

# MACKINAW CITY COMETS

609 West Central Avenue, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 \* 231-436-8211 \* [www.mackcity.k12.mi.us](http://www.mackcity.k12.mi.us)

MARCH 2021

## IMPORTANT DATES

**JUNE 5**

Graduation

**JUNE 8 & 9**

Exams – Noon dismissal

**JUNE 10**

Make-up Exams &

Last day for Elementary-

11a.m. dismissal



As the school year winds down, I want to begin by thanking the community for your continued support of our school. There have been a lot of changes over the past year due to Covid that has impacted the day to day operations and access to the building for the public. It's your support that enabled us to have an extremely successful year. We have been able to offer in person learning for the majority of the school year. When we were in virtual learning, our staff and students were able to have class daily by meeting online. We have made it a priority to provide all of our students Chromebooks, preschool through twelfth grade. We also instituted a new Learning Management System, Schoology. This enabled our students, parents, and teachers to have better access to grades, assignments, attendance, and recorded class lectures.

We are graduating ten students on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Graduation will be in person with seating capacity limited. This year's graduating class has excelled academically. They ranked in the Top 10 in the state for their collective SAT scores. Several will be attending college in Florida, Alabama, and California. The others will be attending colleges and universities in state.

Our athletic teams have excelled this year too, even with the requirement to wear masks during contests. Our girls' basketball team won the conference and districts titles three years in a row. Girls' volleyball won the conference and we had two cross country runners qualify for the state meet. Not to be out done, our boys basketball team won the district basketball title for the first time in thirteen years! Currently our spring seasons are in full swing with our baseball team on the verge of clinching a conference title.

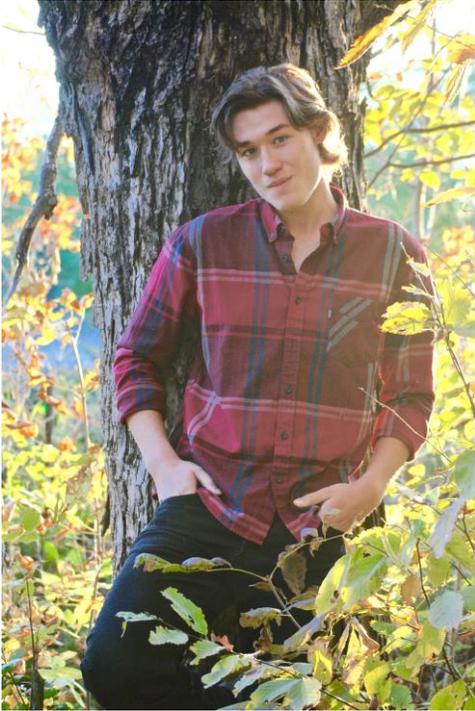
These are just a few of the great things that are happening at school. Yes, we have made some adjustments, but we have overcome these and continue to be a GREAT school! I'm proud of the resiliency that our students and staff have shown.

As we look forward to the next school year; my hopes are that we can gain some semblance of normal and can welcome everyone back into the building. We all must do our part as citizens to ensure that this happens.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Jeff Curth, Superintendent

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



Evan Cronk-Valedictorian  
Michigan Technological University  
Materials Science & Engineering

Caroline Somers-Valedictorian  
University of Alabama  
Math/Political Science



Traci Rogala-Salutatorian  
Wayne State University  
Construction Management



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!

Elena Alexander  
Michigan State University  
Supply Chain Management



Keanu Jones  
Lake Superior State University  
Criminal Justice

Jillian Lidy  
University of South Florida  
Medical Biology (major)  
Spanish (minor)



# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



Kal O'Brien  
Marymount California University  
Marketing



Rose Siebigteroth  
Michigan Technological University  
Computer Science



Carissa Sroka  
Ferris State University  
Dental Hygiene

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2021!



Jenna Wiertalla  
North Central Michigan College  
General Studies

*Congratulations!*



# STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

## NOVEMBER

### **Elementary: Lucas Powers** (Kindergarten)

Lucas is smart and very helpful in class. He is always ready to work and learn.  
One word to describe Lucas: Respectful

### **Middle School: Ben Strittmatter** (7th grade)

Ben is very intelligent and a great contributor in class. He seeks to understand not only surface information, but also in depth knowledge on topics. Ben has a great personality, sense of humor, and is a great classmate to his peers. One word to Describe Ben: Diligent

### **High School: Britanya Clayton** (10th grade)

Britanya is highly intelligent and motivated. She has a sweet personality and is a joy to be around. One word to describe Britanya: Brilliant

## DECEMBER

### **Elementary: Noah Freeman** (Kindergarten)

Noah shows up on time, ready to work, every day. He works hard from the time he enters the classroom until he leaves. Noah makes other students feel welcome by greeting them by name. He sticks with things, even when they are difficult.

### **Middle School: Gavin Smith** (6<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Gavin has been focused, hardworking, and polite. He is a joy to have in class, both in person and virtually. One word to describe Gavin is happy.

### **High School: Jillian Lidy** (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Jillian is the President of the Kindness Club. Behind the scenes, she has been a person who has created a lot of happiness for students and staff in our school. Jill has been the drive behind our Teacher Appreciation Days, positive sticky notes, kindness rocks and much more for our own school community. She has also helped us to be a help to veterans and those in the armed forces. Jill is intelligent, a hard worker, and has such a positive attitude. One word to describe Jill: Giving

## JANUARY

### **Elementary: Emma Hendrickson** (5<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Emma Hendrickson is a conscientious student and a good friend. Whether class is virtual or in person, Emma is always attentive and captures all the important information. She is kind to her classmates and supportive to her friends.  
One word to describe Emma: Thoughtful

### **Middle School: Naomi Knack** (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Naomi is a hard worker and conscientious student who is friendly and works hard in class every day. Naomi is dependable and actively participates in all classroom activities. Word to describe: Attentive

### **High School: Evan Cronk** (12<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Evan is a kind, hardworking, industrious young man with many talents. Evan recently received a full academic scholarship to Michigan Tech University!!  
Word to describe Evan- Brilliant

## **FEBRUARY**

### **Elementary: Sam Strittmatter** (3<sup>rd</sup> Grade)

Sam has been an excellent listener and worker. He seldom asks for things to be repeated and usually gets his work done in record time. When given choices, he often says, "I don't care" That isn't because he doesn't care.... it's because he doesn't put himself first, unless it's for a good reason. Word to describe Sam: Reliable

### **Middle School: Jared Wiertalla** (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Jared has shown maturity and responsibility lately. He is polite and doesn't give in to negative peer pressure. He doesn't mind being the bigger person and doing what needs done, like cleaning up, taking care of materials or doing favors. One word to describe Jared: Polite

### **High School: Gabi Bell** (11<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Gabi goes out of her way to be helpful to so many students and teachers in our school. She is very caring and giving. She works very hard in class and has a great sense of humor. Word to Describe: Giving

## **MARCH**

### **Elementary: Knox Wilson** (4<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Knox has been a dedicated student all school year. He always gives his best effort in everything that he does and participates frequently in our class discussions. It has been fun to see his confidence grow throughout the year. Knox has a positive attitude and is a friend to everyone. Word to describe: Dedicated

### **Middle School: Tanyon Pierce** (7<sup>th</sup> Grade)

I nominate Tanyon Pierce for March student of the month. Tanyon truly has a kind heart and will speak up if he feels something is wrong or unjust. He has become more organized and is diligent in turning work in on time. I believe Tanyon is friendly to all, and deserves recognition for being a great human! Word to describe Tanyon: Kind

### **High School: Katelynn Cross** (9<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Katelynn has done such a nice job of staying organized and getting her work in promptly. I was so pleased with how well she communicated her academic needs before, during, and after her absences for vacation; she didn't miss a beat! Word to describe Katie: Organized

## **APRIL**

### **Elementary: Clayton VanOrman** (2<sup>nd</sup> Grade)

Clayton has been working hard at school. He has a positive attitude. He is kind, supportive, and encouraging to everyone. He is amazing in Math. One word to describe Clayton: Champ

### **Middle School: Isaac Valot** (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Isaac is our class President. He has done a great job with water and Gatorade sales and has led his class in an upbeat and responsible manner. He works hard in class and is getting more mature and responsible every day. One word to describe Isaac: Responsible

### **High School: Cooper Whipkey** (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

Cooper has a great attitude and is a hard worker. He puts care into what he does and is driven to pursue his goals. He recently helped out both the band program and the baseball team by filling in when they were in a pinch. As an additional bonus, he is a Spartan fan. One word to describe Cooper: Remarkable

## Second Grade News

By Ronnie Budzinski

The 2nd graders have been corresponding with pen pals in Arizona since January. Our friends: Lena, Shira, Jacob, Shlomo, and Meena are from a Hebrew school in Phoenix. Our pen pals were most interested in our snowy weather in the winter. We sent them some winter pictures from the playground. This letter writing has been a valuable experience and we made new friends.

The 1st and 2nd graders had the opportunity to have a special virtual art activity with Crooked Tree Arts Council. The children made pinch pots out of clay and painted them. They also made sculptures out of the clay. We are thankful for the volunteers Ms. Liz and Ms. Penny for the fun experience.



*Mathew Odell*

*Stella Morse, Jaxon Crawford, Wyatt Jackson*

*Lailah Vrooman*

On April 23, the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders went to the Hathaway Preserve with Sarah and Sarah from Little Traverse Conservancy. We went to observe plant and animal life signs. We looked under some cardboards for life and found slugs, salamanders, and roly-polies. We saw a deer track. We discovered yellow feathers from a grosbeak. Lastly, we filled bird feeders with suet to encourage more birds to come to the Hathaway. It was a beautiful day and everyone enjoyed time outside learning about nature.



*The 2nd and 3rd graders at the Hathaway Preserve. L to R: Jonathan Litfin, Sam Strittmatter, Clayton VanOrman, Wyatt Jackson, Luca Lucchese, Cecelia Barrett, Reagan Thompson, Ava Thompson, Mathew Odell, and Jaxon Crawford.*

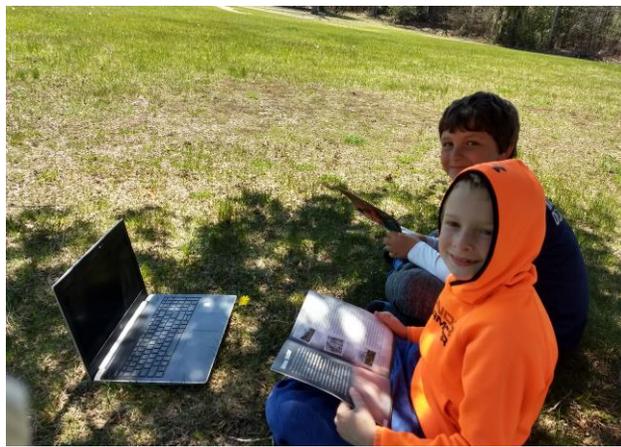
## Third Grade Update

By: Diane Klose

Virtual learning combined with in-person learning was challenging, but the 3rd grade got creative. When Cobe joined the class virtually it was suggested (and the kids agreed) to put his Chromebook on his desk, so it was like he was in class. He attended music class and even went outside to group read with Sam and Carter.



