

To keep our community informed, here is the latest update about things happening around the District, including important dates to remember.

# Medina High School Celebrates 150th Commencement Ceremony

On Saturday, May 24, Medina High School proudly hosted its 150th Commencement Ceremony, honoring the Class of 2025. The milestone event took place at Ken Dukes Stadium, where 494 graduating seniors were celebrated in front of an enthusiastic audience of family, friends, and faculty.



The ceremony began with opening remarks by Miss Piper Jackson, setting a thoughtful and reflective tone for the day. Miss Abigail Waugh followed with the Commencement Address, delivering an inspiring message that resonated deeply with graduates and quests alike.

As tradition holds, each graduate crossed the stage to receive their diploma, presented by members of the Medina City Schools Board of Education—a moment of recognition and celebration for years of hard work and perseverance. In addition, each graduate received a

commemorative 150th Commencement lapel pin and special graduation ticket. Alumni present were recognized and provided the opportunity to wear a special commemorative alumni ribbon.

The event concluded with the singing of the Alma Mater, performed by the concert choir officers, marking a memorable close to this historic celebration.



### Celebrating the Last Day of School for 2024-2025

The last day of school is Thursday, May 29. In the past, we have made available Last Day of School posters for you to use for last-day-of-school photos. Below are the posters by school. Click on the folder and locate the poster for your student's grade.

Blake Elementary
Canavan Elementary
Fenn Elementary
Helping Hands Preschool
Northrop Elementary
Waite Elementary



Root Middle School

## Intradistrict Enrollment Ends May 31, 2025



The Intradistrict Enrollment Option will be available to all Medina City Schools' students who wish to attend an elementary or middle school other than the one they are assigned within the school district **during the 2025-2026 school year.** This option is based on enrollment numbers, as well as space and staff availability. Class assignments are made only to those grades that are at the District class size less one.

Requests will be accepted via online submission only from Tuesday, April 1, 2025, through Saturday, May 31, 2025, for the 2024-2025 school year. Parents will be notified in writing of their child's acceptance/non-acceptance no later than the second week of August 2025. Assignments may be revoked in reverse order of date received (last in, first out) if enrollment figures no longer allow for additional classroom space.

Parents whose children are approved for this Intradistrict Open Enrollment Option are responsible for transporting their own children to and from the school.

As a matter of information, Medina City Schools does not allow students from other school districts to enroll in the Medina City School District under the Intradistrict Open Enrollment Option. However, Medina City Schools does allow students to leave the District to attend another district.

## Get Ready for Summer Camp Season-Flyer Central

It's time to register for summer camps! All camp information is on <u>Flyer Central</u> and the <u>athletic departments website.</u>



Below is a current list of camps available and links to register.

MEDINA FOOTBALL YOUTH CAMP 2025
MEDINA BOYS SOCCER YOUTH CAMP 2025
MEDINA GIRL SOCCER YOUTH CAMP 2025
MEDINA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL YOUTH CAMP 2025

• MEDINA GIRLS VOLLEYBALL YOUTH CAMP 2025 REGISTRATION

MEDINA BOYS BASKETBALL MIDDLE SCHOOL CAMP 2025

MEDINA BOYS K-6 BASKETBALL SKILLS CAMP 2025

MEDINA GIRLS BASKETBALL YOUTH CAMP 2025

MEDINA GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH CAMP 2025

MEDINA GIRLS LACROSSE YOUTH CAMP 2025 REGISTRATION

MEDINA TENNIS YOUTH CAMP 2025

MEDINA YOUTH RUNNING CAMP 2025

MEDINA BOYS LACROSSE YOUTH CAMP 2025

MEDINA BASEBALL YOUTH CAMP 2025

7th & 8th GRADE GIRLS VOLLEYBALL OPEN GYM/TRYOUTS

To register online, click here.

### Staff Members Receive the Distinguished Service Award

Congratulations to Canavan Elementary fourth grade teacher, Beth Nickley and Fenn Elementary kindergarten teacher, Melissa Ciesinski, who recently received the Distinguished Service Award. This award is the highest honor that Medina City Schools bestows on its employees. Its purpose is to recognize an outstanding contribution of time, talent, or effort to the District. Recipients are positive role models for their peers and exemplary representatives of Medina City Schools.



