



Volume XLI Issue 4  
May 2020

# Mustang News

A PUBLICATION OF MONTABELLA COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

## WHAT'S INSIDE

Take a walk down memory lane with pictures of our  
2020 graduates throughout the years  
Superintendent's message  
Mustang Success  
TOP TEN  
Student Spotlight  
Student of the Month  
Senior Farewell



2019-  
2020



*We're all in this together*

**The Mission of Montabella Community Schools is to prepare our students to be successful in a changing global society.**

Who would have thought we would end the school year with a pandemic that would force us to resort to remote learning? It was an unexpected venture, but in true Mustang fashion, we pulled together as a family to continue to build upon the educational foundation of our Montabella students. We did some great things this year, and although we are not able to walk the halls, or make memories inside the classrooms, we are still capable of finishing strong. We can do this Mustangs!

## Letter to Montabella 2020 Graduates



Dear Graduates of 2020,

Congratulations on the accomplishment of fulfilling the requirements for graduation from Montabella High School. This is a culminating accomplishment of several years of work and is also the beginning of a new adventure for each of you whether it be in a career or additional education. You did it!

I know that this has been an interesting end to your senior year and I know some of you are disappointed with the way things have ended. This situation might be the first opportunity in your adult life to respond to a situation that is out of your control. I wish I could tell you that this is an isolated situation and that you will never be in a situation where decisions are made that you can not control, but that just simply is not the case. This situation certainly is unique but you will be faced with many situations in your future that feel “unfair”. The true challenge is how you respond.

Many of you have already shown passion, patience and advocacy during this unprecedented time. These characteristics will assist you in being successful in the next phase of your life. Find your passion for a cause or a career and pour your heart into it. Fight for what you believe in with respect and dignity. This will require patience and sometimes an open mind, exactly what many of you have displayed during this situation. Use these skills to propel you in a positive direction.

We all hope that we will have the opportunity to honor you and your accomplishments with a ceremony but that is not the definition of your accomplishments. Let the lessons that you have learned through this difficult situation and your years at Montabella be the launch of your ability to adapt, adjust and preserve. Don't let the Coronavirus win this battle, fight back with success. I believe in you and the great things that you will do in the future.

With Mustang Pride,

Shelly Millis  
Superintendent



**THANK YOU**



We would like to thank our Montabella food service and all our volunteers for their help putting together over 26,000 emergency meals to ensure our community had food to eat during the unexpected closure of school.

In regards to her food service team, Lisa Hicks, Director of Dining Services, added “We are very proud of them. They miss serving the kids daily, but they are so thankful that they still get to do what they love...which is feeding the kids!”





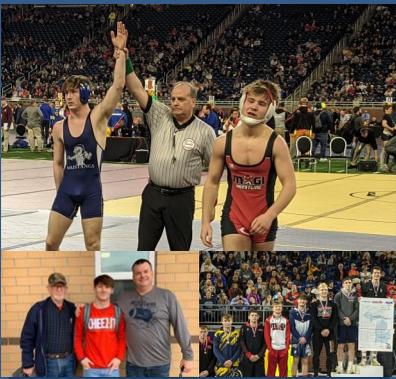
## Coaches vs Cancer Event

The Coaches vs Cancer event was a fun filled day that helped raise almost \$2,000 for the American Cancer Society! We had youth, JV, Varsity, as well as Alumni games all in one day! A day where we all came together for a good cause.



## TEAMWORK

**MEDICAL SUPPLY SHORTAGE**  
Montabella was able to help hospitals and local businesses when they were faced with a shortage of supplies that help keep their staff safe by donating our unused items. Keeping families safe through teamwork!



## MHSAA 4TH PLACE

### DAVID BARRETT

Congratulations to David on his 2020 MHSAA, 145lb class, 4th place state placement!



## MSAC LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

The HS Forensic team did it again! This makes the fourth year in a row Montabella has won the League Champion title!



## MUSTANG AUTHORS

### *IF I WERE AN ELF*

Mrs. Garner's second grade class published their very own book!



## MSBOA District 7 Band Festival

Montabella Mustang Band traveled to Greenville on March 4th to participate in MSBOA Band Festival. The Jr. High students came home with a division 2 rating while the HS students brought home a division 1 rating.



