



Volume XLV Issue 4  
May 2024

# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

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## Total Solar Eclipse

It is hard to believe that the next time we experience another total solar eclipse will be when our current Mustangs are adults out in the world. August 23, 2024, will be the next time that the moon once again eclipses the sun. We hope our Mustangs look back on April 8th, 2024 with fond memories! Whether it be the Moon Pies and Sunny D, the eclipsed Oreos, the 80's song references, or decorating your solar eclipse glasses, we want our Mustangs to know that we enjoyed celebrating and learning together!



## Mustangs On The Move

Congratulations to our 2024 seniors who will be continuing their athletic careers at the college level!

Kylie Pifer—Mid Michigan College—Softball

Chase Burggren—Adrian College—Football

Austin Foster—Adrian College—Basketball

Cooper Bolton—Siena Heights—Track & Field

**Best of luck to all of you!**



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 2**—Kindergarten Roundup 3:30-6:00 PM

**May 3**—Flex Day—No School

**May 4**—Daddy Daughter Dance 3:00-5:00 PM

**May 9**—6th Grade Band Concert 7 PM

**May 13**—All Library Books Due This Week

**May 15**—HS Band Concert 7 PM

**May 16**—JR High Band Concert 6 PM

**May 16**—Kindergarten Graduation 12:30 PM

**May 19**—Graduation 6 PM

**May 24**—LAST DAY OF SCHOOL 12:15 PM Dismissal

# Academic Testing



The end of the school year is just around the corner and students are currently being tested on their knowledge. Most grades (3rd and up) take a statewide assessment, either M-STEP, SAT, or PSAT and all students (k-12) also take a district benchmark assessment (NWEA) three times a year. Students will participate in one or both of these tests in April and May.

Why are these tests necessary and what are they used for? These tests are required by Michigan law, both the statewide assessment and the benchmark assessment. Both of these tests are designed to tell us how a student is doing (achievement) and the progress that they have made (growth). The statewide assessment will compare students with others across the state of Michigan and tell us how they compare. The benchmark assessment is compared to National norms so that gives us an idea of how students across the country are scoring. We could debate at length whether these assessments provide reliable achievement and growth data but some of those decisions are made beyond the school district and we don't have the ability to change the assessments.

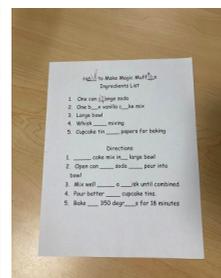
Montabella utilizes the information from our benchmark assessments more frequently since the data is available quickly and since we administer the test multiple times throughout the year it gives us an opportunity to adjust what we are teaching. As with any test, we can only utilize the information that the students provide. If they are not giving their best effort, then the data can tell a different story and we might be providing support or remediation in an area that is not needed.

Please encourage all of our Montabella students to give their all on these assessments. 47% of our students are achieving at the average range and above, we believe that is lower than what we are seeing from students in the classroom on a daily basis. Let's see what our students are really capable of by trying to get them to express their true knowledge.



## 'Magic' Muffins

The elementary kitchen recently turned into Mrs. Snyder's kindergarten classroom where they were able to learn about chemical reactions! Food Service Director, Lisa Hicks, provided the class with aprons, hairnets, as well as the 'magic' behind baking Magic Muffins! It was an exciting learning process that included writing, science, kitchen safety, and best of all, enjoying their delicious muffins!



Reminder  
**FREE** breakfast and  
lunch for **ALL** students!



### School Closing Information

In the event that school is closed or delayed due to inclement weather, the information will be broadcast to the following television and radio stations.

#### TV Stations

WOOD TV8 Grand Rapids  
 WWWTV 9&10 Cadillac  
 WJRT TV12 Flint  
 WZZM TV13 Grand Rapids

#### Radio Stations

WCFX 95.3FM Mt. Pleasant  
 WGLM 106.3FM Greenville  
 WCUZ 1230AM/105.7FM Grand Rapids  
 WCZY 104.3FM Mt. Pleasant

Of course—Ms. Millis usually shares the most creative school closing announcements on Montabella Community School’s Facebook page.



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.



### 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.

### Bus Safety

When the **Yellow** caution lights are on, within 200 feet, the **Reds** will come on, which means **Yellow flashing lights are not the time to speed up and try to pass the bus. \*\*\*It is tractor season\*\*\***

## WE ARE HIRING!

Check out our website at [montabella.com](http://montabella.com) for an up-to-date list of openings.

