



★ The Purple Post ★ NEWSLETTER



SPRING 2025 ISSUE

WELCOME to the Spring 2025 Issue of The Purple Post Newsletter! In this edition, you will read about Madison City Schools' Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) grants, the Month of the Military Child, Impact Aid, and other military program highlights.

PRISM

Proportional Reasoning in STEM Missions



Elementary math teachers working with manipulatives at a professional development session

HEALTH SCIENCE

Developing the Future Health Science/Biomedical Workforce



Bob Jones Medical Academy Interns

SPARK

Creating a Spark for STEM Career Pathways



STEM students design vehicle crash protection using Sphero RVR+ for testing

- Madison City Schools was awarded a \$2 million grant by DoDEA.
- Two elementary math coaches and 3 middle school math coaches will be hired for the 2025-2026 school year
- Math community engagement events will be held at the elementary and middle school levels to increase STEM career awareness and engage community partners
- Elementary and middle school math professional development for the 2025-2026 school year is being planned
- Goals: 1) 8th grade students will improve proportional reasoning skills for STEM careers, as evidenced by qualitative and quantitative measures 2) 5th grade students will improve fractional reasoning skills for STEM careers, as evidenced by qualitative and quantitative measures
- PRISM's period of performance is October 2024-May 2029

- This 1.5 million dollar grant will be closing in May of 2025.
- 100% of Health Science Pathway teachers responded they acquired new skills to enhance their teaching through this grant.
- "I'm proud of our Medical Academy team working together to create the best learning environments for our students. We work to suit the individual interests and learning styles of our students to help them in their personal career paths/jobs." Madison City School Health Science Pathway Teacher, Spring 2024
- The grant provided real-world learning experiences in Health Science and Biomedical fields, equipping students with essential skills and competencies. It successfully increased the number of military-connected students earning industry-recognized credentials in CTE. By engaging middle school students early, the initiative inspired them to pursue credentials in high school, preparing them for careers in healthcare, biomedical fields, or further education.

- The STEM Grant is in year 3 of implementation.
 - Last fall, STEM teachers met several times to plan innovative lessons incorporating real world problem-solving skills.
 - During this school year students have had several opportunities to work with STEM community partners while completing a STEM challenge. Read more at the [MCS Academic Blog](#) site and also [here](#).
 - STEM teacher Megan Hockey and Rachel Gibbs, Madison City Schools Elementary Instructional Technology Specialist, have shared a presentation on the incredible impact and growth of the STEM program since inception in the 2023-2024 school year.
 - This spring all fifth grade STEM students will engage in an immersive experience with STEM careers.
- Goals: Military-connected students will increase their STEM literacy/content knowledge and will increase their STEM career awareness as evidenced by quantitative and/or qualitative measures
- SPARK Grant period of performance is fall 2022-spring 2027

MCEC CALL FOR THE ARTS PROGRAM

The Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC) is inviting military-connected students to share, through their creativity, what it means to be a military-connected child. Winners receive cash awards and national recognition. Submissions are open now through April 30, 2025. To learn more, visit: <https://militarychild.org/programs-and-initiatives/the-call-for-the-arts/>.

In 2024, Annabelle, who was an 8th grader at Liberty Middle School, won the first place award for the Call for the Arts in the middle school age group. Annabelle stated, "As a military brat, I've moved to many places, and I've met tons of interesting people. I remember the scenic views and snowy winters of New York, the beautiful sunsets and dry climate of Texas, Route 66 in Oklahoma, the wheat fields in Kansas, and the nature of Alabama. I see all of these places as my home, and I'm thankful for the people I've met, and the places I've seen."



Annabelle's artwork is named *Invisible String*.

MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

April, recognized as the Month of the Military Child since its establishment in 1986, honors the resilience, strength, and sacrifices of children in military families. This observance highlights their vital contributions to the military community. A variety of events, such as galas, breakfasts, Purple Up! Spirit Week, and Purple Up! Day, are held to show appreciation and support for these exceptional young individuals.



VFW POST 5162 AWARD RECIPIENTS

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 5162 in Madison recently honored winners of their Teacher of the Year awards and student contests, including the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen competitions. The Voice of Democracy contest, for high school students, had the theme "Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?" and JCHS senior Dillon Tremblay was named runner-up. The Patriot's Pen contest, for middle school students, focused on the theme "My Voice in America's Democracy," with 7th grader Neil Dube from JMS winning. Amber Moore, an EL teacher at Heritage Elementary, was awarded Teacher of the Year, with runners-up Brooke Sigler (Madison Elementary) and Rachel McGee (Liberty Middle).



IMPACT AID UPDATE

Impact Aid is a government program that provides financial assistance to schools that have a large presence of military dependent students. It is very important to identify Impact Aid students each school year. For the 2024-2025 school year, we recorded 2,909 Impact Aid students which makes up 22% of our student population. Impact Aid allows Madison City Schools to qualify for a variety of grants and funding. Since 2010, MCS has received numerous DoDEA grants that benefit military students and their civilian classmates. These grants help us establish programs in order to better serve all students, including the DoDEA grants highlighted at the beginning of this newsletter. Thank you to everyone that has a student attending a MCS school who completed the Impact Aid Survey!

VFW POST 5162 EVENT

Gold Star Families and Veterans Fellowship and Food Drive

Hosted by the City of Madison and VFW Post 5162
15 March 2025
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Dublin Park 8324 Old Madison Pike, Madison

Veteran & Family Services	Health & Activities
* Veteran Services Officer	* Massage Therapy
* Financial Planning	* Yoga/Strength Training
* Veteran Assistance	* Arts & Crafts
* Veteran Organizations	* Personal Care

There will be door prizes, food trucks, and bounce houses!

To register use the QR code:

Registration is NOT required but greatly appreciated to help with planning.
If you would like to be a vendor or have questions, email Tammy Johnson docj45@hotmail.com with "Fellowship" in the subject line.

SITTIN' WITH THE SUPE



The latest Sittin' With The Supe podcast highlights military families in Madison City Schools and MCS's support for them. Dr. Nichols is joined by Col. (Ret) David Mulack and Liberty Middle 8th grader Kate Martin to discuss their experiences, MCS's partnership with Redstone Arsenal, and the impact of the Student to Student (S2S) program. You can hear the podcast [here](#). Col. (Ret) David Mulack is husband to Sonya Mulack, Community Coordinator at Military Child Education Coalition® | MCEC® who works closely with Madison City Schools providing guidance and assistance to military families, schools/districts, and installation/community stakeholders while also implementing MCEC programs, trainings, and initiatives. Learn more about MCEC [here](#).