

# POLAR BEAR PRIDE

Summer 2020 Vol. 25, Issue 3

Circulation 22,000

## HEAD OF THE CLASS

## SUMMA CUM LAUDE GRADUATES



**VALEDICTORIAN**

**VALEDICTORIAN**

**SALUTATORIAN**

Clare Abboud

Charlotte Brunkalla

Patrick Tawil

## MISTER AND MISS JACKSONITE



Zachary Buckler

Divya Patibandla

The Class of 2020 Miss Jacksonite is Divya Patibandla, and Mister Jacksonite is Zachary Buckler.

Each year, the JHS staff and students select one male and one female student to receive the school's highest honor.

Selected students are in good standing academically, socially and civically at JHS and in the Jackson Community.

There are five phases in the selection process: Phase one determines those students who have a grade point average of 3.6 or higher. From that list, teachers nominate candidates for the ballot. Next, the teachers vote on the nominees. This year's nominees were *Mary Grace Bentivegna, Ellie Chevalier, Giavonna Globokar, Lilliana Iraheta, Divya Patibandla, Kaitlyn Woolbert, Zachary Buckler, Jack Dennis, Adam Hamdan, Samuel McFadden, and Jake Stout*. Phase four asks the senior class to vote for one male and one female classmate who represent the best of what it means to be a member of Jackson High School and the Jackson Township community. The final phase considers the students' school, community, and leadership activities. The two winners receive a plaque to keep, while a second identical plaque is hung in perpetuity at JHS.

- |                       |                     |                        |                  |                       |
|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Clare Abboud          | Kerianne Diese      | Mia Lamielle           | Blake Pearsall   | Raylee Smith          |
| Sara Abrams           | Libby Dillon        | Devin Landis           | Connor Pearsall  | Ben Smith             |
| Madison Adams         | Jason Dionisio      | Kayla Langford         | Kendra Pelc      | Justin Smith          |
| Lauren Addis          | Haley Durr          | Abby Lawrence          | Braden Phillips  | Emily Smith           |
| Brianna Ake           | Madison Earlenbaugh | Owen Lepsky            | Gracie Rank      | John Smithberger      |
| Jake Aleman           | Dakota Eckenrode    | Jacob LoCoco           | Heath Rea        | Nathan Snyder         |
| Brooke Andrews        | Alexandria Eckman   | Luke Lorenz            | Grace Reed       | Connor Spoonemore     |
| Olivia Ash            | McKenzie Ecrement   | Jailei Maas            | Alex Regas       | Natalie Spuhler       |
| Gregory Baker         | Katherine Edwards   | Sabrina Maghes         | Hayden Reott     | Hannah Stanich        |
| Abigail Bartholomew   | Hannah Elias        | Nathan Malcolm         | Kate Ritchey     | Jake Stout            |
| Emmy Baumel           | Madeline Evans      | Amie Mallette          | Ryan Rofe        | Evan Strifler         |
| Mary Grace Bentivegna | Lauren Fisher       | Jacob Martzaklis       | Alex Roth        | Andrew Sullivan       |
| Kate Bleichrodt       | Lauren Freidly      | Ishita Mathur          | Maria Rozenek    | Grant Swinehart       |
| Drew Boggs            | Ethan Frost         | Ally Mazziotta         | Connor Rozenek   | Zach Tate             |
| Jimmy Bostic          | Colin Gelal         | Joseph McAuliffe       | John Rozmajzl    | Patrick Tawil         |
| Chloe Boyce           | Giavonna Globokar   | Brock McCoy            | Jake Ryan        | Gracie Taylor         |
| Emily Breen           | Angelina Globokar   | Samuel McFadden        | Hannah Saadey    | Benjamin Tsai         |
| Matthew Brown         | Ben Gregory         | Alexis Mennona         | Emma Sales       | Angela Tu             |
| Charlotte Brunkalla   | Adam Hamdan         | Lilly Mertes           | Samuel Sallerson | Laura Tucker          |
| Justin Bruss          | Elizabeth Harkness  | Maria Mitri            | Therese Salomone | Alyssa Vaccaro        |
| Zach Buckler          | Kassidy Harkness    | Brianna Montini        | Ashish Sangar    | Jesus Vergara         |
| Olivia Buonaspina     | Marcella Harper     | Eleanore Morrow        | Hanna Sausaman   | Gabriela Verginis     |
| Ethan Butine          | Elizabeth Hastings  | Lauren Muskoff         | Jon Schario      | Karli Walsh           |
| Jake Byers            | Karen Hastings      | Shreyaa Nagajothi      | Sydney Scibetta  | Aidan Wanzer          |
| Alex Carmona          | Sarah Hatcher       | Billy Nelson           | Lauren Scibetta  | Logan Webster         |
| Karanvir Chahal       | Gabrielle Hillier   | Ty Nelson              | Jessie Sedlock   | Megan Westphal        |
| Madalynne Chapman     | Spencer Humbert     | Morganne Neuman        | Emma Seibert     | Emily Wiley           |
| Ellie Chevalier       | Jake Huzyak         | Lindsey Noland         | Audrey Seymour   | Justin Williams       |
| Ethan Clevenger       | Liliana Iraheta     | Angele Nsoure-Engohang | Ainsley Shanks   | Donny Woodward        |
| Megan Cooper          | Colette Jakubow     | Helena Nukuto          | Aleah Shomali    | Kaitlyn Woolbert      |
| Tyler Crawford        | Carly Johnson       | Monica O'Neill         | Victor Shott     | Andrew Wyss           |
| Danielle Daiger       | Ayah Khawaja        | Om Patel               | Aleesha Singh    | Christos Xanthopoulos |
| Maryn Dempsey         | Layth Khawaja       | Divya Patibandla       | Nathaniel Sisson | Isabel Zablo          |
| Jack Dennis           | Rachel Kolarits     | Camille Patton         | Rachel Slesnick  | Lexi Zanin            |
| Danielle Deryck       |                     | Erik Paulhardt         |                  | Verna Zhu             |



### FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

KEEPING THE MAIN THING, THE MAIN THING

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CHRIS DILORETO

## Congratulations Class of 2020

When history looks back upon the Class of 2020 it will not remember this class for what it missed or didn't miss, what it did or didn't do or what was or wasn't cut short. Instead, history will look back upon this class as resilient trailblazers that overcame and adapted. It will look back

See CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020, page 2

The Class of 2020 reported

**\$5,889,063**  
in scholarships



CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

# CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020

on this class as one that paved a new way of doing things and one that proved to us all just what we are capable of when circumstances push us to go beyond what we thought we could. It will look back on this class not just as students, but also teachers.



