

# The Messenger

Mundelein High School District 120

2018 Spring/Summer Magazine



*Senior Christian Loar looks for his cue to start pumping up the crowd before an assembly.*

**Website: [www.d120.org](http://www.d120.org)**  
**Equity, Growth, Collaboration**

## Superintendent's Message ...



Dr. Kevin Myers, Superintendent

## The Year in Review

### Student Achievement and Success

- Most students and staff have adjusted to the 8-period bell schedule. We continue to monitor all aspects of the schedule and will make minor adjustments based on feedback. One such example is to return to Thursday late-start days rather than the current Wednesday.
- Fifty-nine MHS students were named Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission
- Several study areas were added for students to have extra contact with teachers [Study Café, the HUB, etc.]
- Additional courses were added due to student interest including AP Music Theory, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Industrial Design [STEAM], Freshman Strength and Conditioning, Peer Tutoring and Applied Mathematics.
- Seventy-five percent of students who took AP exams earned a 3, 4 or 5 which makes them eligible for college credit
- Seventy-five percent of our students met the benchmarks in reading on the practice SAT exam for sophomores
- There was a 60 percent increase first semester in the number of Earned Honors credits
- 86 percent of staff who participated in a February in-service about Equity say they are “on board” and ready to move forward
- The second year of the Schuler Scholar Program is progressing well with many student successes in the program

### Budget and Fiscal Management

- Once again earned a credit rating of AA+ by Standard and Poors
- Conducted studies to evaluate possible uses for the Annex, the former Kirk of the Lakes property
- Continued the technology department shared services with District 75
- Began a study of additional shared services possibilities with District 75
- Prepared a comprehensive long-range plan with Legat Architects for future expansion/renovation of the facilities
- Continued a partnership with the Mundelein Park District to offer fitness classes
- Exploring the possibility of several MHS students completing their last year with SEDOL.

### School Climate and Culture

- Ongoing meetings have been held with students and staff concerning the transition to the new schedule
- Held a large-scale Veterans Day recognition ceremony which helped create additional support for our veterans. It also resulted in a student-suggested new club devoted to helping and recognizing veterans
- Held our first Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet with more than 100 people in attendance from all over the country. We have decided to build on the success of the event and make it an annual affair
- The Parent Ambassadors group continues to expand and to assist the administration in reaching out to students and families. Special emphasis is placed on incoming freshmen and follow-up with them during their first year at MHS

### Facilities

- The Annex is being used for more and more events including meetings, presentations and practices. During Spring Break the Business Office staff moved to the Annex. Numerous small improvements have been made in the high school building including painting the main hallways to cover the 1960's small tiled walls, adding strategically-placed black bulletin boards for announcements, and the addition of a large-screen TV monitor in the main entrance to advertise positive happenings at MHS
- A section of the main hallway display cases was designated as the Distinguished Alumni Wall which includes plaques and biographies of the honorees. This will be expanded each year with additional alumni
- The Study Café was added in a room just off the cafeteria. Staffed by 3-4 teachers and open during the lunch periods, the casual atmosphere is a place for students to go for extra help, to do school work, read, or just “hang out”
- Decided to keep the Village Green property for uses by future Boards of Education to determine

# The Messenger

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# 4 Changes to the curriculum for 2018-2019

A number of changes to curricular offerings will be available for students beginning next year, many of them a result of the flexibility of the new 8-period day schedule. The majority of the courses will be part of a rigorous curriculum with opportunities for students to earn college credit and prepare for advanced study toward a career.

## AP Course Offerings Increased

In addition to the many Advanced Placement [AP] courses currently being offered, new next year will be an **AP Human Geography** course. Open to all interested students, this social studies course will be the only AP course available for freshmen.

AP courses in Government and Economics will give students an “edge” to take several AP exams after one year of study. **AP United States Government and Politics** and **AP United States Comparative Government and Politics** have separate AP exams and students will be able to take both tests. Similarly, the **AP Economics** course will prepare students to take both the AP Macro and AP Micro Economics exams. Because of a law in Illinois that all public colleges/universities must accept AP Exam scores of 3, 4 or 5 for college credit, “students can earn quite a few college credits during their high school career,” said Stacey Gorman, director of curriculum and instruction. Historically, about 78 percent of MHS students who take AP courses score a 3 or better on the exams. “This translates into a savings of time and money with college credit awarded before a student begins his/her college program,” Gorman explained.