*Cobe joined music class virtually on his Chromebook*



*Cobe reading outside with Sam and Carter*



*The third graders grew flowers for Mother's Day. Pictured with their flowers are Cecelia Barrett, Luca Lucchese, Faith Sroka, Ella Kruczynski, Reegan Thompson, Jonathan Litfin, Ethan Ford, and Carter Jaggi. (Missing from the photo are Cobe Robertson and Sam Strittmatter)*

## 5<sup>th</sup> Grade News: Springtime is a Challenging Yet Exciting Time of the Year

By: Heather Mills

Spring offers more sunshine, warmer weather, and renewal. Therefore, it brings more energy and Spring Fever. Fifth graders optimize on all these aspects of the season. As for the school year, springtime is the spell when we really see our students pull it all together. They have been doing a lot of learning and hard work throughout the year and now is the time to acknowledge that growth. We are challenged rigorously with state testing and local testing. Also, fifth graders are closing in on their final days as elementary students and are preparing for middle school next year.

This is also the time of year to find fun, innovative, and high-interest activities to keep the students engaged, while continuing to offer important curriculum. One such successful activity fifth graders participated in recently was a “Construction Zone”, where the students had to measure and calculate the perimeter and area of different shapes that had been created on the floor with masking tape. The students worked in pairs and were challenged to use different units of measurement throughout the activity. Engaged students, teamwork, and a fun review of concepts equals a perfect math lesson in May.



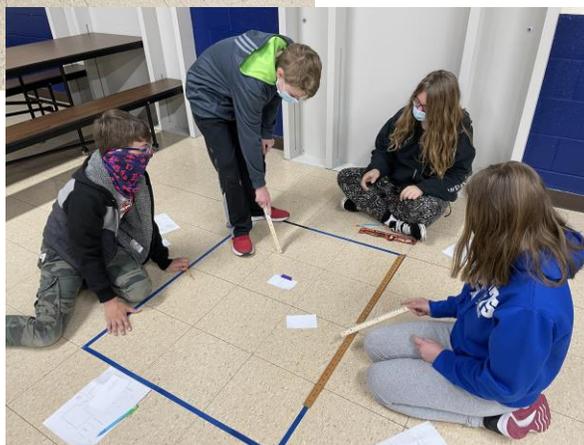
*Pictured above:  
Jacob Cross and  
Emma Hendrickson*



*Pictured to the left:  
Poppy Wallace, Evan  
Maida, Sophia Leese,  
and Jillian Poumade*



*Pictured to the right:  
Dillon Poumade and  
Addyson Wheeler*





*Band students at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio*

## **Musical Melodies**

**By: Katie Anderson**

The middle and high school bands submitted our Festival recording on April 28th and are anxiously awaiting the scores from that!

Our spring concert on May 5th went exceptionally well! We missed the students that were quarantining, but we were very glad to have the opportunity to put on a concert.

The band trip for 6th-12th students to Cleveland, Ohio was a fun and safe time. Some attractions included the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, Cleveland Zoo, and Cleveland Art Museum.



*The band students and chaperones had a great time in Cleveland, Ohio*

### **Upcoming events for the rest of the year:**

**Monday, May 31st -**  
Memorial Day Legion  
Performance

**Saturday, June 5th –**  
Graduation

**Friday, Aug. 27th 8-9 pm -**  
Mackinaw City Band  
Performance at Roth  
Performance Shell



## COMET CRAFTED!



Left: Gracie Beauchamp  
MC Freshman-Fireplace  
Cabinet

Right-Kenzlie Currie -6<sup>th</sup>  
Grade Segmented Bowl



## MACKINAW CITY HS/MS WOODWORKING

Another year has come and gone, bringing both challenges and reward. Students have been working hard to put the finishing touches on their projects.

All students have faced a lot of adversity during these unprecedented times, whether it was online learning or pauses & cancellation of events and activities, but through it all they have worked hard to stay the course and I truly believe there's a glimmer of normalcy on the horizon. They should all be very proud of their work.

The annual MITES woodworking fair was cancelled yet again this year, but Mack City is set to host the regional level competition in May of 2022. Fortunately, students whose projects that were completed this year will be eligible to participate next year.

