

THE MESSENGER



www.d120.org

847.949.2200

Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Kevin Myers, Superintendent, Districts 75 and 120

Back in August, I reported to you about the positive results with which we ended the last school year. We were eager to build on our success. I'm proud to tell you that our progress has continued and it's noticeable in the students' accomplishments since the start of the school year.

In October, the College Board honored Mundelein High School with a Bronze recognition on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll after outstanding scores by many of our seniors on Advanced Placement exams.

In November, 10 juniors received national recognition as a result of their PSAT/NMSQT test scores. Five other juniors applied and were accepted into a very selective Northwestern Medicine health care program.

Just this month 10 students reported to the School Board about internships they landed through the MHS Career Pathways program. And another continuing part of our Career Pathways program includes an opportunity for students who want to become teachers to spend time working with children in D75 classrooms. These kinds of programs offer students real-life experiences so they can make informed decisions about what they want to do after graduation.

More than a few of our students are earning recognition. These accomplishments span across a wide range of our student population. The College Board's Bronze rating shows that MHS is committed to access and excellence for all students through its Advanced Placement Program. At MHS, nearly half of our seniors took at least one Advanced Placement exam and 43 percent scored a 3 or higher on at least one exam, no easy task for the level of difficulty.

The remarkable level of achievement reached by MHS students continues to demonstrate the high quality education students receive at MHS. We continue to be ranked among the top high schools in the nation. U.S. News and World Report again recognized MHS as one the best high schools in the nation (for the fifth year in a row).

As we near the halfway point of our 2023-24 school year, it's evident that we're on the right track.

* * *

On another note, the School Board on Dec. 5 decided to not place a building referendum on the March ballot, opting instead to look toward the November general election. Their intention was to further refine the plans following the public input we've received and to better inform the community about the proposal over the next year. Work would begin on the project in the spring of 2025 regardless of whether the issue passed in March or November of 2024.

News from the District 120 office

College Board honors MHS for its AP programs

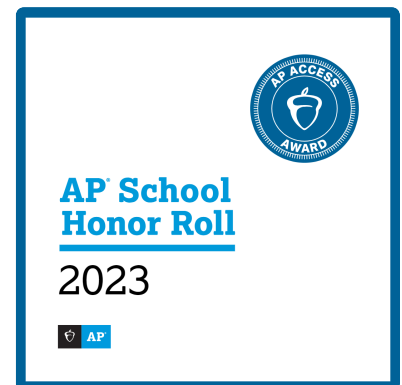
The College Board honored Mundelein High School with a Bronze recognition on the 2023 AP School Honor Roll.

The AP School Honor Roll recognizes schools whose AP programs are delivering results for students while broadening access for such achievement to all students. Schools earn this recognition based on criteria that reflect a commitment to increasing college-going culture, providing opportunities for students to earn college credit and maximizing college readiness.

The bronze recognition was an outstanding commendation and shows that MHS is committed to access and excellence for all students through its Advanced Placement Program. It means that MHS is preparing students for a future of unlimited possibilities, said Stacey Gorman, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning.

"It opens a lot of doors for kids," Gorman said. "We've removed all barriers for students to challenge themselves. They're stretching themselves."

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



MHS again ranked among best high schools

Mundelein High School was once again listed among the Best High Schools in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. It was the fifth straight year MHS has been honored with this recognition.



U.S. News ranks high schools on various factors including: college readiness, college curriculum breadth, math and reading proficiency, math and reading performance and graduation rate.



School Board eyes November referendum

The Mundelein District 120 School Board on Dec. 5 did not vote to place a facilities referendum on the March ballot, but agreed by consensus to place the question before voters at the general election in November 2024.

The Board's Finance and Facilities Committee had recommended waiting until November, citing a need to provide more time for public input and to further refine the proposed projects. Changing the timing of the ballot issue to the fall would not change the timing of the project should it pass.



The District will continue to work through the details and refine the plan which includes:

- Safety and security improvements such as updated fire safety systems, secure entrances, access control and improved sightlines and circulation.
- Infrastructure improvements, such as repairing and replacing outdated, inefficient mechanical, electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems.
- Academic improvements such as adding classrooms and creating a properly sized place for the Career and Technical Education program.
- Expansion of common areas such as kitchen and dining areas.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

MHS students receive national academic recognition

Ten Mundelein High School students are receiving national recognition from their PSAT/NMSQT testing. MHS will honor the students with an Academic Awards Breakfast on Nov. 16.



In addition to the National Merit Scholarship, academic honors are awarded to underrepresented students through the College Board's national recognition programs. Juniors are eligible if they score in the top 10 percent on the PSAT/NMSQT by state in the eligible exam periods. Juniors are also eligible if they score a 3 or higher on two or more distinct AP exams in the eligible exam periods. Additionally, these students must have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

Images from Veterans Day 2023



Veterans Day Breakfast



MHS flag display



Students honor Veterans

Four band students selected for All State honors

Music students and bands led by Directors Andy Sturgeon and Jerry Shelato, continue to pick up honors and earn select performance opportunities.