**Beth Nickley**Fourth Grade Teacher at
Canavan Elementary



**Melissa Ciesinski**Kindergarten Teacher at Fenn
Elementary

# Bowman House ILC Student Inspires Elementary Learners Through AAC Presentations



Students at Sidney Fenn and Ella Canavan Elementary Schools recently had a special visit from Brock Svenson, a proud student of the Bowman Independent Learning Center, part of Medina City Schools, who shared his powerful story as part of a district-wide celebration of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC).

As an AAC user himself, Brock presented his personal journey, highlighting how AAC has supported his communication and learning. His visit gave younger students a firsthand look at how AAC tools can empower individuals to connect, express themselves, and thrive—both in school and beyond.

Brock's presentation served not only as an educational opportunity but also as an inspiration to students who are just beginning their own AAC journeys. His courage and advocacy helped reinforce the message that with the right support, every student has a voice.

These meaningful presentations were made possible through the leadership and vision of Alicia O'Neill, the district's dedicated AAC specialist. Her commitment to enhancing communication access for all students continues to make a lasting impact across Medina City Schools.

"We are grateful for Brock's willingness to share his story and for Alicia's ongoing work to ensure that every student is supported, celebrated, and empowered," said Katie Hartung, Coordinator of Special Education.

# Team Mercury Career Day Ignites Career Curiosity at Claggett Middle School

At Claggett Middle School, students recently stepped into a world of possibility during Team Mercury Career Day, a dynamic and engaging event designed to spark interest in future careers while building real-world readiness. This immersive day empowered students to explore diverse professions, reflect on their interests, and begin shaping their future goals.



#### A Multifaceted Day of Discovery

Team Mercury Career Day was more than just a career fair—it was a thoughtfully planned, hands-on learning experience. Students

rotated through career stations where they met professionals from a wide variety of fields, gaining insight into educational paths, daily responsibilities, and the passion behind each career choice.

In addition to visiting the career stations, students took their learning a step further by constructing visual cover letters—creative self-presentations that expressed their strengths, interests, and career aspirations. They also completed a career-related assignment that helped them reflect on the skills and experiences they found most inspiring throughout the day.

#### **Career Day Champions: A Community Effort**

The success of Team Mercury Career Day was made possible by the generosity of local organizations and professionals who volunteered their time to guide and inspire Claggett students.

This year's incredible participants included:

- Seville Animal Hospital
- Clean Giraffe
- Medina Fire Department
- Mayor of Medina
- Medina County Prosecutor's Office
- Thrivent

- The Aviator Restaurant
- Zuzu Chocolates
- Medina County Parks
- University Hospitals
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cintas Corporation
- HOPS
- United Church of Christ
- Continental Airlines
- Hope Recovery Community
- · Boy Scouts of America
- United States Navy
- Medina Auto Mall
- Howard Hanna Real Estate
- Premier Private Jets
- Scapegoat Tattoos

Additionally, students heard from a range of passionate professionals including:

- A photographer
- An ethical hacker
- A dental assistant (who proudly graduated from Claggett!)
- A radiation therapist
- A behavior therapist
- A nurse
- A flight medic
- A dermatology nurse

These presenters not only introduced students to a range of possible futures—they also modeled the value of hard work, creativity, and perseverance.

#### **Building Confidence and Vision**

Throughout the day, students were inspired to consider new possibilities and see how their talents and interests might one day align with a meaningful career. Many discovered unexpected interests or saw themselves in roles they hadn't considered before.

#### **Looking Ahead**

Team Mercury Career Day combined career exploration with reflective learning activities. The event not only introduced students to potential futures, but also equipped them with tools to start paving their own path. "We look forward to building on this success and continuing to connect students with the wider world beyond the classroom in the coming years," said Ericka Kott, 7th grade math teacher and one of the coordinators of the event.

Medina City Schools is proud to announce Huntington Bank – Public Square as the recipient of this year's Business Partner Award, recognizing their exceptional generosity, unwavering partnership, and continued commitment to our students, staff, and community.



