MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS MINUTE

February 5, 2025

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

Pancake Breakfast & Spotlight on Students Celebrating Student Talents

Medina City Schools hosted its annual Community Pancake Breakfast and “Spotlight on Students” on Saturday, January 25, 2025, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the main cafeteria at Medina High School.

As part of this event, student artwork was on display, and various student performances from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM from all grade levels took place on the main stage of the Performing Arts Center, including an appearance from Medina High School's show choir, Encore Entertainment Company.

Thank you to the many volunteers and sponsors who made this event possible: Borden, Buehler’s Fresh Foods, Discount Drug Mart, Huntington Bank, and Walmart. Net proceeds from ticket sales to this event will go to the Medina City Schools Foundation to support the programs and services

they provide to Medina City Schools' students and staff, including the Joyce B. Ebner Tutoring Center located at Medina High School.

About the Medina City Schools Foundation: The Medina City Schools Foundation was established in 1984 to support and enhance learning opportunities for the students in the Medina City School District. The Foundation is an independent organization comprised of committed members of the community who support programs that benefit our students in collaboration with the teachers and staff of the Medina City Schools. The Foundation is a private organization, not directly affiliated with the school board or administration. It is incorporated under Ohio laws as a non-profit organization. Various members of the Medina area fund it through the generous individual support and community support of our annual fundraising activities.

Medina City Schools Foundation Announces Winner of Run.4.Fun T-Shirt Contest

The Medina City Schools Foundation hosts an annual contest allowing district students to design the organization's annual Run.4.Fun race t-shirts. This year, middle school students had the chance to submit their designs.

During the Pancake Breakfast & Spotlight on Students on Saturday, January 25, 2025, the Medina City Schools Foundation's president, Ken Stump, and Run.4.Fun chairperson Beth Bugner

announced this year's contest winner, Claggett Middle School seventh-grader Maisah Getz.

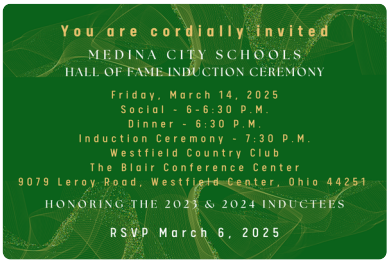
This year, the annual Run.4.Fun 1-mile fun run and 5K will be held on Friday, May 9, 2025, at Medina High School.

Kindergarten Registration for the 2025-2026 School Year Now Open

Kindergarten registration for the 2025-2026 school year is now open. For more information, please click here, email registration@medinabees.org or call 330.636.3100.

MCS Hall of Fame to Recognize Inductees to the Class of 2023 and 2024

The Medina City Schools Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony will be on Friday, March 14, 2025, at The Blair Center in Westfield at 6:00 PM. To purchase tickets, click here. The deadline to RSVP is Thursday, March 6, 2025.



We will celebrate:

Class of 2023
Greg Newkirk
Frank Shotwell
Jessica Toocheck
Scott Tuchek

Class of 2024
Sam Chester
Dr. Brian Huber
The Late Jim Gowe

Rob Harvilla
Austin Schreiber

Medina High School Writers Excel at Just Write Regional Competition

Recently, ten of Medina High School's students showcased their creative writing skills at the Just Write Regional Competition at Cloverleaf High School, where they competed against some of the most skilled young writers in the state. The event, known for its rigorous and fast-paced writing challenges, attracted students from across the region, all eager to demonstrate their storytelling abilities under timed conditions.

Participants are given prompts to produce original short stories in the time allotted, demonstrating creativity, coherence, and technical writing skills. Judges evaluate submissions based on originality, plot development, character depth, and overall storytelling quality.

