



# ★ The Purple Post ★ NEWSLETTER



Summer 2025 Issue

**WELCOME** to the Summer 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, Liberty Middle Schools' S2S program, the Frances Hesselbein Student Leadership Program, and more!

## PRISM

Proportional Reasoning in STEM Missions



The Elementary Math Leadership Team working on best practices of the Number Corner program.

- The PRISM Grant is currently in the planning year (year 1 of 5).
- Three middle school math coaches have been board approved for the 2025-2026 school year.
- The math coaches will coordinate math community engagement events to increase STEM career awareness and engage community partners.
- OGAP Proportional Reasoning Training is being scheduled in the summer for middle school math teachers.
- 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.

## HEALTH SCIENCE

Developing the Future Health Science/Biomedical Workforce



The Medical Academy students explain to 8<sup>th</sup> graders what is offered in high school.

- The grant's period of performance closes May 31. Two major investments are positioning local schools as leaders in healthcare education, equipping students and educators with cutting-edge tools to train the next generation of medical professionals.
- MedAffinity Software, a state-of-the-art electronic health record (EHR) platform, has been secured for both high schools for a five-year period. Purpose-built for simulation-based learning, MedAffinity provides a user-friendly and realistic interface that mirrors real-world clinical environments. This technology will allow students to build essential digital competencies and experience the workflow of modern healthcare systems.
  - In addition, The Academy Archive / Debriefing Academy has been made available to all middle and high school Health Science teachers for four years. This on-demand professional development platform features courses led by global experts in healthcare simulation. It is designed to enhance educator expertise, improve student learning outcomes, and ensure that simulation instruction remains aligned with the latest advancements in the field.
- These forward-looking initiatives underscore a strong commitment to preparing students for success in today's rapidly evolving healthcare landscape.

## SPARK

Creating a Spark for STEM Career Pathways



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

- The STEM Grant is in year 3 of 5.
  - This spring all fifth grade STEM students engaged in an immersive experience with STEM careers either on location of a community partner or as a multi-event experience at school. On-site visits included: Leidos, Wheeler Wildlife National Refuge, NASA International Space Station Payload Operations Center guided by Teledyne Brown employees, National Weather Service and The University of Alabama Huntsville Severe Weather Institute for Research and Lightning Laboratories with presentations from meteorologist from WHNT News 19, and FlyQuest at the Huntsville Airport. School events included presentations by Ensafe, GeoCue, Huntsville Hospital, GE Aerospace, North Alabama Home Builders Academy, Madison Animal Care, FBI, North Alabama Land Trust, The Center for Cybersecurity Research and Education(UAH), and The Missile Defense Agency.
  - All students had exceptional opportunities to engage in activities that promoted STEM Career Awareness.
- 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

## MONTH OF THE MILITARY CHILD

Madison City Schools proudly celebrated the Month of the Military Child (MoMC) throughout April, honoring the strength, resilience, and sacrifices of military-connected students.

Throughout the month, military students were recognized through social media highlights, car rider kickoffs, dress up days, and provided goodie bags.

Purple Up! Day, held on Friday, April 11, served as the centerpiece of the district's celebration. Schools across the district showed their support with special events such as luncheons, breakfasts, and socials to recognize and appreciate military families.



## Frances Hesselbein Leadership Award: Honoring Abigail Sebghati

Abigail Sebghati, a standout student at Bob Jones High School, has been awarded the prestigious Frances Hesselbein Leadership Award in recognition of her exceptional leadership, commitment to service, and dedication to making a positive impact in her community. This national award honors young leaders who exemplify the values and vision of Frances Hesselbein, the former CEO of the Girl Scouts of the USA and Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, whose legacy is rooted in servant leadership, inclusion, and empowering others. In spring 2025, she spent a week at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, further enhancing her skills. Her achievement embodies Hesselbein's legacy of inspiration and empowerment.



## LMS'S MARDI PAW PARADE & VISIT TO TEXAS



On Tuesday, March 4th, Liberty Middle School hosted its second annual 'Mardi Paw Parade,' organized by students to support local animal shelters. "We wanted to raise awareness and provide for shelters, since they don't always have the same resources as we do at home for our pets," said Claire, a member of Student 2 Student, the club behind the event. To participate, students donated 10-25 pound bags of dog and cat food to enter a wagon or parasol in the parade. In addition to the parade, Liberty Middle School collected pet supplies throughout the week, including food, cleaning products, linens, paper towels, and more.

Liberty's Student to Student (S2S) program recently traveled to Texas for a community service trip. S2S was originally founded to support military students adjusting to frequent school transitions. The program has since expanded to include all new students. "It was created to help military students transitioning during the school year or in the summer," explained Liberty S2S sponsor Kitty Mingus. "While we still serve that purpose, we also welcome all new students now." Although the S2S members are familiar with serving their local school community, this trip took them to Fort Cavazos in Texas to serve military children in the Killeen, TX community.