## Spotlight on Engineering

With the addition of another engineering course, students may now personalize their learning of engineering on three levels. Courses already in place are **Introduction to Engineering Design**, the honors course **Principals of Engineering**, and now a third course, **Computer-Integrated Manufacturing**, part of the Project Lead the Way [PLTW] curriculum. These courses and others provide a choice-based curriculum meeting the needs and interests of our students,” Gorman said.

## Peer Tutoring

Another new area of study to be offered is a formal Peer Tutoring program aimed at students who are considering careers in education.

Students who are interested in tutoring have the option of signing up for the course to receive training and then putting that training into practice.

This new pass/fail course will have classroom instruction, simulated role playing, supervised tutoring and more. Students will also do summer training as part of the course.

Once the students complete the course they will be able to practice what they learned through different avenues of tutoring opportunities. Peer tutors will be able to work alongside staff members in the many “help centers” like the Hub, Study Café, study halls, Literacy Center and Math Lab. They will also be able to assist classroom teachers and work with students who may be struggling in a particular course or subject area.

“This is just another example of creating courses and programs to meet specific needs of students,” Gorman concluded.



*Junior Jesus Ramos gets a taste of what teaching is like as part of his peer tutoring experience.*

# Parent/Teacher Conferences, late start and half-day in-service days

## Parent/Teacher Conferences

In an effort to continually evaluate and enhance programs and practices, the MHS Leadership Team continues to study policies and operations that could use updates. One of those is the Parent/Teacher Conference procedure.

For about 20 years, the Parent/Teacher Conference procedure has remained pretty much the same.

Students were dismissed from school in the early afternoon, then a walk-in conference period was held until 4:30 or 5 pm, followed by a break for dinner, and then scheduled conference periods until 8 or 8:30 pm.

“This format was becoming less and less effective,” said Principal Anthony Kroll. For the teaching staff, they felt like they taught classes all day and then worked with parents all evening oftentimes until well after 9 pm. “The teachers and administration were looking for ways to make conferences more meaningful for both the parents and teachers. We concurred,” he said.

The new format was tested just this March and has proved to be a benefit for both the teaching staff and for parents. The new set-up involves two days. On the first day of conferences, students are dismissed in the late morning and conferences are held from 4 to 7 pm. This gives staff some time between teaching and then conducting conferences. The following day is a non-attendance day for students. Teachers are available for conferences from 9 am to 2 pm.

“The reaction to the first use of this new schedule was very positive,” Kroll explained. “The teachers like having the conference time spread over two days and parents liked having more options available concerning the time of the day that conferences were held. We will continue to evaluate and explore more options as needed.”



## Late Start Thursdays Return

Another change for next school year will be the return to Thursdays as the late start days. There were both personal and professional reasons for making the switch. “We’re all creatures of habit and don’t seem to like change all that much,” said Michele Bonadies, social studies teacher. Bonadies said that many of her colleagues like having the late start Thursday because it meant there was only one day left in the workweek after that. “It’s

those little things that can somehow make a difference,” she said.

The current Wednesday late start days ended up having an unanticipated problem. Group meetings are often held during part of the Wednesday morning professional time and there wasn’t a lot of lead time to prepare materials for those meetings. Thursday meetings allowed for another whole workday to get materials, audio equipment, etc., ready for the meeting times.

Beginning next school year, all Thursdays will be the late start days except for Thursdays when Semester or Final Exam days are scheduled. School will start at 9:25 am on Thursdays.

## Half-Day In-Service Days

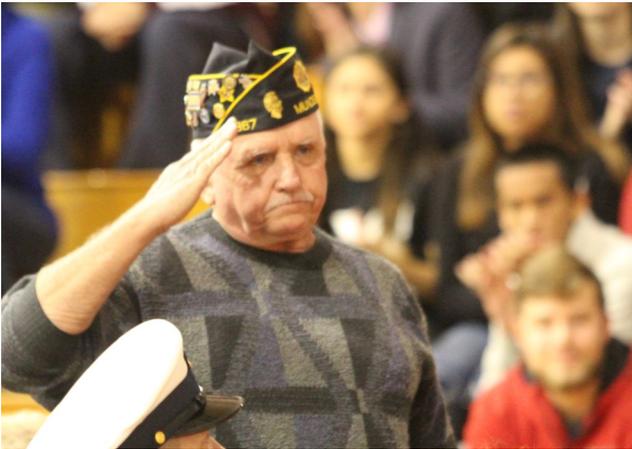
One more “slight adjustment” to the new 8-period day will be a different schedule for Half-Day Institute Days. Currently, students are dismissed at 12:45 pm and staff has the rest of the day to work on curriculum, special projects, etc. Staff felt that with meeting time and work time, 12:45 pm was a little too late to accommodate everything that needed to be covered.

