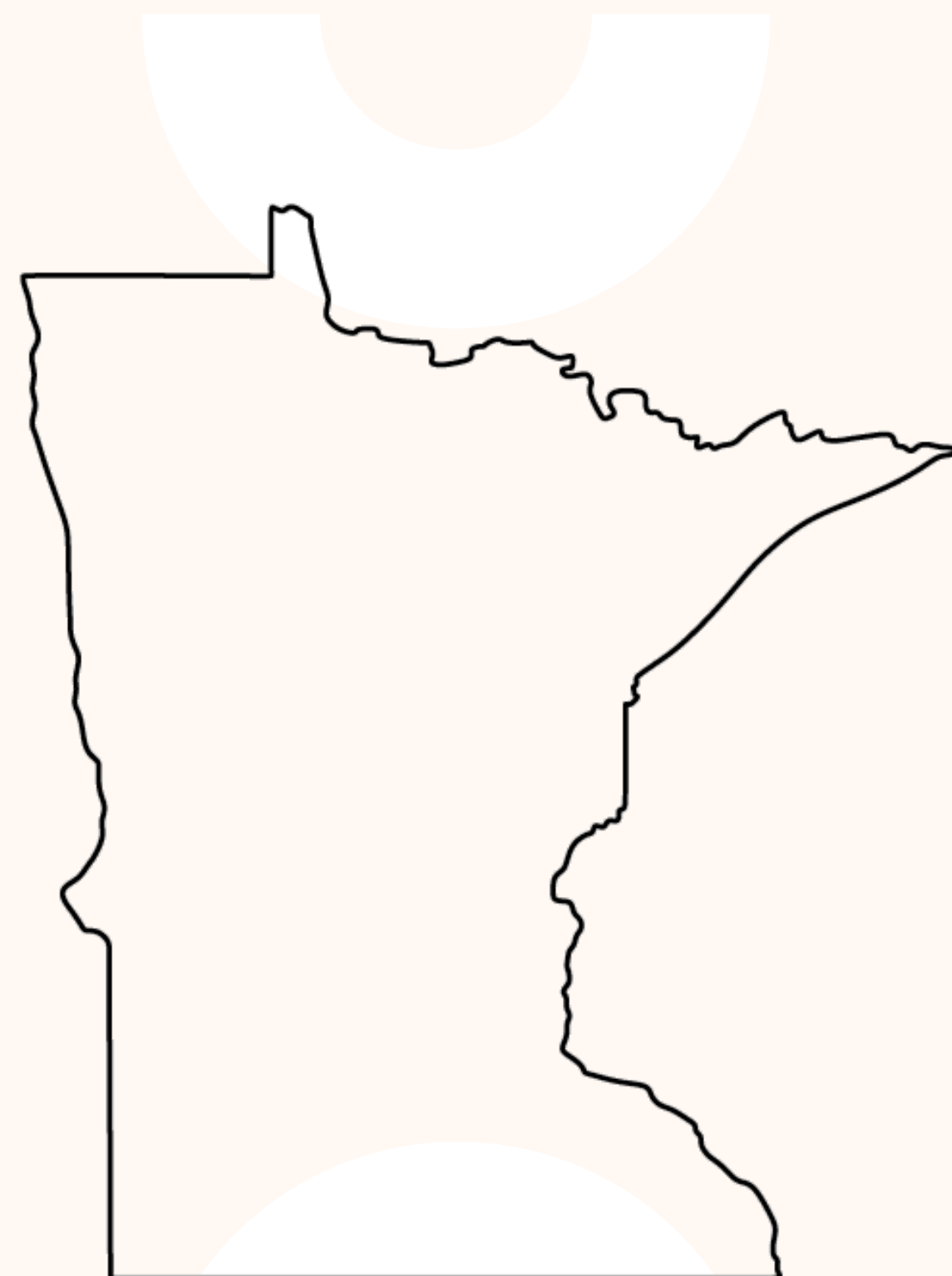


OCTOBER 2021

Volume 1

# MAHS/MASC Newsletter

The official newsletter from  
the Minnesota Association of  
Honor Societies and Student  
Councils .