#### A Champion for Education and the Arts

Huntington Bank has been a steadfast supporter of Medina City Schools, consistently going above and beyond to celebrate education and strengthen community ties. Each March, they generously open the doors of their beautifully restored downtown lobby to host the Student Art Show opening reception, offering young artists a professional and highly visible space to display their work. This unique venue transforms student art into a public celebration, allowing families and community members to take pride in the creative achievements of Medina's youth.

#### **Building Tradition Through Community Engagement**

Their support extends far beyond the arts. Huntington Bank plays an integral role in the district's much-loved Community Pancake Breakfast & Spotlight on Students, helping to create a welcoming environment for families, and community members. Their support helps bring this annual tradition to life and reinforces the vital connection between schools and the broader community.

Always enthusiastic about promoting the positive work of Medina City Schools, Huntington Bank also serves as a reliable community voice, actively sharing and supporting district events throughout the year.

#### **Small Gestures, Big Impact**

In addition to their visible presence at events, Huntington Bank staff make a point to brighten the summer months for district employees. Each year, they visit the Board of Education office with their ice cream truck, spreading smiles and sweet treats to the hardworking staff preparing for the new school year. This thoughtful act of appreciation embodies the kindness and community spirit that define their partnership with the district.

#### **A Valued Partner in Student Success**

"We are honored to recognize Huntington Bank – Public Square with the 2025 Business Partner Award for their deep-rooted commitment to public education, their dedication to the success of our students and staff, and their unwavering spirit of service. Their partnership is more than a collaboration—it is a cornerstone of the district's continued growth and success," said Superintendent Aaron Sable.

# Medina Bike Safety Rodeo: An Evening of Sunshine, Smiles, and Community Spirit

The first annual Medina Bike Rodeo was a wheel-turning success. With nearly 150 attendees enjoying a beautiful afternoon of fun and learning, this community-focused event brought together families, safety partners, and local organizations, celebrating bike safety and healthy living.

The event, held in collaboration with the City of Medina, Medina City Schools, the Kiwanis Club of Medina, and Eddy's Bike Shop, featured engaging activities and generous support from local business partners.



#### Safety + Fun on Two Wheels

Participants were thrilled to interact with the Medina City, Medina

Township, and Montville Police Departments, who offered valuable bike safety tips and led a relay race and obstacle course, giving kids a chance to put their skills into action.

The MCPAL Ice Cream Truck kept the energy high and the kids cool with free sweet treats, while the Medina County District Library rolled in their brand-new Book Bike, sharing stories and encouraging young readers to pedal into summer with great books.

#### Freebies, Tunes, and Community Spirit

Every child who attended received a free Medina Bike Rodeo water bottle and exclusive coupons from Cool Beans Café, Courthouse Pizzeria, and A Cupcake A Day—a perfect way to cap off the festivities. Free bike helmets were also available on a first-come, first-served basis, helping to keep our young riders safe all summer long.

The event was a celebration, with lively music provided by DJ Greg Mack and informational booths hosted by vendors like Armstrong Cable, the Medina County Parks Department, the Medina County District Library, and Bike Medina County.

#### **Huge Thanks to the Sponsors**

Thank you to the amazing sponsors, whose generosity made this community event possible:

- Discount Drug Mart
- A Cupcake A Day
- Mellion Orthodontics Fairlawn & Medina
- Courthouse Pizzeria
- Walmart
- Armstrong
- Serpentini Chevrolet Medina
- Cool Beans Cafe
- Trek Bicycle

It was an evening of great weather, smiles, and kids on bikes—a perfect kickoff to summer.

# Volunteer of the Year: Honoring Extraordinary Service to Northrop Elementary

Medina City Schools is proud to recognize Mr. Burt Humpel as this year's Volunteer of the Year for his exceptional dedication, creativity, and service to Northrop Elementary and the broader Medina City School District.

