

# WE ARE MONROE

The **Monroe Public Schools** Newsletter

• SPRING EDITION •



## CRAVE INNOVATION



Monroe Public Schools is committed to being the premier education organization in the region. We are devoted to promoting high expectations for all in a state of the art 21st century curriculum. We recognize that all of the students and the communities that we serve are our customers, and we promise to make all decisions in their best interest.

### INSIDE...

- Monroe High School Drama Club wows with spring musical
- Waterloo students earn smashing reward for reading goals
- Custer "Special O.P.S." honor students with special guests
- Young Entrepreneurs prepare for showcase
- MMS welcomes new NJHS inductees

## May 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Decision Day	2	3	4	5
6	7	8 Election Day Board of Education Meeting #8	9	10 Rainbow Preschool Open House	11	12 Young Entrepreneurs Showcase (See p. 7)
13 Mother's Day	14	15	16 Half Day MHS Senior Awards Program	17	18	19
20 MHS Spring Band and Orchestra Concert	21	22 Board of Education Meeting #9	23 MHS Instrumental Music Awards	24 MHS Spring Choirs Vocal Concert	25	26
27	28 Memorial Day No School	29	30	31		

## June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 MHS Graduation	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Board of Education Meeting #10	13 Half Day Last Day of School	14 Flag Day	15	16
17 Father's Day	18 Safety City Begins	19	20	21 M.A.R.C. Robotics Competition	22 M.A.R.C. Robotics Competition	23 M.A.R.C. Robotics Competition
24	25	26 Board of Education Meeting #11	27	28	29 Safety City Graduation	30

## July 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Independence Day	5	6	7
8	9 Summer Learning Academy Begins	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Board of Education Meeting #12	25	26	27	28
29 Monroe County Fair	30 Monroe County Fair	31 Monroe County Fair				

### Sign up for Safety City!

Classes run

### June 18-29!

This program is specifically designed to teach children in young fives and kindergarten good safety habits at home, at school, and around the community. It also provides an opportunity for your child to interact with other children in an informal school-like setting and meet and become friendly with many of the resource people in our community.

Sign up early! Classes full quickly! Visit the MPS website for details!



### Follow Monroe Public Schools on Facebook!

Where you can find important updates about the district, fun articles and photos, and even a digital copy of the latest **Monroe Minute!**

## MHS Drama Club wows with Greek-inspired Spring Musical

“The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza” gives a fun outlook on classic Greek myths

As a send-off for director Carol Sliwka, who is retiring at the end of this school year, the Monroe High School Drama Club performed a collection of hilariously altered stories of ancient Greek myths from March 23-25. “The Greek Mythology Olympiaganza,” produced by Drama Club advisor Alison Drougal, featured many students who were new to the club, which senior Jordan Jewell said made the project even more fun than the other shows in which she has participated.

“This show was really fun to work on,” said Jewell, who played Narrator 1 “We had a lot of new actors this



time around, so it was a fun time helping them learn and grow as the show went on. It was also a great way to give Mrs. Sliwka a send-off with this being her last show. She is an amazing director.”



## MMS roars onto the stage with “The Lion King, Jr.”

Under the direction of Holly VanKlingeren and Elise Dinwoody, Monroe Middle School put on a strong performance of the musical “The Lion King, Jr.” on April 13 and 14. With colorful costumes and sets, the students acted and sang through a wonderful performance of the Disney classic, delighting audiences throughout the weekend. Congratulations to Monroe Middle School for a great show!



## MPS staff well-represented in 2018 ISD Whole Apple Awards

Congratulations to the following staff whose dedication and unparalleled support of Monroe Public Schools has been recognized in this year’s 2018 Monroe County ISD Whole Apple Awards!

**Conor Kuriwckak, Manor Elementary**

*General Education Teacher of the Year*

**Cliff Denoewer, Transportation**

*Non-Certified Ancillary Service Person of the Year*

**Amber Dietrich, Monroe High School**

*Rookie of the Year*

**Susan Krieger, Manor Elementary**

*Lifetime Achievement Award*

**Jennifer Yarbrough**

*Ancillary Service Professional of the Year*



Officer Brian Winsjansen and Deputy Joe Hammond were Custer Elementary's special guests for March's "Special O.P.S." celebration

## Custer's "Special O.P.S." welcomes officers Winsjansen, Ham-

Custer Elementary's March "Special O.P.S." (Outstanding Performing Student) celebration welcomed school liaisons Deputy Joe Hammond and Officer Brian Winsjansen to help recognize students' achievements. The officers helped Principal Lisa McLaughlin acknowledge these students who have made a difference in their school community and classroom.

The "Special O.P.S." program recognized 31 students on March 9 and has celebrated almost 100 students throughout the school year for their commitment to academic effort as well as citizenship in their classroom. The Special O.P.S. initiative gives staff and families a wonderful opportunity to rally around student success.

