

The MHS Messenger

A monthly, online newsletter to keep our MHS family and residents informed

December 2018



Changes made to school calendar for March

Several changes needed to be made to the school calendar for March. The changes were necessary because of changes in the state's administration of PSAT and SAT testing. With those changes, MHS would lose one instructional day and have to make that up. Instead, the Parent/Teacher Conferences in the spring will be reduced from two to one day for conferences. Please make a note of changes in the school calendar listed below:

Thursday, March 7 will be a **regular Late Start Thursday** with no Parent/Teacher conferences.

Friday, March 8 will be a regular **day of student attendance** with no Parent/Teacher conferences.

Wednesday, March 13, will be an **early release for students** with **Parent/Teacher Conferences in the afternoon and evening**. See schedule below:

Early dismissal schedule for students - 1:40 pm dismissal

2:10 pm - 4:30 pm - First set of conferences (fourteen 10 minute sessions)

4:30 pm - 5:30 pm - Faculty Dinner Hour

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm - Second set of conferences (fifteen 10-minute sessions)

Thursday, March 14, No Late Start activities for faculty

SPECIAL NOTICE: Friday, Dec. 21 will be a semester exam day due to the Snow Day taken on Monday, November 26

Semester Exams will be Wednesday, Dec. 19; Thursday, Dec. 20; and Friday, Dec. 21



Planning has begun for Shared Services to start in 2019-2020

The shared services committee met on October 29 and November 26. The group worked on defining "why" D75 and D120 are entering into a shared service, and reflected on the process and benefits to the community and

began to create the operating guidelines for the Joint Board meetings. The next committee meeting is scheduled for December 10 from 5:45 to 7:45 pm at the D120 District Office. The meeting will again be listed as an open meeting. The committee will



now present the work they have done so far at the February 12 Joint BOE meeting.

With the resignation of the D75 Human Resources person D120 and D75 continue to review the options of additional shared services. At the November D120 BOE meeting a recommendation was presented to share the HR posi-

tion between D120 and D75 for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year. D75 presented the same proposal at their November meeting. Both boards agreed to the additional shared service.

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ALICE training continues throughout 2018-2019 school year and beyond

Mundelein High School staff are continuing to work through a year-long training in order for all adults in the building to be ready for any type of safety issue that could threaten students and/or staff. The District has adopted the ALICE training concept which is a new alternative to the traditional lockdown approach to student safety. The acronym stands for **Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate**. Its focus is to have all students and staff be prepared to use a number of different, relevant reactions to having an active shooter in the building.

An example of the new philosophy is that if there is danger at a far end of the building an option would be safer for students and staff in areas far from the danger to get out of the building [evacuate] rather than stay hunkered down in a classroom. On September 28 of this year the staff was engaged in an afternoon simulation of an intruder in the building. They were placed in a number of different situations where they had to make decisions about what to do. The participants didn't know ahead of time what type of danger they would encounter. Prior to this activity, all staff completed an online training program so they were prepared for the role play situation.

When placed in a traditional lockdown situation, many of the staff were "shot" [with small rubber balls] trying to hide under desks or behind other furniture. In other scenarios, when using options based on ALICE protocols, many were able to escape when they realized there was no danger in their immediate areas. When a large group were in the cafeteria and an armed stranger entered with gun [fake] drawn several of the staff members actually were able to disarm the man and hold him on the ground to wait for help to come.



"What helped me the most were the training videos, live demonstrations and talking about it," said Jan Swanston, school nurse [transition program]. "If we were supposed to experience mass hysteria and minor injuries as compared with the likely deaths that could occur, then the live drills served their purpose," she said.

Moving forward, there will be other forms of training:

- A parent information night in English/Spanish



- A similar presentation for students in their PE classes
- Faculty encouraged to have student discussions and practices in their classrooms
- A student participation drill to be conducted in the 2019-2020 school year
- Having a drill with "actors" and actual involvement of the Mundelein police

The ALICE Training Institute has just informed MHS that we are officially an ALICE Certified School! "Your organization has demonstrated a true commitment to safety preparedness," a representative of the Institute said.

Staff learn to become ALICE trainers

Nine members of the MHS staff spent extra time having intensive training in order to become official ALICE trainers. They spent several days learning about the philosophy behind the training and then engaging in role play scenarios to understand what people feel when placed in these unfortunate situations.

Official trainers at MHS include:

- Officer Steve Balogh, School Resource Officer
- Meghan Bargar, Dean of Students
- Larry Calhoun, Fine and Applied Arts Department Chair
- Troy Parola, Athletic Director
- Kevin Quinn, Director of Buildings/Grounds
- Cathy Schmidt, Head of MHS Security
- Chris Sellers, Security Staff
- Rahul Sethna, Business Faculty
- Paul Thatcher, Dean of Students

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Robotics Team takes first place; qualifies for state competition



Standing: Edward Hoge, Giorgi Bazgadze, Steffen Brown, Isaac Fuksman, Raymond Hoge, August Holsman, Brandon Valeroso, Emily Navarette. Kneeling: Noah McNelly, Mathew Chen

The Mundelein High School Robotics Team, led by MHS Physics Instructor Manny Aldana, took first place last weekend in the first VEX Robotics Competition Qualifying Tournament in Illinois this season. The MHS team beat out 23 other high school teams to claim the championship.

With the win, the Mustangs are automatic participants in the state robotics tournament in March as well as an invitation to the CREATE US OPEN Robotics Tournament in April.

“I am proud of how our team of freshmen students used their engineering skills in troubleshooting their robots throughout the competition,” Aldana explained. “Our students represented Mundelein very well by carrying themselves professionally throughout the competition,” he said. The team will compete again in the coming weekends.

Coming Soon ...

- Monday, Dec. 3 Band Concerto Competition
- Friday, Dec. 7 11:25 Dismissal—Teacher Institute Day
- Friday, Dec. 7 Choir Spotlight Event—7:30 pm
- Monday, Dec. 10 Orchestral Dance Recital—7 pm
- Wed., Dec. 12 Fall Band Concert—7 pm
- Thurs., Dec. 13 Holiday Band/Choir Concert—7 pm
- Wed., Dec. 19 Semester Exams, 1 pm dismissal
- Thurs., Dec. 20 Semester Exams, 1 pm dismissal
- Fri., Dec. 21 Semester Exams, 11 am dismissal**

MHS a collection point for toys

Mundelein High School's SADD is partnering with the MHS Booster Club this year to facilitate Toys 4 Tots. Boxes for items are located near the front desk at the high school. The toys will go to children who may receive few if any presents this holiday season.



When dropping off toys, please remember that they are new and are not wrapped in wrapping paper.

“Imagine the impact we can have on kids this holiday season if each of us brought just two new toys,” said Ryan Buck, SADD advisor.

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MHS hosts solemn ceremony for 125 veterans

Mundelein High School hosted an all-school assembly for 125 military veterans and their guests on Nov. 9 in honor of Veterans Day. The entire student body was at rapt attention as they listened to Air Force Brigadier General Jim Swanson, a 1967 MHS graduate, as he spoke to them about the positive experiences that are available in the military.

Led by the MHS Drumline, the veterans formed a procession into the gym and then heard the MHS Choir perform the National Anthem and another vocal selection. The Honors Wind Ensemble played the theme songs of each of the five branches of the armed services and the veterans stood when they heard their branch's anthem. The audience was also shown a short video explaining the history of the Veterans Day Observation from when it began in 1918.

Following the ceremony, all veterans and their guests enjoyed a brunch served at the MHS District Office.

Social Studies Department Chair, Chris Lagioia, planned the event.

