



Volume XLIV Issue 4  
May 2023

# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS



Photo Credit: Jim Van Tatenhove

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## Senior Highlight Corner

### J.T. Smith's Highlights:

- Career points 1337
- 1st Team All MSAC
- Daily News Player of the Year
- 1st Team All Area
- BCAMS Team First Award
- Captain
- MVP
- Sports Scene Dream Team

### Evan Judge's Highlights

- 1st Team MSAC
- 3rd Team All Area
- All Area Defensive Player of the Year
- Defensive MVP
- Captain
- Sports Scene Special Mention

### Drew Kelsey's Highlights

- 1st Team MSAC
- 2nd Team All Area
- "Microwave" Award—could get hot in a hurry
- Sports Scene Honorable Mention

### Rayce Sackett's Highlights

- MSAC Honorable Mention
- Daily News Honorable Mention

Coach Simon's Highlights—Daily News Coach of the Year

## 2023 DISTRICT CHAMPIONS

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM FOR BRINGING HOME THE DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP! THIS SEASON WAS FULL OF DETERMINATION, TEAMWORK, AND A LOVE OF THE GAME THAT WAS EXCITING TO WATCH. IT HAS BEEN 16 YEARS SINCE THE LAST DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIP WAS WON!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 6—Daddy Daughter Dance: 3-5:00 PM
- May 8—HS Band Concert: 7:00 PM
- May 13—HS Prom 6-10 PM
- May 12—HS Band Concert: 7:00 PM
- May 12—JR/SR High School library books due
- May 15—Elementary library books due
- May 16—Seniors Last Day
- May 17—6th Grade Band Concert: 7:00 PM
- May 18—JR. High Band Concert: 6:00 PM
- May 18—Honors Night for Seniors: 7:00 PM
- May 19—Kindergarten Graduation: 12:15 PM
- May 21—Graduation: 6:00 PM
- May 26—Students Last Day of School





# Montabella's Use of Federal Relief Funds

Three years ago the state, nation and world faced an unprecedented challenge with the start of the COVID-19 virus. We are hoping that in our lifetimes we won't see anything similar to that again. The virus caused pain in many ways for all of us, too many to document in this article, but we gained some valuable knowledge and practices as a result of that challenge as well. One of the benefits for schools was that due to the inconsistent educational environment funds were made available to schools to help support the inconsistent learning that transpired. Montabella was a recipient of some of those funds and many of you might wonder where that money was spent.

The Elementary and Secondary Schools Emergency Relief funds (ESSER) for schools were intended for schools to deal with the potential learning loss that students experienced due to COVID-19. Montabella chose to invest a good portion of those resources into curriculum support and teacher training. Knowing that the money was a one-time distribution, if we could provide additional resources and training it could have an impact on student learning for multiple years well after the funds were gone. After receiving input from different stakeholders we began the process of determining which areas were of the biggest need and would have the highest potential impact on learning.

New curriculum resources have been purchased or are in the process of being purchased for Elementary Math, Secondary Math, Elementary Reading and Secondary Spanish. The resources are only the first step and the true impact on learning comes from the teacher so investments were made in training and development for our teachers. This came in the form of specific training on the new curriculum resources, instructional coaches that work directly with teachers, and instructional consultants that were brought into the district.

After just a few months of a few new practices and resources in place we are already seeing some initial indications that student learning is being impacted. We can't erase the learning time that was lost due to the pandemic but we can invest in our biggest asset, our staff, and help bridge as much of that gap as possible. We are confident that we have the right staff that can make gains in the right direction for our students.



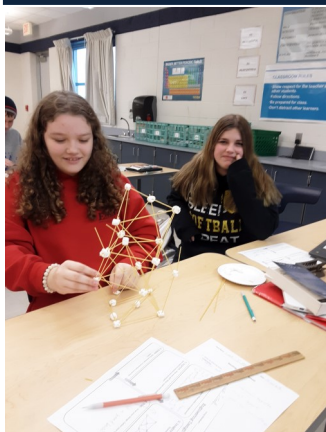
## Autism Acceptance Spirit Week

Today, society has a greater awareness of autism than ever before. But those affected by autism often face a number of struggles throughout life, from bullying and prejudice, to limited job opportunities and access to health care.

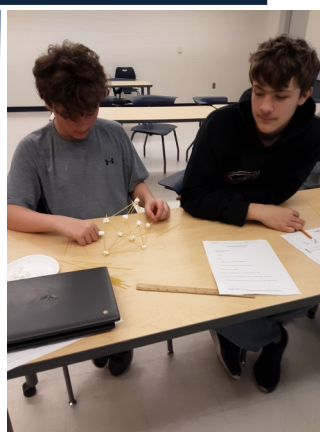
Education about the autism community is important, but advocates argue that we shouldn't stop there. Autistic people need not just awareness, but acceptance and inclusion in order to have true support from their communities. (Autism Parenting Magazine)



Chartwells provided a wonderful breakfast full of a variety of doughnuts and drinks for our Mustangs during our Doughnuts with Dad (or special guest) event.