#### **Transforming Spaces, Inspiring Minds**

Mr. Humpel has gone above and beyond in his volunteer efforts, enriching the educational experience for students and supporting the work of staff in countless ways. One of his most remarkable contributions has been the creation of a whimsical tree library in Northrop's lobby. With imagination, care, and craftsmanship, he transformed a previously ordinary space into a magical reading



nook that sparks curiosity and invites children into the world of books. More than just a structure, the tree library stands as a symbol of literacy, creativity, and community.

#### **Compassion in Action**

Never one to rest on his accomplishments, Mr. Humpel is currently working on his next project: designing and constructing a little food pantry, uniquely modeled after the Northrop school building itself. This thoughtful initiative will serve families in need and reflects his deep compassion and commitment to the greater community. His work serves as a bridge between the school and those it serves, reinforcing the values of care and connection.

#### A Leader Behind the Scenes

In addition to his visible volunteer projects, Mr. Humpel also shares his professional expertise behind the scenes. As a former accountant, he contributes valuable insight as a member of the Board Finance Committee, helping guide important financial decisions that impact students, staff, and families across the district. His involvement is marked by thoughtfulness, precision, and a sincere dedication to the district's mission.

### Medina High School Empowers Student Expression Through the Arts



As the 2024–2025 school year draws to a close, Medina High School students have showcased their creativity and passion through various artistic opportunities, sharing their talents with the school and the broader community.

# 2025 Visual Art Festival's "Best of Medina County" High School Show Spotlights Talent

The 2025 Visual Art Festival's "Best of Medina County" High School Show spotlighted the extraordinary talent of young artists across the region, and Medina High School made a memorable impression with eight student artworks selected for this prestigious exhibition.

Senior Addison Dressel, leading the honors, captured the Best of Show award for her intricately rendered colored pencil drawing, *Two Sides of the Same Coin*. Addison received a \$300 prize and continues to build on a portfolio rich with accolades, including Scholastic Gold and Silver Keys and multiple Best of Show wins at the county fair.

Addison, a devoted artist throughout her high school years, recently submitted her AP Drawing portfolio featuring deeply personal portraits. She has contributed extensively to the school community through the Art Club and other creative initiatives. This fall, she will attend Bowling Green State University to major in Art History, aspiring to a career that keeps her connected to the art world.

Also recognized was sophomore Ana Burjanadze, whose striking mixed-media work, *The Knight and the Panther*, stood out among talented student artists and earned an Honorable Mention.

#### Student Innovation Takes Shape: Creative Cove Gallery Launches

Medina High School's commitment to fostering student leadership and artistic expression took a new form this spring with the launch of the Creative Cove Gallery, a student-led initiative born from this year's Senior Capstone Class. Spearheaded by seniors Jay Milewski and Zoey Dressler, the gallery opened its doors on May 9th in the school's foyer with a vibrant exhibition featuring work from AP and Honors Art Portfolio students.

The gallery's debut was met with enthusiasm, and its founders plan to continue the momentum with quarterly exhibits in the coming school year. Creative Cove provides a vital platform for student artists to share their voices and visions with the broader school community.

#### **Cultivating Connections Through the Creative Exchange**

In addition to this year's exhibition successes, Medina High School continues to lead in interdisciplinary innovation through the Creative Exchange, launched in 2022. This ongoing initiative encourages collaborative projects across departments, blending visual arts with English Language Arts, Science, and History.

One standout project from the Creative Exchange involves a partnership between Creative Writing students and AP and Honors Art students. Students compose original short stories that are then visually interpreted through companion artworks, resulting in a rich, cross-curricular display of storytelling and visual creativity.



The Knight and the Panther

Ana Burjanadze



**Creative Cove** 



**Creative Exchange** 

Medina High School students once again demonstrated their literary talent and creative spirit at the Just Write State Tournament, recently held at Ashland University. Competing against the top young writers from across Ohio, these students not only showcased their storytelling abilities but also brought home significant accolades.



Throughout the competition, students participated in a rigorous series of three narrative writing rounds, attended creative writing workshops, and had the opportunity to learn from published authors who shared valuable insights into their craft.

Among Medina's outstanding performers was Elizabeth Klinge, who placed 5th overall in the 11–12 division. With her compelling narratives and polished writing style, she rose above a competitive field of 150 state qualifiers.