This year, Medina High School brought an outstanding team of writers who performed exceptionally well, with seven of the ten students participating moving on to the state competition. Alexa Prifti won the Division II Poetry Contest, showcasing her exceptional talent and creativity. Lucy Yao placed 10th in Division II, while Elizabeth Klinge closely followed, securing 11th place in the same division. Caitlyn Finn demonstrated her writing skills in Division I by finishing 10th place. These young authors demonstrated remarkable imagination and the ability to construct engaging narratives under pressure.

Beyond the competition, Just Write provides students with invaluable experience that enhances their writing abilities, critical thinking skills, and confidence in storytelling.

Medina High School Hosts "Hoops for Hope" Basketball Games

In partnership with the Medina Athletic Boosters, the Medina High School Athletic Department, and both the boys' and girls' basketball teams, Medina High School's Hope Squad sponsored *Hoops for Hope* on January 31, 2025.

Hope Squad held a "Mental Health Matters" week from January 27-31 to advocate and educate students on the importance of mental wellness. Hope Squad members organized the following activities to promote mental wellness during the week:

- During the January Hope Squad meeting, AP Government & Politics teacher Elizabeth Parker shared a personal story with Hope Squad on why mental health is important to her family.

- Hope Squad members passed out 3,000 lifesavers to students as they arrived at school on Tuesday, January 28.

- Hope Squad members posted hundreds of 'Positive Post It Notes' throughout the school.

- The Medina Athletic Boosters and Athletic Department donated funds to purchase *Hoops for Hope* t-shirts.

- Students who correctly answered trivia questions on mental health-related topics were offered a free *Hoops for Hope* T-shirt. They could also purchase T-shirts at a reduced price.

- Medina Athletic Boosters provided *Hoops for Hope* T-shirts to the Medina High School and Cleveland Heights boys and girls basketball teams and cheerleading squads.

- The Medina City Schools Technology Department filmed and edited a short video message by Medina High School students on the importance of looking out for teammates and friends. Viewers are challenged to look beyond the surface and ask, "How are you really?"

What is Hope Squad? Hope Squad is a peer-to-peer suicide prevention program. It is comprised of trustworthy, approachable students who are trained to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental distress or suicidal thoughts. Members are trained to connect these students to adult advisors who know how to facilitate getting help. The District wants to thank the Medina County Mental Health and Recovery Board for partially funding this program.

Hope Squad has existed at Medina High School and the middle schools since 2019. In 2023, Medina City Schools started Jr. Hope Squads in its elementary buildings. The Jr. Hope Squad aims to spread kindness and positivity throughout the school.

Ron Blue, advisor for Medina High School Hope Squad, shared, "Hope Squad and Mental Health Awareness Week has become an important tool to help reduce the stigma associated with mental health. Our student body learns about Hope Squad and good mental health. The more fun we have with the topic, the more the stigma associated with it begins to dwindle. Mental health and suicide was a taboo topic when I was growing up. Today's students talk about it all the time, and many are very educated on signs and symptoms of distressed mental health."

MHS Speech and Debate Team Excels at OSDA Akron District Tournament

Over the February 1 weekend, Medina High School's Speech and Debate team, led by coaches Tiffany Nicol and Kailey Edelman, showcased their talent and determination at the OSDA Akron District Tournament. Competing against top-tier teams, Medina's students demonstrated exceptional skill and perseverance in their quest to secure a spot at the state competition.

After a rigorous day of intense rounds, the team emerged victorious with an impressive nine students qualifying for the State Tournament. Congratulations to Eleanor Kristan, Abby Waugh, Hannah Weaver, Sam Warren, Adam Goe, Natalie Fellows, Kate Cline, Kaylee Chalmers, and Alysia Aldea on their outstanding achievement. Additionally, Ava Campbell and McKenna Gallagher were named second alternates. Their hard work, dedication, and strategic thinking paid off, earning them a well-deserved place among Ohio's best competitors.

This achievement is a testament to the dedication of the students and coaches, who have worked tirelessly to refine their skills and prepare for competitive speech and debate challenges.