• Attitude matters greatly ... and our attitude when faced with challenges determines the outcome. Leadership experts teach this equation that embodied this class:  $E+R=O$  ... an event, plus our response, determines the outcome. Indeed, we all became students of the Class of 2020.

Here's what we learned from them:

• To smile in the face of adversity because it prepares us for the next level. And the Jackson High School Class of 2020 isn't just heading off to college, trade school, the military, the work force, it is setting the standard by which to get there.



• The power of hope is greater than the fear of uncertainty. Our world's greatest leaders maintained hope in dire circumstances and changed the world. It is without hesitation I believe the Class of 2020 is well on its way to changing the world.

These students have collectively earned about \$6 million dollars in scholarships. Eight of our graduates have committed themselves as servant leaders in our armed forces and we are grateful for all of them. Most of this class (92%) will go on to two- or four-year colleges.



So on May 28 when the Jackson Local School District honored this class with a unique but extraordinary graduation ceremony, I will never forget the smiles on the faces of graduates and family members as the sun started

• When there is a hill in front of you, climb it, do not go around it. Problems are there to be faced and overcome. It was Helen Keller — the first blind and deaf person to graduate from college — who wrote “character cannot be developed in ease and quiet.”



to set and cast shadows on a beautiful evening. This was the outcome from their response to an event. Jackson Township was aglow with purple and gold, cars were decorated, teachers held signs in a show of appreciation and our chests swelled with pride on that perfect, sun-drenched evening.



Two days later a line of cars snaked through township streets in a graduation procession that took the coordinated efforts of citizens, township officials and our great teachers and staff at the Jackson Local School District. It was mentioned by several parents this is what graduation should be like every year.



The Jackson Local School District is one of Ohio's top-ranked districts and we are routinely recognized by U.S. News and



World Report as among the best in the country. It takes a partnership among teachers, students, parents, staff and community to create that level of achievement and an expectation to meet it.

I wish each of you a safe, healthy and productive summer. The power of hope forges on at Jackson Local Schools. We will see you in the fall. As always, Go Polar Bears!



# Scout earns 12 Eagle Palms

Bradley Tonges, JHS senior, received his Eagle Award on March 17, 2019, when he was 17-years-old. To earn the rank of Eagle, a scout must be a good example of scouting, lead an approved community project and earn 21 merit badges. After receiving the Eagle rank, the scout may continue to earn merit badges until he turns 18. For each five merit badges earned over the required 21 to become an Eagle, a scout receives an Eagle palm. Approximately 5% of all Scouts earn Eagle Awards, and of those, less than 1% earn a single palm. By the time Bradley turned 18 on March 22, he had earned 12 Eagle palms (81 merit badges in addition to several other scouting awards). Bradley's Eagle project benefited the Refuge of Hope. He collected donated items to make 50 personal hygiene kits in string bags.



Each kit contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shaving cream, a razor, hand sanitizer, shampoo, conditioner, wipes, Kleenex and a pair of socks. He also organized a non-perishable food drive and repaired cots at the shelter.



## NATIONAL MERIT AWARDS

This year's students, from left, are: Clare Abboud, scholarship winner; Chloe Boyce, commended student; Grace Rank, semi-finalist; Therese Salmone, semi-finalist; Joseph McAuliffe, commended student, and Nagashreyaa Nagajothi, scholarship winner.

## JHS again named a top U.S. high school

- # 1,186 in National Rankings
- # 43 in Ohio High Schools
- # 1 in Canton Metro Area High Schools



**POLAR BEAR PRIDE** is published four times each year under the auspices of the Jackson Local Board of Education with advertising support from area businesses. It is printed and mailed to Jackson homes and businesses at no cost to the school district. Polar Bear Pride is not a public forum. Its purpose is to keep the community informed of life and learning in the Jackson Local Schools.

# JHS junior earns Amelia Earhart Award

Cadet Captain Harrison Traylor earned the Amelia Earhart Award, which marks his completion of Phase III of the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) Cadet Program, recognizing sustained excellence in all four areas of cadet life: leadership, aerospace, fitness, and character.

Captain Traylor will be a senior at Jackson High School in the fall. He holds a GPA of 3.75 and is a cadet in the Civil Air Patrol with North Canton Composite Squadron 278. He is also the committee chair of Cadet Advisory Council. Captain Traylor earned his pre-solo wings from Glider Academy and hopes to earn his solo wings this summer. As a member of the Composite Squadron, he has served as cadet deputy commander, part of the Cyber-Patriot team and Ground Team 3.

He plans to one day fly fighter jets for the Air Force. "But if I don't



qualify, flying bombers would be just fine with me," he said, adding, "After leaving the Air Force, I want to fly commercial or executive planes."

The Earhart Award is the third of five milestone awards that CAP cadets can earn. Achievement of this award requires successful completion of

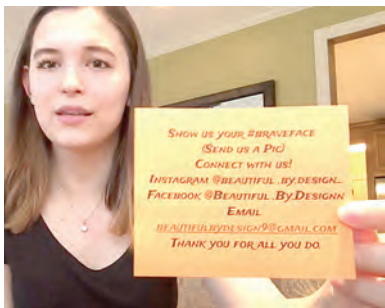
leadership and aerospace exams, a rigorous physical fitness test and demonstration of leadership abilities including principles of officership and the responsibilities of command. Once a cadet earns the Amelia Earhart Award, he or she is promoted to the grade of cadet captain and is challenged to lead and serve junior-ranking cadets, not just in the hometown squadron but around the state. Earhart cadets become eligible to represent the United States in the International Air Cadet Exchange. Less than 20,000 cadets nationwide have been given this prestigious honor.

Additionally, Captain Traylor is a Star rank with Boy Scout Troop 1, chartered by Zion United Church of Christ where he was elected twice as a Senior Patrol Leader and is a member of the Order of the Arrow.

