



# Tiger TRADITIONS

*Inspiring Excellence and Leadership in All!*

July/August 2022 Volume 28 • Issue 1

## Congratulations CLASS OF 2022



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](http://www.mexicocsd.org)





# A message from the Superintendent

Dear MACS School Family and Community,



Another successful year is in the books for Mexico Academy & Central School District! Congratulations to the class of 2022!

We are proud of your achievements and look

forward to the great things you will accomplish as you head out to change the world.

I am excited to share a few items about opportunities for our students, future plans and other notes I felt important to share with our community.

### ConnexCare available to all students

With our partner, ConnexCare, this past year we were able to open an additional site at Mexico Elementary for school-based health care. That site serves both Mexico High School and the elementary building in the village. Both the Mexico Elementary and the Middle School sites serve Palermo and New Haven Elementary students, so 100 percent of our students have access to this healthcare option.

### Full-day UPK

For the 2022-23 school year, we are proud to finally provide full-day Universal pre-kindergarten classes at each of our elementary schools. Full-day UPK has long been a goal for the members of our Board of Education.

### Expanding Liberty Resources

I am also happy to note we are expanding our partnership with Liberty Resources, with more staff at the high school and adding Palermo Elementary as a location for them to support our students and families.

### Building Condition Survey

We are currently collaborating with our architects to complete a Building Condition Survey to review all our facilities and prioritize repairs and improvements for the coming years.

### Grant funds: CARES, CRRSA, ARP

We have been the recipient of grant funds through the CARES, CRRSA and ARP acts which offered districts the opportunity to apply for money to offset some of the costs associated with the pandemic and help eliminate learning gaps created by COVID-19.

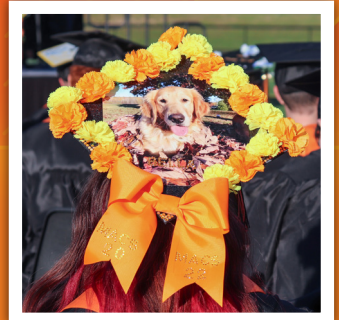
Using those funds, we were able to replace an air handler and a gas line at Mexico Elementary, as well as complete a lead remediation project in the district. We used some of those funds to purchase personal protective equipment and to hire an additional nurse and a COVID coordinator. We have also purchased many classroom resources and are hiring additional staff to intensively support our students for the next two years. These additional funds allow us to address concerns in student outcomes without causing an undue burden on our general funding budget. You can find specifics regarding the grant funds on the district website.

I am looking forward to opening of schools in September as we continue to educate and motivate our students to be successful, responsible citizens. Thank you for the opportunity to serve this school family and community.

Respectfully,

*Donna Runner*

**Dr. Donna Runner**  
**Superintendent**



## Congratulations CLASS OF 2022





## Craig, Cuyler honored as top two of Class of 2022



Mackenzie Craig, Valedictorian

Mackenzie Craig was named MACS valedictorian for the class of 2022 while Kendall Cuyler earned salutatorian honors.

Mexico High School Principal James Busco spoke highly of the distinguished duo, noting both work extremely hard in the classroom and outside.

“Both are wonderful examples not only of wonderful students, but outstanding future citizens,” said Busco. “They are both outstanding individuals who, on top of their success in the classroom, have done many extracurricular activities and are leaders who impacted those clubs and teams. Congratulations to you both.”

Mackenzie Craig is the daughter of Jim and Christy Craig, and she will attend Boston College to major

in management and leadership. After graduation, she hopes to fill a finance or accounting role for a company that “works for the greater good of society,” she said.

The valedictorian’s extracurricular activities included class president, National Honor Society president, French Honor Society president, French Club president, Math Honor Society President, English Honor Society, Art Honor Society, New Vision Specialized Careers, Oswego County Academic Youth League, prom committee, varsity soccer, volleyball, indoor track and lacrosse and powderpuff football. Mackenzie attended Mexico Elementary School in her youth.

“My hope for my fellow classmates is that they find purpose in their passions,” Mackenzie said. “If I could only give them one piece of advice, I’d tell them not to take life so seriously. Work hard, be kind, follow your dreams and have some fun along the way.”

