

# Middle JAGS

Newsletter Brought to You by Madison Middle School PTO



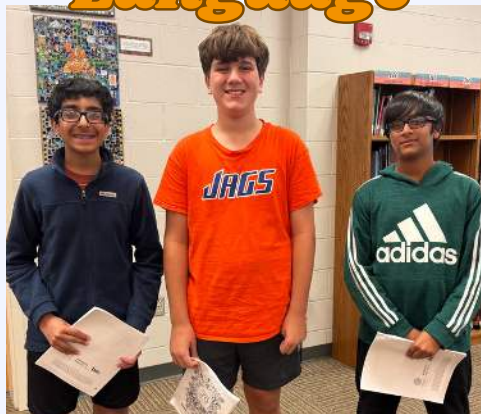
Shine Bright, MMS!



In this issue, we are thrilled to highlight the incredible opportunities that every student has to fully embrace all that MMS offers from academics to extracurricular activities. Every single day, we witness the spirit of generosity, creativity, and determination. **At MMS, we truly Shine Bright!**

-MMS Administration

## Language



Top three Spelling Bee spellers

## Science



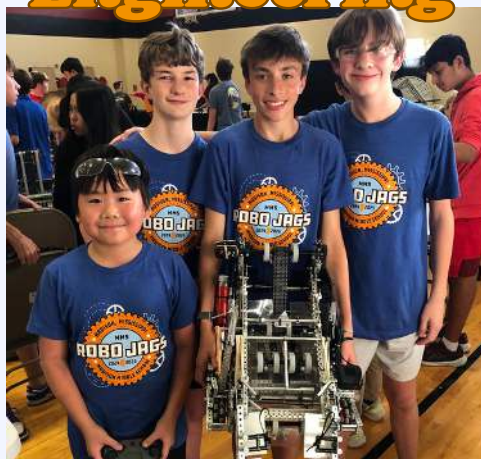
Biology students investigating osmosis.

## Arts



Scholastic Art competition sculpture

## Engineering



Team "Overheated" won the Robotics Tournament Champion Award

## Service



Beta Club bringing joy to the Home Place Nursing Home

## Sports



Girls golf team won the 7A region championship



## Scripps Spelling Bee

Over the past few weeks, all students have participated in the spelling bee screener during their language class. Those who achieved scores of 80 or higher received a word list to study and an invitation to compete in their grade-level Scripps Spelling Bee competition.

**Congratulations to all participants!** The Scripps Spelling Bee is not just fun; it's a fabulous opportunity for students to expand their vocabulary and enhance their memory.

It's also a wonderful opportunity for them to build confidence in public speaking. It promotes healthy competition and encourages participation in a fun and educational experience.

As the competition progressed, each student took their turn, showcasing their spelling talents to the judges and peers. They tackled increasingly challenging words, and as the rounds went on, many competitors faced elimination, leaving behind a select group of spelling champions in each grade.



### The top spellers for each grade level



#### 6th grade

Jack L., Daniel W., Juelz C., Kate F.  
Sadie B., Adanya A.



#### 7th grade

Ivie E., Lily J., Edison L.  
Xiyon W., Jack W.



#### 8th grade

Yuva P., Pierce M., Vijay J.  
Shayan N., Lily Price A



## Spelling Bee

*(Continued)*

The top spellers for each grade level advanced to the next round, where they competed against the top spellers from all three grades!

**We are so proud of all involved!**



**Congratulations to our top three spellers!**

**Yuva P. – 1st place (R)**

**Shaayan N. (L) and Jack W. (M) – tied for 2nd place**



*They will go on to compete in the county spelling bee on January 14.*

**We all wish you the**

**BEST!**

## 8th Grade Science

### Bio Egg Osmosis Lab

Eighth grade biology students investigated osmosis, the process by which water molecules move through a semipermeable membrane from an area of higher water concentration to an area of lower water concentration. The students used measurements and observation to explain which directions the water would move across the membrane of the cell.





## 7th Grade Science

### C.S.I Lab: Case of the Stolen Cake

Students channeled their inner CSI Forensic chemists to explore the physical and chemical properties and changes of matter!