The seventh grade students in Mrs. Cook's room are learning about the engineering design process. They were challenged to create a tower that was strong and tall by using marshmallows and spaghetti pieces. It was a challenging and fun task!



# Find Us



[www.montabella.com](http://www.montabella.com)  
[www.montabellamustangs.com](http://www.montabellamustangs.com) (Athletics)



Montabella Community Schools  
Montabella Elementary

**Be Responsible**



Mpride\_stampede (Mr. Riley)

**Be Respectful**

**Be Safe**

# SCIENCE OLYMPIAD

On Saturday, March 18th, twelve students traveled to Kinawa Middle School to compete in the regional Science Olympiad competition. They competed in seven different events, medaling in three of them.

- Ashlynn Davis, Keion Adams, Jadon Trost, Lillien Fuller, and Jade Burk competed in flight by building a rubber band powered airplane. Their plane did not crash and burn which earned them 6th place and a medal.
- Peyton Webb and Ella Kotenko competed in Forensics where they had to solve who committed a murder by utilizing chromatography, hair analysis, and other scientific techniques. The girls were close to solving the murder earning them 6th place and a medal.
- Kenzie Karcher and Natalie Ludwig took their knowledge of the human body and competed in Anatomy and Physiology. While completing a rigorous test they were able to out smart their opponents taking home 5th place and a medal.
- Kenzie and Natalie also competed in Forestry.
- Jlyn Chapman and Ashlynn Davis tried their hand in Rocks and Minerals. Their goal was to identify the different rocks and minerals by using their senses. They placed 7th coming up short of earning a medal.
- Peyton and Ella also competed in Write-it-Do-it where Peyton wrote down directions on how to build an object. Ella was provided the materials and Peyton's directions to create the bizarre object.
- Addyson Strohl and Jade Burk were testing the waters by building a bridge. This bridge was designed and built before the competition. The goal was to make the bridge weigh as little as possible while holding as much weight as possible. Their bridge weighed in at 54 grams and held over 9,000 grams! This earned them 8th place.
- Ashlyn Binge and Ella Kotenko competed in Codebusters. They worked hard to decipher different codes using math, algorithms, and common sense. Unfortunately they came up short of earning a medal but they had a positive attitude and are looking to improve for next year!

Overall the team took 9th place improving from previous years. They have worked hard and it is beginning to show! Montabella's Science Olympiad team has a bright future ahead of them!



Ashlyn, Mr. and Mrs. Gormley, recently traveled to Whitehall High School to perform at her first state level Solo & Ensemble. Ashlyn played the flute while Mrs. Gormley accompanied her on the piano. Ashlyn earned a 1 (superior) ranking for her performance!

ASHLYN BINGE—9<sup>TH</sup>

## Model UN is back!

After a 2-year hiatus, the Montabella Model UN team is back in action. With 3 seniors from the 2020 team returning and a promising group of freshman and sophomores on the roster, they have been eager and ready to debate and address world issues and representing other nations from around the world. Montabella hopes to see this team prosper and grow in the future!

# Mustang Pride



## Off to the Races

Track season is off and running at record speed! Three meets in and **Dakota Dykhuis** has already beat the school records in the 800m and 1600m races. **Cooper Bolton** tied the pole vault school record of 13 feet and has plans to go even higher!

Great job Mustangs!



## SPRING IS HERE...



Spring is here, which means children are excited to get off the bus so they can play outside. As a reminder, when the **yellow lights** are flashing it is important to slow down and be prepared to stop. When the lights are flashing **red** that means stop at a safe distance until the flashing lights are turned off. The kids are racing to get off the bus, please do not race to get around the bus when lights are flashing. Sometimes that fresh air hits those cute little faces and they forget about road safety. We as licensed drivers need to assume at any moment one could dart out unexpectedly. Please be aware of your surroundings, and be extra cautious when school buses are out. Please remind your student drivers about bus safety and state laws.

# 2023 Top Ten

## Dakota Dykhuis - Valedictorian



Dakota Dykhuis is the son of Amanda and Justin Dykhuis. He is graduating 1st in his class. Dakota has participated in football, basketball, cross country, track, student council, SADD, NHS, & honors band. He was also the senior class president. Dakota plans to attend Saginaw Valley State University to pursue a career as a pediatric anesthesiologist.

## Ryan Binge - Salutatorian

Ryan is the son of Wendy and Kenny Binge. He is graduating 2nd in his class. Ryan has participated in NHS, basketball, baseball, SADD, peer-to-peer, dual enrollment, and band. Ryan plans to attend the University of Michigan where he will pursue a career in business.



