

# The MHS Messenger

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

September 2018



## Introducing the new Messenger

For decades the *MHS Messenger* has been a strategic way for District 120 to keep its students, parents and communities up to date about the programs, policies and people at Mundelein High School. It has gone through a number of transitions over the decades always trying to provide timely, relevant material for our readers. This is another move to keep up with the times and to deliver our message in easily available online publication. Plan to receive the newsletter in your email and also look for it on our website under "About Us."

## Calvin Terrell leads Institute in focus on Equity; to meet with community/students Sept. 4, 5, 6



Two years ago the Board of Education and Administration worked together to develop three core values for Mundelein High School students and staff to adopt. Those core values are Equity, Growth and Collaboration. Since their adoption staff has been involved in research, discussion and In-Service time learning how these core values will impact school life on a daily basis.

The focus this year will be on Equity. It begs the question, do all students at Mundelein High School have an equal opportunity to excel, fit in and be successful? It may be a tall order!

To begin work in the area of equity, MHS brought in speaker Calvin Terrell for a day of In-Service with the MHS staff. Some of the comments about the day included "Inspiring," "Awesome," "Best In-Service ever!" "Fantastic," "Bring him back!," "Give us more Calvin!"

And bringing him back is exactly what MHS officials are doing. Terrell will be available for members of the community on the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 4, from 6:30 to 8:00 pm in the MHS Auditorium. Also on both Sept. 5 and 6 he will meet with students according to class.

MHS student athletes met Terrell last year at the North Suburban Conference Athletic Leadership Conference in August 2017. It was from these student recommendations that Terrell was invited to speak at Mundelein High School.

Staff members see this as an excellent way to continue with his message and for the high school family to work together toward all three core values of equity, growth and collaboration. Terrell is founder and lead facilitator of Social Centric; an organization he designed to provide education and training for all ages to enhance human interactions and global progress. He is a former Assistant Director of the National Conference for Community Justice/ USA Arizona Region. He has taught for Upward Bound at Arizona State University and the Arizona National Guard's Freedom Academy. For more than twenty years, Terrell has lectured, trained, and lead comprehensive workshops for valuing diversity, equity, and justice building in schools, corporations, and civic organizations for thousands of adults, children, and youth throughout the United States.

### Slight change in school calendar for conferences, testing

Several changes have been made to the current school-year calendar to assist with both Parent-Teacher Conferences and testing. The following have been proposed:

Additional ½ days for Parent Contact and Staff Work Time

September 21 and February 22

State Testing in the Spring (April 9 and April 10)

Grades 10 and 11 will be tested April 9

Grades 9 and 11 will be tested April 10

April 10 will not be a day of attendance for instruction

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## Staff to experience A.L.I.C.E. training throughout the year

Schools are taking major steps towards preparing their students and staffs for any possible emergencies. During Spring Break last year and then during the summer nine members of the staff trained to become certified ALICE instructors. Next, the entire staff will be trained.

"This isn't something we can take lightly," said Cathy Schmidt, head of security at MHS. "We aren't looking the other way or thinking it could never happen here ... we're being proactive and ready if an unfortunate incident would happen at MHS."

The ALICE program is a change in the way people were taught to respond to a crisis. For many years, students and staff were taught to "hide" under desks, chairs, tables, etc. in a locked room during what is called a 'lockdown.' The current ALICE advice is to include getting out of the building, if possible.

"If someone is shooting in the D-Wing it doesn't make sense for people in the far B-Wing to hide—they should get out of the building and run to safety," Schmidt explained.

The letters ALICE refer to Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate. This is the newer thinking about responses to danger in any public place. "The goal is to get out alive," Schmidt said.

MHS staff have already begun the first portions of the training that will be ongoing. An informational meeting was held on Aug. 23 to introduce the new philosophy and to understand the goals and expected outcomes of the training.

From now until September 27 staff members will participate in what ALICE calls E-Learning. It will involve a series of videos with scenarios, discussions and quizzes to test the effectiveness of the training.

Next, actual drills will be conducted with the staff beginning with the first one on Sept. 28 with the main goal of learning how to survive a violent, critical incident. The drills will be as realistic as possible so people understand what options they might have in a crisis. Later, administrators and team leaders will play the actual roles that they have in the event of a real emergency.