Next year, Half-Day In-Service Days will begin after students are dismissed at 11:25 am rather than at 12:45. The first time there is a half-day in-service only class periods 1-4 will meet. The second time periods 5-8 will meet, etc. On these days, teachers will use the class time to offer individual help for students, expanded learning and projects.

# 6 New clubs completing their pilot year

Six clubs are operating in their first year which is required before a club is officially “sanctioned.” This is the normal procedure when new clubs are proposed. The pilot clubs this year offer a good variety of ways for students to spend their time outside of class.

**Helping Heroes of America** is a club that came about



***A local veteran takes part in the Veterans Day assembly in which more than 75 military veterans took part.***

as a direct result of the Veterans Day Ceremony held at MHS on Nov. 10. Sophomore Matt Pawlowski was so moved by the great showing of support and patriotism that day that he proposed forming this club to continue that support.

“The purpose of the club is to give students an opportunity to recognize and give back to veterans and active members of the armed forces,” said Nicole Malham, social studies instructor and advisor to the club.

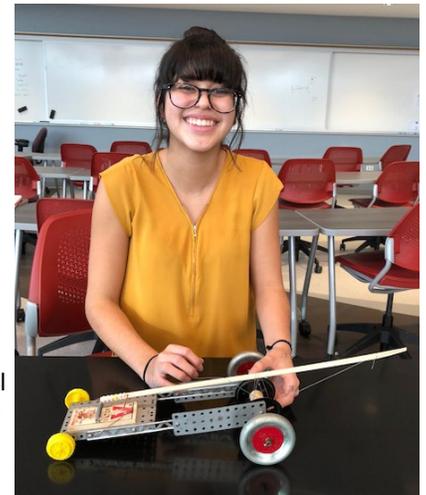
Pawlowski is the president and is assisted by Tyler Collins, vice president; Kate Fladhammer, secretary and Alexandra Hevko, treasurer. Their current projects include seeking donations to create and send care packages to active duty members of the armed forces and interviewing US veterans about their service as a way of preserving their experiences in a historical document.

**Debate Club**— is a student-led organization with sophomore, Caitlyn Matthews, as president. This club meets every two weeks on Tuesdays after school. Their main goal is to discuss controversial issues in an organized manner as well as improve on argumentative skills. Participating in debates can help students succeed in classes

like English or Government, and help with communication or public skills. All are welcome! Anna Grig is the advisor.

Grig is also piloting **Educators Rising**, a student-run organization with Claire Kim, Emma Aculado, and Alex Martinez on the executive board. This club meets on the first and last Thursday of every month and focuses on introducing students to careers in the educational field. Any students interested in primary or secondary education can learn more about a career for their future. Some fun events include Movie Night, Shadow Day, and field trips to different educational settings like private schools or charter schools. There’s POWER in teaching!

**Science Olympiad** members study all facets of science in preparation for science competitions vs. area and state high schools. The members are competing in various events such as Optics, Chemistry lab, Mouse-trap Car, and an event called Fermi Questions. The group took part in an invitational tournament at Niles West in February. From there they competed at a regional competition at College of Lake County in March. The top seven teams from the CLC meet go on to the state competition at the University of Illinois.



***Christine Espinosa with her Mouse-trap car.***

The team meets on Mondays after school in the STEM lab. They hope to recruit incoming freshmen for the 2018-19 school year.

Two other clubs are also completing their first year on a trial basis:

School nurse Janet Swanston is the advisor for **The Medical Club** which is available for students who are considering careers in the health professions.

**The Bass Fishing Club** is available for those males and females who are interested in a specific type of fishing. The advisor is Wes Dawson.