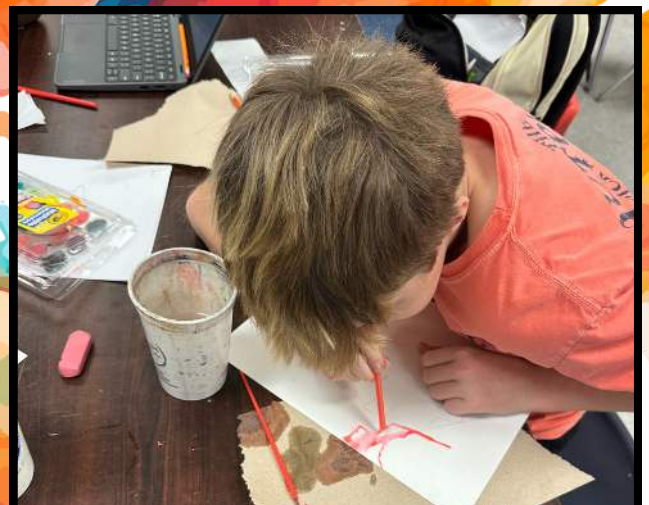


## State Testing Class Rewards:

8th-Grade class trip to Spinners - 11/8  
7th-Grade class trip to Spinners - 11/15

## Art Foundations

Students are working on splatter paint designs in Art Foundations. They are taking watercolor and blowing through a straw to create abstract designs. Later in the project we will crop out portions of the work to create a final piece.



**CAUTION**





# VETERANS DAY Program

You are warmly invited to our Veterans Day program on **November 13th, starting at 9:00am.** MMS admin., staff, students, and parents will come together to honor our veterans and their families. After the program, veterans and their families are invited to a reception in the library. We look forward to celebrating with you!

## School District Lunch

A Luncheon with MMS Parents and the MCSD School Board was a wonderful opportunity to come together to support our school.



## Happy Birthday to Our Teachers and Staff!

### November

- 11 – Libby Adams
- 13 – Zariah Matthews
- 16 – Kathy Maze
- 18 – Leahbeth Turpin
- 21 – Jennifer Lovitt
- 23 – Ashlee Walker
- 26 – Kate Boteler
- 30 – Hannah Henson

# Happy Holidays!

It's that time of year! We will be collecting donations to give all our MMS teachers and staff a delicious catered lunch and gift cards to show our love and appreciation this holiday season. If you would like to contribute, please send via PayPal to [ptomadisonmiddle@gmail.com](mailto:ptomadisonmiddle@gmail.com) or send cash/check to the school office marked "Staff Holiday Lunch". We will be taking donations through Dec 6th.





**OUT OF THIS WORLD!**  
Pep Rally



**Congratulations to the 8th grade for winning the spirit stick!**

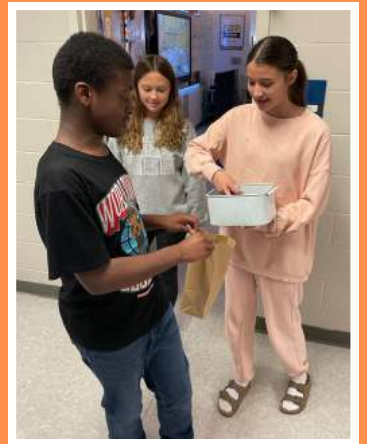
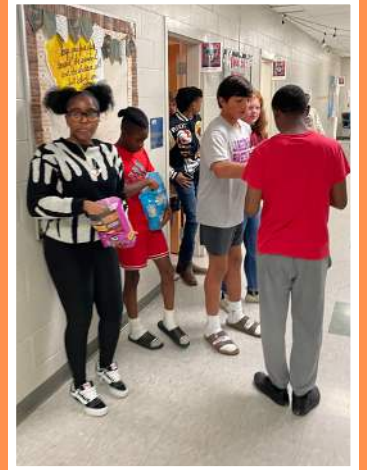


**Trick-or-Treat!**

We had one sweet morning on the 8th-grade hallway as our special needs students had fun trick-or-treating from classroom to classroom.