Kendall Cuyler is a daughter of Jeffrey and Marlow Cuyler, and she will attend Onondaga Community College to dual major in mathematics and engineering sciences with a minor in world languages and culture. She will play softball at OCC and then plans to transfer to Clarkson University to continue her education.

After graduation, Cuyler would like to use her environmental engineering degree to conduct field tests and analyze local ecosystems to help construction and industrial sites have less of an impact on water and air pollution.

Activities and clubs Cuyler took part in include NYSPHSAA Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Section III Student Athletic Advisory Committee, student representative on the Board of Education, National Honor Society, Math Honor Society, English Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Art Honor Society, Student Senate, Spanish Club, STEAM Club, Yearbook Club, student representative on the district-wide Safety Committee, Friends of Rachel Club, varsity softball, basketball and soccer and travel softball.

Cuyler’s advice to her fellow classmates is, “You may not always be the smartest person in the room, but you should always be the hardest-working!”



Kendall Cuyler, Salutatorian

## MACS honors Top 100 students

The Top 100 Dinner celebrated the top 25 students from each class at Mexico High School on June 6.

Students, families and district officials were on hand to celebrate the honorees, who were called to the stage individually to receive an honor certificate. Members of the senior class were recognized and given a special honor cord to wear during graduation.

Assistant Superintendents Elizabeth DiCosimo and Colleen Root spoke to the group and congratulated them on their hard work, and also made sure the students took time to recognize their parents, teachers and friends’ roles in that success.



**CLASS OF 2022**



**CLASS OF 2023**



**CLASS OF 2024**



**CLASS OF 2025**



## Proud to be MACS

MACS Substitutes, May 2022



The Board of Education honored the district's stalwart and reliable substitute staff as the Proud to be MACS recipient for May.

"Without their willingness to serve as replacements for personnel ranging from buildings and grounds to clerical to faculty to food service to transportation and more, often on a moment's notice — for a day, a week, a month or several months — our ability to serve our students would be greatly hampered," BOE President James Emery said.

District substitutes went through what was a trying year with challenges of COVID restrictions that often changed, but the substitute team powered through.

Palermo Elementary's Debbie Reuter underscored the loyalty of this team by noting they, just like other schools, had a few substitutes who were with them nearly every day and did anything that was needed.

"We have a few subs that are here almost on a daily basis and have stepped in where needed and worn many hats throughout the school day," she wrote.

Emery concluded by thanking the substitutes for their willingness and flexibility to wear many hats and for their incredible reliability.

To view current openings or to apply to become part of the MACS substitute team, visit our website's Human Resources page.

## 650+ years of service honored with 2022 retirees

At the June Board of Education meeting, MACS honored 655 years of service as it celebrated its retirees. Many of those honored had spent at least 20 years serving MACS or other educational institutions.

The list of MACS retirees includes James Ackerman, Daniel Breitbeck, Tim Barnes, Brenda Bristol, Dolores Brooks, Rose Carr, Judy Crisafulli, Margaret Dadey, Kevin Dewey, Jennifer Ferrara, Elaina Hastings-Taylor, Karen Heaphy, Denise Hemingway, Sue Hewitt, Brenda Honebein, Mark Kuehn, Ann Ladd, Sharon Ladd, William Lighthall, Carol Livingston, Charles Patterson, Lynn Rathbun, Deborah Reuter, Cathy Shawcross, Debra Smith, Jeanine Spicer, Richard West and Michelle Whaley.



## Douglas retires from BOE after 9 years of service

Longtime Board of Education member Connie Douglas was honored recently for her nine years of service to the district and community.

Douglas, a MACS alumna herself, was celebrated during her final Board of Education meeting and BOE President James Emery gave a heartfelt thanks on behalf of the board for all her service.

Throughout her years on the board, Douglas said her experience had been overwhelmingly positive and felt the board stayed true to its number one priority: the students.

"The outcomes are incredibly special," said Douglas. "Seeing kids graduate at the end of the day, crossing the stage and having success — that's what it's all about."

While Douglas helped with many things that benefited the district throughout her time on the board, one of her favorite memories was all the work that went into the class of 2020 graduation ceremonies during the height of the pandemic to ensure those students had their time to celebrate their years of hard work. MACS ultimately held several smaller ceremonies throughout the day to ensure students and family members were able to attend.