### REMEMBER TO VOTE TUESDAY, MAY 8

Non-Homestead Millage, Headlee Override, and Sinking Fund Millage

# RENEWAL

All of these propositions are renewals—These are NOT new taxes

#### Proposition A

Operating Millage Renewal Proposition  
Non-Homestead and Qualified Agricultural Property Tax

#### Proposition B

Operating Millage Renewal Proposition  
Headlee Override

#### Proposition C

Millage Renewal Proposal  
Building and Site Sinking Fund Tax Levy

## MMS inducts excited new class of NJHS members

Monroe Middle School inducted 100 new members to its National Junior Honor Society Thursday, April 19. Present members Isabella Richards, Grey Johnson, Emma Wisler, and Nevaeh Newnham addressed the new members about the importance of leadership, service, character, scholarship, and citizenship. The new members then spoke the pledge, officially becoming a part of the NJHS tradition. Assistant Principal Sara Staten was the featured speaker, thanking the students in attendance for their dedication to serving their fellow students and working to make Monroe Middle School a better place every single day. Congratulations to the newest NJHS members and also a thank you to NJHS advisors Sherry Hunt, Kate Dunlap, and Mary-Lu Strimbel for their hard work in running this great organization!



# A Dog-Gone Good Time!

Raisinville Elementary hosts Dog-Walk Backyard Carnival to benefit Project Second Chance Monroe

Raisinville sixth graders from Carolyn Lynch's class held a carnival for all of their furry friends on Saturday, April 21. The Dog-Walk Backyard Carnival raised over \$6,000 to benefit Project Second Chance Monroe, a non-profit organization that pairs youth with abandoned dogs. The youth train their new canine companions to find a "forever home." The carnival had a great turnout and included an dog agility course, carnival games for children and parents, tables from non-profit organizations, and even a mobile dog groomer!



Manor students Gavin Kurtz, Caroline Wozniak, and Jules Potcova present their school's plan for going green in the cafeteria.

## Manor students go green in the cafeteria

Student-led initiative looks to eliminate food waste at Manor Elementary

Manor Elementary students are going green when eating lunch! Working with Manor staff Melissa Cramer and Andi Strickler, Manor Elementary students are working to change the way that students in the lunch room organize their food waste when they are done eating. Under their plan, students organize their leftovers into a compost bin for food waste, a bin for uneaten and still wrapped food, leaving very little being thrown away in traditional garbage. The school is also working towards recycling all food trays and milk cartons.

Future plans for the school include implementing a school garden using the compost collected in the cafeteria.

Gavin Kurtz, Caroline Wozniak, Jules Potcova, Lana Mullins, Brooklynn Moore, Aiden Homer, and Kaison Kurtz presented their plan to our Board of Education.



**Love your bus driver? We want to hear why!**

**Call (734) 265-3300 and Dial 3 for the Bus Driver Compliment Line!**

# MPS celebrates World Youth Service Day

The Monroe Youth Advisory Council, along with student and staff volunteers throughout Monroe Public Schools and the Monroe community, kicked off the district's celebration of World Youth Service Day with a Mobile Food Pantry at Arborwood South Saturday, April 21. In conjunction with MCOP, the group of volunteers served 200 grateful families with food that morning.

To continue the celebration of World Youth Service Day, every school in the district is holding a student-led food drive for MCOP. Each building's MYAC representatives along with their Positive School Climate Liaisons are working together to collect the most food per person! The winning school wins an ice cream celebration!

Thank you to MCOP's Director Stephanie Kasprzak for all of her hard work in coordinating these events!



(Top) Volunteers gather for a group photo after the successful Mobile Food Pantry (Bottom Left). City Clerk Michelle LaVoy and Economic Director Mark Cochran share a laugh (Bottom Right) Arborwood Sixth Grader Celena Tamayo and her mom Amber Calderas work to prepare for the Mobile Food Pantry.

## Reading is a SMASH!

As a reward for breaking the school-wide reading goal for March, the top reader in each classroom at Waterloo had the privilege of throwing a pie at principal Meghan Gibson, like third grader Connor Fowler does below!



## Custer's Cooper Gregurich wins 2018 Sodexo Future Chef's Competition

Custer fourth grader Cooper Gregurich was named this year's Sodexo Future Chef for Monroe Public Schools. Using the event's theme "Asian Fusion," Cooper created a delicious Strawberry Crème Wonton with a cream and mint topping. Aside from placing top in the Monroe Public School's event, Cooper's dish landed him in the top 40 in the national competition, which included entries from over 250 school districts!