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## Welcome Back!

Your Executive Committee has had a busy summer. At the Principals' Summer Leadership Conference Grace Paggen (MAHS Secretary) and Etenesh Bonitto (Conference Coordinator) led two sessions entitled "Student Issues." The panel members came from schools throughout the state. The students shared their thoughts on student stress, racial equity, transgender issues, and distance learning. On August 1 and 2 the Summer Leadership Academy returned to Sauk Rapids-Rice High School after missing last year due to covid shutdowns. Over one hundred students from 17 schools attended. Workshop presenter Terry D'Imperio, national advisor of the year, received high marks for her interactive presentation. Executive committee members led discussions on issues facing students as they start the 2021-22 school year. The evening events moved to the Holiday Inn where students enjoyed swimming, sharing ideas, and finishing the evening with a dance DJ-ed by Hennepin Division President Jack Kopesky and Executive Committee members. I closed the Academy the following morning with a presentation entitled "Your Ten Most Important Words." On August 22 the Executive Committee met at Tech High School in St. Cloud. This is the site of the 2022 state convention. Tech has chosen the theme "Carnival" for the convention. Tech is an impressive brand new school that will be an excellent host site for the March 26-28 convention. The Executive Committee also discussed the state service project that will be announced in this newsletter. On November 7 and 8 the Leadership Forum will return to beautiful Gull Lake at Cragun's Resort. Over 600 students and advisors attended this conference in 2019. We are excited to have one of the top leadership presenters as our keynote speaker. You can find Keith Hawkins' information at [KeithHawkins.com](http://KeithHawkins.com). Housing and conference registrations will be on [MASC-MAHS.org](http://MASC-MAHS.org) shortly. Finally, I hope your school can successfully navigate the challenging times we face this year. As a student leader, it will be your responsibility to keep discussions respectful. I have attended school board meetings this year where adults have let passion for their children override the need for civility. Be the role model in your community. Your adult school leaders will appreciate your efforts. Work to have a great start to the year. Service projects, homecoming, spirit weeks, greeting incoming freshmen, teacher appreciation all will help make this year memorable. I would love to travel to your school. Let me know if I can help your council or chapter in any way (763-232-2501.)

# Minnesota Association of Student Councils



## Alexa Mack MASC President

Hi everyone! My name is Alexa Mack and I am your current MASC President! I am from Monticello, Minnesota where I currently go to school as a senior! I am so excited for this upcoming year and can't wait to meet all of you!

## Kate McGrann MASC Vice President

Hey everyone! I'm Kate McGrann and I'm a senior at Orono High School! I am SO excited to be your MASC VP this year! I am apart of the Orono Senate and am this years prom chair! I am heavily involved in our school through sports, as I am the captain of our tennis and lacrosse team. I am involved in our school through clubs, such as Unified, Letters of Love, and Chinese club. This year I will also be the National Honors Society historian and the Editor in Chief of our schools yearbook. I love to spend time outside, play with my dog, and going to football games.



## Reegan Lindholm MASC Secretary

Hey guys! I'm Reegan Lindholm and I am a junior at Owatonna high school! I couldn't be more excited to be your MASC Secretary this year! I am a member of the Owatonna student council along with the south east division general secretary! I also take part in our girls cross country team, boys track manager, and girls hockey manager. Along with sports I am involved in some of our schools clubs that we have such as Girls United, NHS and DECA. In my spare time I like to go outside and go hiking, watch my school's sporting events, and play with my pets.

# Minnesota Association of Honors Societies



## Jennifer Nguyen MAHS President

Hey guys!! I'm Jennifer Nguyen, a senior at Orono and I'm excited to be your MAHS President this year. At Orono, I am involved in Senate, Youth In Action, and DECA. Along with that, I started a new club this year called Clothing Collective, a club geared towards curating a sustainable closet and educating people on ethical consumption. The inspiration from that stems from me being an avid thrifter, one of my favorite activities. Beyond that I love going out to eat with my friends and making necklaces.