## Sadie Quackenbush - 3rd



Sadie Quackenbush is the daughter of Javan and Heather Quackenbush. She is graduating 3rd in her class. Sadie has participated in NHS, Student Council, Cross Country, Track, Student Advisory, Dual Enrollment, Language Arts Team, Model U.N, Quizbowl, Solo and Ensemble, Honors Band, and Peer-to-Peer. Sadie plans to attend Hope College to pursue a career in political journalism.

## Kase Jerome - 4th

Kase is the son of Stephen and Christa Jerome. He is graduating 4th in his class. Kase has participated in Robotics, NHS, and the Clay Target Team. He plans to attend GRCC to pursue a career in either Architecture or Culinary.



## Logan Peterson - 5th



Logan Peterson is the son of Duane and Kerri Peterson. He is graduating fifth in his class. Logan has participated in the Peer-to-Peer class his senior year. Logan plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a career in automotive service technology.

# 2023 Top Ten

## Kaitlynn Miller - 6th



Kaitlynn Miller is the daughter of Geanna Mason. She is graduating 6th in her class. Kaitlynn has participated in NHS, SADD, Student Advisory, Student Council, and basketball. She also attended the Career Center, taking both the CNA and MA classes. Finishing both courses with certifications. Kaitlynn plans to attend MCC and transfer to Davenport University to pursue a career in the medical field.

## Lily Lobert - 7th

Lily Lobert is the daughter of Kellie and Bryan Lobert. She is graduating 7th in her class. Lily has participated in NHS, volleyball, basketball, SADD, and Student Council. She was also the senior class representative. Lily plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a career in Dental Hygiene.



## Drew Kelsey - 8th



Drew Kelsey is the son of Matt and Chris Kelsey. Drew Kelsey is graduating 8th in his class. He has played football (2 years), cross country (1 year), track (2 years), band (4 years) and basketball (4 years). Drew is also a member of the National Honors Society (3 years). Drew plans to attend college to pursue a degree in nursing.

## J.T. Smith - 9th

J.T. is the son of Kevin and Karrie Smith. He is graduating 9th in his class. J.T. has participated in NHS, basketball, Model U.N, Language Arts team, football, and baseball. J.T. plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a career in Secondary Education.



## Stanley Fitzgerald - 10th



Stanley Fitzgerald is the son of Nicole and Kevin Hanses. He is graduating tenth in his class. Stanley has participated in YAC and Band. Stanley plans to attend Michigan State University for ROTC and to pursue a career in Engineering.



Ray Byron



Ava Spaeth



Eleana Peterson



Karsun  
Rowland-Schwarz



Johnny Weller



Kenley Gatehouse



Ethan Hare



Raelyn Parrish



Brant Kalis



Andria Peabody



Braedyn Wright



Alivia Peterson



Gabe Garber



Uriah Davis



Cadence Snyder



Zane Koop



Camden Irani



Brantley Brooks



Paiton Thrush



Sofia Arguijo



Korbin Loomis



Cayden Deal



Jerrick Paulson



Michael  
Kuklewski



Emmitt Hudson



Serenity Watters



Noah Arganbright



Ella Anderson



Bowen Valasek



Gilbert Gunner  
Gorbea



Lance Crawford



Emma Kieff



Emma Bursley



Blaine Kieff



Colten Miller



Gavin Robinson



Jesse Terrell



D'Leh Beaulieu



Kenzie Wilson



Brooklyn Wagner



Eleanor Compton



Landon Willis



Reese Pitts



Savannah Sharkey



Aiden Fletcher



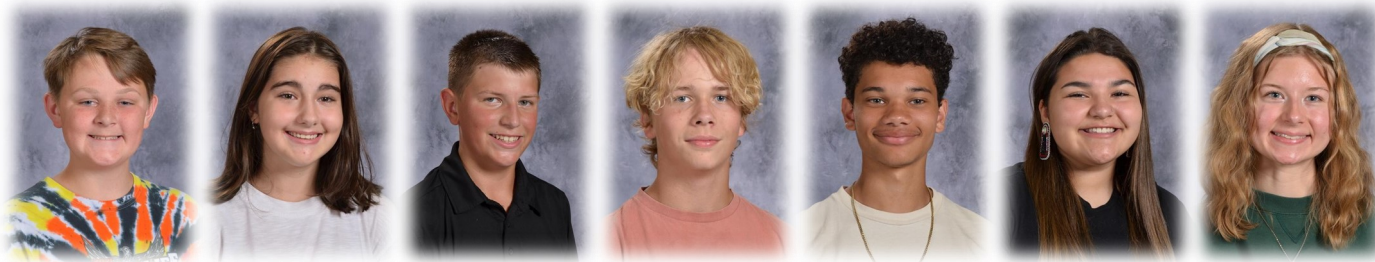
**BE RESPECTFUL, BE RESPONSIBLE, BE SAFE**

**\*\*\*Preschool Matters\*\*\***

Studies show children with two years of quality preschool education have greater success in reading and math comprehension and perform better in school overall. The Great Start Readiness and Head Start Programs are FREE preschools that may be available for your 3 or 4-year-old. Apply for preschool at [GreatStartMontcalm.org](http://GreatStartMontcalm.org) or call 1-800-227-2437 to see if your child qualifies.