In the 9–10 division, Caitlyn Finn earned one of the event's most coveted honors—the Director's Choice Award. This award, presented to only three students in the division, recognizes exceptional storytelling skill, originality, and voice.

Medina High School proudly celebrates all of its talented state qualifiers, including:

- Max Jones
- Caitlyn Finn
- Elizabeth Klinge
- Alexa Prifti
- Vanessa Relik
- Addison Scheetz
- Lucy Yao

Their dedication to the writing craft and their ability to create imaginative, engaging stories exemplify the vibrant literary community fostered at Medina High School. Congratulations to all participants for their hard work and creative achievements.

# Medina City Schools Students Participate in Special Olympics Track & Field Event

On May 8, the energy and excitement at Cloverleaf High School was evident as student-athletes from across the region came together for a day filled with spirit, determination, and inclusion at the annual Special Olympics Track & Field event. Among the participants were several proud and enthusiastic representatives from Medina City Schools, who demonstrated not only athletic skill, but also sportsmanship and resilience.



The Special Olympics event provided students of all abilities with the opportunity to showcase their talents in a variety of athletic competitions. From the opening ceremonies to the final relays, Cloverleaf's stadium was filled with cheers, high-fives, and a sense of unity.

Medina students participated alongside peers from neighboring districts, giving their all on the track and field with the support of their teachers, families, and classmates. Many wore big smiles and proudly displayed their medals as they crossed finish lines and completed their events.

Special Olympics provides meaningful athletic experiences for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, giving them a platform to succeed, grow in confidence, and be celebrated for their unique abilities.

#### **A Lasting Impact**

The May 8 celebration at Cloverleaf was more than just a sports event—it was a demonstration of courage, and the power of community. Students left the field with medals in hand and hearts full of pride, having been part of something truly meaningful.

# Medina High School Students Bring Biology to Life



At Medina High School, science education goes far beyond textbooks—and nowhere is this more evident than in the biology lab. This spring, students had the opportunity to participate in hands-on dissection labs, a powerful and immersive experience that deepened their understanding of anatomy, physiology, and the wonders of life science.

#### **Learning Through Experience**

Biology teacher Laura Frawley shared, "As a Biology teacher, I believe that hands-on learning is one of the most effective ways for students to truly understand complex scientific concepts. Dissection offers a unique, tangible opportunity to explore anatomy in a way that diagrams and videos simply cannot replicate."

In these labs, students dissected frogs and fetal pigs—organisms frequently used in biology classrooms due to their anatomical similarities to humans. These real-life explorations allow students to observe the structure and function of various organs and systems, gaining insight into how the body works as an integrated whole.

#### **Skills and Values Learned**

Dissection lessons are carefully designed to foster more than scientific knowledge. Through these activities, students:

- Deepen their understanding of comparative anatomy and physiology.
- Sharpen critical thinking and observation skills.
- Gain appreciation for the complexity of living organisms.
- Reflect on the ethical considerations of scientific study.

Each lab is conducted with a strong emphasis on care, respect, and responsibility, modeling the ethical standards of real-world scientific inquiry. "Students are guided to treat the specimens with dignity and to reflect on the value of life, encouraging a thoughtful and respectful approach to biological study," Frawley added.

## Fenn Fourth Graders Tackle Invasive Species at Buckeye Woods Park

This April, fourth-grade students from Fenn Elementary took learning beyond the classroom and into the heart of nature with a unique service-learning experience that combined environmental education, community involvement, and outdoor adventure. In partnership with the Medina County Park District, students explored one of Medina's most beautiful natural spaces while making a meaningful impact on the local ecosystem.



#### **Learning with Purpose**

The project began in the classroom, where students learned about Ohio's natural environment and the threat posed by invasive plant species, with a special focus on garlic mustard—a non-native plant that aggressively displaces native vegetation and disrupts habitats.

The unit culminated in a hands-on service project at Buckeye Woods Park, where more than 100 students joined forces with 19 dedicated parent volunteers and a team of master gardeners to remove this destructive weed. Armed with gloves, garbage bags, and enthusiasm, the group pulled and cleared over 35 large bags of garlic mustard from the park grounds.