Teachers—Custodians—Coaches—Paras



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



SEE THIS...  
CLIP IT

NO MORE CLIPPING  
SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

SEE THIS...  
SCAN YOUR RECEIPT

*Be Responsible \* Be Respectful \* Be Safe*

*Find Us*



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



Montabella Community Schools & Montabella Elementary



Mpride\_stampede (Mr. Riley)



Above: Mrs. Hadder’s Advanced Art II students hosted their annual “Trashin’ Fashion” show! Students designed fashion wear from trash and shared their masterpieces with their peers.



Above: National Honor Society recently held a blood drive and as a thank you they also raffled off prizes! It was a great day and because of all of the donations from students, and the community, we also earned a scholarship that will be rewarded to one of our NHS members during honors night!

Below: Congratulations to our newest NHS members! You exemplify Leadership, Scholarship, Service, and Character! **Center picture:** 2024 NHS members



# Class of 2024

## *Rebekah Mayer*

Bekah Mayer is the daughter of Kami Mayer and Greg Mayer. She currently resides in Six Lakes and is graduating 1st in her class. Bekah has participated in Language Arts Team (4 years), Varsity Sideline Cheer (3 years), Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD) (4 years), National Honors Society (3 years) Varsity Girls Competitive Cheer (2 years), Student Council (1 year), Varsity Pom Poms (1 year), and Peer to Peer (1 year). Bekah plans to attend Central Michigan University to pursue a career in elementary education.

1



2



Brady is the son of Ben and Melissa Carlson. He currently resides in Lakeview and is graduating 2nd in his class. Brady has participated in NHS (3 years), Basketball (4 years), Football (3 years), Baseball (4 years), Model UN (1 year), Band (4 years), Quiz bowl (4 years), SADD (3 years) and Student council (3 years). He is the senior class president. Brady plans to attend Ferris State University to pursue a career in education.

## **BRADY CARLSON**

Kiana Nickerson is the daughter of Rick and Bobbi Nickerson. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating third in her class. Kiana has participated in National Honors Society (3 years), Students Against Destructive Decisions (4 years), Varsity volleyball (4 years), Varsity Track (3 years). She is the senior class Vice President. Kiana is unsure of her future plans but plans to pursue a career in photography.

## *Kiana Nickerson*

3



## **AUSTIN FOSTER**

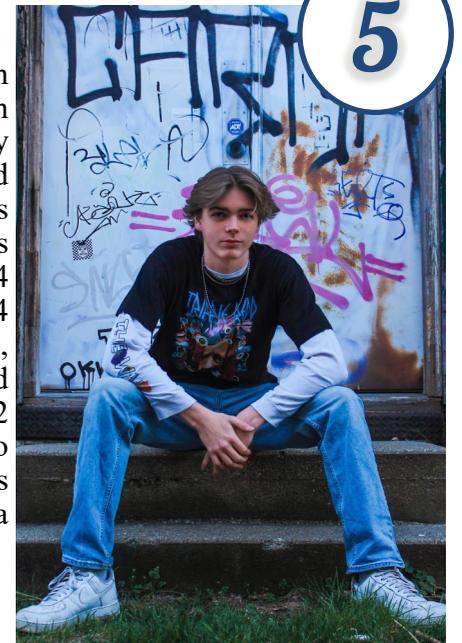
Austin Foster is the son of Amanda and Jarrod Foster. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 4th in his class. Austin has participated in NHS (3 years), Football (4 years), Basketball (4 years), Track (4 years), Quiz Bowl (4 years), and SADD (3 years). Austin plans to attend Adrian College where he will continue his basketball career for the Bulldogs.

4



5

Cooper is the son of Bradley and Kirsten Bolton. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 5th in his class. Cooper has participated in football (4 years), basketball (4 years), track (4 years), quiz bowl (4 years), and dual enrollment (2 years). Cooper plans to attend Siena Heights University to pursue a career in engineering.



## **COOPER BOLTON**

# Top Ten



6

Erika Esch is the daughter of Tony Esch. She currently resides in Stanton and is graduating 6th in her class. Erika has participated in basketball and track for 3 years. After high school she plans to pursue a business career in photography.

## Erika Esch

Ella Harris is the daughter of April Keeler and Ramsey Harris. She is graduating 8th in her class. She has participated in NHS, Track, Yearbook, Theater, Dual Enrollment, and Health Sciences at Career Center. Ella plans to attend Michigan State University after graduation to pursue a career in Nursing. She plans on becoming a NICU Travel Nurse after graduating.