# Nominations sought for Alumni Awards



## MUNDELEIN HIGH SCHOOL **DISTINGUISHED** **ALUMNI**

### MHS seeks nominees for second annual Distinguished Alumni Award

After a popular and highly successful inaugural awards banquet for Distinguished Alumni in November, MHS is now accepting nominations for the next event scheduled for Homecoming Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018.

MHS graduates are nominated for “making a difference” in their chosen careers or in their personal lives. The 2017 awards were presented to 10 alumni with such diverse careers as an Air Force Brigadier General, an attorney and advocate for women injured in combat, a senior federal air marshal, a North Shore Health Systems physician, a Navy commander, a NASA engineer, a professor at UC-San Diego, a long-term Mundelein trustee, a deputy police chief who also provides food for area pantries and a PhD candidate who was killed while researching in Iraq.



“Mundelein High School graduates have consistently shown that they take their MHS education and use that to do good in the world in many different ways,” said Kevin Myers, MHS District 120 Superintendent.. “We are very proud of our alumni and we enjoy using this awards banquet as a way to recognize them for what they are doing,” he said.

Nominations for the 2018 awards opened on March 2 and will continue to be accepted through May 13. Anyone may nominate an MHS graduate for this award. To be eligible:

- Nominees must have graduated from Mundelein High School at least 10 years prior to the induction year.
- Nominees must have excelled in their chosen profession, community service, civic involvement, etc. There is no one set criteria for what “excelled” includes, but we look for tenets of our core values of equity, growth, and collaboration. The selection committee will make the final decision for induction.



- A nomination form must be completed for a nominee to be considered.
- Anyone may nominate and alumni may also nominate themselves.
- Deceased alumni may also be nominated.

All completed applications will be kept for three years. If a nominee isn't chosen the first year, he/she will continue to be eligible for selection until the three years are concluded.

To nominate an MHS graduate for the Distinguished Alumni Award, please complete the form available on this website no later than May 13:

<https://www.d120.org/mhs-community/alumni/>

# MHS names in the news

## Student body president earns coveted Coke Scholarship



Mundelein High School senior and student body president Ricky Rodriguez has been named one of 150 national 2018 Coke Scholars earning a scholarship worth \$20,000. Rodriguez joins a family of alumni who are leading positive change in their communities and around the world.

In addition to his role as student body president, Rodriguez is also a drum major for the marching band, a member of the Future Business Leaders of America [FBLA], National Honor Society [NHS], Model UN and Link Crew. He is currently choosing among a number of colleges/universities for next year.

The entire class of Scholars will attend the 2018 Scholars Weekend April 19-22 for a time of inspiration, fun and camaraderie. Scholars will be honored at the 30<sup>th</sup> annual Scholars Banquet and participate in a Leadership Development Institute, an intensive leadership training during Scholars Weekend that challenges them to develop an inside-out leadership philosophy.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program Scholarship is an achievement-based scholarship awarded to graduating high school seniors. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, as well as their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.

## Six staffers take ALICE training; will now train staff

Six members of our staff took part in a March ALICE training in Wauconda to be up-to-date on procedures during a number of different school emergencies. They include Rahul Sethna, Troy Parola, Chris Sellers, Cathy Schmidt [April], Larry Calhoun and Kevin Quinn. Steve Cone will attend a School Safety Conference in April.

ALICE [Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate] is the leading program for response to violent critical incidents [VCI]. VCI are man-made forms of violent disaster including active shooter, violent intruder, mass shooting, terrorism, workplace violence and other unexpected tragedies.

"It is important that we are up to date on the latest research and methods for protecting our students and staff in the event of any of these types of man-made violence," said Kevin Myers, superintendent. "I applaud these staff members who gave up their Spring Break vacation to take part in this critical training," he said.

Once the five complete the program, they will be designated as ALICE Certified Instructors [ACI]. As ACIs they will receive the necessary training and materials to be able to conduct ALICE overview and refresher presentations and lead the hands-on portion of training in the ALICE Blended delivery model. This is a user-level training where participants learn the ALICE strategies through the ALICE Basic e-Learning course and then those strategies are reinforced through hands-on training and application provided by an ACI.

ALICE Instructor Certification lasts for two years and is renewed online through the ALICE Instructor Recertification e-Learning course.

