grade, instrumental music for grades 4-12 and choral music for students in grades 3-12. A total of 46% of high school students participate in at least one elective music or art class and the same is true for 55% of middle school students. A total of 71% of elementary students participate in chorus, and 100% of kindergarten through eighth grade students are enrolled in at least one music or art class.

Class of 2035 completes kindergarten, on to first grade

Mexico Elementary School celebrated its kindergarten class and their full year of growth, learning and milestones with a ceremony two days before the end of the school year.

Students in the future Class of 2035 sang several songs, which evidenced some of their learning, before each student was called by their teacher to cross the stage for a certificate in front of a packed crowd filled with onlooking family members.



New Haven fourth-graders ready for Middle School

A packed crowd full of supporters roared for the future MACS Class of 2031 as they officially completed New Haven Elementary School and are bound for Mexico Middle School in the fall.

A number of awards were presented to the classes, including some for success in the classroom, in special areas and for good character. Principal Jennifer Granholm commended the hard work from all of the students and said they will be missed after many years of fond memories.



Mexico Middle School Awards

Mexico Middle School honored students in grades 5-8 during an awards ceremony for each class in the days leading up to the end of the school year. Students received honors for their hard work in the classroom, extracurricular activities, band and

chorus and also their good character traits observed by staff. Principal Kimberly Holliday congratulated each group on their success and dedication in 2022-23.

FIFTH GRADE



SIXTH GRADE



SEVENTH GRADE



EIGHTH GRADE



Hooray for UPK! Kindergarten, we're on our way!



The first full-day cohort of universal pre-kindergarten (UPK) has crossed the finish line and is headed for kindergarten in the fall.

Students from Palermo Elementary School rejoiced during their moving up celebration for the UPK students who have spent all year learning the basics and getting used to the routine of school every day. Palermo UPK students sang songs and

enjoyed a slideshow with their guests in attendance.

During UPK, students have instructional time, special areas, lunch and a nap to give the students an earlier start in the classroom and social setting, which has been proven beneficial in a number of studies. Full-day UPK is available in all three of our elementary schools: Mexico, New Haven and Palermo.



Ingersoll, LaParr take top honors at MACS Block M Awards for 2023

Top scholar-athletes for the Mexico Tigers were honored during the annual Block M Awards, held in the Mexico High School auditorium to celebrate each team's successes, most valuable players and to present special awards.

MACS had a number of student-athletes reach the state qualifier and state level, with one girls wrestler, Renee Kinikin, winning a state championship. A number of teams also qualified for the Section III playoffs and nearly every team earned academic honors for hard work in the classroom.

"I would like to challenge each of you as you go forward to next year and beyond in your life to not be afraid to take the shot at the game of life," said Mexico Athletic Director Andy Gates. "Chase down your dreams as you move forward and remember that there will be minor failures amongst your life's journey. In those moments it is important to be resilient and keep taking that game-winning shot."

This year's banquet was held Wednesday, June 7, in Mexico High School's Avery Skinner Auditorium.

Coaches and special guests then took to the podium and gave out scholarships, awards and recognition to more than three dozen student-athletes. Each coach took time to talk about their team's successes both on and off the field, and the qualities and traits of their MVPs.

The Lawrence Sparky Rector Athletes of the Year Award, given out last to the most outstanding athletes during the school year, went to Anyssia Ingersoll and Jackson LaParr.

Lawrence "Sparky" Rector Athletes of the Year

Anyssia Ingersoll and Jackson LaParr

Janice Clark Memorial Award

Grace O'Gorman and Alexa von Holtz

Linda Beyer-Shoults Memorial Scholarship

Adria Ariola

Jared R.K. Gates Scholarship Award

Renee Kinikin

Edward Albright Memorial Scholarship

Adria Ariola and Lilly Duschen

Brian Ariola Award

Aiden Bartlett

Charles Giovo II Award

Adria Ariola and Andrew Harriger

Wally Sutliff Memorial Award

Gabriel Fox and Renee Kinikin

Charles Giovo Sportsmanship Award

Jacob Gates and Ella McCoy

Cross Country MVPs

Aubrey Herrington and Daniel Gagnier

Football MVPs

Dawson Cory and Hunter Lasinski

Boys Soccer MVP

Brennen McQuown and Jacob Poissant

Girls Soccer MVPs

Adria Ariola and Grace O'Gorman

Fall Cheerleading MVP

Brianna Coe and Alyssa Webster

Girls Swimming and Diving MVPs

Chelsea Hitzschke (Diving) and Alexa von Holtz (Swimming)