**Thank you to our 8th-grade Beta Club members for donating all the candy!!**



**NOVEMBER**

<b>13th</b>	Veterans Day Program
<b>21st</b>	Progress Reports
<b>22nd</b>	6th Grade - World Tour Day
<b>22nd</b>	7th Grade - Museum Tour
<b>25th-29th</b>	Thanksgiving Holidays

**DECEMBER**

<b>20th</b>	6th Grade - Christmas Chaos
	End of Semester - 60% Day
<b>23rd-Jan 3rd</b>	Winter Break





## Giving Thanks

By **Melanie Hataway**  
PTO President

We have made it to November, and our second nine weeks are well underway. The holiday activity planning has begun, and we are entering into a season of Thanksgiving.



Madison Middle has many reasons to be thankful, including our faculty and staff, but we are also extremely thankful for local businesses in our community who partner with us each year. Some of these corporate sponsors are providing meals for our monthly teacher lunches, some are donating funds to meet various needs, and some provide items for grade-level activities.

In November, we will be highlighting our sponsors on our social media pages and with a new banner in the office. I hope you will take notice of these local businesses and stop in to let them know we are grateful for their support.

Another group of individuals I am particularly thankful for is our Hospitality Committee. Led by Lindsey Martin, this committee hosted a wonderful luncheon for our parents to get to know members of the Madison County School Board. This five-member group of elected officials represents the citizens of Madison County in all matters related to our school system. They are responsible for setting policy, entering into contracts, and approving the distribution of funds. The members that represent the zones of Madison Middle are President, Sam Kelly, representing District 3; Secretary, Ken McCoy, representing District 1; and Member, Bill Grissett, representing District 2. For more information on your zone or to read the agenda and minutes from the Board meetings, please [click here](#).

We will not have a PTO meeting in November so please be sure to read your newsletter and Weekly Focus and check the socials for all you need to know!

## Teacher Appreciation

Our MMS teachers enjoyed a delicious lunch generously provided by **Mac Haik Auto Group**.  
*Thank you for supporting our amazing educators!*



**PTO**  
MADISON MIDDLE

**SPIRIT NIGHT**

Tuesday,  
**November 12th**  
5:00-9:00 PM

**TUESDAYS: KIDS EAT FREE**



219 Garden Park Dr.  
Madison, MS 39110

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## Communications & Corporate Sponsorship



**Tress Johnson**

Communications Chair

I am originally from Mandeville, Louisiana. I graduated from Ole Miss and work at Regions Bank in Energy/Corporate Lending. I am married to Andy Johnson, and we have 3 children: Taft, 8th; Mac, 6th; and Vivian, 4th (MAUE).

I have been involved with the PTO for the last 7 years, starting at Madison Avenue, and have served in a variety of roles over that time! This year, I serve on the Executive Board handling Communications. Our team's goal is to keep you informed! We strive to keep the website updated, post to Social Media daily, send emails when needed, send messages on GroupMe, and most importantly, reestablish the monthly newsletters!!! We want to focus on highlighting student achievements this year, in the class room and through extracurricular activities. We hope you see have seen that in the newsletters and on social media Please send us any pictures and stories for publication!



**Jenny Jewett** (Co-Chair Newsletter)

My husband and I are the proud parents of three wonderful Jags: Jasmine, a Junior at Central, Vijay in 8th grade, and Lily in 4th at Station.

With three kids attending three different schools, I enjoy being involved in all things related to their education. I've held various PTO positions over the years, but this year I'm excited to take on the role of creating our school newsletter. It's been a rewarding experience gathering information and putting it together for you all. Additionally, I serve as the MMS Robotics Booster President, and on Friday nights, you can often find me at the concession stand during football games, supporting the MCHS Band!



Meet **Kat Jones**, the person behind the emails from Madison Middle's PTO. Kat runs her own marketing agency, Katapult Marketing, and, like so many parents, knows the challenge of staying organized between work, family, and school events. Kat volunteered for the communication team to ensure parents have the info they need to plan. So, thanks to the content provided by an amazing communications team, Kat keeps everyone in the loop with the updates via email.



**Sally Harrison** (Webmaster)

We became Jaguars in 2006 when my husband, Jay, began teaching and coaching at Madison Central, and there is nothing we love more! We have three children: girl/boy twins, Hayden & Hank (20 - MCHS graduates and current students at MSU), and Evey (12 - a 7th grader at MMS). Over the last 15 years I have served in various roles with the PTOs at each school our children have attended - most often in the realm of communications, yearbook, or photography. I also currently serve as VP of the newly formed MMS Choir Boosters and am excited for the opportunity to support our distinguished performing arts programs. I am an IT modernization consultant for the State of Mississippi, and Jay is an assistant superintendent with Madison County Schools. We attend Pinelake Church and enjoy visiting our big kids in Starkville, taking trips to the beach, and watching SEC sports.