# How one Jackson senior channeled her sadness into action

By JSA senior, Gia Globokar

In the early months of 2020, many things were happening in my life. From school to work and extracurricular activities, to college planning, my family and my future all demanding my attention, I was not prepared for what was ahead of me. I never expected that while entering my last semester of high school the world would face a global pandemic. The Coronavirus Outbreak of 2020 has been devastating. All of the directions that I was being pulled in came to a crashing halt. Now, I



hand the scarcity of resources that the COVID-19 virus had inflicted upon the hospitals. In a dark and confusing time, I, along with my family and close friends, took up

ironing, marketing, or selling a product. However, this did not stop me from starting Beautiful By Design, a business with my mother to help make a difference in our community. I threw myself entirely into the project. When I wasn't working or doing school work, I was working for Beautiful By Design. My role extended much further than the actual manufacturing. While I did learn to sew and create all pieces of the masks, I created and managed social media accounts for the brand. I packaged and filled orders of the product. I communicated with consumers via phone call, text messaging

and through an email that I had set up exclusively for the cause. Furthermore, I delivered the masks to various healthcare facilities, essential workers and essential businesses. I even created a website with more information about the project.

the tasks of sewing protective masks to cover the N-95 masks provided by the hospitals. These would hopefully preserve the life of the mask and increase the safety of the wearer. I had to learn everything from scratch. I had no knowledge or experience sewing,



# My Last Day of High School

By JSA senior, Devin Landis

If I would have known that March 13th was my last day of high school, I would have treated it much differently. I would have made sure to appreciate the place that has fostered my creativity and passion over the last four years, and thanked my teachers who made it all possible. I would have held onto that last minute of singing in the choir room or dancing with my best friends, and I would have been much more focused on the present moment. Knowing that I will never enter the high school as a student again tears me up inside, and I have experienced a wide array of emotions over the past month and a half. What makes it especially difficult is that there is nobody to blame, nobody to take my anger or disappointment out on. I have tried to keep in contact with friends virtually, but it just isn't the same as seeing them every day. It was also very difficult to come to the realization that I may never see many of my peers again, as we will never walk the stage to graduate, go to senior prom, or perform in our last showcases and concerts. Even though this is probably one of the most challenging emotional experiences that I have ever gone through, it has made me realize how much I can rely on art as a coping mechanism and as an outlet to express myself. I have been putting a lot of energy into the simple things, such as singing along with the recordings that we made of Chorale on the last day of school and continuing to write and create. I have also been able to continue to dance, which has been extremely beneficial to keeping a somewhat "normal" routine. Even though it is nowhere near the same, I am able to take a moment out of my day to do something that I enjoy and work to be a part of something bigger. Art is my outlet, and I wouldn't have it any other way.



# Me, Myself and I

JSA senior, Maddy Chapman created this composite photo as she reflected on her time in quarantine.



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# JHS students selected for Ohio Governor's Art Exhibition

The artwork of six JHS students was selected for the 2020 Ohio Governor's Youth Art Exhibition. These pieces are among the 300 selected from 11,500 entries submitted (open to students in Ohio's 1,112 high schools, both public and private). The purpose is to provide all budding young artists of the state with opportunities to advance their talent, whether that be through scholarships or simply experiencing the process of entering their work in a competition.

The JHS artists are Ally Combs, Ethan Connor, Hannah Elias, Abby Evans, Natalie Spuhler and Kennedy White.



Ethan Connor



Hannah Elia



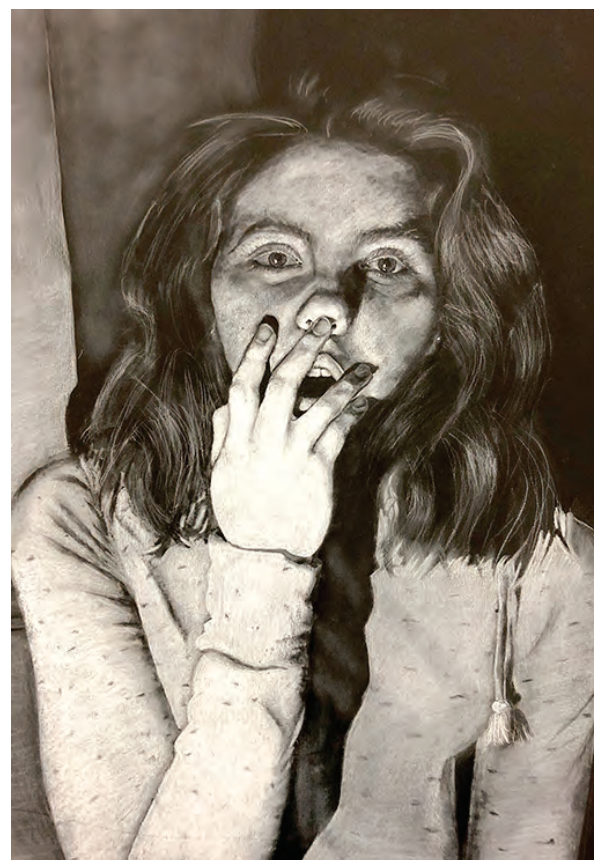
Kennedy White



Ally Combs



Natalie Spuhler



Abby Evans

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# School District aids Jackson Fire Department

When school superintendent Chris DiLoreto and his team learned that it would be months before the Jackson Township Fire Department would receive a piece of sanitation equipment (because of a backlog due to the COVID-19 crisis), he quickly offered to loan the school's Clorox Total 360 Electrostatic Sprayer.

The district has owned the equipment for nearly two years and uses it regularly to disinfect student spaces, especially during flu season. The machine sprays a microfine, electrostatically charged mist that does not merely sit on top of surfaces, but also reaches areas around and under the sprayed objects, encapsulating them in disinfectant.

Chief Hogue expressed concern for his staff and the patients they transport, noting that stress levels are increased for everyone during this crisis. "Using this equipment has added a measure of reassurance for all involved," he said, offering thanks to Superintendent DiLoreto, Assistant Superintendent Barry Mason and Buildings and Grounds Supervisor Harley Neftzer. "This is just another example of how the schools and township work together," he added.

"There is a great collaboration between township government and our schools," said Superintendent DiLoreto. "For the betterment of our community, we help each other out by sharing resources where we can."

Chief Hogue said that during the COVID-19 crisis, each ambulance gets a double cleaning. In addition to the customary cleaning at the hospital immediately after any transport, the ambulance now gets a second cleaning at the Safety Center with the Clorox Total 360 sprayer before returning to its home station.



## Scholastic Art National Medalist

Mackenzie Czekansky, JHS and JSA freshman was awarded a National Silver Medal in the 2020 Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. This year, students in grades 7-12 submitted nearly 340,000 works of art and writing to the competition. Submissions are juried by luminaries in the arts. Panelists look for works that best exemplify originality, technical skill, and the emergence of a personal voice or vision.

## AlumNotes

**Dillon Dingler**  
ROUND TWO PICK 38

2x STATE CHAMPION  
Stark County Player of Year (Football)  
Horsemen  
OSU Baseball Captain 2019 & 2020  
Big Ten All-Freshman Team (2019)  
Big Ten All-Tournament Team (2019)  
Collegiate Baseball All-American (2020)

**Kyle Nicholas**  
ROUND TWO PICK 61

2x STATE CHAMPION  
Horsemen  
Ohio Baseball Player of the Year (2017)  
Academic All-MAC (2019)  
MAC Strikeout Leader (2020)  
BA - Business Administration

It All Started In Jackson Township

**Dingler** **Nicholas**

## Two JHS seniors win Jordyn Myers scholarships

### Music Awards

Nathan Snyder, piano, received the prestigious Louis Armstrong Award and a \$500 scholarship from the Jackson Band Boosters.