"It will be great to have these ALICE Certified Instructors on our staff," said Principal Anthony Kroll.

**ALICE**  
TRAINING INSTITUTE

**ALERT**  
Initial Alert may be a gunshot, PA announcement, etc...  
Avoid code words.

**LOCKDOWN**  
If Evacuation is not a safe option, barricade entry points.  
Prepare to Evacuate or Counter if needed.

**INFORM**  
Communicate real time information on shooter location.  
Use clear and direct language using any communication means possible.

**COUNTER**  
As a last resort, distract shooters ability to shoot accurately.  
Move toward exits while making noise, throwing objects, or adults swarm shooter.

**EVACUATE**  
Run from danger when safe to do so using non-traditional exits if necessary. Rallying point should be predetermined.

AliceTraining.com

# MHS alumni names in the news

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## 2017 Distinguished Alumna honoree helps save the life of critically ill patient



Last November, Dr. Britt Hanson, MHS Class of 1995, was enjoying an evening with fellow graduates as honorees at the first Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet. Just a few months later, she would be recognized again, but this time for literally saving the life of a critically ill emergency patient.

Hansen is a Kellogg Cancer Center Medical Oncologist and Hematologist with NorthShore University HealthSystem. The patient, Richard Boren of Wadsworth, Illinois had been rushed to the Emergency Department at NorthShore Highland Park Hospital. He thought he had a bad case of the flu but soon learned that he had an extremely rare immune system disorder which hadn't been diagnosed yet.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, Boren was moved to the Intensive Care Unit [ICU] with life-threatening symptoms. While he was there, Hanson began looking for the reasons behind his quick decline. She suspected that the cause was

Hemophagocytic lymphohistiocytosis, or HLH. It is an uncommon and life-threatening condition where immune cells become overactive and begin attacking healthy cells. According to the NorthShore HealthSystem publication, *Connections*, Hanson ordered bloodwork and a bone marrow biopsy which confirmed the rare syndrome was present.

Hanson began a course of steroids and chemotherapy. She also consulted with Dr. Ronald Go, a Mayo Clinic Hermatologist, and he concurred with Hanson's recommendations. He explained that it isn't an easy diagnosis to make and it's tough to treat. "Having a second opinion on a case like this may be the difference between life and death," he told the *Connections* reporter.

Boren has since recovered from his brush with death and is ever grateful for the diagnosis and treatment that Hanson began.

## MHS grads shine in University of Illinois Psych program



**Daniel Szoke**

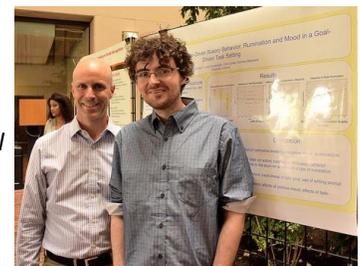
Two Mundelein High School graduates were among 12 members of the Honors Program who graduated with the title "Honors in Psychology" and prepared an undergraduate Bachelor's thesis at the University of Illinois.

"It's amazing that our alumni are 1/6 of the honors psychology students at a top university [ranked #7 department according to US News & World Report]," said Dean Petros, MHS psychology instructor.

Colin Harmony, Class of 2010 and Daniel Szoke, Class of 2013 were the recipients of the awards. Harmony received the Harry Triandis Award for being the outstanding undergraduate student in the fields of Social-Personality-Organizational Psychology. He presented his research on *Illusory Behavior: Rumination and Mood in a Goal-Driven Task Setting*. Szoke presented his research on *Understanding Willingness to Intervene in Sexual Violence*.

The awards were presented by Dan Simons, one of the most influential cognitive scientists in the world.

"I emphasize Simons' work from Illinois, Cornell and Harvard all the time in my classes," Petros said.



**Colin Harmony**

# MHS in the News

## Yearbook earns three state awards from IJEA



*Yearbook staff members discuss upcoming ideas.*

Mundelein High School's 2017 yearbook, *Obelisk*, recently won three awards from a state-wide competition run by the Illinois Journalism Education Association [IJEA] with 60 schools participating.

The staff took third place in copy writing. In this category, judges considered feature articles, leads, quotes and how "clean" the copy was written.