#### **Teamwork in Action**

The event was a shining example of collaboration and community spirit. Park staff praised the students' enthusiasm and hard work, noting the visible impact of their efforts. Students described the outing as a "fun adventure," an "amazing experience," and a "great group effort"—showing that environmental stewardship can be both educational and exciting.

Organizers Pam Gemmer and Terri Noe expressed their pride in the students' efforts: "Everyone was respectful and responsible in the park, and many students were so inspired that they sent us pictures of themselves removing garlic mustard from their own backyards!"

#### **Growing Future Environmental Stewards**

This experience not only enriched the science curriculum but also instilled in students a deeper appreciation for nature and a sense of responsibility toward protecting it. By combining classroom learning with community service, Fenn Elementary's fourth graders proved that even young citizens can make a big difference in the health of our environment.

# Claggett's Leadership Team Give Back to the Community

A group of students from Claggett's Student Leadership Team recently helped the Kiwanis Club plant flowers and mulch at Jump Park.





# Medina's 4th Annual Juneteenth Celebration

# Saturday, June 14th

Medina Public Square 10am-3pm

- ★ Free Cultural Celebration
- ★ Shop Vendors and Food Trucks
- ★ Family Friendly and Fun Activities
- ★ Guest Speakers, Live Entertainment and Music







Danita Harris Key Note Speaker Anchor WKYC 3 NEWS



Sanyuka Chidren's Choir Uganda, Africa The Motown Jazz Band Cleveland, OH

Title Sponsor
Cleveland Clinic
Medina Hospital

Registration for Sponsors and Vendors closes, on April 15, 2025.

Vendors save \$10 by registering before March 31, 2025

Contact the Juneteenth Committee at sistercircle 2012@aol.com for details.

2025 Partnering Organizations

CITY OF SECOND BAPTIST SISTER CIRCLE
MEDINA CHURCH MEDINA

MEDINA DIVERSITY MAIN STREET PROJECT MEDINA

Design by Ohio City Shirts, LL



Our program offers all the regular safety town fun "PLUS" the extra help some children with developmental differences may need.





#### SECURE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

Register at INVENT.ORG/CAMP or 800-968-4332

Grades: K - 6th

Location: A I Root Middle School

333 West Sturbridge Drive, Medina, OH 44256

Dates: June 9 - 13, 2025

Time & Cost: 8:00 AM to 2:30 PM | \$275 (before discount) | Less than \$9 per hour!

Payment Plans Available

Camp Director: Krista Lynch | klynch5575@gmail.com | (330) 636-3500

"Both of my children have loved attending Camp Invention the past two summers! Engaging educational activities that keep them interested and encourage creativity."

- Amber F., Parent of Camper

REGISTER HERE!

If these dates/times don't work for you, please visit  $\underline{\text{invent.org/camp}}$  for other locations near you.

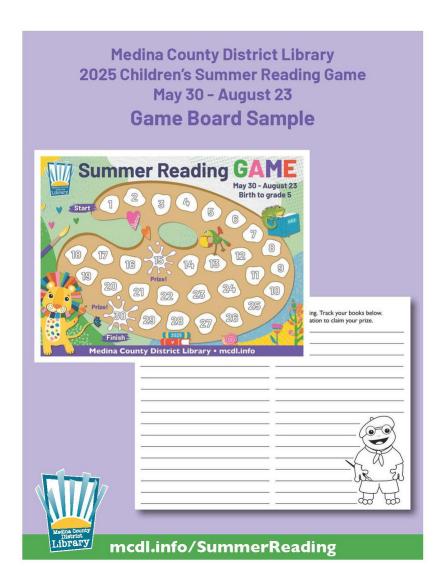
Camp Invention is a nonprofit program of the National Inventors Hall of Fame

National Inventors Hall of Fame



Investors in Creativity and Invention Army Educational Outreach Program Burton D. Morgan Foundation General Motors ordson Corporation Foundation verdeck Family Foundation are Blakely Foundation. Inc.









Have a Safe & Enjoyable Summer Break