-Amanda Munger, Woods/ Science Teacher

Pictured Below: Kal O'Brien MC Senior- Dining Table



Top Left-Carissa Sroka MC  
Senior- Walnut Vanity

Top Right- Jillian Lidy MC  
Senior -Walnut Bookshelf

Bottom Left- Warren Knack  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade- Ash Bookshelf



Pictured Left- Elena Alexander MC Senior  
Cherry Dining Table

## Athletic Accolades

By Elijah May



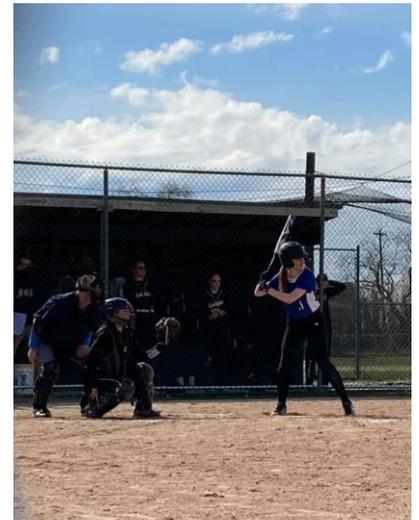
*8th grader Sean Postula is behind the plate for the Comets.*

Spring Sports are in full swing for our baseball, softball, golf, and track athletes here in Mackinaw City. Our athletes have been working hard and that hard work has been paying off! We have two coaches in their first year this Spring with Coach May taking over the baseball program and Coach Cook stepping in as the new softball coach.

Baseball has several new faces this year as many middle school athletes came out for the team this Spring. The young group has some veteran leadership and has been successful so far throughout their season. Softball is returning several members of the 2019 NLC Conference Championship team

and they are looking to make some noise in the league again this season.

Our Junior High Basketball teams just finished up their seasons at the end of April. Coach Barrett and Coach Mills did an excellent job with our Middle School teams and although the season was shortened due to Covid-19 our Junior High athletes made the most of it and performed well in the games they were able to participate in.



*Sophomore Larissa Huffman at the plate for Mackinaw City.*



*Junior High basketball Blue Vs. White Scrimmage. Players pictured are Rian Esper #11, Kerry-Ann Ming #54, Blake Jenkot #25, Jacob Sroka #14, Vanessa Groenewoud #21, Tanyon Pierce #2, Jadeon Hartman #32, Izzy Swanson #53, and Braylon Currie #30.*



*Back L to R: Coach May, Jersey Beauchamp, Coach Postula, Carissa Sroka, Marlie Postula, Madison Smith, Larissa Huffman, Julia Sullivan, Caroline Somers, Coach Huffman, Rian Esper. Front L to R: Ella House, Gabi Bell, Raeann Hingston, Gracie Beauchamp, and Mia House.*

Our Mackinaw City Boys and Girls varsity basketball teams finished up their seasons this year by bringing home district championship trophies. This is the third consecutive season that our girls' basketball program has won the Northern Lakes Conference and the District Championship. Sadly, the girls season was cut short due to Covid-19. Our boys had a tremendous season finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Northern Lights Conference. Our boys won their first district championship since 2008. We had several basketball athletes receive awards for their efforts and accomplishments this season. For the boys, senior Kal O'Brien received first team All-Conference and first team All-State. Kal finished his basketball career as Mackinaw City's all-time leading scorer and all-time leading rebounder. Sophomore Lars Huffman received first team All-Conference and senior Keanu Jones received second team All-Conference. For the girls, sophomores Madison Smith, Larissa Huffman, and Marlie Postula all received All-State Honorable Mention. Madison and Larissa were voted first team All-Conference and Marlie was voted second team All-Conference. We are looking forward to a tremendous basketball season next winter!



*Back L to R: Coach Martin, Trystan Swanson, Noah Valot, Jaren Valot, Lars Huffman, Kal O'Brien, Keanu Jones, Cooper Whipkey, Coach Bergstrom. Front L to R: Kyle Valot, Ben Strittmatter, Lucas Bergstrom, Sebastian Pierce, Nicholas Vieau, Myran Thompson.*