Nathan will attend The Ohio State University double majoring in Jazz Studies and Data Analysis. He has received \$4,000 from OSU renewable each year for a total of \$16,000.

Ethan Maycon, lead trumpet, received the Woody Herman Award. He will attend the University of Cincinnati Conservatory of Music majoring in Music Education with a Jazz emphasis. He has received \$3,500 in scholarships renewable each year for a total of \$14,000.



Nathan Snyder



Ethan Maycon

Kate Bleichrodt received the The \$5,000 Jordyn Myers Women in Engineering Scholarship, and Victor Shott received the \$5,000 Jordyn Myers Student-Athlete Scholarship.

Kate will attend The Ohio State University in the fall to pursue her dream of becoming an engineer. Putting maximum effort into everything she does, Kate enjoys all sports, playing soccer, watching movies, volunteering and exploring new things. In high school, she was a member of the National Honor Society (NHS), Math Honor Society and was the Adventure Club secretary. Throughout her years at JHS she tutored her classmates in math and science, was in Key Club, Math Club, Spanish Club and a member of Student Council. She was a Lead Freshman Mentor, and a captain of the Jackson Girls Soccer Team where she was voted team MVP and received the team Sportsmanship Award her senior year. Kate was nominated for the Federal League's Sam DiBlasi Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award for JHS and voted Stark County's female soccer player of the year. She is most proud of her volunteer work with the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, having organized a food drive for JHS which brought in several tons of food during the holiday season. She also volunteers at the Stark County Humane Society, at the Stephen's Sunrise Pi-Mile run, the Unity in the Community Pancake



Kate Bleichrodt

Breakfast, and the Long Haul Against Hunger event.

Victor will attend The Ohio State University to study finance. In high school, he played football and lacrosse and earned six varsity letters. He was a captain of the football team his senior year and earned 1st Team All-Federal League, 1st Team All-Stark County, 1st Team All-Northeast Region, and 2nd Team All-Ohio as an inside linebacker. Unfortunately his senior lacrosse season was canceled, but he earned Honorable Mention All-Region his junior year as a midfielder. Victor was also a part of the National Honor Society and was a Freshman Mentor. During the summer leading up to his senior year, Victor was selected to attend American Legion's Buckeye Boys State at Miami (OH) University. He graduated summa



Victor Shott

cum laude with a 4.1 GPA and with an Honors Diploma. Victor said he is very appreciative of his parents (Bob and Brooke Shott) and all of the coaches, teachers, teammates, friends and positive influences that he has had the blessing of coming in contact with while attending Jackson High School. He feels fortunate to have grown up in such a great community and is extremely honored and humbled to receive the first annual Jordyn Myers Student-Athlete Scholarship.

The 33 JordynStrong Foundation would like to thank all of the applicants who took the time to apply and learn a little about their beloved Jordyn. #stronglikeJ. <https://www.33jordynstrong.org>



Jordyn Myers

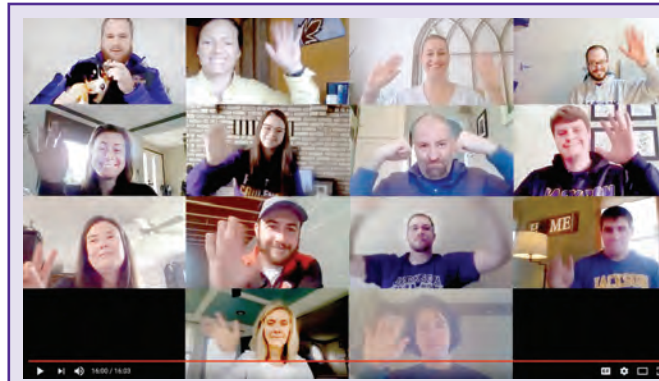
### The QUARANTINE DIARY

Notes from the inside

### Choosing My Focus

By JSA senior, Kaitlyn Woolbert

In so many ways, my senior year has been cut short. This is not to say I am the only person affected by the coronavirus or precautions being taken throughout the United States to slow its spread—thousands have died and countless people have siblings, parents, or grandparents who have contracted the virus. But for me, being quarantined has meant one less spring concert and one less visit to NYC with the JHS choirs. Being out of school, I have one less dance showcase, one less trip to the Ohio statehouse with my Youth and Government club, one less state competition, and maybe even one less graduation or prom. But it is not just these events that are important to me—so also are those moments I may have spent with my peers in April. Some of my peers, I may not ever see again after high school. Perhaps the moments I might have spent with them in April would be the last of my life. How can I not feel as though I am missing out on a special time? But in a time where so much is lost, I am finding new activities that remind me of the good in each day. Recently, I read a post that said “You are not stuck at home. You are safe at home.” Indeed, I feel safe in my home. But I feel more than safe. I am happy to be spending time with my family that I would not have had if still in school. Each day, I am taking walks with my family, and doing puzzles or short workouts with my siblings. I have baked countless treats with my sister and watched movies with my brothers. I had a wonderful Easter meal with my family. I Facetimed grandparents and cousins in Hudson, Ohio and made breakfast with my siblings. Even in the midst of the chaos, I have so much to be thankful for. I remind myself to look for the good in each day. There is good, always. Maybe it is easiest to define by taking a picture each day or in prayer or by writing in a diary. Whatever it may be, it is so important to acknowledge its presence. After all, you are not stuck. You are safe.



### Remote wit and wisdom from the JHS Science Department

When the pandemic closed school, JHS science teachers created a video and used famous quotations to inspire, motivate and fortify their beloved students. They expounded on bravery, helpfulness, failure, audacity, endurance, character, and the importance of science and how it makes life better by coming up with the next big thing.

# JMMS MathCounts Team takes 8 of 10 top spots at state

## The Chapter competition in February:

Ten members of the JMMS MathCounts Team competed at the Chapter level. A team of four won first place, and advanced to the state tournament. The winning team was also invited to the Canton Joint Engineering Council's annual banquet, held in February. "We were introduced as the winners, and jokes were made about Jackson becoming a MathCounts "dynasty." These kids work hard, and their efforts have not gone unnoticed," said Kelly Putney, a JMMS math teacher and MathCounts coach.

