

MACKINAW CITY COMETS

609 West Central Avenue, Mackinaw City, MI 49701 * 231-436-8211 * www.mackcity.k12.mi.us

SEPTEMBER 2021

IMPORTANT DATES

SEPT. 29

½ Day of School
11:00 am Dismissal

NOV. 1

NO SCHOOL

NOV. 10

Parent/Teacher
Conferences
11:00 am Dismissal

NOV. 24-26

Thanksgiving Break



The Cross Country team participated in the Mackinac Bridge Run on Labor Day. It was enjoyed by all and they hope to make it an annual event for the team. Pictured from Left to Right: Coach Barrett, Ben Strittmatter, Trystan Swanson, Tanyon Pierce, Lars Huffman, Jeffrey Siebigteroth, Gabi Bell, Cooper Whipkey, Jaren Valot, Larissa Huffman, Noah Valot, Cynthia Thompson, Isaac Valot, and Kyle Valot.

Superintendent Spotlight

By: Jeff Curth

It continues to be a beautiful summer in Northern Michigan! I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy Mackinaw and all the great outdoor activities this area has to offer. This summer has been busy. The custodial staff, roofers, and terrazzo company have worked extremely hard to get the building ready for the new school year.

Our hopes of returning to a “Normal” pre-covid school year will not be happening. Covid is unfortunately still with us. The unvaccinated and children under the age of twelve continue to be the most vulnerable. Our Covid Committee and the School Board have worked very hard and have made the difficult decisions. I firmly believe that the steps we are taking to mitigate the exposure and transmission will give us great chance to stay safe and healthy. Our plan for the school year can be found in this newsletter and on our school website.

I would also like to acknowledge our incredible School Board members: Vince Rogala (President), Steve Powers (Vice President), Laura Jackson (Treasurer), Sam Staffan (Secretary), Jim Bell (Trustee), Ed Trudeau (Trustee), and Rob Strittmatter (Trustee). These seven individuals have dedicated themselves to ensuring that Mackinaw City Public Schools continues to be the Premiere school district in Northern Michigan.

As my family begins its twenty fourth year in Mackinaw City, I want to thank you for the opportunity that I have had to serve this great School District. It is truly an honor to live and work in Mackinaw City. I am confident that our community’s positive attitude and commitment to its children will help us overcome any challenges facing our school district.

Annual Audit

Our annual independent audit was recently completed. I am pleased to report that the school is in excellent financial shape. We ended the year with \$319,000 more in revenue than expenses. This puts us at over 30% in our fund equity (savings). The fiscal health of our school district is critical to ensuring our longevity and helps us weather future financial uncertainties. I think it’s important for you to know that Enbridge Energy currently accounts for 20% of our yearly revenue. As most of you are aware, we are an “Out of Formula” school district. This means we are completely funded by our non-homestead (business) taxes. There are only twenty-six schools in Michigan that are completely funded this way. If you have questions regarding our financial stability or how we are funded, I encourage you to contact myself or a school board member. We are very proud and will gladly spend time with you to discuss this amazing school!

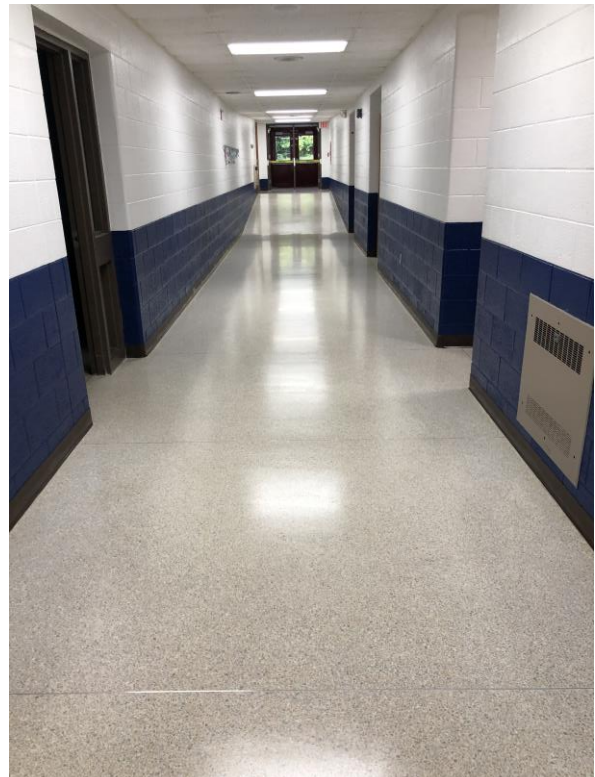


Summer Projects

It has been an extremely busy summer with multiple projects being worked on throughout the past couple months. We had another section of the re-roofing project completed. The section completed was over the entire elementary end of the building. The building re-roofing, is a 6-7 year project with us completing a large section every summer. We have two sections left before the entire building will be completed.