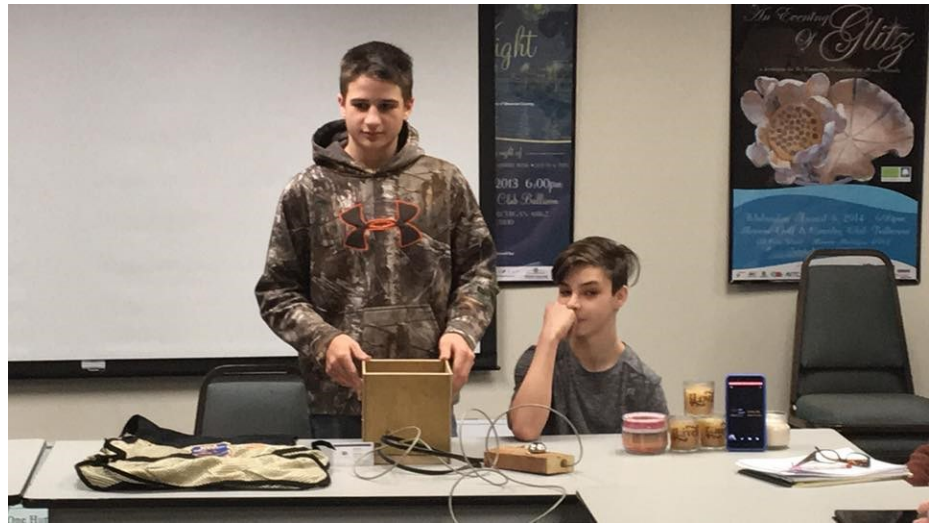
## Young entrepreneurs impress Community Foundation Board

Students from Waterloo Elementary, Monroe Middle School, and Monroe High School showcased their entrepreneurial ventures at the Community Foundation of Monroe County Board of Directors meeting in February.

Monroe Public Schools' innovative entrepreneurship curriculum has had great support from members of the community. The Monroe County Economic Development Corporation's Entrepreneurship and Innovation Task Force has been instrumental in the success curriculum. The Community Foundation, who last summer awarded Monroe Public Schools a grant to help launch the district's innovative entrepreneurship curriculum this school year, was able to witness the return on its investment, listening to students' stories of their business ventures in just this first year.

Waterloo third graders Jaicee Parkhurst and Oliver DeVera went first, explaining their homemade "Olaf Snowmen" for the Waterloo STEAM Shoppe. They explained the lessons they learned about profit, capital, design, and teamwork.

Jared Schmidt, an eighth grader at



Monroe Middle Schooler Jared Schmidt explains his product, which helps him practice his aim with trap shooting, while Landen Butler listens and waits for his turn to explain Landen's Little Lights, his candle company.

Monroe Middle School, showed off his product, the "Instant Shooter," which he initially created to help practice his aim and reflexes for trap shooting. He is now working to receive a patent and market his product.

Landen Butler, also an eighth grader, touted "Landen's Little Lights," his candle business. He spoke to how the class has helped him work through creating a prod-

uct and a business plan, as well as how the entrepreneurship class is helping him in other areas.

Lauren Steve and Lauren McCain, seniors at Monroe High School, recounted their first and second attempts at creating a pre-order bracelet business and told how what they learned from the first business helped them make the second one successful.

## MHS junior to attend second BPA National Conference

Monroe High School junior Anthony Levesque will attend the Business Professionals of America National Leadership Conference in Grapevine, TX, May 9-12.



He will be taking part in the Personal Financial Management competition, in which he placed second in the state and 29th nationally in 2017.

Anthony is an avid student and is excited to continue his successful ventures in BPA.

Join us for the

# Young Entrepreneur Showcase

**Saturday, May 12, 2018**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**Monroe High School**

The entrepreneurial curriculum implemented this year presents our students with critical thinking exercises, problem solving activities, and researching ideas based on student's interests to create their very own business venture. They are excited to share these products, prototypes, and services at the Young Entrepreneur Showcase!



Monroe Public Schools  
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 or  
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## Superintendent's Remarks

As we head into the last stretch of the school year, I hope you find the stories contained in this edition of *We Are Monroe* to be as inspiring as I do. These stories of



success from our students and staff are the perfect exhibition of the innovative, creative, and enriching initiatives and programs found here within Monroe Public Schools.

Those programs, however, can only be as impactful as the staff that work so hard to implement them. As we take special care to acknowledge the efforts of our entire community during School Family Appreciation Week, I invite everyone to take the opportunity to thank our teachers, custodians, bus drivers, assistants, secretaries, coaches, support staff, and administrators. Every single person in

our school community is integral to our students' success. We achieve more together than we ever could apart, and I am truly grateful for what we have and continue to accomplish!

As we move into the graduation season and unbelievably the end of the school year, I remind myself of how much we already have to celebrate and how much more we will have to be proud of as we send another well-prepared and eager group of young men and women to the next wonderful chapters of their lives. I know they will make us all so very proud and I cannot wait to see what they are able to accomplish!

As always

*Julie M. Everly*

Julie M. Everly,  
 Superintendent

## Monroe Public Schools

### Board Of Education

Lawrence VanWasshenova	President
Floreine Mentel	Vice President
Cynthia Taylor	Secretary
Cheryl Sweeney	Parliamentarian
Matthew Bunkelman	Trustee
Robert Nichols	Trustee
Rosalie Pasko	Trustee

### Central Administration

Julie Everly	Superintendent
Katherine Eighmey	Executive Director of Business and Finance
Cindy Flynn	Executive Director of Human Resources
Terry Joseph	Executive Director of Student Services
Jerry Oley	Executive Director of Operations
David Payne	Executive Director of Technology



Judge Cheryl Lohmeyer was one of many community members who took part in Waterloo Elementary's Career Fair!