Medina High School Student Council Attends National Leadership Conference

Sixteen Medina High School Student Council members were among more than 1,800 student leaders who attended the National Student Council Conference from January 31 to February 2 in Chicago, Illinois. Hosted by the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP), this prestigious event connects student leaders nationwide and is affiliated with the National Honor Society™, the National Junior Honor Society™, and the National Association of Student Councils™.

Student Council Advisors Laura Calaiacovo and Erin Puskas and their students engaged in dynamic workshops focused on leadership development. Topics included problem-solving, project planning, fundraising, team-building, idea-sharing, mental health, school culture, and networking. Attendees also had the opportunity to hear from nationally recognized motivational speakers Khalil Greene and Sharon McMahon, who inspired students with their insights on leadership and advocacy.

A highlight of the conference was Medina seniors Piper Jackson and Sophie Akers Novak, who were selected to lead a workshop on public speaking. Their session drew an impressive audience of over 95 participants, showcasing Medina's strong presence among student leaders.

The following Student Council members proudly represented Medina High School:
Seniors: Piper Jackson, Sophie Akers Novak
Juniors: Autumn Campbell, Brinley Hair, Avery Henry, Heidi Sebaugh, Kaitlyn Suliks
Sophomores: Leah Bugner, Ava Kanieski, Nonsi Malusalila, Trent Schirmer, Tiffany Sebaugh, William Shimko, Zach Sohar, Delaney Swantek, Brady Vein

Beyond gaining valuable leadership skills, the students enjoyed exploring Chicago and networking with fellow student leaders from across the country. Their participation in this national event reflects their dedication to leadership, growth, and making a positive impact at Medina High School.

NEW Peer Registration Now Open for the 2025-2026 School Year

A peer model is a role model student, aged three to five, who demonstrates age-appropriate language, behavior, and social skills, and does not have special needs. Peers need to be toilet-trained by their first day of preschool.

The first step of the process is to complete and return a peer model application. All peer applications for the 2025-2026 school year are completed electronically. After the application is received, all applications will be reviewed and a peer screening may be scheduled. Registration will take place until all openings are filled.

In March, a notification letter will go to the parents/guardians if the child as been accepted into the Helping Hands Preschool or has been placed on a wait list. Upon receiving the acceptance letter, the parent/guardian will need to register the student in the Medina City Schools system within 30 days. Instructions for registration will accompany the notification of acceptance letter.

To apply to be a peer, please click here to fill out our application. For any questions, please visit the Helping Hands Preschool website or call the Preschool at (330) 636-4400.

Save the Date

Save the date for these upcoming district events.

March 3-March 31, 2025: Medina County Student Art Show: A Celebration of Youth Art Month. Medina County student works of art on display in businesses and restaurants in and around Medina's Historic Square during regular business hours.

May 22, 2025: Strings in the Park: Uptown Park (rain location the Medina Performing Arts Center) 12:00 PM-1:00 PM. Pack a lunch and bring your chair to listen to the amazing sounds of the Medina High School Orchestra.

February is Love the Bus Month

February is Love the Bus Month. Here's to the iconic yellow school bus and those who safely transport our students daily to and from school.

Boosters Present MHS Student Council With Donation to Benefit Senior Prom

On Tuesday, February 4, 2025, Medina Athletic Boosters concessions coordinator Autumn Giddens presented MHS Student Council with a check for $20,000. This amount was earned by Student Council for staffing and working the concession stands during JV and Varsity football games this past fall. Student Council uses this money to offset the cost of senior prom and help keep ticket costs low for students who attend the event.

Medina County Career Center Kiwanis January Student of the Month Named

Lauren Kadlec, a senior in the Teaching Professions program at the Medina County Career Center (MCCC), has been recognized as the Medina County Kiwanis January Student of the Month by a panel of her peers.