## Caleb Abernethy MAHS Vice President

Hello All! I'm Caleb Abernethy, a senior at Mound Westonka and happy to serve as your MAHS Vice President this year. At Mound, I am involved and serve as secretary for our Senate, and am also involved with DECA, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and our choir program. I also play for our school's soccer program and men's volleyball team. I would love to make this a year for everyone to remember! I can't wait to meet everyone at Crayguns and State this year!



## Grace Paggen MAHS Secretary

Hey everyone! My name is Grace Paggen, and I am the MAHS secretary for this year! I'm a senior at Farmington High School, and I hold an executive position on my school's NHS chapter. I am also Capital Division's President for Student Council, and my school's Student Council President. Additionally, I am a member of FHS's speech team, debate team, volunteer organization, and one of two students on the district school board. I regularly work with teachers and students to plan and run many events throughout the school. I'm so excited to continue to help advocate for all students around Minnesota and increase volunteer work all around the state! I love the idea of giving back to communities and working with lots of other people. Hopefully I get to work with you later on this year!

# Members at Large and State Co-Coordinator



## Sydney Rhodes Member at Large

Hey y'all!! My name is Sydney Rhodes and I am a senior this year at Buffalo High School. I'm super excited to be your member at large this year! At my high school, I am a part of Student Council, NHS, Journalism, Mock Trial, and a variety of Bands. Outside of school I love my job at Starbucks, spending time with others & adventuring. I can't wait to get things back to normal with MASC/MAHS this year (especially CRAGUNS!!) Hope to see y'all soon!! :)

## Etenesh Bonitto Co-Coordinator

Hi Everyone! I'm Etenesh and I am a Sophomore at Tech High School in St. Cloud. Last year, I chose to open enroll at Tech because of its new state-of-the-art building and diverse student body. This year, I'm so excited to welcome you all to Tech, as we host the MASC/MAHS state convention! I am passionate about our generation's ability to truly make change, which has led me to serve on the Student Council as Secretary-Treasurer, Tech Equity Committee, and Tech Student Voices group. I am also a member of the Young People's Collective, which works to strengthen St. Cloud area communities. I'm passionate about social justice, women's rights, and racial equity. I'm looking forward to an awesome year!!



## Ben Preppernau Co-Coordinator

Ben Preppernau is one of the newest members of the MASC/MAHS Executive Committee. He is one of the State Convention Coordinators and is currently a senior at St. Cloud Tech High School. Ben is highly involved in his school community, holding the positions of president for Tech's student council and treasurer for Tech's chapter of the National Honors society. Ben is also involved in Tech's student voice committee as well as Tech's soccer program. With this year, Ben hopes to make the State Convention the best possible experience for every attendee!

# Fall Forum Information & Principal Convention

## Fall Forum Information

11/7-11/8

The Forum will be taking place this year on November 7th and 8th. We will have keynote speaker Keith Hawkins'. Craguns is a great opportunity to bond your student council/ honors societies, hear new ideas, and get inspired. We hope to see you there this fall and are SO excited to be back!

## Principal Convention

6/16/2021

On June 16th, a panel of student leaders from across Minnesota provided two sessions at the Summer Leadership Conference held for secondary principals at Breezy Point, MN. The sessions were titled, "Big Ideas" and covered a wide range of topics impacting students today, such as: experiences during distance learning, stress and mental health services, racism and bias in schools, transgender and LGBTQ issues, and much more. The student panelists shared personal experiences, plus ideas for creating a school culture that uplifts and affirms all students. Several principals shared that hearing directly from student leaders was one of the most impactful parts of their entire conference.

# State Service Project

We decided to dedicate our state service project this year to fighting hunger. Through the uncertainty of COVID-19 , we want to give back to the community. Each school can participate individually through food drives, raising money, and spreading awareness. Each school should keep track of the amount of food donated, or the amount of money raised for a food shelf to track each schools progress on the state service project.

# 2022 State Convention Information



The 2022 state student council convention will be taking place at Saint Cloud Tech. The Tech Tigers are proud to showcase their brand new facilities that were constructed in 2019! This year, the state convention will boast a carnival theme, which will have different games & activities throughout the 2 day convention. Our state executive board is working hard to ensure that each and every attendee of the state convention will have a time to remember!

See you all on March 26-27!