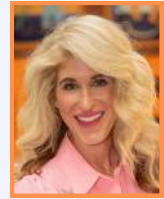
**Rebecca Haas**

Co-Chair Social Media

I am married to Brock, and we have twin daughters, Sadie and Shea, who are 6th graders at MMS and stay busy as Junior Company members with the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet.

When I'm not volunteering for the PTO, I work as a speech therapist and teach group fitness classes at the Madison Healthplex. I also enjoy volunteering in the community, serving as the VP of PR & Marketing for the Mississippi Speech and Hearing Association, Publicity Chair for the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet Parents Guild, president of my local sorority alumnae association, and as a past chair of the Junior League of Jackson Sustainer Steering Committee.

We're excited for the years ahead at MMS and look forward to being part of this wonderful school!



**Kristin Lindley**

Corporate Sponsorship

I am so excited to be serving MMS with Corporate Sponsors this year!

My husband, Joey, and I have three children: Hudson, Lillian and Barnes. Hudson is in 7th grade at MMS, Lillian is in 5th grade at MSE and Barnes is in 4th grade at MSE.

I love volunteering my time at both MMS and MSE, but also love spending time with my family, watching Mississippi State sports and running!



**Mary Helen Abel**

Corporate Sponsorship

This is my first year to be actively involved in the PTO. I have two kids—Hugh Parker, who's in 7th grade, and John, a 5th grader at Madison Avenue Upper. Before the boys transitioned to Madison Schools two and a half years ago, I worked full time at their school, so I've seen firsthand how much of a difference engaged parents can make. I'm thrilled to now use my skills to support our teachers and staff.

Since I spend my days doing business development at HORNE, Corporate Sponsorship seemed like a natural place for me in the PTO. I'm having a great time talking to people about the amazing things happening at MMS, and encouraging them to financially support our school! In fact, if your business is interested in financially supporting our school, I'd love to speak with you!



# Counselors are here to help

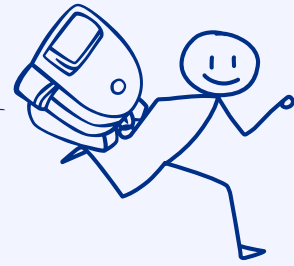


What did you do at school today?

Nothing.

Do you have any homework?

Nope.



Parents at Madison Middle and around the world have asked these same questions daily and have probably gotten the same responses. Please know that we feel your pain; our own children say the same thing when asked at home.

Here are some tips that can help parents navigate the growing pains of middle school independence while staying involved in your child's education. These tips will help your child develop study habits and can aid in reducing anxiety. I've noticed when my students complete homework or study for a test, they feel more confident and comfortable in school.



## What to do when your child says they have no homework:

### 1. ORGANIZE YOUR BACKPACK

SAY: *"GREAT, since you have no homework, this is a good night to organize your backpack."*

Parents, set a timer for 10 minutes for your student to organize their backpack. It's important that they take the lead on this task. They might rediscover assignments they need to finish or recall that they should study for an upcoming test or quiz. Even if they don't find anything pressing, having everything in order will give them peace of mind.

#### Guide for Organizing

If there are lots of loose papers, the student needs to sort papers into stacks based on the subject: ELA, Math, Science, History, Computer. Then they can hole-punch and put them into their binders.

**GOAL:** NO loose papers or trash in the backpack.

### 2. STUDY VOCABULARY

SAY, *"GREAT, since you have no homework, this is a good night to go over your vocabulary."*

**Science** – Vocab will be located in their test packet or notes; when in doubt check Canvas.

**ELA** – Wordly Wise – Students cannot bring their workbooks home BUT check Canvas, and the activity pages are usually posted.

**History** – Vocab will be posted on Canvas.

### 3. CHECK ACTIVE STUDENT

SAY, *"GREAT, since you have no homework, this is a good night for you to check grades and email your teachers about missing assignments."*

#### Guide for Students:

1. Check Active Student for any missing assignments.
2. Complete the missing assignment if it is on Canvas, then email your teacher that you completed the assignment.
3. If they cannot complete the assignment at home, have your student email their teacher to set up a time to complete the missing assignment. (Teachers love it when students take initiative.)