# 2020 TOP TEN



Olivia Adgate is the daughter of Richard & Jen Adgate. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 1<sup>st</sup> in her class. Olivia is in the National Honor Society (3 years) and was Student Council Treasurer. During her high school career, Olivia has participated in Basketball (4 years: Team Captain 1 year), Track (1 year: Honorable Mention), Language Arts Team (3 years: All-League 1 year, Team Captain 2 years), Band (4 years), Drum Majorette (4 years), Dual Enrollment (2 years), Medical Pipeline (1 year), and Yellow Ribbon (2 years). Olivia also helped with youth sports camps, tutoring students, food and clothing drives, blood drives, Elementary STEAM night, and the Mustang Classic fundraiser. When not in school, Olivia has helped at the Edmore Potato Festival and has worked at Eureka's in Blanchard, Maxfield's Inn in Edmore and Penny's Day Care. Olivia plans to attend Grand Valley University for a double major in Exercise Science and Recreational Therapy to later earn a Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy.

## Olivia Adgate

# 1

# 2

Brooklynn Knopf is the daughter of Samuel & Makayla Knopf. She currently resides in Lakeview and is graduating 2<sup>nd</sup> in her class. Brooklynn is in the National Honor Society (3 years: Parliamentarian 1 year, Secretary 1 year) and was on the Student Council (2 years). During her high school career, Brooklynn has made Highest Honors all 4 years and has participated in Volleyball (4 years: Honorable Mention 2 years, Team Captain), Basketball (4 years: 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference 1 year, 2<sup>nd</sup> Team All-Conference 1 year, Team Captain), Band (4 years), Dual Enrollment (2 years), Peer-to-Peer (1 year), Yellow Ribbon (2 years), Climate Team (2 years), and Captain's Council (1 year). She has also helped with the Seniors Harvest Dinner, youth basketball camps, clothing drives, roadside cleanups, riverside cleanups and worked at Leppinks in Lakeview. Brooklynn plans to attend University of Michigan to pursue a career in Kinesiology.



## Brooklynn Knopf



Mason Dalrymple is the son of Joe & Renee Dalrymple. He currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 3<sup>rd</sup> in his class. Mason is a member of the National Honor Society (2 years) and on the Student Council (2 years). He was also a Student Representative on the Montabella School Board of Education his senior year. During his high school career, Mason has participated in Baseball (4 years: Team Captain), Wrestling (4 years: Team Captain), Football (3 years), Dual Enrollment (2 years) and Student Advisory (4 years). When not in school, Mason works for his dad at Jim's Auto Collision. Mason hopes to continue his baseball career after graduation and plans to attend Lawrence Tech to pursue a Mechanical Engineering degree.

## Mason Dalrymple

# 3

# 4

Jordan Rose is the daughter of Kelley Rose and Travis Rose. She currently resides in Edmore/Lakeview and is graduating 4<sup>th</sup> in her class. Jordan is a member of the National Honor Society (3 years: Marshall 1 year, Secretary 1 year). During her high school career, Jordan has participated in Volleyball (4 years: All-Conference Honorable Mention 3 years, Team Captain), Basketball (4 years), Softball (3 years: All-Conference Honorable Mention 1 year, Team Captain 1 year), Band (4 years), Solo/Ensemble (2 years: #1 rating), Dual Enrollment (1 year), Peer-to-Peer (1 year), and Director of Middle School Play (4 years). Jordan has also helped with river clean ups and blood drives. She currently works for Gordon Foods in Mt. Pleasant. Jordan plans to attend Montcalm Community College for one year and then transfer to either University of Michigan or Saginaw Valley to study Internal Medicine.



## Jordan Rose



Rose Goltz is the daughter of Marie & Mike Goltz. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 5<sup>th</sup> in her class. Rose is a member of National Honor Society (3 years) and Student Council (2 years: Vice-President). During her high school career, Rose has made High Honors (1 year) and Highest Honors (3 years) and has participated in Band (4 years), Talent Show (3 years), Dual Enrollment (1 year), and Spanish Club (2 years). Rose has also helped with roadside clean up, riverside clean up, and pancake breakfast. When not in school, Rose has participated in Dance (DuHadway Dance Dimensions: 4 years), 4-H (2 years: Vice-President 1 year), National Society of High School Scholars (1 year), Third Coast Dance Company (1 year), Arts United, Dance United, Child Advocacy, Future Physicians of America (1 year), and received the New York City Dance Alliance scholarship (1 year) and Competition Kindness Award (1 year). She has worked at DuHadway Dance Dimensions for 4 years. Rose plans to attend Northern Michigan University to pursue a degree in Human Physiology.