When asked what advice she might give to anyone interested in running for the Board of Education or entering their first years, she said that learning to compromise and work together is absolutely essential.

"Be open to other people's ideas and where they're coming from," said Douglas. "Sometimes the art of negotiation means not everybody is going to be completely happy, but at least everyone is heard, and we can all agree on an outcome."

MACS thanks Douglas for her years of service and dedication and wishes her all the best in what comes next.





# Garden boxes installed at Mexico Elementary

Tops Friendly Markets, Dole Food Company and The Captain Planet Foundation teamed up to help Mexico Elementary students build new garden boxes.

Not deterred by a little rain, students worked alongside adult volunteers from the companies to install several beds that can be accessed for learning and enrichment activities. Students built the boxes, placed cardboard and fertilizer inside, and then put the plants in.



# Fun had by all at New Haven Play Days

New Haven Elementary School students got out to participate in some extra physical activity and have fun during this year's Play Days.

Each grade level got a chance to take part in some traditional and unique events while also bonding with their fellow classmates in the spirit of camaraderie and friendship.



# Fourth-graders at Palermo ready for middle school

Family, friends and mentors from throughout the years gathered to celebrate the Palermo Elementary fourth-grade students as they enter Mexico Middle School in the fall.

A touching video tribute played to open the ceremony for the future class of 2030 showing the students growing up, and then students received special awards before ascending the stage as a full class together.





## Mexico Middle School Awards

Mexico Middle School held an awards ceremony for all grade levels in the days leading up to the end of the school year. Students were honored for their hard work in the classroom, extracurricular activities, band and chorus, and for their good

character traits. Students received awards and then were photographed as a group, and Principal Kimberly Holliday congratulated everyone on their hard work and dedication throughout the year.



## KIDS EAT *Free* THIS SUMMER

FREE Breakfast and Lunch for Kids 18 and Under

**MEXICO HIGH SCHOOL**  
TUESDAY JULY 5 – FRIDAY AUGUST 19, 2022

### BREAKFAST 8:15-9:15AM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Assorted Breakfast Items Juice or Fruit Milk	Cereal Bar Juice or Fruit Milk	Muffin Top Juice or Fruit Milk	Cereal Juice or Fruit Milk	Assorted Breakfast Items Juice or 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 11:00-12:30PM

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Hamburger a Bun Baked Beans Assorted Fruit Milk	Cheese Quesadilla Steamed Corn Applesauce Milk	BBQ Chicken Sandwich on a Bun Steamed Broccoli Diced Carrots Diced Peaches Milk	Hot Dog in a Bun Steamed Broccoli Diced Peaches Milk	Pizza Green Beans Mixed 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 \$4.25. We must comply with all Summer Feeding Child Nutrition guidelines. Children must take at least 3 of the 5 components. The 5 components are protein, grain, fruit, veg and milk.*

**CALL (315)963-8400 EXT. 5071 IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS.**

# IT'S OKAY *to not be* OKAY



SCAN ME

## REACH OUT FOR HELP, THEY ARE READY TO LISTEN



## Block M Awards 2022

Top scholar-athletes for the Mexico Tigers were honored during the annual Block M Awards, held at the Mexico High School football field to celebrate each team's successes and present special awards.

MACS had several student-athletes reach the state and state-qualifier level, several teams that qualified for the Section III playoffs and nearly every team earned academic honors for their work inside the classroom.

"This year sure has been crazy to say the least, but as I was doing some research and thinking back to the year, I came upon a quote by the famous coach Vince Lombardi," said Mexico Athletic Director Andy Gates as he opened the night. "He stated that 'Perfection is not attainable, but if we chase perfection, we can catch excellence.' I would like to challenge each of you as you move forward to chase perfection,

whether it be in athletics, college, your career, or in whatever areas you strive to be your best."

Coaches and special guests then took the podium and presented awards to more than three dozen student-athletes. Each coach took time to talk about the team's season and triumphs both on and off the field.

The Lawrence Sparky Rector Athletes of the Year Award, given to the most outstanding athletes during the school year, went to seniors Kian Long and Briana Urquhart.