### 4. COMMUNICATE WITH YOUR TEACHERS

Still unsure about what students need to do for homework, try these steps:

**When in doubt, check Canvas.** I recommend your student check Canvas, and you can supervise and follow along to learn more about Canvas. Your student knows Canvas well.

**Email the teacher** – Students have a @madison-schools.com email address where they can easily email their teachers. I recommend screening the email before they hit send, just to help fluff. Teachers love getting emails from students! They may not respond until school hours, but the email will serve as a reminder for the student and teacher about the assignment or question. This skill will also help your child flex that responsibility muscle, build good communication skills, and encourage a positive relationship with their teacher.

*Our expectation for homework is not hours of assignments. However, starting in 6th grade, about 30 minutes is a reasonable amount of time, and it should increase a bit for those in 7th or 8th grade or enrolled in advanced courses. I recommend setting a timer; it helps them have a defined, short-term goal and reminds me to check on their progress too!*

Lindsay Bouchillon, 6th / Karen Boutwell, 7th / Lindsey Montgomery, 8th





# The ARTS at MMS

## Advanced Art



Advanced art students are working on their Scholastic Art competition entries. Works vary from sculptures, digital, comic strips, paintings, and fashion design.



## Choir

**We're singing!**  
**We're dancing!**

We're working hard to master our show! Get ready, because the **Show Choir** competition season is happening next semester in January and February.

*You're going to be amazed!*

## Band



**Jammin in the Jungle** was a fun night for our 8th graders. They got to march onto the football field and perform with the high school band at the Madison Central vs. Germantown football game!

**November 13:** 8th Grade Orange Band will perform at The MMS Veterans Day Program.

**December 7th:** 8th Grade Band will participate in the City of Madison Christmas Parade.

**December 10th:** 6th and 7th Grade Bands Winter Concert.

## Drama

### Welcome to Our Drama Program!

We are excited to share that students in both the 6th and 7th grade Theatre classes have selected delightful Christmas plays to rehearse over 2nd quarter. After holding auditions, each student has received their roles and is currently busy memorizing their lines in preparation for the festive performances.

Mark your calendars for **December 11th and 12th** when we will showcase these wonderful Christmas plays during each class period in the library. We warmly invite parents to join us for these special presentations. Students will be sure to inform their families of the specific performance times. *We can't wait to celebrate this joyous season with you!*



Keep an eye out next month for information about our **Concert Choir Christmas Performance**

It's going to put you in the Holiday Spirit!



### Activity Sponsors

#### **Advanced Art**

**Catie Stoltzfus**

cstoltzfus

@madison-schools.com

#### **Band**

**Ms. Ross**

leigh.ross

@madison-schools.com

#### **Choir**

**Mrs. Bruening**

jbruening

@madison-schools.com

#### **Drama**

**Mrs. Maze**

kmaze

@madison-schools.com



# Athletics at MMS

## Basketball

### Schedule

November 11, 2024	Germantown	4,5,6	7G, 8G, 8B
November 14, 2024	Byram	5,6	8G, 8B
November 18, 2024	@ Clinton	4,5,6	7B, 8G, 8B
November 21, 2024	Warren Central	4,5,6	7B, 8G, 8B
December 2, 2024	@ Germantown	4,5,6	7B, 8G, 8B
December 5, 2024	@ Pearl	4,4:30,5,6	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B
December 9, 2024	Vicksburg	4,4:30, 5,6	7G, 7B, 8G, 8B

- Little Six Tournament December 16<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>
- Byram Middle School will host championship game!

## Cheer & Dance



## Cross-Country

What an awesome season we had for XC! Our MMS teams placed 4th (girls) and 3rd (boys) in the state in the large school division. We LOVED seeing these kids grow as runners over the season.



*\*\*Look for XC tryouts/sign-ups in mid to late February.\*\**

## Dance



It's competition season AND basketball season for the MMS Dance Team! These girls have been hard at work preparing for six different routines! **We can't wait to perform them all for y'all!**

## Golf

Madison Central girls golf team finished T3 at the 7A Championship. We are so proud of them!



