



MUNDELEIN HS DISTRICT 120 UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2020

THE MESSENGER



FROM REMOTE LEARNING TO IN-SCHOOL EDUCATION

What's Inside:

At Mundelein High School we are dedicated to the pursuit of excellence, supporting our students' particular needs and interests, and developing the skills they need to succeed in life. Our faculty is dedicated to inspiring our students to grow into unique individuals.



In this issue, learn how we...

- Insure the safety of our students, faculty and staff during the Covid-19 crisis
- Celebrate our students, staff and alumni success
- Become inspired by the accomplishments of others
- Are grateful to our charitable community



Kevin Myers, PhD
Superintendent
Districts 75/120

US News &
World Report
2020 Mundelein
High School
Rankings

Best College Prep
or Public High
School:
#57 of 651

Best Public High
School in Illinois
#85 of 689

Most Diverse
Public High
School
#82 of 832



Superintendent's Message

Welcome to a new school year filled with hope and anticipation. We all wish we could get back to "normal" and have our students in school, our teachers in their classrooms and our clubs and sports in full swing. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 Virus has changed all of that. Since last March, *adaptation* seems to be the word of the day.

The ultimate goal, based on metrics from local health sources, is to have schools back in session. We continue to monitor the local numbers as we look forward to reaching that goal.

I am genuinely awed and impressed by the way the Mundelein community has come together to help each other out during this time. As soon as the schools closed we began providing free meals to those in need. Kudos to Sol Cabachuela, parent liaison, Jamie DiCarlo, assistant superintendent for student services, and Kevin Quinn, director of buildings and grounds, who spearheaded the food distribution at various locations in Mundelein. Volunteers who have helped for the long haul include Marybeth Anderson, Salvador Cabachuela, Gabriela Cervantes, Daisy Carrera, Annais Diaz, Natalia Lecaroz, Emily Loerakker, Araceli Mendoza, Jorge Moncada, Thomas McArthur, Joanna Rodriguez, Lisa Umans, Victor Viveros, Margarita Viveros, Krista Winkelman and Veronica Villaseñor. The food distribution program is continuing to help our Mundelein families.

Many other civic groups and charitable organizations continue to do everything they can to help with donations of food, clothing, personal health items and more. Mundelein High School, along with Mundelein Districts 75 and 76, the Mundelein Police Department and The Chapel held a Thanksgiving Drive through November 15 to provide Thanksgiving meals to selected families in the Mundelein Community. It is this strong sense of community that makes Mundelein a great place to live, raise families and educate our children. We should all be very proud!

While the future may be uncertain right now, we know that eventually we will be able to have students and staff back in school. Until then, let's keep working hard with the situation we've been given, and let's also keep pulling together, supporting each other and working to keep our community strong.

And as always, GO MUSTANGS!

On the Cover: Matthew Callas as Benedick and Mary McMurray as Beatrice during their outdoor performance of *Much Ado About Nothing* on the MHS Athletic Field.

COVID -19 AFFECTS ANNUAL VETERANS' DAY EVENT

Alum records message for virtual Veterans Day remembrance



Zaneta Stinson Adams, '95; Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency

While many area schools are off for Veterans Day, November 11, Mundelein High School has been having school that day and hosting a Veterans Day ceremony for the whole student body. In years past, well over 150 veterans and their families were invited to be honored at the event and were also served both breakfast and lunch during the day. This year, however, turned out to be much different!

The Veterans Day ceremony this year highlighted the current situation with the world-wide pandemic. But MHS was still able to host a virtual Veterans Day event. All students are enrolled in an English class and so those classes took part in a virtual remembrance of the solemn holiday. Guest speaker for the event was Zaneta Stinson Adams, MHS Class of 1995 and a 2017 MHS Distinguished Alumni honoree.

Adams, currently serving as the Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency, a cabinet position in the Michigan

Governor's administration, previously worked as an Attorney At Law, Williams Hughes PLLC. She served in the armed forces and was severely injured while preparing to go to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom. She was told she would never walk again, but her grit and determination led her to recovery. Adams is the President/Founder of Women Injured in Combat [WINC] and has many honors including US Army Medals; Global War on Terrorism, US Army Reserve Warrior Citizen Award; Law School Great Deeds Award; Black Women's Political Caucus Member; Recognized in the Fall 2017 edition of Distinguished Attorneys magazine.