The *Obelisk* received an Honorable Mention in the photography category, considered to be one of the most competitive categories in the competition. The judges reported that the best books were diverse in covering the whole of their school and the full and various sub-groups that make up the schools.

The yearbook earned another Honorable Mention in the Coverage of the Year category. The judges said the best books provided a feel for what it is like to be a student or staff member at the school. It also showed both in pictures and in stories those students and staffers in action.

"Within our division, we were up against some very stiff competition with schools that have large journalism programs and who enter competitions frequently," said Michelle Didzbalis, *Obelisk* advisor. "This was our first ever and we walked away with three awards!," she said.

The 2017 *Obelisk* editors included Kyle Ehemann, editor-in-chief; Sheridan McGuire, photo editor; Rosibel Gomez, clubs editor; Henry Fiocchi, sports editor; Claire Kim and Sophia Fiore, social editors for media and marketing.

## Jazz Ensemble takes first place, named Honor Band

Mundelein High School's Jazz Ensemble and Jazz Orchestra participated in the Purdue Jazz Festival Jan. 19-21 in West Lafayette, IN. The Jazz Ensemble placed first in the Large High School Big Band Division and was named Honor Band at the festival. Approximately 120 different school bands from five states took part in the weekend festival.

In addition to performances, the jazz bands toured the Conn-Selmer Instrument Facility in Elkhart, IN and watched 2017 MHS graduate Paige Eifert perform with the Purdue University's top jazz band. In addition to the competition, the event included several headliner concerts along with other competitions, clinics and special events.

Featured performers included John Beasley's MONK'estra; Artist-in-residence, Ryan Cohan, featured in concert with the Purdue Jazz Band; and world-renowned trumpeter, Dan Fornero and composer Victor Goines, director of Jazz Studies at Northwestern University, as the headliners for the Festival Finale Concert with the Purdue Jazz Band. The awards and honors were announced during this concert.

Andy Sturgeon and Jerald Shelato direct the instrumental music program at MHS.



*Members of the Jazz Ensemble enjoy their first place finish.*

# MHS in the News

## Students create new business and partner with MBA

As part of their Business Incubator class, five students have created their own business and have partnered with the Mundelein Business Alliance [MBA]. The student-run business, ConnectBZ, is a new smart phone application [app] that will encourage residents and/or employees in or near Mundelein to patronize MBA member businesses. "Our app serves to provide a better shopping experience for the local businesses and consumers of Mundelein and suburbs like it," said Kaleb Carlson, one of the five MHS student-members of the new business. "By providing towns with more accessible channels to consumers, we believe that this will benefit communities as a whole," he explained.

The MBA app was presented by ConnectBZ members Feb. 12 at the Mundelein Village Board meeting and again on Feb. 15 at the Annual Business Appreciation and Networking Breakfast. The app will be part of a larger-scale program to encourage and motivate residents and employees working in Mundelein to look to MBA members when seeking anything from food and entertainment to goods and services.

"ConnectBZ is the product of months of customer feedback and a close relationship with the MBA," said Kevin Garcia, another student on the five-member team. The others, in addition to Carlson and Garcia, are David Olechno, Houston Tran and Daniel Bronfeyn.

"The MBA Board decided to partner with ConnectBZ," said Anthony Fiorelli, chairman of the board of directors for the MBA. "When we heard of their app it wasn't difficult to decide that we would like not only to assist them in designing it, but to secure its use to promote MBA member businesses," he said.



***Kevin Garcia, Kaleb Carlson, Houston Tran, David Olechno and Daniel Bronfeyn***

Now in its second year, the Business Incubator Program allows students to conceptualize businesses, do the research, formulate marketing plans and bring the concept to reality. Students then "pitch" their products to a group of Mundelein area business people who offer feedback about the products. Several student groups then advance to actually creating the products or services and bring them to production. The entire process is similar to the television program "Shark Tank." Michelle Sherwin-Petrucci teaches the course where ConnectBZ was conceived.

"I have had the honor of working with the students on a regular basis, offering input into their Incubator Program," said Kerston Russell, owner of Guardian Supplies and MBA Past Chairman and current Board member. "I'm excited to have learned about ConnectBZ's project and that we were offered the opportunity to get in on the ground-level in the development and use of their app," he said.