In late February, the S2S sponsors, students, and their parents traveled to Texas to work with students at Meadows Elementary School on Fort Cavazos and with preschool students at Meridith-Dunbar Early Childhood Academy in Temple, Texas. The group also donated and set up a free little library in Salado, TX. Liberty S2S students hosted the pre-K Hungry Caterpillar Olympics and picnic, competed in a robotics competition with 5th graders, worked with 4th graders on book studies, illustrated books written by 3rd graders, and judged a "My Dream Home" 2nd grade writing contest, all at Meadows Elementary School on Fort Cavazos.

## REDSTONE ARSENAL'S UPCOMING EVENTS

**ARMY BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**  
**JUNE 7, 2025**  
 3 - 9PM ★ REDSTONE GATEWAY  
 PUBLIC PARKING OPENS AT 2PM

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! FREE TO ATTEND!**

- ★ Golden Knights Aerial Demonstration
- ★ Cake Cutting Ceremony
- ★ Music by DJ Slim Robb
- ★ Music by Boot Scootin Boogie Nights
- ★ Craft and Vendor Market
- ★ Food Trucks
- ★ Restaurants
- ★ Kids Play Zone Inflatables
- ★ Army Static Displays
- ★ Free Cookie Cake and Ice Cream (While supplies last)
- ★ Cruise-In Car Show
- ★ 25 Minute Firework Finale

[WWW.REDSTONEMWR.COM](http://WWW.REDSTONEMWR.COM)

The 250<sup>th</sup> Army Birthday celebration is happening on June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Redstone Gateway. This event is free to attend and open to the public.

**Thriving Families Lunch & Learn Series**  
**April 2 - October 29, 2025**  
**From 11am - 12pm CST**

Evidence-based family enrichment workshops designed to strengthen couples and parents as they navigate the complexities of work and family life balance with resilience.

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| <b>April 2</b><br>Spectrum, Support, & Synergy: Building Understanding of Autism and It's Dynamics | <b>August 6</b><br>Building Healthy Relationships: A Solution Focused Approach to Couples Enrichment         |
| <b>April 16</b><br>ScreamFree Parenting (Part I)   | <b>September 10</b><br>Five Love Languages   |
| <b>April 30</b><br>ScreamFree Parenting (Part II)  | <b>October 1</b><br>Money Talks: Building Financial Intimacy with Honesty & Transparency                     |
| <b>May 7</b><br>Cooperative Parenting: Controlling the Controllables                               | <b>October 15</b><br>Teen Safe Dating and Healthy Intimate Partner Connections                               |
| <b>June 4</b><br>Creating Healthy Connections  | <b>October 29</b><br>The Art of Managing Anger Well  |
| <b>July 9</b><br>21st Century Parenting and the New Predator                                       | <b>MS Teams</b><br><a href="https://tinyurl.com/thriving-families">https://tinyurl.com/thriving-families</a> |

**Free**  
Open to anyone 18+ with access to Redstone Arsenal

[WWW.REDSTONEMWR.COM](https://WWW.REDSTONEMWR.COM) 256-842-8706

The Thriving Families Lunch & Learn series are virtual evidence-based family enrichment workshops that are open to anyone 18+ with access to Redstone Arsenal.

## MCEC'S MAY 2025 WEBINAR SERIES

WEDNESDAY, May 28, 2025  
**6125N - Exploring School Transition Supports for Military Families**  
[Registration Link for 6125N](#)

THURSDAY, May 29, 2025  
**20425HEB - Empoderando a los niños vinculados con el ejército. Enseñándoles a abogar por ellos mismos.**  
**(Empowering Military-Connected Children: Building Self-Advocacy Skills)**  
[Registration Link for 20425HEB](#)

To register for a webinar, go to the link following each topic below, or visit the MCEC website to view the entire schedule and register here:

**Webinar Topics and Dates**  
 (All webinars presented in Zoom at Noon EST)



## VFW'S YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS

The Veterans of Foreign Affairs (VFW) released the theme of their Youth Scholarships. The 2025-2026 theme is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

The Voice of Democracy contest is open to 9-12th grade students. To view the Voice of Democracy entry form, click [here](#).

The Patriot's Pen contest is open to 6-8th grade students. To view the Patriot's Pen entry form, click [here](#).

Prizes and scholarships can be awarded at the Post, District, state and national level. Applications are due October 31. To learn more about VFW's Youth Scholarships, visit [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

The information below is needed for students that enter the contest:

Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Joyce M. Helson Post 5162  
 Post Office Box 307  
 Madison, AL 35758

VFW Post 5162 Commander: Art Johnson, 256-285-0836

VFW Post 5162 Junior Vice/Programs Chairman: April Thomas, 256-690-1645



Dillon Tremblay (middle), a JCHS Senior, and Neil Dube (left) a 7<sup>th</sup> grader at JMS, were recognized by the local VFW Post 5162 for their contest entries/submissions.