8

## Ella Harris

Kaylee is the daughter of Meagan Moore and Taylor Cook. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 9th in her class. Kaylee has participated in peer-to-peer (2 years). Kaylee plans to attend GVSU to pursue a career in psychology.



9

## Kaylee Cook

10

Sydney Boyer is the daughter of Eylie Foster. She currently resides in Blanchard, and is graduating 10th in her class. Sydney has participated in NHS for 3 years. Sydney plans to pursue a career in welding.



## Sydney Boyer

## Brooklyn Welch



7

Brooklyn Welch is the daughter of Matthew Courser. She currently resides in Blanchard, Michigan and is graduating 7th in her class. Brooklyn has participated in peer-to-peer for 1 year and the career center's health program for 2 years. Brooklyn plans to attend Ferris State University in the fall to pursue a career in sonography.



Dallis Bartlett



Emersyn Withey



Brantley Page



Jackson Simon



Kinslee Gates



Dexter Bell



Hannah Grover



Braydon Miller



Adalyn Wing



Janielle Keyes



McCoy Garner



Ottorra Sinko



Dylan Woolworth



Lane Foster



Dean Gilman



Gracie Hyzer



Jase Yoder



Xavier Ravens



Easton Dawson



Breslynn Seath



Jessica Bryant



Korbin Loomis



Jetta Smiecinski



Miles Rittersdorf



Nicanor  
Garcia-Pantoja



Audra Preston



Kaylee Preston

*Spotlight Students*  
*January,*  
*February, &*  
*March*  
*~A Reader Today ~*  
*~A Leader Tomorrow~*



Brantley Brooks



Camden Irani



Eden Snyder



Lucas Snyder



Nicholas Pifer



Easton Finney



Addison Rittersdorf



Blaine Kieff



Elizabeth Decker



Jase Wood



Isabella Irwin



Connor Moore



Holly Snyder



Madisyn Helmer



Mila VanBuskirk



Colten Sleight



Ryver Herzog



Isaac Koop



David Gonzalez



Lily Deal



Savannah Sharkey

# JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients



## January

Brooklynn Porter (6), Kolton Mayer (7), Lia Dood (8), Lydia Eldred (9), Blake Snyder (10), Peyton Webb (11), Kalia Adams (12)



## February

Jesse Terrell (6), Trayton Ward (7), Maxie Ludwig (8), Marly Lumbert (9), Gabe Kauffman (9), Seger Schaffer (10), Alayna Foster (11), Brady Carlson (12)



## March

Sophia Belson (6), Michael Ockert (7), Brooklyn Rauch (8), Jareth Shappee (10), Isabelle Storey (11), Maeson Baez (12)

## Other Nominations

Sydney Boyer  
Chelsea Mason  
Keyien Alzamora  
Jinger Lamb  
Brendan Rameau  
Brendan Dolson-Nisonger  
Brayden Snyder  
Liam Mongold  
Logan McElhaney  
Chloe Decker  
Aiden Fletcher  
Annabella Grandy

Marshall Preston  
Brady Currier  
Austin Lobert  
Lynn Larsen  
Emma Teed  
Noah Barber  
Ky Ely  
Rhesa Bauman  
Ryan VanVlerah  
Bryce DeLong  
Landon Wymer  
Colin Vanas

Anna Harris  
Jayden Brigham  
Kylie Pifer  
Logan Perry  
Brennin Crandell  
Natalie Sissell  
EmiLee Baylor  
Evan Greene  
Lily Brewington  
Sharon Cline  
Elizabeth Nielsen  
Chase Miller

Jessica Keyes  
Logan McElhaney  
Bryton Strohl  
Bryson Williamson  
Mayson Painter  
Wyatt Knapp  
Hayden Helmer  
Dempsey's 4th Hour Class  
Isabell Darling  
Addyson Bouwkamp  
Zaylee Huntton  
November Phenix

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*  
*Erica Vincent* ..... *Treasurer*  
*Anna Jensen* ..... *Trustee*  
*Sherri Miel*..... *Trustee*  
*Mike Rasmussen* ..... *Trustee*



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CONGRATULATIONS TO THE



CLASS OF



**"The first step towards getting somewhere is to decide that you are not going to stay where you are."**

**-J.P. Morgan**

♪ "I'll Always Remember You" ♪  
by Hannah Montana