In December, MHS students Lisa Choi (French Horn), Chloe Langford (Jazz Trombone), Martin Palacios (Clarinet) and Mariana Van Eycke (Trombone) were presented All-State honors by the Illinois Music Education Association (ILMEA).



Less than two months earlier, nearly two dozen MHS musicians were named to the ILMEA District 7 Honors Ensembles. These students, representing band, choir, orchestra and jazz band, are considered in the top 5 percent of performers. *(details at link in picture below)*

These individual honors are the result of students preparing upwards of five musical excerpts that are performed for judges across the state. Achieving a place in district ensembles is an

accomplishment on par with an athletic team advancing to state sectionals - making it a rare honor.

For the third time in nine years, the MHS Jazz Ensemble was selected to perform at the Illinois Music Education Conference in Peoria. The ensemble will perform for hundreds of music educators and students from across the state at the IMEC conference on Jan. 26. It's an honor to be chosen since the selection process for the IMEC includes recording submissions from ensembles across the state. *(details at link in picture below)*

The MHS Jazz Ensemble also performed at the Illinois Association of School Boards Joint Annual Conference in Chicago in November - school board members across the state watched - and listened - as MHS students entertained at the conference.



Sept.
[Jazz Ensemble performs at Music Ed Conference](#)



Oct.
[ILMEA District 7 honorees](#)



Nov.
Jazz Ensemble performs at the IL School Boards Conference



Students accepted to Northwestern health program

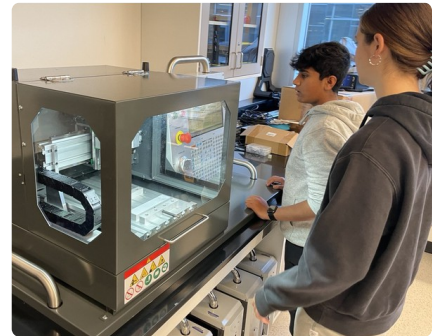
Five Mundelein High School juniors were accepted into the selective Northwestern Medicine GCM Grosvenor Program. The program received 150 applications, but only 40 high school students from Lake were chosen.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

TMA grant brings desktop mill to MHS

Mundelein High School is celebrating a significant achievement as one of its teachers has been awarded a generous \$15,000 grant from Technology & Manufacturing Association (TMA) in Schaumburg. This grant enabled the school to purchase a state-of-the-art desktop mill, greatly enhancing the resources available to students in the manufacturing and engineering career pathways.

The grant serves as a testament to the teacher's commitment to fostering innovation and providing students with hands-on experiences in the field. It's a promising development that will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the education and future careers of Mundelein High School's aspiring engineers and manufacturers.



Spanish students visit elementary dual language classrooms

A few years ago, when David Martinez Sanchez was a student at Mechanics Grove, he remembers being nervous when high school students visited as part of a Spanish Pen Pal program.

In November, the Mundelein High School sophomore was back at MG, this time to visit his fifth-grade pen pal. He was one of more than 100 MHS Spanish Heritage students who visited MG third- and fifth-graders, half in the morning and half in an afternoon session.

The program is designed to help young dual language students at MG by connecting them with high school students whose first language is also Spanish. The MHS students sent postcards to their younger counterparts in September, and the MG students responded by sending postcards of their own to the older kids. The program will be repeated in February with another postcard exchange, so the students will be able to develop an ongoing relationship.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



Board News & Notes

The District 120 Board of Education values communication and transparency. We will be publishing "District 120 News & Notes" after our regular Board of Education meetings and if/as other opportunities arise in order to keep our community informed and connected. News & Notes will focus on actions taken and highlights from administration presentations.



MUNDELEIN
HIGH SCHOOL

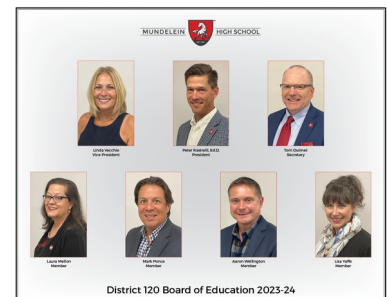
CTE and Career Pathways presentation

MHS staff along with 10 students presented an update on the Career and Technical Education program and discussed experiences with Career Pathways programs. Staff outlined five objectives and correlating strategies that expose students to a range of college and career options, allow them to explore career pathways, and help to make their education experiential. The benefit of adding an internship coordinator position at MHS was highlighted as students talked about finding internship positions in a number of fields from education to healthcare.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

D120 Board recognized for effective governance

The District 120 Board of Education was once again recognized for effective governance by the Illinois Association of School Boards. The School Board has held this recognition since first receiving it in 2017. The honor means the Board meets the foundational principles of effective governance.



FY2024 budget available on the D120 website

School District 120's Fiscal Year 2024 budget is posted on the D120 website along with other financial reports and documents.

To review the FY2024 budget or other financial information, [VISIT OUR BUSINESS PAGE HERE](#).



MUNDELEIN
HIGH SCHOOL

Mustang Pride Award monthly winners

The award recognizes students for demonstrating one of our Profile of a Learner tenets: Agile; Self-Assured; Proactive; Information-Seeking; Resilient; and Empathetic.