## Chapter Competition

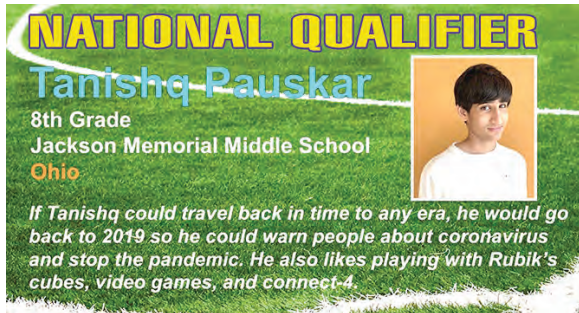
1st Place Team: Tanishq Pauskar, Mithil Pauskar, Isha Nagajothi, Evan

Jordanides  
1st Place Overall: Tanishq Pauskar  
2nd Place Overall: Mithil Pauskar  
1st Place Countdown: Tanishq Pauskar  
2nd Place Countdown: Shakthi Prabhakaran

The "Countdown Round" is a head-to-head, fast-paced competition reserved for the top eight individuals. Jackson took six of the eight spots, and seven out of the 10 Polar Bears finished in the competition's top 10.

## State Competition

The team of Tanishq Pauskar (8th grade), Mithil Pauskar (8th grade), Isha Nagajothi (7th grade), and Evan Jordanides (7th grade) competed at the state level and finished first as a team. Individually,



**NATIONAL QUALIFIER**  
**Tanishq Pauskar**  
8th Grade  
Jackson Memorial Middle School  
Ohio

*If Tanishq could travel back in time to any era, he would go back to 2019 so he could warn people about coronavirus and stop the pandemic. He also likes playing with Rubik's cubes, video games, and connect-4.*

Mithil Pauskar placed 12th and competed in the head-to-head round of 16. Individually, Tanishq Pauskar placed 2nd and also competed in the head-to-head round of 16.

Tanishq qualified for Nationals, and was one of the four top students at the state level for the second time (He also made the state team last year). Tanishq was slated to compete on the Ohio team at the national level this year, but, unfortunately, the competition was

canceled due to the coronavirus.

MathCounts holds weekly meetings attended by over 20 students. The top 10 from JMMS go on to compete at the Chapter competition in February. The winning team from the Chapter advances to States, and the top four students from States advance to the national competition as that state's team. The coach of the first place team acts as the state's coach when advancing to the national level.

# JMMS teachers wave students off to summer fun

At the end of the school year, JMMS held a "Summer Sendoff" drive through party to reconnect with students and wish them a safe and happy summer.



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# OUTSTANDING ADMINISTRATOR

Monica Myers, Director of Curriculum and Instruction at Jackson Local Schools, has received the 2020 Outstanding Administrator Award from the Ohio Educational Library Media Association (OELMA). The award recognizes a school administrator who has made significant contributions to the planning, implementation, or support of school library programs, resulting in improved program quality and increased student learning.



She was nominated for the award by the JHS Library Media Specialist, Christina Conti who said, "Mrs. Myers demonstrates her support for strong library programs in tangible ways. In 2014, as high school principal, she encouraged me to transform our Library Media Center into a true Learning Commons. In her ongoing quest to empower students to be critical thinkers and independent learners, she worked with me to set up guided study halls, peer tutoring, a writing center, and teacher support for each period of the day. Her efforts helped to ensure that our high school library is a vibrant, integral part of our school culture."

Mrs. Myers will receive a commemorative plaque and be recognized during an awards program at OELMA's annual conference this fall. Her name will be announced via OELMA's email list and posted on the Awards/Scholarship section of OELMA's webpage.

# Grab and Go lunch filled more than empty bellies

The district prepared almost 26,000 lunches for students when schools were closed to the public. The Grab and Go lunch program not only filled the tummies of hungry Polar Bears but also provided a link to school for so many students who were able to drive up with a parent or other caretaker and see a familiar face in the bus drivers who distributed the lunches. It brought daily smiles to all involved.

Jessica (McClellan) Rieder, a 1999 Jackson grad who is now a Jackson parent had this to say about the district's response to the school closure.



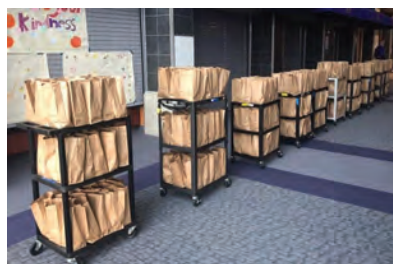
Jessica's children, Nolan and Kamryn, after receiving their Grab and Go lunches.

"I just want to take a minute to thank our district for the way they are handling the online learning. I appreciate that Jackson took the time to create meaningful and appropriate tasks that are helping our kids stay on track as much as possible without physically being in the classroom. Sure, it isn't ideal, and circumstances are beyond our control, but I think it was handled very well. Kudos to the teachers that are handling the day-to-day, the principals and superintendent keeping us informed along the way, down to the lunch provided daily for our kiddos. Bravo, Jackson! Just another reason why I'm so proud to be a polar bear!"

Jessica truly was a polar bear. She served as our mascot during her junior and senior years at JHS.



Abby Parsons enjoying her Grab and Go lunch.



# Your Board of Education



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# Attend a Board Meeting

July 11	JHS	11:30 a.m.
August 25	JHS	5:00 p.m.
September 22	JHS	5:00 p.m.
October 20	Strausser	5:00 p.m.
November 17	Sauder	5:00 p.m.
December 15	Lake Cable	5:00 p.m.





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# Popular Huddle-Up still happens at home

When Kristine Geisberger's Lake Cable third graders were still learning in school, they did something every morning called Huddle Up. "In the huddle, we would gather on the classroom carpet and talk about things such as teamwork, finding joy every day, what makes us happy, what we would like to hear people say about us," said Mrs. Geisberger adding, "It was a chance for us to connect on an emotional level, before curriculum work began."

Because students so enjoyed the huddle, Mrs. Geisberger found a way to make it work when school moved to the home setting. She used a Google Doc and began by posting a video, an inspirational quote, or a question. The students then responded in writing. Each student could see what their classmates wrote and what Mrs. Geisberger wrote back (in real time if they happened to be online at the same time). "It has been such a great way for us to stay connected," Mrs. Geisberger said.

In her first Home-Huddle-Up, Mrs. Geisberger posted a quote from Socrates and asked students to focus on the idea of change. "I know change can be difficult, but it is also something to be embraced. This eLearning is going to be a change in our daily schedule, the way we learn, the way we stay connected with our friends, and a change in how we hold ourselves accountable for our learning," she wrote, inviting them to also journal any emotion they had in relation to the topic. Some of the student responses were as follows. Mrs. Geisberger's responses to the students were excluded due to space limitations in this publication.

**Brielle** - I am excited for e learning.. But I wish we were still together. I miss everyone.

**Jonathon** - I'm excited for e-learning because I have wanted to try homeschooling since last year. Of

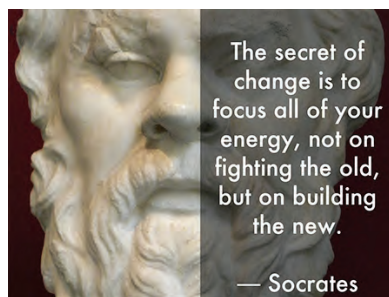
course, I am going to miss all of my friends. This will be a challenge and an experience all at the same time.

**Joey Z** - I'm excited to do assignments online on our ChromeBooks but I do miss everyone.

**Kate**- I'm really excited about learning more. The thing that makes me sad is that I miss all my friends and miss making new friends. And I miss all the nice people at school! Everybody's so nice at Lake Cable.

**Kendall** - I am really excited that we still get to learn. I am sad because I do not get to do all the fun things with you all like playing Kahoot. So we all go on huddle up and it's a good way to stay connected which is very nice to have.

**Michael** - I'm excited about eLearn-



The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new.

— Socrates

ing but...there is so much on the website. I miss going to school.

**Claire** - eLearning sounds really fun and online learning which both of them are the same thing and I miss you guys. I think the change might be ok for me. Bye!!!

**Audrey** - I miss all my friends and I miss swimming. I am excited about e-Learning though.

**Sammy** - Hi everybody, how are you doing? My dad is staying home to help out with eLearning and my mom is. I think it will be very



Charlie Hudec, Sammy Chutas, and Brielle Stanton doing their Huddle-Up at home.

fun!...But this virus will go away soon, so I think that nobody should worry!!

**Mathias** - I am super excited about eLearning this week! I do NOT like staying home, but we do have to! I hope that nobody got the virus and everybody is safe. I really miss my friends and my teacher.

**Charlie**- I am excited for all of the activities to do. I think math is going to be super fun because it is our first time doing eLearning. Also I think it is a really good way for us to communicate. I miss all of you super much. You have to wash your hands so we get to go back to school. BYE BYE!

**Joey B** - I'm excited for all the activities we are going to do. I think that PE is going to be fun because we might have to do a lap around the house.

**Will S** - I am excited to learn on the computer. I miss everyone too. I am looking forward to PE the most.

**Vivan** - I am excited for eLearning. Well I like math and reading, and I do not have to wake up every day so early.

**Kinley** - ...I like how we don't have to wake up so early! Next I'm excited about how we are going to do all our subjects on our computer.

**Charlott** - I am excited for the eLearning, but it is so hard to figure out where my stuff is.

**Grace**- ...I love huddle up... I wake up early to work on the assignments.

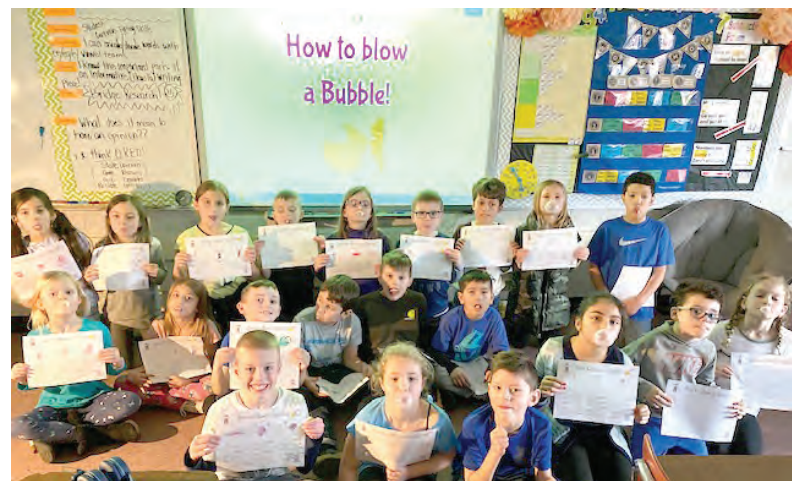


Teachers at all elementary schools sent notes of encouragement to students.



## DRIVE THROUGH CHUCKLE

Parents and students attended each school's drive-through party, many carried touching signs about missing school. This one touched our funny bone, bringing a bit of much-welcomed humor.



## Second graders write "how-to" book

While still in school, Nicole Bulgrin's second grade Polar Time students at Sauder practiced their informative writing skills for the "how-to" book they were creating. One of the book's entries included a piece listing the steps for blowing a chewing gum bubble. The young instructors experienced much writing, illustrating, and bubble-blowing success, even though their teacher was sent to the principal's office for bringing all that gum to school. 😊 Just kidding!



## Farewell to fifth grade

Sauder fifth graders attended a final drive through to celebrate their elementary school accomplishments. Staff members made it memorable with signs, music, bubbles, ice cream, certificates, well-wishes, and personalized gift bags filled with surprises. "We wish them the best of luck at JMMS - they will be missed," said school counselor, Amy Cornell.



## COVID creativity

When COVID-19 canceled the "Me and My Guy" dance that was supposed to be held at school, Sauder kindergarten student, Gracie Brosch and her family had one for themselves at home, complete with fancy clothes, decorations, dinner and an ice cream buffet.



**Jackson Local Schools**  
New Student Registration  
Kindergarten to Grade 12  
School Year 2020-2021

Jackson Local Schools is now accepting new student registrations online.

Registration information can be found on our website at:

<http://jackson.stark.k12.oh.us>

Please click on the New Student Registration SY 20-21 link located under "Quick Links" or click this [link](#) to create an account.

If you already have a student attending one of our Jackson schools, please use your username and password you created to fill out the "First Day Forms".

A secretary or staff member will be in touch through email to complete the registration.

## Go Polar Bears!!



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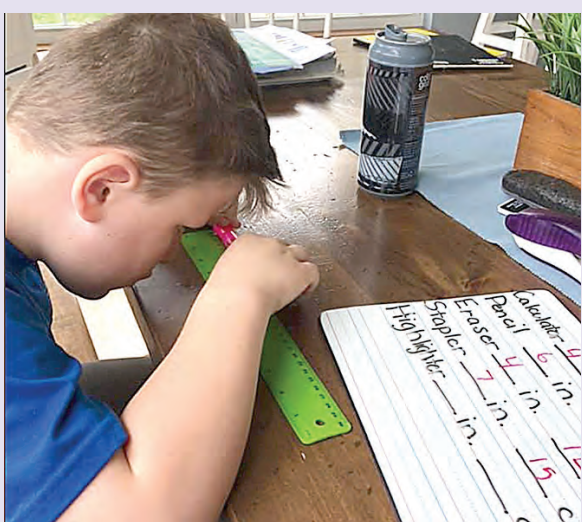
## Sauder fourth graders create new animal species

Fourth grade across the district partnered with Stark Parks to complete a distance learning lesson involving the topic of Ohio animal adaptations. The students "created" a new species of Ohio animal, and Amanda Perry from Stark Parks



participated in a video conference with the children to observe and critique the new species and to decide whether the animal could thrive in Ohio based on its adaptations.

"The students enjoyed the creativity of the project as well as having the animal expert giving feedback. It was a great partnership between Jackson Local Schools and our community resources," said Sauder teacher, Jen Podnar.



**Working so hard from home**



Above, Strausser second grader, Grant Bennett, compares measurements in inches and centimeters. At left, Grant's fourth grade brother, Wyatt practices his recorder for music class.



**ICE CREAM LEARNING BREAK**



Strausser second grade teacher, Scott Morton, missed his students, so he threw a party for them. He ordered ice cream treats from Dairy Queen and invited his students to a zip-through party on his driveway. Fully masked and gloved, Mr. Morton handed treats through car windows to students who were grateful for the connection with their teacher.

**Annual asbestos notification**

In compliance with the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act passed by Congress in 1986, the Jackson Local School District has an AHERA Management Plan on file in the Administrative Office at 7602 Fulton Dr. NW. Anyone interested in viewing the plan can stop by the office and see a copy. The district's Asbestos Management Plan has been kept current through inspections in the school buildings every six months, and major re-evaluations which are completed periodically. Jackson Local School District will continue to maintain a clean and safe environment in all district buildings for its students and employees.

**Jackson seeks to serve children with disabilities**

Within the intent of the federal statutes (Rehabilitation Act of 1973-section 504 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act IDEA-public law 105-17), the Jackson Local School District continues its effort to locate and identify children with disabilities from birth through age 21. Children with disabilities have physical, emotional, and or mental impairments that may require special education. Public schools provide free and appropriate education regardless of a child's disability. However, before these children can be served, they must be found. Many of these children are not visible because they may not function in the community's mainstream, and many are preschoolers. Parents may not realize that programs and services are available through their school district or from agencies in their community. If you are aware of a child who may need a special education program or services, contact the principal of the school the child attends or would likely attend upon reaching school age.

**Jackson seeks federal grants for special education**

The Jackson Local School District is eligible to submit two applications to the Ohio Department of Education for federal grants to maintain and improve special education programs and services in the Jackson Local Schools: Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) (Public Law 105-17) and Education of the Handicapped Act, Preschool Grant Program (Public Law 99-457). Residents within the Jackson Local School District may inquire and make program and service recommendations regarding the grant applications. For information, contact Kathy Brand, Director of Special Programs at 830-8006.

**Smiles abound as students reconnect with their teachers**

All four elementary schools held Drive Through Parties. Teachers lined the campus roadways as school families drove through and excitedly connected with one another from a distance. Here are a few of Strausser's smiles.



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# JHS wins FL All Sports Trophy

9th consecutive year  
20 times overall

SCHOOL	FALL SPORTS	WINTER SPORTS	TOTAL POINTS	FINAL STANDINGS
JACKSON	59.5	28.5	88.0	1
HOOVER	44.0	33.0	77.0	2
GREEN	43.5	33.0	76.5	3
GLENOAK	34.0	30.0	64.0	4
PERRY	26.5	33.0	59.5	5
LAKE	36.5	20.0	56.5	6
MCKINLEY	17.0	25.5	42.5	7



FEDERAL ATHLETIC LEAGUE  
ALL SPORTS CHAMPION  
JACKSON  
HIGH SCHOOL



Girls Basketball



Girls Soccer



Girls Cross Country

Girls Golf



Boys Soccer



Boys Golf



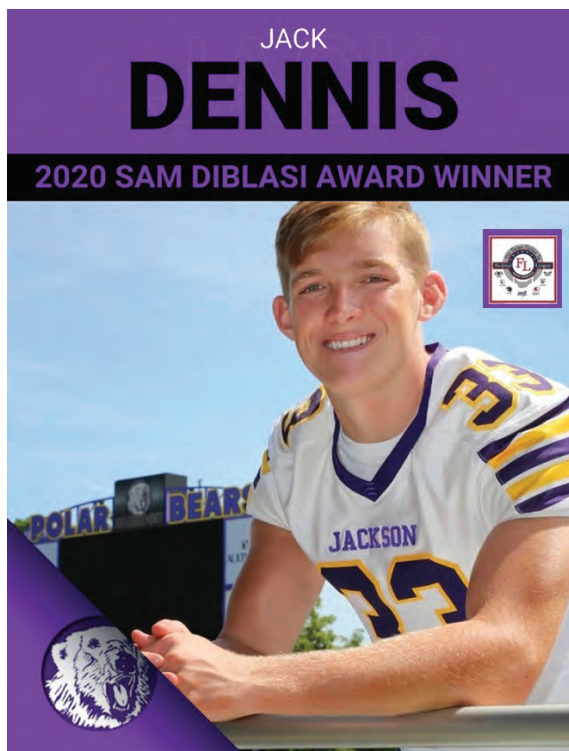
POLAR BEARS



## ATHLETIC SIGNING

**Anna Darrah**, a senior catcher for Jackson HS, signed her letter of intent to play for Ohio Dominican University. Anna is three-year letter winner for the program and has been a great utility for the team. She has grown throughout her high school career, and with her leadership qualities would have led the Polar Bears far this year, had the season not been canceled. We are excited to see her accomplishments at the next level.

Pictured: Coach Stacey Patterson, Coach Al Imler, her mother Janet Darrah, her brother Anthony Darrah.



JACK  
**DENNIS**

2020 SAM DIBLASI AWARD WINNER

## TOP FEDERAL LEAGUE AWARD

Jack Dennis won the Federal League Sam DiBlasi Award, which goes to the League's top student athlete as voted on by a committee of superintendents, principals, the commissioner, and the assistant commissioner.

# JLS Foundation has new president

Justin Hardesty, owner of the investment firm Hardesty Partners, is the new president of the Jackson Local Schools Foundation, a position he will retain for the next two years. He has been a member of the Foundation's board of directors since 2014 and helped develop its signature fundraising event, the Polar Bear Plunge, serving as the event's chairman for the past two years.



Justin Hardesty

a seat at the table wherever he serves. He currently holds board positions with the Malone University Estate Planning Advisory Council, the Glenmoor Country Club Board of Governors, the Jackson

Community Improvement Corporation, and serves as a Jackson liaison to the Canton Community Improvement Corporation. In the past, he held a board position with Malone University's School of Business &

Leadership, served two years as chairman of the Jackson Township Rotary Club's Field of Heroes, and was a member of 25th class of Leadership Stark County.

"I could not be more pleased to continue the momentum of our school foundation, sustained by a terrific board of directors and led over the past two years by Jim Camp," Mr. Hardesty said.

Born and raised in Garrettsville, Ohio, Mr. Hardesty has lived in Stark County since 1995. He resides in Jackson Township with his wife Alicia and their two children Haley (12) and Cole (11).

Respected as a credible voice in finance and as a thoughtful, action-oriented leader, Mr. Hardesty earns



To get involved with this organization, contact Paula Blangger  
330-495-9989 or pblangger@me.com.

## JLSF awards classroom grants

Twice each school year, the Jackson Local Schools Foundation (JLSF) awards grants to Jackson teachers and students. In March, six grants, totaling nearly \$11,000 were awarded to Jackson teachers, bringing the total to \$82,380 since the JLSF's inception in 2011.

The Classroom Grant Program is largely funded by the Polar Bear Plunge, held each February. Learn more by visiting:  
[www.jacksonpolarbearplunge.org](http://www.jacksonpolarbearplunge.org)



## JLS Foundation makes a Polar Bear Promise

Polar Bear Promise (PBP) is a new partnership between the Jackson Local Schools Foundation, Jackson Alumni Association and Stark State College Foundation, to award a 50/50 scholarship/no-interest loan annually to Stark State College students who are Jackson High School graduates of any year.

Eligible students—JHS graduates from any year with at least a 2.5 GPA—can receive up to \$1,000 each academic year for a maximum of two years for full-time students and up to \$500 each year for a maximum of four years for part-time students. Funds can be used for tuition, fees, required books and supplies.

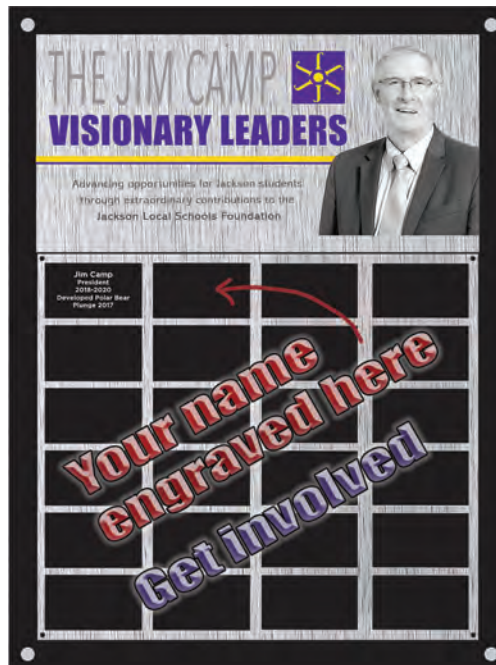
"We proposed this idea to help Polar Bear alumni get over the Stark State College finish line. It's Bears helping Bears—paying it forward," said Justin Hardesty, president of the Jackson Local Schools Foundation. "Once a Bear, Always a Bear."

## JLSF establishes new award

To honor Jim Camp's contributions to the Jackson Local Schools Foundation, an award has been established in his name. During his two-year term as JLSF president, Mr. Camp's vision and leadership created the highly successful Polar Bear Plunge which he also backed by becoming its first major sponsor. The Plunge raises funds for the Foundation's classroom grant program (see story at right). He also initiated the Polar Bear Promise (see story at left), and is currently working to connect the JLSF and the Jackson Alumni Association for the betterment of both organizations.

A surprise presentation of the plaque shown above was made to Mr. Camp at the June JLSF board meeting, prompting him to say, "I am very humbled." Then true to form, he gave credit for the accomplishments to the entire board, saying, that he felt privileged to lead a capable team. "We have come a long way," he added, "and I can't wait to see what we will achieve together in the future."

The JLSF board of directors also made Mr. Camp the first recipient of the award. Future recipients will be added to the plaque, based on their extraordinary contributions that enable the Foundation to create opportunities for the students of Jackson Local Schools.



## This year's second round of grants included:

- **Universal Design for Learning (Professional Development)**

The \$5,000 award will partially pay to send nine Jackson educators to work with an award-winning, national board certified teacher at a Florida research school that has developed innovative practices for delivering educational material in ways that all children can absorb, despite special needs.

- **ACT Certified Educator Training (Professional Development)**

The \$1,500 award will be used to train our high school teachers in effective ACT education pedagogy in order to raise student scores and enhance their options for university selection and scholarship opportunities.

- **Robotics: Sphero RVR and Cubelets**

Amy Dretke and Ben Hartley, JMMS seventh and eighth grade teachers, received \$1,027 to purchase small robots and make coding a fully integrated part of the curriculum.

- **3D Printing with the Dremel DigiLab**

Amy Dretke and Ben Hartley also received \$1,044 to challenge students to purchase a 3D printer to enhance student problem solving and critical analysis skills.

- **Black Top Face Lift**

Karli Scaffide, Lake Cable physical education teacher, received \$1,100 to stencil the schoolyard blacktop with learning games.

- **Mindfulness Yoga (Professional Development)**

Karli Scaffide also received \$1,196 for a program to train herself and three other teachers in yoga mindfulness techniques which they will practice with their students. This pilot program aims to prove that a mindfulness practice improves behavioral issues and student decision-making while decreasing overall stress for students and teachers.

# OPEN LETTER



**JACKSON LOCAL SCHOOLS**  
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# To all employees of the Jackson Local School District

Dear teachers, administrators, and support staff,

On behalf of the JLS Foundation Board of Directors, I address you today with profound respect for your unwavering effort and outstanding response to a pandemic that sidelined our nation and the entire world. Despite the governor's "stay at home" order, our community's children continued to learn; they continued to eat a school lunch if they desired, and they continued to feel cared-for by their teachers, cooks and bus drivers.

We in Jackson Township, have come to expect great things from our school district, such as the best state report card, extreme school safety and plenty of athletic and academic trophies. We know this happens because our teachers care so much and prepare our students so well; our students work hard and then go home to families that foster success. We know it comes from a community of citizens who support their schools even when they have no children attending. And we know it comes from a strong support staff—bus drivers who get our kids safely to and from school, custodians who maintain our buildings and grounds with economy and care, cooks who prepare nutritious lunches, secretaries who attend to exacting detail, and administrators who lead with confidence, heart and integrity.

That said, how could any of us expect this district to perform in a situation that none of us has ever experienced—a world-wide health crisis—yet it seemed as though Jackson Local Schools was fully prepared for this situation. The JLS Foundation wants you to know that we appreciate the effort you make every day and the unflagging extra effort you made over the last semester. We are blessed to have each of you as partners in the village that is raising our children.

In service and with gratitude,

*Justin Hardesty*

Justin Hardesty, President, Jackson Local Schools Foundation

#### From the JLSF

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Jennifer Jones - Secretary  
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