The staff members who took the ALICE training already include Rahul Sethna, business education instructor; Larry Calhoun, fine and applied arts department chair; Troy Parola, athletic director; Kevin Quinn, director of operations and maintenance; Chris Sellers, security; Meghan Bargar, dean of students; Paul Thatcher, dean of students; and Schmidt.

Officer Steve Balogh, school resource officer at MHS also completed the training with Mundelein Police Department Staff.

Mundelein High School has partnered on a grant opportunity with District 75, the Village of Mundelein, and the Mundelein Police Department to acquire funds for a school safety project. Combined, Mundelein High School and District 75 have applied for \$330,000 in grant funds. Mundelein High School's main priority for these funds, if awarded, will be to upgrade the main entrance. The goal will be to make the main entrance more

secure. MHS administration will be conducting site visits at surrounding schools this year to help guide the decision-making process.

## NSC establishes Hate Speech protocol

Starting with the 2018-2019 School year, the North Suburban Conference has established a formal policy as to how all schools in the NSC will handle Hate Speech issues. This will establish consistency throughout the conference so that coaches, players, parents and officials will understand exactly what the conditions and consequences are when Hate Speech is used in NSC Athletic Contests. Parents, athletes, coaches and administrators have all been briefed on the policy.

In essence, this is the procedure for all NSC athletic programs to deal with future incidents of Hate Speech:

1. Tell the coach what happened.
2. If officiated, coach tells official and play stops. Teams to benches. Official meets with alleged offender and opposing coach.
3. If no official, coach tells coach of alleged offender, who speaks with his/her athlete.
4. If admittance, ejection from contest, suspension for next contest and will be subject to the individual school's discipline policies and procedures for the use of hate speech. If no admittance, reminder of further consequences.
5. Target informed and told to continue telling coach if it continues. Coach continues to inform official and opposing coach but play does not stop.
6. Coaches inform AD's within 24 hours. The AD's will meet directly with any athlete identified as possibly using hate speech or alleging the use of hate speech. If nothing said until after team is gone, coach informs AD who tells other AD. Both AD's meet with student-athletes and communicate back to the other AD of their findings. The AD's inform NSC President of incident who documents in the NSC Hate Speech Incident Log.



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## Meet Sol Cabachuela ...

### Parent Liaison to enhance communication with our MHS families

Sol Cabachuela is a 2004 graduate of Mundelein High School, she is the new Parent Liaison for the school and she was also



recently selected as a 2018 Distinguished Alumni Honoree. [See Page 4 for separate story] For Cabachuela, MHS has been a big part of her life for a long time!

Cabachuela is filling a much needed position at MHS called Parent Liaison. She will be the first contact for many people in the front office, particularly our Latino families. She is fluent in both English and Spanish.

So what types of thing does a Parent Liaison do? For starters, she is located in the main office and is available to anyone who needs information in Spanish. She is also the new staff member working with Universidad de Padres.

That's just the start, however. Cabachuela has plans for establishing a strong relationship with many of our partners in Mundelein.

"Reaching out to Lake County organizations like Mano a Mano and others is a great way for students in our school to connect with others in the community," she explained. And she doesn't think it should stop there.

"I plan to get out and create partnerships with local churches, the police, village officials, etc.. I truly believe it takes a village."

Another major responsibility that Cabachuela has is to be the liaison with the feeder schools and with the new Parent Am-

bassadors group. Now in its third year, the group has helped to welcome new freshmen and their families to Mundelein High School. They are a group of volunteers who provide information to eighth grade classes, assist

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—Sol Cabachuela

with freshman orientation at the high school, as well as football/soccer games and others. "We want all of our families to feel they are an equal part of the Mundelein High School Family," Cabachuela said.

Recently the Ambassadors hosted an annual Cookout for all students and families. It's the sense of belonging that is important for our families.

Cabachuela remembers her days as a student at MHS when there weren't a whole lot of resources available to students from other cultures.

"I was the first member of our family to be born in the USA and my parents struggled sometimes with school-related issues," the new liaison explained.

"But I worked hard at helping us all feel comfortable and I ended up loving MHS—it feels almost like a 'home' for me. I'm so excited to be back at MHS!"