## Rose Goltz

# 5



Nathaniel Peters is the son of Kristin Carrick and Gary Peters. He currently lives in Edmore and is graduating 6<sup>th</sup> in his class. Nathaniel is in the National Honor Society (3 years). During his high school career, Nathaniel has participated in Basketball (4 years), Baseball (3 years), Cross Country (1 year), Band (4 years), Honors Band (2 years) and Career Center (2 years). Nathaniel also helped with Coaches vs. Cancer Day, riverside clean up, and Seniors Harvest Dinner. Nathaniel plans to attend Michigan State University to study Criminal Justice and work for the National Guard as a Carpentry/Masonry Worker.

6

## Nathaniel Peters

7

Alan Keller is the son of Amy Keller and Craig Keller. He currently resides in Millbrook and is graduating 7<sup>th</sup> in his class. During his high school career, Alan participated in Yearbook (3 years), Martial Arts Club (1 year), Guitar Club (1 year), and Character Counts (1 year). He received the Certificate of Academic Excellence and Student of the Month. Alan also helped with the Elementary Winter Carnival and Edmore window decorating. Alan plans to attend Montcalm Community College to study Computer Programming.



## Alan Keller



Lauren Jordan is the daughter of Matt & Sandy Jordan. She currently resides in Edmore and is graduating 8<sup>th</sup> in her class. Lauren is a member of the National Honor Society (3 years). During her high school career, Lauren participated in Volleyball (4 years: Honorable Mention 1 year, Team Captain 2 years, MVP 2 years), Basketball (3 years: Team Captain 1 year), Dual Enrollment (1 year) and SADD (1 year). Lauren also helped with NHS roadside clean up and riverside clean up. When not in school, Lauren participated in Travel Volleyball (1 year), Edmore Potato Festival Committee (3 years), Summer Youth Camps (3 years), Edmore Food Pantry, Faith United Methodist Church Food Pantry and Harvest Dinner. Lauren plans to attend Montcalm Community College in the fall before transferring to another college to possibly study Graphic/Computer Arts.

8

## Lauren Jordan

9

Paige Pant is the daughter of Laurie & Ryan Pant. She currently resides in Blanchard and is graduating 9<sup>th</sup> in her class. Paige is a member of the National Honor Society (2 years). During her high school career, Paige has participated in Cheerleading (1 year), Poms (1 year), Softball (1 year), Dual Enrollment (1 year), Peer-to-Peer (1 year), Band (2 ½ years) and Career Center (1 year). When not in school, Paige participated in 4-H (2 years) and volunteers at her local church and a nursing home. She has worked at Nagel's Concessions for 4 years and DownTown Drugs Pharmacy for 1 year. Paige plans to attend Ferris State University to obtain a degree in Pharmaceuticals.



## Paige Pant

Morgan Christensen is the daughter of Garrett Christensen and Shaila & Dustin Powell. She currently resides in Six Lakes and is graduating 10<sup>th</sup> in her class. Morgan is a member of the National Honor Society (3 years – Marshall 1 year), Class President (4 years), and Student Body President (1 year). She was



also Student Representative on the Montabella School Board of Education during her senior year. During her high school career, Morgan has participated in Basketball (4 years: Team Captain 1 year), Softball (3 years), Forensics Team (1 year), Band (4 years), Honors Band (2 years), Peer-to-Peer (2 years), Equestrian Team (4 years), SADD (1 year), Yellow Ribbon (2 years), and NHS roadside & river clean ups. Morgan received the I Dare You award her junior year, was selected to represent Montabella at the HOBY Leadership Seminar, was a Montabella representative at multiple MHSAA sportsmanship summits, and was a student section leader at sporting events for 3 years. When not in school, Morgan is a member of 4-H (4 years: Treasurer & Secretary), and has volunteered at various events: soup kitchens, Harvest Dinners, shoe hand-outs, blood drives, community clean up, and packed 10,000 meals. She has worked at Maxfields Inn, Maxfields Restaurant, & The Depot as well as babysitting & house sitting jobs. Morgan plans to attend Montcalm Community College

10

and Central Michigan University to pursue a degree in Special Education.