A dedicated leader, Lauren has served as president of her program during both her junior and senior years. She is also an MCCC Student Ambassador, representing the Career Center at the Road Show and Sophomore Visitation events. Her commitment to education extends beyond the classroom—she has volunteered at the Medina County Fair and served as a Teacher's Assistant at Heritage Elementary School.

At Medina High School, Lauren was a Student Council class representative during her freshman and sophomore years, participating in numerous volunteer activities. She is currently an active member of the Medina High School Color Guard and the Hope Squad, a peer support group focused on mental health awareness.

Beyond school, Lauren is deeply involved in her Grace Baptist Church Youth Group, where she volunteers in the nursery and took part in a mission trip to Costa Rica.

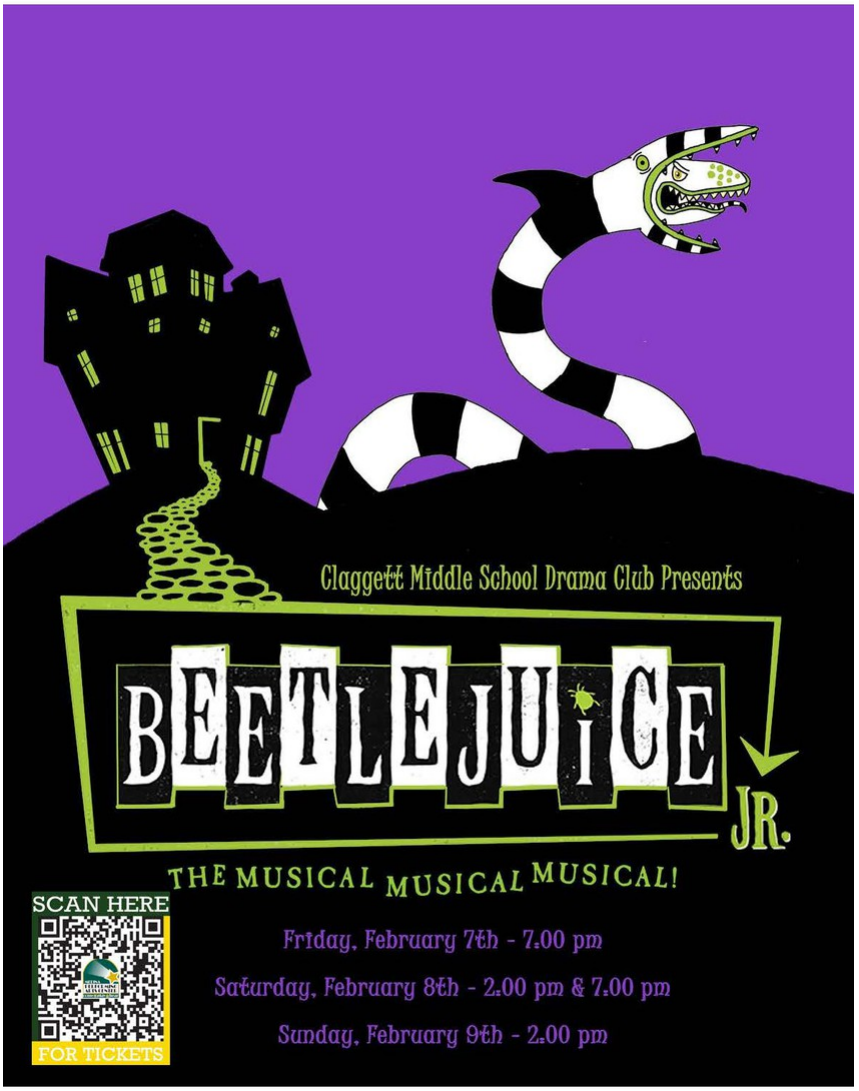
Academically, Lauren has pursued an impressive course load through College Credit Plus (CCP), earning credits from The University of Akron in Intro to Ethics, Intro to Psychology, Developmental Psychology, Earth Science, Intro to Communications, Foundations of Personal Finance, Statistics for Everyday Life, and Empires of the Ancient World. She has also completed Composition I and II through Lorain County Community College.