September
Mustang Pride Award recipients



October
Mustang Pride Award recipients



November
Mustang Pride Award recipients



December
Mustang Pride Award recipients

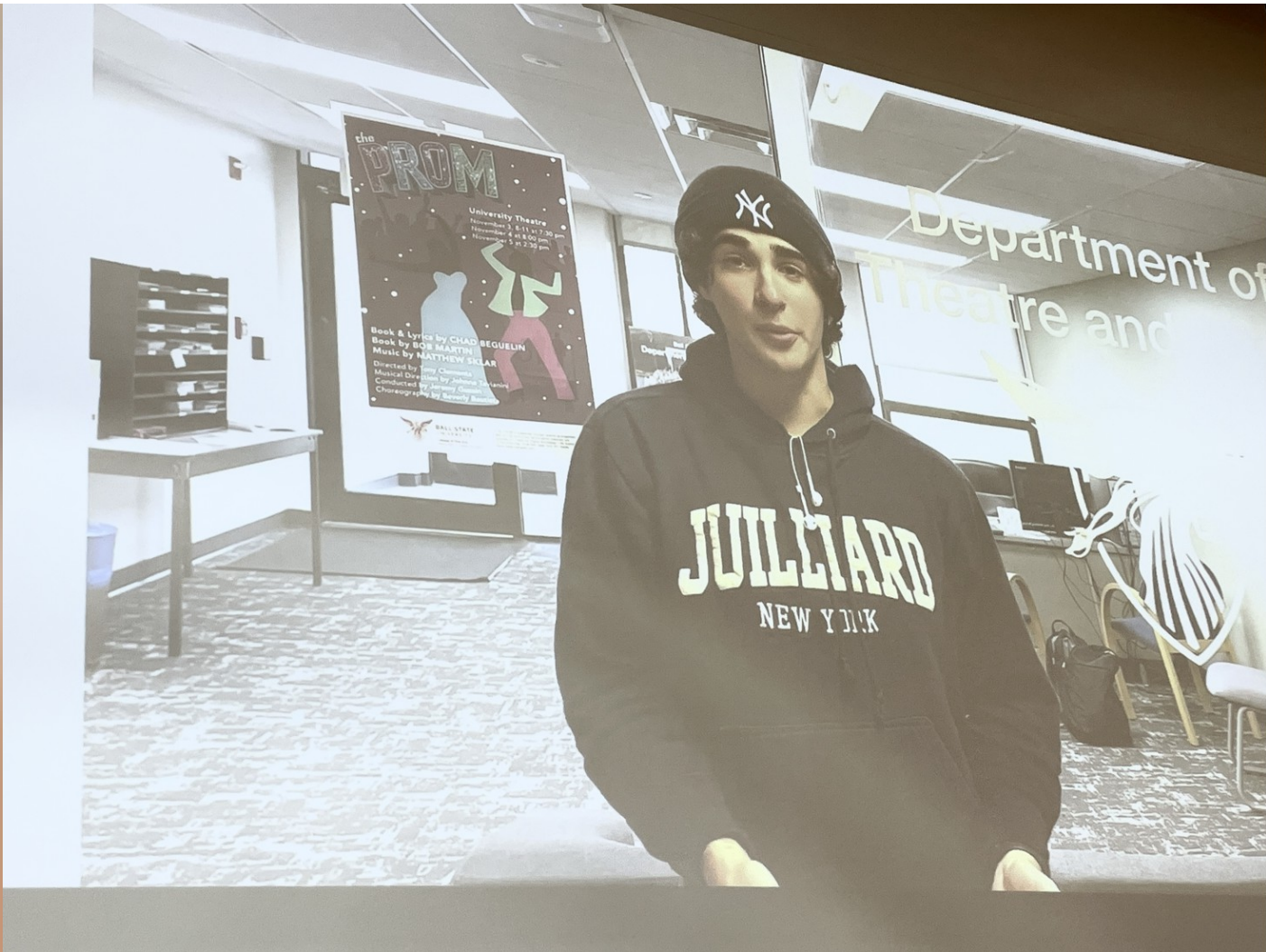
Upcoming Dates to Note

- Tuesday, Jan. 9 - School resumes
- Saturday, Jan. 13 - Robotics Tournament
- Wednesday, Jan. 17 - Jazz Concert
- Friday, Jan. 26 - Late start
- Tuesday, Feb. 13 - College Planning Night
- Thursday, Feb. 15 - Honors Band Concert
- Monday, Feb. 19 - No School
- Friday, March 1 - Mr. Mustang
- Saturday, March 2 - Winter Dance
- Thursday, March 7 - Winter Choral Concert
- Saturday, March 9 - MHS Jazz Invite
- Wednesday, March 13 - Faculty Variety Show
- Friday, March 15 - Late Start
- Thursday, March 21 - Band Concert
- Monday March 25 - Friday March 29 - SPRING BREAK



Student assemblies feature returning alumni





Peter Gill

Director of Public Relations