A full list of award-winners is below. To view a full gallery of award-winners, visit the MACS Facebook page at the following link:  
<https://www.facebook.com/MACSpride/posts/5202201669816866>

### Lawrence "Sparky" Rector Athletes of the Year

Briana Urquhart and Kian Long

### Linda Beyer-Shoultz Memorial Scholarship

Kendall Cuyler

### Jared R.K. Gates Scholarship Award

Ryan Gates and Joseph Reed

### Edward Albright Memorial Scholarship

Carolyn Zedack and Kian Long

### Brian Ariola Award

Aiden DeGroff

### Charles Giovo II Award

Carolyn Zedack and Ryan Liedka

### Wally Sutliff Memorial Award

Kendall Cuyler and Calvin Kitzschke

### Charles Giovo Sportsmanship Award

Mackenzie Craig and Edward Sanderson

### Cross Country MVPs

Aubrey Herrington and Daniel Gagnier

### Football MVPs

Ethan West, Mark Hoadley, Jacob Hill

### Boys Soccer MVP

Carter Jock

### Girls Soccer MVPs

Adria Ariola, Grace O'Gorman, Lily Duschen

### Fall Cheerleading MVP

Abigail Crawford

### Girls Swimming and Diving MVPs

Alexa von Holtz, Serena Bardin

### Girls Tennis MVP

Shelby Schumacher

### Boys Golf MVP

Andre Burns

### Girls Volleyball MVP

Emma Lawler

### Girls Basketball MVP

Anyssia Ingersoll

### Boys Basketball MVP

Teajinn Ingersoll

### Winter Cheerleading MVP

Kierstyn Ford

### Boys Swimming and Diving MVPs

Tyler Warner and Kian Long

### Ice Hockey MVP

Codie Mashaw

### Indoor Track and Field MVPs

Adria Ariola, Grace O'Gorman,  
Ethan Becker and Carter Jock

### Wrestling MVP

Joseph Reed

### Baseball MVP

Connor Dubois

### Softball MVPs

Kendall Cuyler and Briana Urquhart

### Boys Tennis MVP

Jacob Hill

### Outdoor Track and Field MVPs

Giana Cutuli, Grace O'Gorman,  
Aden Renfer and Jackson LaParr

### Lacrosse MVPs

Emily Parkhurst, Mackenzie Craig  
and Anyssia Ingersoll

### Weight Training MVP

Payton Nelson





## **BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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

## **SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS**

Dr. Donna Runner  
16 Fravor Road  
Mexico, NY 13114  
315-963-8400 ext. 5401  
www.mexicocsd.org



Mexico Academy & Central School  
16 Fravor Road  
Mexico, NY 13114

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 2  
MEXICO, NY 13114

**Box Holder**

**Local Postal Patron**

## **Educational Foundation continues to give back**

A group that has been helping MACS students since 1996 continues to fundraise and assist with various district and building needs.

Eighteen years ago, then-MACS superintendent Michael Havens envisioned an organization to seek donations from graduates, their families and other community supporters to enhance their institutions. That's when the Mexico Academy Educational Foundation was formed.

James Emery, who is now the president of the Board of Education, championed the cause and volunteered to help establish the organization, which recently helped secure tablets for all pre-K classrooms in the district and has helped fund the installation of things like air conditioning in the past.

The foundation's main job is to raise funds to support the buildings, grounds and educational programming at MACS. The foundation, to which donations can be deducted on federal and state income tax returns, has a board of directors who identify projects that represent the best opportunities to provide a superior education to all children.

To learn more, talk about the foundation or make a donation, their address and phone number is:

### **Mexico Academy Educational Foundation**

40 Academy Street  
Mexico, NY 13114  
315-963-7831

## **Large turnout for Alumni Banquet**

The annual MACS Alumni Banquet and Meeting was held in June at The Eis House in Mexico.

Alumni from decades dating back to the 1940s were present and on-hand for the annual celebration.

Following a social hour, officers from the alumni association led the program which featured singing, an honoring of the class of 2022 scholarship recipients, remarks from Superintendent Dr. Donna Runner and one induction into the MACS Hall of Fame. This year's inductee was alumni and longtime Board of Education member Darlene Upcraft.

The 2023 alumni banquet will be held June 17 at The Eis House.