The other large project this summer was replacing and repairing the terrazzo floor. This has been an entire month long process. It required sections of the old damaged terrazzo to be jack-hammered out and new terrazzo floor poured. It has been completed and was ready for the start of school.





MACKINAW CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
MACKINAW CITY, MICHIGAN 49701

JEFFREY S. CURTH
Superintendent

PHONE: 231-436-8211
FAX: 231-436-5434

August 30, 2021

Dear Parents and Families of Mackinaw City Public Schools:

I would like to inform you that the Health Department of Northwest Michigan, on Friday, August 27, put into place a new mask requirement for all schools. This includes our school because our building is physically located in Emmet County:

THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that all Educational Institutions and all Persons in Educational Settings must adhere to the following requirements:

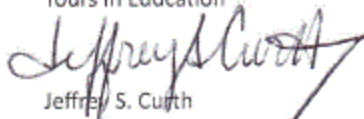
1. The Educational Institutions shall immediately adopt a policy requiring universal masking indoors and implement this policy by any and all reasonable and necessary enforcement procedures that require all children in kindergarten through grade 12, regardless of vaccination status, to consistently and properly wear a facial mask covering both nose and mouth while inside any enclosed building or structure of the Institution.
2. The Educational Institutions shall immediately adopt a policy requiring universal masking indoors, require and implement this policy by any and all reasonable and necessary enforcement procedures that require all persons, regardless of vaccination status, providing service to any child in kindergarten through grade 12, and all persons providing service to students identified as medically fragile regardless of age, to consistently and properly wear a facial mask while inside any enclosed building or structure of the institution.
3. The Educational Institution shall immediately post this Order and maintain the posting of this Order at each entrance to the facility and additionally document distribution of this Order to all local school districts workers.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the following terms shall have the following definitions for purposes of this ORDER:

4. "Educational Institutions" or "Educational Settings" includes youth camps, youth programs, childcare centers, tutoring centers, preschools, primary through secondary schools, vocational schools, colleges, and universities and other organized activities outside the home where coursework is taught.
5. "Persons in Educational Settings" means students K through grade 12, teachers, administrative staff, visitors, attendees, volunteers, or students older than grade 12 who may be present in the educational setting of students, coaches, camp leaders, and other employees or volunteers of Educational Institutions. This also applies to teachers and staff working with or in the classroom of medically fragile or neurodivergent students of any age.

As a result of this order, Mackinaw City Public Schools will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear a mask while in the building regardless of vaccination status. I will continue to keep you updated with any changes to the Health Department order.

Yours In Education


Jeffrey S. Curth

New Teacher Introduction

By: Natasha Huber



My name is Natasha Huber and I am the new Second Grade teacher for Mackinaw City Public Schools. I am so excited and honored to be joining the Mackinaw City Comet family. I will be starting my 20th year of teaching this year. I have taught all grades, from Pre-K to 5th, with the exception of 4th. My most recent position was at Rogers City Elementary School, where I taught for thirteen years. I live in Cheboygan, where I grew up, with my husband and two children.

I am so excited to be a part of a district that focuses on the child and places high emphasis on academics and professionalism. I look forward to getting to know the students and families at MCPS. Go Comets!

New Assistant Principal Introduction

Mackinaw City Middle/High School has a new assistant principal for the 2021-2022 school year. For the last six years, Becky Valot has been teaching middle school English. She has also been the Title I Director. This year, she will continue those positions but will add the role of assistant principal to her day.

Becky joined the Mackinaw City School District in 2002 as the junior kindergarten teacher. Over the years, she has taught several different grades in elementary and middle school here in Mackinaw. Becky is looking forward to a new and wonderful school year.