Lauren has excelled in Educators Rising competitions, earning a Gold Medal at the state level and a White Ribbon at nationals. Recognized for her academic achievements, she was named a Star Student as a junior, has been on the Honor Roll throughout high school, and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society in her junior year.

The daughter of Anthony and Allison Kadlec, Lauren plans to pursue a degree in Early Childhood Education in college.

Boosters Present Athletic Department With Donation

During the Bees boys basketball varsity matchup against Cleveland Heights on January 31, the Medina Athletic Boosters presented a check for $50,000 to the Medina Athletic Department for the purpose of buying new uniforms for the high school and middle school team in need.


Claggett Middle School Drama Club Presents
BEETLEJUICE
JR.
THE MUSICAL MUSICAL MUSICAL!
SCAN HERE
FOR TICKETS
Friday, February 7th - 7.00 pm
Saturday, February 8th - 2.00 pm & 7.00 pm
Sunday, February 9th - 2.00 pm

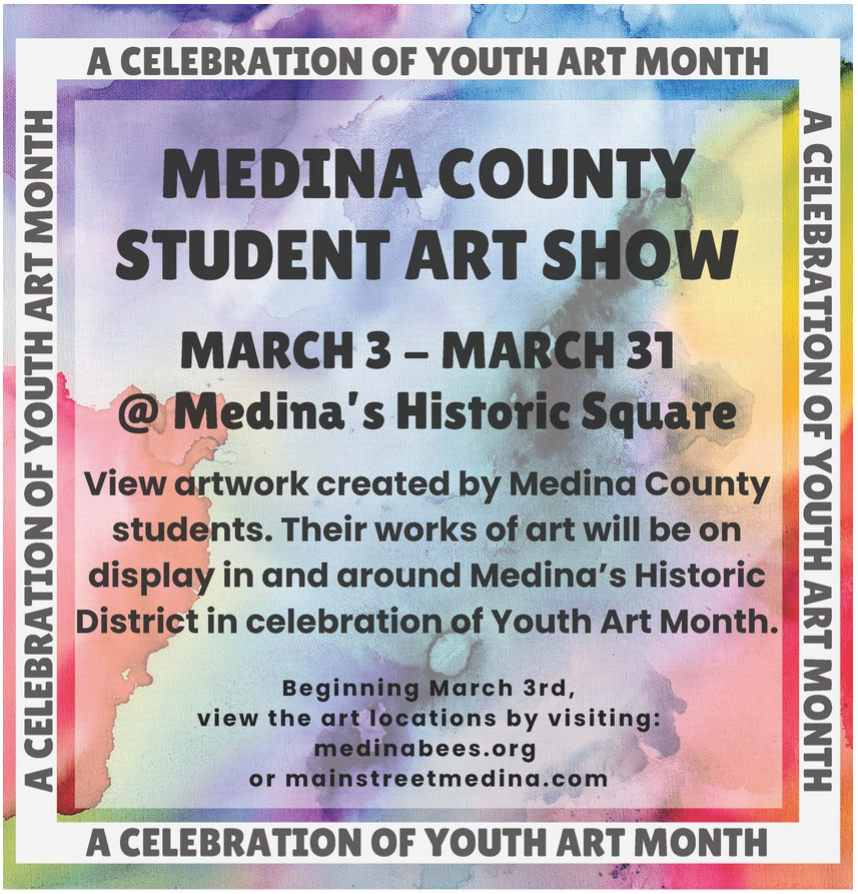
Medina City Schools Foundation Presents:

MCSF
EDUCATION COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP
MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

Get ready for a night of epic piano battles and sing-along fun with The Cleveland Keys Dueling Pianos.