Girls Tennis MVP

Juliana Smith

Boys Golf MVP

Hunter Hall

Girls Volleyball MVP

Anyssia Ingersoll

Girls Basketball MVP

Anyssia Ingersoll

Boys Basketball MVP

Jackson LaParr

Winter Cheerleading MVP

Harley Potter

Boys Swimming and Diving MVPs

Andrew Harriger (Diving) and William Mills (Swimming)

Indoor Track and Field MVPs

Aiden Barriger, Ethan Becker, Morgan Bechtel and Madison Poissant

Boys Wrestling MVP

Kyren Stock

Girls Wrestling MVP

Renee Kinikin

Baseball MVP

Brayden Mack and Carter Robert

Softball MVPs

Hailey Comstock and Kylee Urquhart

Boys Tennis MVP

Owen Marsden

Outdoor Track and Field MVPs

Adria Ariola, Grace O'Gorman, Everett Bryant and Jackson LaParr

Lacrosse MVPs

Anyssia Ingersoll

Weight Training MVP

Nico Murabito

BOARD OF EDUCATION

James Emery - *President*
 Darlene Upcraft - *Vice President*
 Chad Bigelow
 Dennis Brooks
 Amy Shaw
 Susan Teifke
 Sobrina Vazquez
 Ethan Becker - *Student Representative*

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

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KIDS EAT *Free* THIS SUMMER

FREE Breakfast and Lunch for Kids 18 and Under

MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL

TUESDAY, JULY 5 - FRIDAY, AUGUST 18, 2023

BREAKFAST 8:15-9:15AM

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Assorted Breakfast Items Juice/Fruit Milk | Cereal Bar Juice/Fruit Milk | Muffin Top Juice/Fruit Milk | Pop-Tart® Juice/Fruit Milk | Assorted Breakfast Items Juice/Fruit Milk |

We must comply with all Summer Feeding Child Nutrition Guidelines.

Children must take at least 3 of the 4 components offered. The 4 components are protein, grain, fruit, and milk.

LUNCH 11:00-12:00PM

| MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|--|---|--|--|
| Hamburger a Bun Baked Beans Assorted Fruit Milk | Fish Sticks on a Bun Steamed Corn Assorted Fruit Milk | Hot Dog in a Bun Steamed Carrots Assorted Fruit Milk | Egg and Cheese Sandwich Steamed Broccoli Assorted Fruit Milk | Pizza Green Beans Assorted Fruit Milk |

Daily choice of the menu entrée or Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwich. Menu subject to change. Adults may purchase a complete meal for \$5.25.

We must comply with all Summer Feeding Child Nutrition guidelines. Children must take at least 3 of the 5 components offered.

The 5 components are protein, grain, fruit, vegetable, and milk.

Upcoming Events

- July 20:** BOE Business Meeting, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.
- Aug. 10:** BOE Workshop, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.
- Aug. 17:** BOE Business Meeting, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.
- Aug. 19:** Varsity football begins
- Aug. 21:** Rest of varsity/JV sports begin
- Aug. 23:** Stuff-A-Bus Donation Collection, Kinney's Mexico
- Aug. 25:** Stuff-A-Bus Supply Giveaway, MMS Gym, 8 a.m. (while supplies last)
- Aug. 24 & 28:** UPK/Kindergarten Screening
- Aug. 28:** Grades 7-9 Modified football begins
- Aug. 30:** UPK/Kindergarten Orientation, All Buildings
- Aug. 31:** BOE Business Meeting, DO Boardroom, 6 p.m.
- Sept. 4:** Labor Day – NO SCHOOL
- Sept. 5:** Welcome Back Staff/Staff Development Day – NO SCHOOL for students
- Sept. 6:** *First Day of Classes UPK-12*
- Sept. 6:** All other fall modified sports begin
- Sept. 7, 8 & 11:** Bus Safety Drills
- Sept. 8:** ME PTO Welcome Back Picnic, 5-7 p.m.

von Holtz earns All-CNY honors

Senior Alexa von Holtz, who has swam for the varsity girls swimming and diving program since seventh grade, was honored at the end of June at the All-CNY high school sports awards. She earned All-CNY Swimmer of the Year recognition at the ceremony, held by Syracuse.com, in late June. As one of the top high school swimmers in

New York, von Holtz represented the Tigers at the state meet once again this year and came away with two high finishes. She finished fourth in the 200 individual medley and sixth in the 100-yard butterfly.

Beginning in the fall, von Holtz will attend Ball State University and swim for its NCAA Division I program.