## Morgan Christensen



Logan Finley



Olivia Simon



Emma Kieff



Teagan McIntyre



Ciara Munger



Joshua Taylor



Lily Deal



Kristara Huguelet



Justin Hanses



Corynne  
Nixon



Raylan Eldred



Jase Wood



Skylee Conant



Marshall Preston



Aiden Fletcher



Danny McCarthy



Colten Stratton



Olivia Lau



# Spotlight Students

## January & February



Tripp Eldred



Makayla Helmer



Owen Maybee



Seth Jordan



Riley Ames



Cooper Kieff



Trayton Ward



Landon Buskirk



Tucker Flachs



Jozlynn Bradley



Lydia Eldred



Bailey Kelsey



Keaton Francis



Blake Snyder



Nevaeh Grudzinskas



Jareth Shappee



Mrs. Martin



Miss Melanie



Miss Michele



Miss Miranda



Miss Christine



Miss Margo

# JR/SR Student of the Month Recipients



Top Row: Jaylie Newcombe (7), Ella Harris (8), Alexis Jordan (9), MaLinda Johnston (10), Roman Nickerson (11), Cole Powell (12)



Bottom Row: Carly Bonasse (7), Austin Foster (8), Emily Terry (9), Ryan Cook (10), Hannah Willis (11), Brian Knapp (12)



Mrs. Crowley's third hour class had a guest speaker from Spectrum Health. She had students complete a driving simulation with goggles that impaired driving, similar to those under the influence of marijuana.



Mrs. Garner's class testing out our new Augmented Reality kits that help with reading, math, and coding! Learning is fun!

## Solar Energy Coming to Montabella

The Montabella Community Schools Board of Education has been investigating the idea of a solar energy field for the past several months. This field of panels would be located on the south end of the school property by the football and baseball fields. The panels would generate solar energy that then can be used to help power the electrical needs of the school buildings. The board of education plans to review the service agreement with Sun FundEd at the May 18 regular board of education meeting.

Renewable energy is something that has become more popular over the past few years with many residents and businesses looking at wind and solar as potential options. The school district is a big consumer of electricity and by offsetting some of that electrical use with solar energy it frees up space for other needs in the community. Educationally opportunities also arise from a solar project as students can see first hand the energy produced and saved.

Solar projects for schools work a little differently than residential projects. The size of the solar field that would be needed to produce enough energy to truly offset the school's energy use would not be financially feasible on our own. This is where a third party comes in to help. The third party, in our case, Sun FundEd finds investors that will purchase the equipment needed and the installation of the solar field. The school pays NO costs for the purchase and installation. The district agrees to terms with Sun FundEd for a service fee that is paid throughout the length of the agreement. The service fee is offset by the savings the district will see in electrical costs which nets an overall savings to the district and the opportunity to be environmentally conscious consumers. Initial estimates show a long term savings of over \$1 million through the 30 year contract.

Interested in hearing more about the project or have questions that you would like answered? Come to the May 18 board of education meeting at 7pm. Meetings take place at the jr/sr high cafeteria. If in person meetings are not allowed at that time the meeting will be held through video conferencing in which the public can attend through video or phone connection.

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**

Jann LaPointe ..... *President*  
 Scott Parks ..... *Vice President*  
 Ivan Renne ..... *Secretary*  
 Eylie Foster ..... *Treasurer*  
 Mike Rasmussen ..... *Trustee*  
 Katie Ludwig ..... *Trustee*  
 Shaila Powell ..... *Trustee*



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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, Jr/Sr High and our Elementary.

## Congratulations to the class of 2020

*"I wish there was a way to know you're in the good old days before you've actually left them." - Andy Bernanrd, Series finale of The Office*



*Song:  
 Wherever I Go  
 by  
 Hannah Montana*

*Flower:  
 White Rose  
 with  
 Blue Baby's Breath*