Her message to MHS students was that military service is an honorable career and it provides a number of ways to serve the country and also earn many benefits for education, housing and others. She was grateful to be back "home," although virtually, in Mustang Country. Students gave her a warm "welcome home" reception. The event was organized by Chris Lagioia, social studies/world languages department chair. She was joined by Linda Chapa LaVia, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs who shared her experiences as well.

Memories from previous Veterans Day ceremonies hosted at MHS



STUDENTS RALLY TO CONTINUE THEIR INTERESTS

***Much Ado About Nothing* performed on athletic field**



Cast of *Much Ado About Nothing* performs on the athletic field October 16, 17 and 18.

Live theatre has been hard to come by these past months but the students of Mundelein Theatre decided that it was time to get back on the stage and do what they love to do. Create theatre. The administration and the theatre staff at MHS created a way to have students perform live, in front of an audience,

outdoors on the Mundelein High athletic field. *Much Ado About Nothing*, by William Shakespeare, was performed on the athletic field at MHS October 16, 17 and 18 to enthusiastic audiences. Additionally, the Mundelein Theatre Shakespeare Slam Team gave a special pre-show performance. "Everyone involved agreed that for the sake of the students, staff and community, we needed to make this happen," said Jonathan Meier, the show's director. "Performing Shakespeare outdoors has a rich history throughout the world, so it was the natural choice when we decided to go with an outdoor production." "Playing this role has been a dream of mine for quite a while," said senior Mary McMurray, who played Beatrice in the show. "I have to admit that I never visualized it standing on the 50 yard line of our football field, but that just made it more exciting." Senior Matthew Callas played the role of Benedick. "Everyone was thrilled to be performing for a live audience. It is certainly a challenge to be playing scenes with other actors and staying at least six feet apart. It is an experience that none of us will soon forget."

Will Gonzalez and Mira Guiritan shared the leading roles

Stronger Together looks for unity

Mundelein High School's Black Student Union held a Stronger Together Rally during the summer to promote peace, love and togetherness. Mundelein community members gathered at Keith Mione Community Park as students and special guest, former Chicago Bears player Rashied Davis shared their stories on prevailing racial injustice, struggles they face today and how to spark change in the world.



Kevin Myers, Districts 75/120 Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent for Teaching and Learning, Stacey Gorman shared their support and commitment to making Mundelein High School a safe learning environment for all students. "Yesterday was a wonderful day and it made me so proud to be a Mustang," said Blair Winter, MHS faculty member. "Jeanne Herry has given the black students of MHS a home-place, a place that is safe for them to be completely themselves and where they feel supported in the MHS community.



BSU also hosts Race Against Violence fundraiser

The BSU event, *The Mundelein Race Against Gun Violence*, helped raise awareness and funds for more than 50 community organizations working for a more peaceful Chicago where all can thrive, free from the fear of gun violence. The event was also backed by the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) organization launched in 2014 by former president Barack Obama to address persistent opportunity gaps facing young men and women of color and to ensure all youth can reach their full potential.

"Thank you all for your continued love and support," said Trey Baker, president of the MHS BSU.

ALUMNI, STAFF MEMBER, HONORED FOR SERVICE

Seven MHS grads chosen as Distinguished Alumni for 2020



Mundelein High School representatives have chosen seven MHS graduates to honor as Distinguished Alumni for 2020. Traditionally, the event to honor the alumni has been on Homecoming Weekend. This year, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the date for the ceremony is yet to be determined. It will depend on how things progress in the coming months.

This year's Distinguished Alumni include the following:

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Gunther, Class of 1995; West Point Graduate with a PhD in History and four master's degrees; currently in command of the 1-67th Armored Regiment, deployed to the Republic of South Korea; Bronze Star and Purple Heart Medal awardee.

Lawrence Maligaya, Class of 2005; BS degree, Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); Recent experience at Adient, LLC; also managed commercial/sales activities for Tesla Model S/X/3/Y production seat trim covers/panels; founded the STEM Explorers Scholarship at Mundelein High School to provide STEM opportunities to promising students interested in STEM topics and careers.