"There are many great things ahead for Mundelein High School and the community has already come to appreciate the work that Sol is doing on their behalf," said Superintendent Kevin Myers. "The lines of communication will continue to be open and to grow for all of our families."





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## Public invited to share in Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

This year's Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner will be held on Homecoming Weekend, Saturday, Oct. 6, beginning at 6:30 pm at the DoubleTree Hotel in Mundelein. Another 10 graduates will be inducted and celebrated for their accomplishments after leaving MHS. Tickets for the event may be purchased for \$50 by clicking the shopping cart in the upper right corner of the website.

The following alum will be presented with their awards and also speak to the audience at the dinner:

**Sol Cabachuela**, Class of 2004: Parent Liaison at MHS, Mundelein Village Clerk, Former Senior Merchandising

**Analyst at Walgreen's Headquarters**, President of the Mundelein Latino Police Academy, mentor for Kids Hope USA, Chapel Infant Ministry.

**Steve Figved**, Class of 1967: Chief Administrator for Will County 911 Emergency Telephone System; previous experiences as fire chief for Bartlett and Barrington fire departments; charter member and president of the MHS Foundation.

**Mark Knigge**, Class of 1966: Retired from Abbott Laboratories as cell and molecular biologist; Village of Wauconda Park District Commissioner, Trustee and Mayor; published in Journal of Science regarding HIV Aids research and discovery of a new Hepatitis Virus, President of Lake County Municipal League and Liaison to Great Lakes Naval Base.

**Sean McNanie**, Class of 1979: Third Round Draft pick by the Buffalo Bills football team, also played for the Arizona Cardinals and Indianapolis Colts, Current President/CEO of Patriot West Constructors; Chairman/CEO/President of SLM Consulting and Management, participates yearly in Aspen Grassroots Experience in Aspen, CO which provides funding for at-risk youth from across the country.

**Merry Quinn-Krajniak**, Class of 1981: Regional Director for Vicariate I within Office of Catholic Schools in the Archdiocese of Chicago, experience at several Lake County high schools as teacher, counselor, student services director, assistant principal and assistant superintendent, One Million Degrees Volunteer Coach, Board member at First Christian Church, CROP Walk participant, raising money for food pan-



**Brigadier General James Swanson, MHS Class of 1967 and honored in last year's ceremony will be the speaker at this year's Veterans Day Assembly Nov. 9.**

tries and the homeless.

**Randall Schenck**, Class of 2004: Director of Quality Assurance, Medline Industries, Inc., served as a US Army Sniper Section Leader/Illinois Marksmanship Team Captain Chicago, 2013 Federal Employee of the Year, Received Purple Heart for Meritorious Service, President's Volunteer Service Award, Senior Vice Commander VFW; American Legion member, Lake County Lightning Youth Baseball Head Coach.

**Juniper Simonis**, Class of 2002: DAPPER State founder/owner and lead scientist, Edanz Editing, expert language editor, Lincoln Park Zoo Adjunct Scientist, Course Instructor at Cornell University, numerous learned writings in the field along with research grants and projects, Rose City Rollers, Inc. skater, junior team coach, trainer, training committee member, Lamont C. Cole Award, Dept. of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Cornell University.

**Brad Steele**, Class of 1977: Captain of the Boeing 747-400 with Kalitta Air, LLC, flying all types of cargo worldwide, flies military cargo charters in and out of Afghanistan, enjoyed a long naval career in many capacities including the Diplomatic Corp and Foreign Services assigned to Saudi Arabia and throughout the Middle East, Commanding Officer of VC-8 in Puerto Rico, retired after 28 years of service on the USS Missouri berthed at Pearl Harbor.

**Scott Verschoor**, Class of 1984: The Wharton School, executive leadership development and life sciences at KPMG, President for Life Sciences Practice at Model N, senior manager at Deloitte Consulting, director at Sallie Mae, systems manager for General Motors Account at Electronic Data Systems, Chair of the Board of Trustees at the Music Institute of Chicago.

**Steven Wilson**, Class of 1975: Math instructor at the Christian International School of Prague, Prague, Czech Republic, has taught mathematics at the junior high, high school and collegiate level. Assistant Chair of Mathematics at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, KS, named Professor Emeritus there in 2017, served as a Bible teacher in Kansas City, MO and in Lawrence, KS.



**2017 Distinguished Alumni Honorees**