### Activity Sponsors

#### Archery

**Coach Britt**  
abrtritt

@madison-schools.com

#### **Coach Stoltzfus**

cstoltzfus

@madison-schools.com

#### Basketball

**Coach Matthews** (Girls)  
zar100

@madison-schools.com

#### **Coach Reed** (Boys)

Travis.Reed

@madison-schools.com

#### Cross-Country/ Track

#### **Coach Shuster**

kshuster

@madison-schools.com

#### **Coach Cook**

rcook

@madison-schools.com

#### Cheer

#### **Coach Peters**

apeters

@madison-schools.com

#### Dance

#### **Coach Collins**

mar112

@madison-schools.com

#### Football

**Coach Rogers** trogers  
@madison-schools.com

#### Golf

#### **Coach Bayliss** (Girls)

tbayliss

@madison-schools.com

#### **Coach Beach** (Boys)

tbeach

@madison-schools.com

#### Volleyball

#### **Coach Morgan**

ale124

@madison-schools.com

### XC girls runners chosen to run in state

SAVANNAH  
GIAVOTELLA  
LOREBETH LANFORD  
GINGER LEE  
ELENA LUSK  
ALEXIS MCCAY  
EMMA MCELROY  
LAYLA PHILLEY  
OLIVIA QUARLES  
CHANEY WATTS  
LIZA WITT

### XC boys runners chosen to run in state

KAREEM ELERAKY  
MAX EZELL  
DRAKE FULCHER  
REECE JOHNSON  
LONDON KREMSE  
JAYDEN MCGRAW  
JACOB PARRISH  
WELBY PRICE  
COLE SMITH  
KENT WATKINS



## Beta Club



### 6th Grade Beta Club Dates

**Wednesday, December 11**  
MEETING IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:50

**Thursday, January 16**  
MEETING IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:50

**Wednesday, February 12**  
MEETING IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:50

**Tuesday, March 18**  
MEETING IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:50  
\*\*WE WILL BE DISCUSSING FIELD TRIP PROCEDURES, PLEASE MAKE THIS MEETING!!

**Friday, March 21**  
FIELD TRIP - OLD MOUNTAIN OUTDOOR ADVENTURE - WINONA, MS  
MORE INFORMATION TO COME. HEADS UP, WE WILL BE LEAVING BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS.

**Thursday, April 24**  
MEETING IN THE LIBRARY @ 7:50

**Wednesday, May 14**  
BETA CLUB INDUCTION AT 6TH GRADE AWARDS DAY AT 1:00PM IN THE GYM FOR BETA CLUB MEMBERS WHO COMPLETED THEIR SERVICE HOURS AND MAINTAINED AN AVERAGE.

### 8th Grade Beta Club

Next Meeting: December 17th



### 8th Grade Beta Club Service project: Bingo Halloween party at the Home Place Nursing Home!!



### 7th Grade Beta Club

Our 7th Grade Beta students continue to serve our school community through Junk It Jags and Beta Buddies.

Students are making thank you cards to be given to the veterans at the VA Home in Kosciusko in celebration and recognition of their service to our country.

Our next service opportunity is the H.U.G.S. Drive. This will benefit We Will Go Ministries in Jackson. Students will donate hats, undershirts, gloves, scarves and socks to be given to those in need. We Will Go serves low-income families as well as the homeless population in Jackson. These items will be greatly appreciated as the cold winter months arrive.

Planning is underway for a December field trip to Camden Elementary School. Christmas fun will include crafts, reading and games! Be on the lookout for more information concerning the field trip.

#### Meeting Dates\*

- November 20
- December - Field Trip - date TBD
- January 15, February 19, March 19
- April - Service Day - date TBD
- May - Service Hours Celebration Breakfast date TBD

*\*Other meetings may be scheduled as needed*



## Activity Sponsors

### Beta Club

- Mrs. Furr** (6th grade)  
bfurr  
@madison-schools.com
- Mrs. Turpin** (7th grade)  
lturpin  
@madison-schools.com
- Mrs. Hudnall** (8th grade)  
car220  
@madison-schools.com

### Chess

- Mrs. Doyle**  
adoyle  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Adams**  
chr136  
@madison-schools.com