Larry Markus, Class of 1967; Associate of Applied Science degree in Mechanical Engineering; Co-owner of Sirius Automation Group, Buffalo Grove, IL; Mentorship with the MHS Robotics Club; Holds a number of patents in Biomedical Engineering/Robotics and

more than 40 years in biomedical engineering, designing instrumentations.

Dr. Max Petersen, Class of 2006; MD, PhD and MPhil degrees from Yale University; BA degree, Augustana College; Completing Internship/Residency in Internal Medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston; Completing a Fellowship in Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism at Washington University School of Medicine; Earned an MD/PhD Thesis Prize from Yale School of Medicine in 2018.

Chad Vale, Class of 1974; Joined the US Air Force Strategic Air Command following graduating from MHS. Served as a jet engine mechanic/aircraft electrical repairman. Seriously injured in a motorcycle accident a year and a half later and medically retired from the Air Force. Has made five trips to Washington, DC for House/Armed Service Committee meetings; Received the Gold Star Family's Hero for a Day Award in Peoria; Recognized for accomplishments in the Air Force and his Volunteerism with the Veterans Affairs Department; Elected judge advocate Veteran Assistance Commission at the state level.

Dr. Chris Wetteland, Class of 1993; PhD in Geology, University of Tennessee; MS, Ceramics and Materials Engineering, Rutgers University, BS, Geology, Northeastern Illinois University; Senior Lecturer, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Instructor for undergraduate laboratory coursework in the department; Chancellors Award for Excellence in Advising; Faculty award for Excellence in Service and in Teaching.

Sergeant Richard Witt, Class of 2000; BS degree in Law Enforcement Justice Administration; Western Illinois University (Magna Cum Laude); Mundelein Police Officer since 2006; Held positions as Accident Investigator, Evidence Technician, Alcohol and Gaming Compliance Officer; Bike Officer, DARE Officer, Police Explorer Advisor; Field Training Officer; School Resource Officer. Recognition for assistance with a child abduction case; ILACP Life-Saving Award for actions during a house explosion; Mundelein Police Department Officer of the Year; Juvenile Officer of the Year Award for the State of Illinois; Village of Mundelein Recognition for carrying an incapacitated man out of a residential structure fire.

Congratulations to long-time teacher/counselor/coach, Frank Giannamore



Frank Giannamore, long-time staff member at MHS, has been inducted into the Lake County Sports Hall of Fame. He was previously inducted into the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association and Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame, both in 2005.

After earning his masters degree in education from Northern Illinois University, Giannamore began his teaching career at the former Libertyville-Mundelein High School. When the districts separated, he was part of the first staff at MHS. He would go on to spend 47 years at MHS where he taught PE, driver education, became a counselor at the school and a football and wrestling coach. He also was the advisor for the SADD organization at the high school.

The Illinois State Board of Education recognized Giannamore with a "Those That Excel Award of Merit." Giannamore also served in the Illinois National Guard for eight years.

STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AWARDS

BRAVO!

Commended Students

Two Mundelein High School seniors have been recognized as commended students by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) which conducts the program. Sarah Larson and Sean Phelan will be presented with the awards by MHS Principal Anthony Kroll.

MHS newspaper staff earns coveted award from Quill and Scroll

The staff of the Mundelein High School student-produced school newspaper, *The Mustang*, has received an International First Place Award from the 2020 Quill & Scroll News Media Evaluation. Despite ending the year in remote learning and producing two newspaper issues during the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff earned superior ratings in four of the five evaluation categories for general practices, coverage, writing & editing and digital media. The staff received an excellent rating in the fifth category for visuals.



Student published in scientific journal

MHS senior Swetha Chandrasekar was recently published in an online Smithsonian publication. She submitted an article as result of

her connection to the Chicago EYES on Cancer program, an NIH-funded cancer research program at the University of Chicago. Her subject was Our Journey to Mastering Mitochondrial DNA. She is deeply invested in molecular research and hopes to pursue biochemistry and public health in college. She aims to one day become an impactful physician scientist.