# JR/SR STUDENT OF THE MONTH RECIPIENTS

## January



*Xavier Lobert (6), Temperance Wilson (7), Brayden Foster (8), James Hancock (9), Keion Adams (10), Savannah Almanza (11), Sadie Quackenbush (12)*

## February



*Elizabeth Nielsen (6), Tony Race (7), Allison Cook (8), Blake Snyder (9), Emma Davidson (10), Daisy Fitzgerald (11), Kaitlynn Miller (12)*

## March

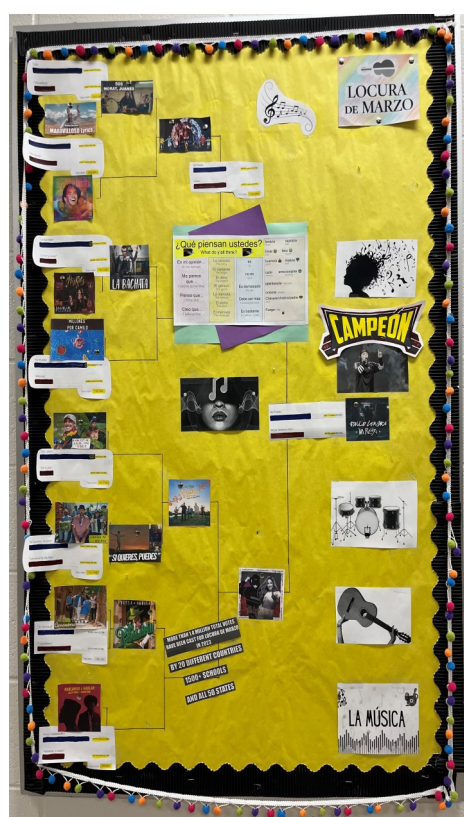


*Ella Scherzer (6), Cooper Kieff (7), Braleigh Fulk (8), Wyatt Knapp (9), Ashlynn Davis (10), Rebekah Mayer (11), Jac Papendick (12)*



## Jlyn Chapman

Congratulations to Jlyn Chapman who competed at the league talent show! Jlyn was chosen to go on the traveling show! Great job Jlyn, we are so proud of you!



During the month of March, all Spanish classes participated in a worldwide music competition called "Locura de Marzo" which translates to March Madness. Each day, Montabella students had the opportunity to make their opinions count by voting on a song which followed the same bracket structure as the famous March Madness basketball bracket. Our students' votes were among more than 1.4 million total votes cast by 20 different countries, in 1500+ schools, and all 50 states were represented. We analyzed lyrics, regional pronunciation, and music styles for a deeper appreciation of the world we share. This experience allowed students to be a part of a community much larger than our immediate surrounds that they impacted directly - an exercise of the democratic process. Three cheers for the champion, Paulo Londra (Argentina) and his song "No Puedo!"



Meetings held Third Monday of the Month  
JR/SR High School Cafeteria  
1390 North County Line Rd. Blanchard, MI 49310  
989-427-5148 (p) 989-427-3828 (f)

**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Scott Parks..... *President*  
Eylie Foster..... *Vice President*  
Ivan Renne..... *Secretary*  
Mike Rasmussen..... *Treasurer*  
Anna Jensen..... *Trustee*  
Sherri Miel..... *Trustee*  
Erica Vincent..... *Trustee*



As always, we thank the Sons of the American Legion Post 240, from Blanchard, for making sure we have flags to fly at the Central Office, Jr/Sr High and our Elementary.



# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## BUS NEWS

We are hiring, training provided. Please call 989-427-5024 ext. 631 to learn more.

Please give the bus garage a call if your child will not be riding the bus.



Send in your Coca-Cola caps and Box Tops to help us earn cash for our school.



SEE THIS...  
**CLIP IT**



NO MORE CLIPPING  
SEE THIS...  
**SCAN YOUR RECEIPT**

**CLASS SONG: "I AIN'T WORRIED" BY ONE REPUBLIC FROM TOP GUN: MAVERICK**

**CLASS COLORS**  
**NAVY & WHITE**

**CLASS MOTTO**  
**"WE PUT THE PRO IN PROCRASTINATE" ~UNKNOWN**

**CLASS FLOWER**  
**WHITE ROSE**

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF

