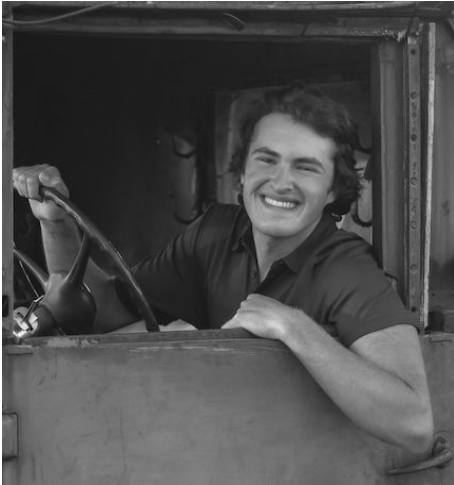


Monmouth Academy Newsletter

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Meet Monmouth Academy's December Student of the Month



Hayden Luce Selected as Monmouth Academy December Student of the Month

Hayden Luce, Class of 2021, was selected as Monmouth Academy December Student of the Month. Hayden serves as Monmouth Academy Student Government President, and is a member of the National Honor Society, varsity cross country and track and field teams, outing club, FBLA, and M.A drama program. In presenting this award, Mr. Nick Pascarella, M.A. science teacher, remarked, "Hayden is a caring and kind student leader both within and outside the classroom. This year he has provided wonderful leadership during the pandemic making sure people are still feeling connected to M.A. during these weird times." Hayden is the son of Beth and Dwane Luce.

"Stories of Practice" by Seth Mitchell, Monmouth Schools Technology Integrator

There are so many amazing things happening in classrooms, and it is impossible to capture them all at once. Here are descriptions of what our two of our MA teachers are doing to connect with kids and design learning experiences.

Laura Damon-Theriault, MA Art Teacher: As a subject matter, art is necessarily hands-on, so hybrid and remote learning require some additional digital tools of this year's visual arts classes.

- Laura relies heavily on her [document camera](#). Since in-person students can no longer huddle around a table while she teaches and models, the device enables her to demonstrate techniques for her in-school learners. Using [Sphere Lite](#) or Sphere 2, she can also share the projected image with her at-home students. Though she also sometimes uses her iPad and [stand](#) as a document camera, the extra reach on the document camera's neck provides more work room when she needs it.
- Remote-only students don't have the opportunity for in-person check-ins with Laura to share their work for feedback. Since laptop cameras provide inconsistent results when taking pictures of papers and artwork, scanning features on native mobile apps have helped kids submit their work. The Notes app on iOS and the Google Drive app on Android offer solid scanning features without having to download a separate app.
- Like all teachers, Laura is experimenting to find solutions as needs arise. For example, she is currently planning to use present a Sphere 2 window in Google Meet to give her at-home kids an opportunity to see both her and the feed from the document camera. This method will also allow her to record the Sphere 2 window in [Loom](#), making it possible for kids who weren't in class to access the lesson later.

Alyssa Littlefield, MA English Teacher: Alyssa Littlefield, who fully embraces educational technology by nature, has found that this school year's hurdles have encouraged a continually reflective mindset in which she thinks about her instruction "more functionally, not just creatively." While the logistics that accompany having half her students at home and half with her in person introduce new variables, Ms. Littlefield says that she and students have been able to adapt: "We're generally making it happen, and that's exciting."

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- Socratic seminars are a regular part of Alyssa's literature-based classes. The hybrid model presents obvious challenges to the flow of this approach that relies on human interaction to help students draw meaning from texts. To create stronger connections between at-home and in-person students during class discussions, Alyssa and some of her colleagues in the English department ask the in-person students to join the [Google Meet](#) with the kids at home. With cameras on, kids can read each other's social cues more easily, which makes the discussion feel less stilted. To improve the process further, ELA teachers are also using [conference microphones](#) placed near the center of the room to amplify classroom voices for the kids at home.
- To encourage her writers to be more purposeful, thoughtful editors of their own work, Alyssa asked them to record themselves reading their own papers as video comments in [Kami](#). She says this "opportunity to see them think" gave her valuable insight into their individual processes.

"MA National Honor Society (NHS) Members Continue to Provide Service Their School and Community" by Lydia Roy, MA Senior

Due to Covid-19 this year planning service projects and going about them safely has been a challenge for MA NHS this year. As a chapter we began the school year with the Freshmen First Day. We created a video for our Freshmen, which included a tour of the M.A. and introductions of each teacher. Our next service project was called "Fuel the Burn". This project was designed to help students get involved with physical activity and earn winter carnival points for their class. The money raised from "Fuel the Burn" was donated to Monmouth Fuel Assistance Program. Next we made sure to show our appreciation to the MA staff. Each member of the chapter wrote notes to teachers and staff thanking them for all their work. In addition, we showed appreciation to our wonderful custodians and principal as well. Each year we have helped with Cottrell-Taylor Christmas Baskets, and thankfully a few members were able to go down to Helen Melledy Hall and assist Mrs. Gifford again this year. Throughout the school year we have sponsored a staff dress down day on Fridays to raise funds to donate to our monthly service projects. Lastly, as of right now we are working on writing letters and making a video for people in nursing homes.

News From the Guidance Office

Local Scholarship Opportunities for Seniors: [Here are local scholarship opportunities for the Class of 2021](#). Please check often as this list is updated frequently.

Post-Secondary Planning: If you have any questions regarding post-secondary planning - college, internships, military, scholarships, financial aid (FAFSA), etc. - please contact Mrs. Sarah Knowlton, MA College and Career Coordinator, at sknowlton@kidsrsu.org or 933-4416 extension 7203.

News From the Health Office - Maria Sirois, School Nurse

If you are a staff person or a student who is identified as a close contact of a confirmed positive case of COVID-19 at school, you will be notified by the school through a phone call or email and provided initial guidance on next steps, including quarantining and testing. Once you have received notification from the school, the Maine CDC's Sara Alert system will begin sending you follow up guidance via text messages.

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Sara Alert is an automated system that uses daily text messages to help people who have been identified as close contacts to monitor for symptoms after exposure. All students and staff will be enrolled in Sara Alert if they are identified as having been in close contact with a COVID-19 positive person while at school.

There is nothing required of you to be automatically enrolled in this service. If, however, you would like to opt out of Sara Alert, please contact Maria Sirois, School Nurse at 933-4416 x7286 by January 15th. If you do opt out of the Sara Alert system and are later identified as a close contact to a positive case, you will receive follow up phone calls to confirm you have opted to not receive the automated text messages from Maine CDC.

Additional assistance is provided to Maine residents who have been identified as a close contact of a COVID-19 positive person and need support during quarantine. You may request this assistance by using this online form: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/form/covid-19-referral-form>

Additional information about community care and social support is available here: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/coronavirus-resources/support-for-isolation-quarantine>, or you can send an email to dhhs.covid.socialsupport@Maine.gov

Please note this letter does NOT mean your child is a close contact. If your child is ever a close contact at school, you will receive a call from the school nurse or Administration.

Maria Sirois RN, msirois@kidsrsu.org, 207-933-4416, extension 7286

Monmouth Academy Class of 2021 Post-Secondary (College, Internships, Military) Acceptances

Congratulations to the following students on their acceptance to these post-secondary institutions and organizations:

Cameron Armstrong:	Thomas College
Kylie Brown:	University of Southern Maine
McKenzie Brown:	Thomas College
Alicen Burnham:	Elms College, Norwich University, Saint Joseph's College of Maine, Saint Anselm College, University of Maine
Jocelyn Coffin:	University of Southern Maine, University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Farmington, Thomas College
Joseph Crocker:	United States Marines
Chloe Dwinal:	University of Rhode Island, Husson University, University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Farmington
Abby Flanagan:	Husson University, St. Joseph's College of Maine, University of New England
Alex Fox:	University of Maine at Augusta, Central Maine Community College
Erin Gosselin:	Central Maine Community College
Delaney Houston:	University of Maine at Farmington, University of Maine at Augusta
Sophie Jones	Central Maine Community College
Jason Kulinski:	University of Maine
Stella Libby:	University of Maine at Augusta
Lucy McDonald	Central Maine Community College, Saint Anselm College, University of Maine Augusta, University of Maine Farmington, University of Southern Maine, Thomas College
Jeffrey Parquette:	Central Maine Community College
Rhayna Poulin:	Yale University
Brooke Rooney:	United States Navy

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Mya Sirois:	University of Southern Maine, University of Maine, University of New England, University of Maine at Augusta, Husson University
Breanna Smith:	University of Maine at Augusta
Benjamin Story:	Eastern Tennessee State University
Grace Vierling:	Texas A & M University - Corpus Christi, University of New Hampshire
Taylor Whalen:	Thomas College

Parents & Guardians: If your young adult has been accepted to a post-secondary school, please pass along the acceptance letter to our guidance office. This is important as the guidance staff keeps a record and uses this information to determine which students may be eligible for academic scholarships. Also, if your young adult has enrolled in an apprentice program, enlisted in the military, etc., please pass that information along as well.

Mustangs Winter Athletics

Fortunately, our boys and girls basketball teams, cheerleading team, and cooperative hockey team are still practicing and the basketball and hockey teams played games last week. Our teams are following strict guidelines to uphold health and safety standards put forth by the CDC, DOE, and MPA. Our wrestling team has been holding conditioning skills and drills; however, they are not permitted to wrestle. Our student-athletes are fortunate to be able to participate in athletics while many schools in Southern Maine still have yet to be able to do so. As we all know, this could change at any moment; so, we are thankful for our kids' opportunities!

Have You Downloaded the RSU 2/MA App Yet?

Follow all M.A. and district news on your smartphone. The RSU 2 app is available in the Apple and Android app store, just search for RSU2. Visit <http://www.kidsrsu.org/article/126354> to view a short video to help you get started.

Important Upcoming Dates:

01/18/21	No School - Dr. Martin Luther King Day
01/22/21	Last Day of Semester 1
01/25/21	First Day of Semester 2
02/15/21 - 02/19/21	No School - February Vacation

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