Three MHS students complete Co-op program; join the company as employees

The Mundelein High School/MacLean-Fogg Co-op program is a partnership between District 120 and the family-owned MacLean-Fogg manufacturing company, headquartered on Allanson Road in Mundelein. The program is limited to 10 new students each year, and requires a two-year commitment beginning in the student's junior year. Students are part-time, paid employees during the two class



periods per school day that they attend manufacturing-related, dual-credit classes and on-the-job training. The program is designed to give students a thorough understanding of the manufacturing environment, dual-credit college level courses specific to the industry, valuable hands-on experience and the possibility of post-graduation employment (including the opportunity to pursue higher education through the employee education program) with MacLean-Fogg. In just its second year, the program is showing a positive return on the investment for both the students and for MacLean-Fogg. Three 2020 MHS graduates, **Michael Dodge, Cole Fritz and Michael Such** all began their full-time careers with MacLean-Fogg this summer. Fritz officially began his full-time position on July 21. Fritz had originally planned to attend college full-time and work part-time for the company. However, due to the college's decision to move to remote learning, he found it financially advantageous to begin working full-time now as he continues to pursue his degree online. He said, "Being part of the program made the transition pretty easy. I already knew how things worked, and I was already comfortable with the (MacLean-Fogg) culture and processes".

Dodge began working on August 3 in the tooling area. Like Fritz, Dodge said, "I got a pretty good idea of what it (the tool room) was going to be like when I was in there during the program; so no big surprises. It's what I expected, and I knew I would like it." Dodge said he may take a few courses at CLC for additional certifications or training along the way, but right now his plan is to simply soak up the on-the-job training and knowledge, and look to grow through experience. He says he really likes the hands-on nature of the work. Michael Such's official start date was Monday, August 10. He began working in the forming department, and plans also to take advantage of the employee education program immediately. His long-term goal is to gain practical experience in manufacturing while earning his engineering degree, and to eventually move into an engineering position with MacLean-Fogg.

SCHOOL, COMMUNITY WORKING TOGETHER

Staff makes books easily available for students



Although the 2020-2021 school year looks very different from a “normal” school year, the Mundelein High School Media Center staff are offering pick-up locations throughout the Mundelein area to ensure that all students have access to books. Each Thursday, students may now safely and efficiently pick up books from the high school library without entering the building.

“The MHS Library Media Center staff have been working hard to get books to our students,” said Rebecca Plaza, Mundelein High School library information specialist. “We believe there is a book for every student!,” she said. She and Instructional Aide Stacey Klemstein delivered the books. Mundelein High School’s security staff, under the direction of Cathy Schmidt, assisted in the delivery of the books.

Students can browse the online catalog and fill out a Google Form with their book requests. Currently, there are more than 15,000 books students can choose from. Once students submit their requests the books are located, bagged and tagged with the student’s name and ID number. There are eight pick-up locations in the Mundelein area:

- Cedar Lake Plaza parking lot, Route 60 and Cedar Lake Road
- Deepwoods Apartments
- Diamond Lake Village at North Highway 83
- Dolphin Apartments
- Lake Street Apartments
- Liberty Lakes, Sedgebrook Park at the corner of Sedgebrook and Dogwood
- Mundelein High School
- Washington Apartments at 900 East Orchard Street

Mundelein school districts and park district collaborate to bring new Little Free Libraries to the community

By DeAnna Wilson, Public Information Specialist



As a part of the Mundelein Reads Together program, librarians from Mundelein school districts 75 and 120 partnered with the Mundelein Park District to bring six new Little Free Libraries to the community. The little libraries resemble small houses with a variety of books inside. The books

are free to the public and may be taken and kept at home.

The librarians from each school recently joined together at Gordon Ray Park and Memorial Park to fill the Little Libraries with free, brand new books for readers of all ages.

“These projects have been a great partnership experience both for me and the D75 librarians as well benefiting Mundelein families!,” said Rebecca Plaza, Mundelein High School Library Information Specialist.

Unlike other Little Free Libraries that have a “take one, leave one” model, the librarians wanted to get books in the hands of students and families. Each little library has a sign attached that says “The books are yours to keep. No need to return them.” The Little Free Libraries are checked regularly and filled with new books.

Currently, there are five Little Free Library locations:

- Carl Sandburg Middle School
- Gordon Ray Park
- Mechanics Grove Elementary School
- Memorial Park
- Mundelein High School



MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL
 SCHOOL DISTRICT 120
 1500 WEST HAWLEY STREET
 MUNDELEIN, IL 60060

U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 MUNDELEIN, IL
 60060
 PERMIT #60



*****ECRWSEDDM*****
 Residential Customer

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