Mackinaw City High School has won a College Success Award - Gold



We are proud to announce that Mackinaw City High School has received GreatSchools.org's inaugural **College Success Award - Gold!**

As a recipient of the College Success Award in 2019 and 2021, our school received the first-ever **College Success Award - Gold** distinction for our multiyear track record of preparing students to enroll and succeed in college. Mackinaw City is among 1,770 high schools in 26 states to receive the Gold Award.

Now in its fourth year, the College Success Award program evaluates public schools based on data that show how well our school prepares students to succeed after graduation, including whether they enroll in college, are ready for college-level coursework, and persist into their second year.

We applaud the hard work of the entire Mackinaw City community — including students, parents, teachers, and others that aspire to help our students succeed in college and beyond. We invite you to join in the celebration of our **College Success Award - Gold!**

See the full list of College Success Award - Gold winners from Michigan and learn about best practices at <https://www.greatschools.org/gk/csa-winners/>.

Kindness Club

By: Jennifer Lee

A few years ago our MCPS students started a Kindness Club at our school. This club has done a tremendous amount of good and continues to be a blessing to students and staff alike. Over the years they have hosted many Teacher Appreciation Days, left uplifting sticky notes on lockers to brighten people's days, and made Kindness Rocks for the playground for elementary students to find. In addition, they raised donations for service people and veterans and sponsored awards for students who have been 'caught' doing good deeds for others. The Kindness Club will continue this year under new student leadership. Any student in 8th grade or above is more than welcome to join. Please watch the school announcements for more information.



Technology Tidbits

By: Lisa Rivera

Changes to PowerSchool for 2021-22

Our website address for parents and students to access PowerSchool has changed. Our new URL is <https://mackinaw.powerschool.com>. Our server was previously hosted at the Cheboygan-Otsego-Presque Isle ESD data center in Indian River but is now hosted by the PowerSchool corporation. This should make our server connection more reliable, with fewer service outages.

Any previous user names and passwords for PowerSchool will be valid for the upcoming school year. If you have forgotten your login information or need to establish a new access account, please contact the school. You will need to provide an email address to set up an account.

Middle School Computer Science Course Added

This year, our school's partnership with the Amazon Future Engineer program has expanded. A semester-long exploratory computer science course has now been added for both 7th and 8th grade students. This course will provide an introduction into the main concepts of computer science, including programming.

In May 2019, the Michigan Department of Education adopted learning standards for grades K-12 in the area of computer science. The addition of this year's course will provide more opportunities for our district to address these standards.

Athletic Update

By: Elijah May



Figure 1 Cross Country Back Row, L to R: Isaac Valot, Jaren Valot, Noah Valot, Jeffrey Siebigteroth, Trystan Swanson, Lars Huffman, Cooper Whipkey, Coach Barrett. Front Row, L to R: Gabi Bell, Ben Strittmatter, Kyle Valot, Cynthia Thompson, Gavin Smith, Tanyon Pierce, Larissa Huffman

We are excited to start another season of athletics here at Mackinaw City High School. Our Cross Country and Volleyball athletes have already started practicing for our Fall season. Coach Barrett is excited about our Cross Country team this year. After finishing second place in the Northern Lakes Conference last year, our comet runners are looking to build off that success. We have several returning runners back on the team for another year of racing!

Our Volleyball program still has the same two coaches returning for another year of volleyball action. However, they have switched

roles for this upcoming season. Coach Grooters will be coaching our JV squad this season while Coach Vieau has taken over the Varsity Volleyball position. Both of our volleyball coaches are excited for the upcoming season. Our Varsity and JV Volleyball teams finished on top of the Northern Lakes Conference last season. With several returning players this year, they are looking to build off of last year's success.

- We are always looking for parent volunteers at our home volleyball and cross country events.
- Sports Physicals are needed for all athletes to participate in interscholastic athletics this school year.
- Please visit our athletic department's website for schedules and more information on our Comet athletes!



JV Volleyball L to R: Carla Blake, Kerry-Ann Ming, Ella Poumade, Vanessa Groenewoud, Rian Esper, Naomi Knack, Elizabeth Kruczynski, Grace Sroka, Mia House, Isabella Lieghio, Hanna Hingston (Coach Grooters in back)



Varsity Volleyball L to R: Raeann Hingston, Gabi Bell, Maya Robertson, Larissa Huffman, Madison Smith, Julia Sullivan, Marlie Postula, Ella House, Coach Vieau