### FCA

- Mrs. Clegg**  
bclegg  
@madison-schools.com

- Mr. Male**  
set100  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Walker**  
ashlee.walker  
@madison-schools.com

- Math Counts**  
**Mrs. Selph**  
jselph  
@madison-schools.com

- Robotics**  
**Mrs. Rice** (6th grade)  
mrice  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Berry** (7th & 8th grade)  
sberry  
@madison-schools.com

- Spirit Club**  
**Mrs. Bouchillon**  
lbouchillon  
@madison-schools.com

- Student Council**  
**Mrs. Hawk** (6th Grade)  
chawk  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Gilmer** (7th Grade)  
fgilmer  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Garletts** (8th Grade)  
agarletts  
@madison-schools.com

- Mrs. Doyle** (8th Grade)  
adoyle  
@madison-schools.com

- TSA**  
**Mr. Morgan**  
gmorgan  
@madison-schools.com

- Ms. McQuirter**  
jmcquirter  
@madison-schools.com

- Yearbook**  
**Mrs. Watkins**  
mor112  
@madison-schools.com

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**Mrs. Watkins**  
mor112  
@madison-schools.com

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## FCA



FCA Playing Simon Says!



## Student Council



8th Grade Student Council sponsored the annual MMS Canned Food Drive. We collected **7,523 cans** for MS Food Network. This was a school record!

We raised **\$450 from hat day** which went to help support Webster Animal Shelter.

## TSA

### Student Technology Association (TSA)

Meeting on **Thursday, November 14**, after school.

## Robotics

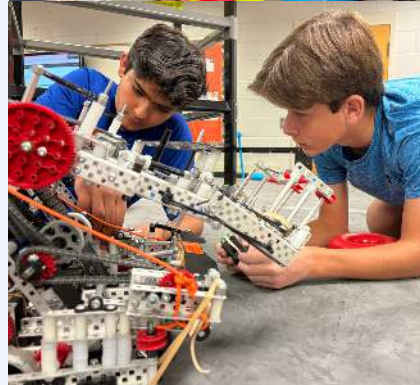
### 7th/8th Grade V5 Robotics



Competition season has begun for 7th and 8th grade VRC Robotics! Robojags traveled to Germantown High School to compete against both middle school and high school students from around the metro area. Congrats go out to Acidic French Toast's **Leo, Austin** and **Quest** (pictured above) for earning the Skills Champion and Excellence Award. Overheated's team of **Kingston, Henry, Kareem** and **Pierce** (pictured on cover) battled it out to win Tournament Champions.

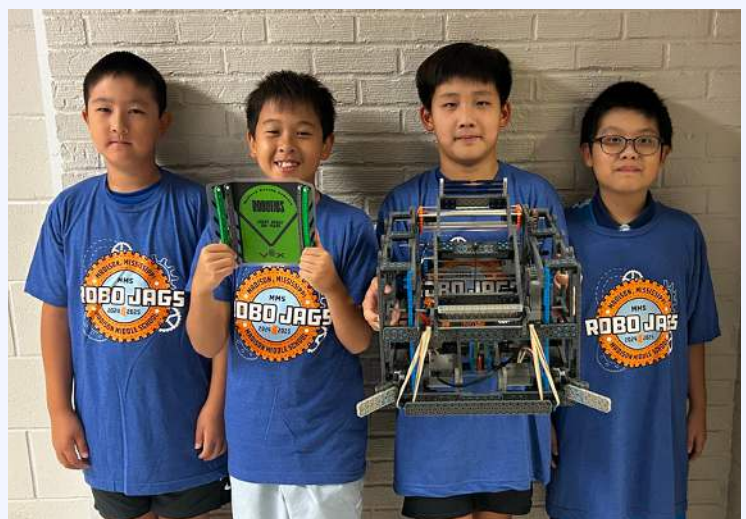


Teams are now working through the Engineering Design Process in order to get ready for our next competition, November 16th.



A BIG congrats to all three top winners of the spelling bee: Yuva, Shaayan, and Jack. All of them being Robo Jags. We are so proud of you!

### 6th Grade IQ Robotics



Sixteen VEX IQ teams participated in an in-school robotics challenge. Each team had the opportunity to run skills and autonomous code three times. Congratulations to team **Microwaveable Pizza Potatoes** for winning their first skills challenge!