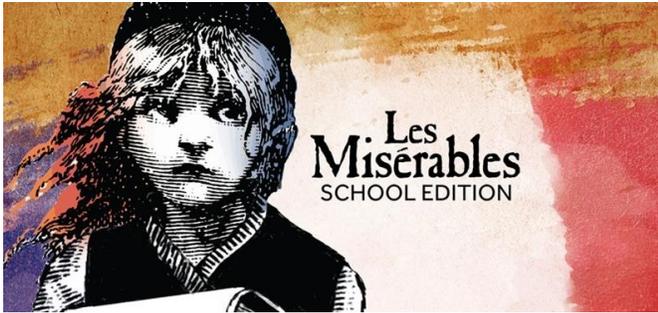
# MHS in the News

## Adaptive PE students take on the Warren Blue Devils

On December 8 students in the Adaptive Physical Education program hosted a basketball game against the Adaptive PE team from Warren Township High School. Last year, the MHS team traveled to Lake Forest High School for a similar game. This special occasion gives students the opportunity to display their skills in front of an enthusiastic crowd and to enjoy the camaraderie of working together as a team.



## Mundelein Theatre to present *Les Misérables*



Mundelein High School's Theatre Department will present the highly acclaimed musical, *Les Misérables*, Thursday and Friday, April 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 28 at 2 and 7 p.m. in the MHS Auditorium. Tickets are now available online at [www.mundeleintheatre.org](http://www.mundeleintheatre.org) or by phone at 847.949.2200, Extension 1409.

Winner of more than 100 international awards and seen by over 65 million people worldwide, *Les Misérables* is an uplifting story about the survival of the human spirit. This epic tale of broken dreams, passion and redemption is set against a nation in the throes of revolution, and features one of the most memorable scores of all time and some of the most memorable characters to ever grace the stage. An in-depth message from Director Jonathan Meier:

"*Les Misérables* is a show that I have been wanting to direct since I started teaching years ago. It is a wonderful show, an epic historical drama with some of the most popular songs ever written for the stage. It can also be difficult to produce. From a technical standpoint, it is usually done with a large set and many set changes. It is also a sung-through musical, meaning that there is no spoken dialogue. Fortunately, several years ago the publisher came out with a high school edition of the show, which has cut down the length a bit, without losing any songs or characters from the original, as well as changed the keys of certain songs to better suit younger voices. The biggest question the Mundelein Theatre staff had to consider when selecting *Les Mis* was whether or not we felt we had the voices in our department to handle the music. At the end of last year we met and determined that we did feel the time was right, and we announced at our end-of-the-year banquet that *Les Mis* would be the choice for 2018."

## It's 'On With the Show' for Super Seniors!

Mundelein High School's Super Senior Program is an opportunity for seniors who live in District 120 boundaries to enjoy a dinner with their peers served by MHS students and to attend sporting and fine arts events at no cost. The events are held several times throughout the school year.

Super Seniors was started 13 years ago by MHS Adult Education Director Joan Hornby to encourage Mundelein area seniors to become more involved in their community high school. All events are free to our seniors and are sponsored by student clubs at the school. Funding comes from sponsors, grants, and donations.

The seniors will next be treated to the Thursday, April 26 opening night performance of *Les Misérables*. Reservations may be made by calling 847.949.2200, Extension 1399 and leaving the name, address and phone number of each senior citizen who will be attending. Reservations must be made no later than one week before an event — reservations open beginning four weeks before the scheduled dinner/event. Again, attendees must be residents in the Mundelein High School District 120 to be eligible to attend.

"This is a great way for seniors in our District to interact with our students and also for them to enjoy performances and sporting events in support of their high school district," Hornby explained. "This is an absolutely lovely evening for both our seniors and our students," she said.

# MHS in the News

## Business Office moves to Annex during Spring Break

Mundelein High School's Business Office was moved during Spring Break to the former Kirk of the Lakes property which is now owned by District 120. This is expected to be the permanent home for the Business Office.

The five person staff, including Chief School Business Official, Andrew Searle, have moved into renovated offices at the building now referred to as "The Annex." All aspects of the office will be handled at the new location including payroll, personnel, human resources, payments, etc.

"There are definitely some advantages to the new location," Searle said. "If people have business to take care of only at the Business Office, they can park and enter right at the Annex and not have to park in the high school lot.," he explained.