When: Saturday, February 22, 2025
Where: Williams on the Lake
787 Lafayette Road
Medina, OH 44256
Time: 6:00 PM-10:00 PM
Tickets: $75 per person

Tickets are now on sale online at
www.medinacityschoolsfoundation.org



Supporting sponsors:

Huntington

THE MEDINA COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL

MAIN STREET MEDINA

Medina Band Program Presents:

FEEL THE BEAT

Concert & Jazz Events 2025

Immerse yourself in the thunderous beats, soul-stirring melodies, and raw energy of live performances by the Medina bands that will leave you amazed.

MHS WINTER BAND CONCERT

MARCH 4-7 PM
FEATURING ALL
MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS
JAZZ BANDS-FREE

OMEA LARGE GROUP

MARCH 14/15-T.B.D
SYMPHONY BAND,
CONCERT BAND,
FRESHMAN BAND-FREE

JAZZMATAZZ

APRIL 5-EVENING
FEATURING ALL
MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS
JAZZ BANDS-$$
FUNDRAISER

MHS SPRING BAND CONCERT

MAY 1-7 PM
SYMPHONY BAND,
CONCERT BAND,
FRESHMAN BAND-$$

SPRING JAZZ CONCERT

MAY 14-7 PM
FEATURING ALL THE
MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS
JAZZ BANDS-FREE

MEDINA YOUTH RUGBY

SPRING REGISTRATION

WHO CAN JOIN

BOYS & GIRLS GRADES K-8

WHEN

PRACTICES START SOON...

GAME DAYS ARE SUNDAYS:
MARCH 30, APRIL 6, APRIL 13, APRIL 27, & MAY 4

CITY CHAMPIONSHIPS: MAY 18
STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS: MAY 25
NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: JUNE 7-9

REGISTER ON-LINE

WWW.ROOKIERUGBYOHIO.COM

CONTACT US: MEDINARUGBY@GMAIL.COM

www.medinarugby.wordpress.com

MEDINA BEES RFC

DEVELOPING CHAMPIONSHIP YOUTH SINCE 2011

DIVISIONS

PreK-K Flag (U6)
1st-2nd Flag (U8)
3rd-5th Flag (U11)
5th-6th Boys (U12)
6th-8th Girls (U14)
7th-8th Boys (U14)

FUN FOR ALL

Open to all.
No experience necessary.
New athletes of all skill levels welcome!

COST

Flag = $100
Tackle = $115

CULTURE OF CHAMPIONS
MEDINA ATHLETICS

Support the Medina Bees Boys & Girls Golf Teams
EUCHRE
TOURNAMENT
03.07.2025
CHECK IN: 5:30PM
GAMES START: 6:30PM
DOUBLE ELIMINATION
$90
PER TEAM
Prizes for top 3 places
Check- Medina Boosters
Venmo: medinaboosters1
"golf fundraiser"
Cash
RSVP: Mike or Laura
Mozingom@medinabees.org
Stauffenger1@medinabees.org
Fox Meadow C.C
4260 Fox Meadow Dr,
Medina, OH 44256
LIGHT APPETIZERS
CASH BAR

You're invited!

Launch into Girl Scouts

Bring a friend, make new ones,
and join us for a FREE
out-of-this-world Girl Scout event!

Caregivers will learn all about Girl Scouts and troop openings while their girls participate in fun, space-themed activities.

Calling All Future Girl Scouts Grades K-5!

Join the Fun, Join Girl Scouts!

Thursday, February 29, 6:00PM-7:00PM
Medina Library – Community Room A & B
210 South Broadway Street, Medina, OH 44256

Join this event and see many others by visiting **gsneo.org/join** and click RSVP Now!

Questions? Contact Customer Care by email customercare@gsneo.org, by phone 800-852-4474, or by Live Chat at gsneo.org

girl scouts of north east ohio

RSVP now & invite a friend!
Visit gsneo.org/join

Click the "RSVP NOW" button.

Medina City Schools Minute

For more information visit www.medinabees.org