"Another positive is that there is plenty of space to house our staff and files. The atmosphere will be much more conducive for



*Daily Herald photo by Paul Valade.*

office work," he said.

According to Searle, it won't be as easy for MHS staff to just "drop by" and it won't be as easy for business office staff to conduct our business at the main campus. The school bookstore will continue to be housed on the main campus for some bill payments and purchases.

## Groups combine to form single fundraising outlet



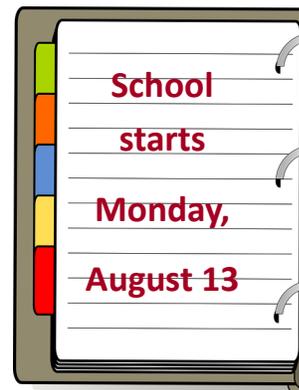
A new group has formed to be the "umbrella" for all fundraising activities throughout the school. Called the Mustang A+ Team, it is a combination of the Foundation, Booster Club, Academics, Arts, Athletics, Activities and Alumni. The new organization has tax deductible status and will help to broaden an individual groups fundraising reach and increase revenue for ALL organizations.

"This involves everyone working together for a common cause," said Lisa Johnson, group member. She explained that arts fundraisers will reach sports patrons, individual club fundraisers will reach alumni sponsors, etc. Another goal is to end the over-soliciting of local businesses who already contribute.

The group's motto is Together Everyone Accomplishes More [TEAM] and includes parents, students, staff, coaches, club sponsors and alumni. For more information or to join, contact Lisa Johnson at [Johnson.lj@comcast.net](mailto:Johnson.lj@comcast.net).

# 2018–2019 School Calendar

2018 Wednesday, August 8	Link Crew/Freshman Orientation
Thursday/Friday, Aug. 9 & 10	Teacher Institute Day-No School
Monday, August 13	First day of school for all students
Wednesday, August 29	Open House
Monday, September 3	Labor Day- No School
Friday, September 28	Half Day Teacher Institute Day-Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Friday, October 5	Homecoming-Special schedule
Monday, October 8	Columbus Day-No School
Thursday, October 25	Parent/Teacher Conferences-4 pm-7 pm
Friday, October 26	Parent/Teacher Conferences -9 am-2 pm. No Student Attendance
Friday, November 2	Half Day Teacher Institute Day-Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Wed/Thurs/Fri. Nov. 21, 22, 23	Thanksgiving Holiday-No School
Friday, December 7	Half Day Teacher Institute Day-Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Monday, December 17	Early Release-Student Dismissal at 1:40 pm
Tues/Wed/Thurs. Dec.18, 19, 20	Semester 1 Exams-Student Dismissal at 1 pm each day
Friday, December 21	Emergency Day: Classes will be in session if a school day is cancelled prior to 12/20/18
Mon, Dec. 24-Monday, Jan. 7	Winter Break 2019
Monday, January 7	Teacher Institute Day-No School
Tuesday, January 8	School Resumes-1st day of Semester 2
Monday, January 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day-No School
Friday, February 1	Teacher Institute Day-No School
Friday, February 15	Half Day Teacher Institute Day-Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Monday, February 18	Presidents' Day-No School-Emergency Day: Classes will be in session if a school day is cancelled prior to 2/18/19
Thursday, March 7	Parent/Teacher Conferences-4 pm-7 pm Friday; 1:40 pm student dismissal
March 8	Parent/Teacher Conferences -9 am-2 pm. No Student Attendance
Monday, March 25-Fri. March 29	Spring Break
Monday, April 1	School Resumes
Friday, April 12	Half Day Teacher Institute Day-Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Friday, April 19	No School
Friday, May 3	Half Day Teacher Institute Day—Student Dismissal at 11:25 am
Sunday, May 12	Graduation, 3 pm, Sears Centre Arena, Hoffman Estates, IL
Thursday, May 16	Early Release-Student Dismissal at 1:40 pm
Fri/Mon/Tues, May 17, 20, 21	Semester 2 Final Exams-Student Dismissal at 1 pm each day
May 22, 23, 24	Emergency Days Dates are subject to change



**Late Start (classes begin at 9:25 am) every Thursday, except on Semester/Final Exam Days**

**Mundelein High School District 120**  
**1350 W Hawley ST**  
**Mundelein, IL 60060**



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