

THE MESSENGER



www.d120.org

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Message from the Superintendent



Dr. Kevin Myers, Superintendent, Districts 75 and 120

In early February, our students and staff rose to the occasion when CBS-2 spotlighted Mundelein High School during their news broadcasts.

This was a great opportunity for the entire Chicagoland area to see some of the wonderful programs and activities at MHS in addition to showcasing our talented students and the pride they have for their high school.

It was impressive to see our Jazz Ensemble playing in front of the TV cameras at 6:45 a.m. and to have our main gym filled with band members, cheerleaders and members of our many clubs and activities by 7:15 a.m. These students brought high energy to our early-morning pep rally. Students, staff and administrators spoke on-camera about all the amazing things MHS has to offer. From robotics to choir, and art to swimming, CBS-2 featured many aspects of our school throughout the day.

It was not only a reminder of all the amazing things happening here on a daily basis, but it was great to see the students' excitement and pride as they talked about their school.

Less than a week after being featured on television, our Leadership Team presented a Mid-Year Review to our School Board. The team showed the Board how MHS is demonstrating progress toward meeting strategic goals such as expanding equitable access to advanced courses and growing our grouping of classes that put students on a path toward specific careers.

There are other bright spots as well. Our earned honors program is having a positive impact. We have 107 students who would not have earned honors based on their eighth-grade test scores. But these students are earning honors credits this year. We also are expanding our Career Pathways program, working toward quadrupling the number of endorsed career pathways in the next four

years. Students following a path toward a specific career will take classes such as Introduction to teaching, engineering, graphic arts, construction and more. We want our students to not only succeed, but to begin working toward their future goals as soon as possible.

Our students continue to “Find their AND,” by participating in any of our clubs, activities and athletics. We’ve seen improved academic success from students who belong to an MHS organization. The evidence is there: All nine of our fall varsity team sports teams were recognized with the IHSA Team Academic Achievement Award for maintaining a grade point average of 3.0 or higher throughout their season. Hats off to our boys cross country, football, boys golf, boys soccer, girls cross country, girls golf, girls swim/dive, girls tennis and girls volleyball teams - you make us proud.

It’s never been a better time to be a Mustang. And we’re getting better all the time.

In order to continue providing opportunities for our students to succeed, we need to upgrade our facilities. From our mechanical systems and cafeteria to additional classrooms, the needs are many. You’ll continue to hear more and more about the updated facilities plans as the summer turns to fall. Please watch our website for updates and opportunities to find answers to your questions.

News from MHS

Author reveals research, writing process to MHS students

When author Candace Fleming writes about murder and other true crimes, you can be sure of two things: that she’s very passionate about her subject; and that the story is 100 percent factual. Yet the author is quick to explain that she is not a fact-teller.

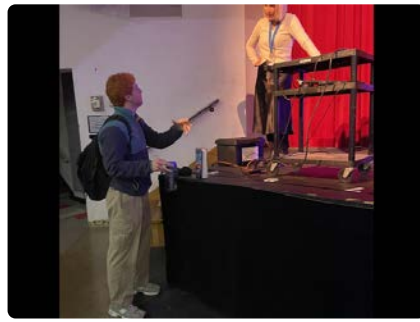
“I am a storyteller. I just happen to tell stories that are 100 percent true,” Fleming told students at Mundelein High School on Wednesday morning.

Fleming spoke to students in the MHS Auditorium during three separate presentations at the request of MHS Library Information Specialist Rebecca Plaza. While Fleming has written many children’s books, she also has authored several books on true crimes. It’s a hot topic for teenage readers and Fleming was thrilled to get a chance to speak to the students.

She also likes writing for them.

“Teens are open-minded,” she explained in between presentations. “But because they have a limited perspective, you have to provide more context they may not have.”

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



MHS senior creates backdrop for middle school musical

When Carl Sandburg Band Director Moulee Gupta was searching for a backdrop for the school's annual musical, "Descendants," she hoped to find something special to match the enthusiasm her students were putting into the show.

"It was just about finding the right people to make the magic come alive," she said.

The right people, it turned out, were at nearby Mundelein High School. She first talked to Mundelein Theatre Director Jonathan Meier who put her in touch with the MHS Art Department staff. It turns out they had a student, senior Jaxon Wasseluk, who had painted the scenery for last spring's MHS musical, "In the Heights."

When Moulee reached out to Jaxon, he was surprised but excited.

"I hoped someone would notice what I did for In the Heights, but I didn't expect much from it," he said. "So when she contacted me about Descendants I was super-excited."

Jaxon, who has taken just about every art class available at MHS and plans to study art in college next year, was not only a big fan of the Disney musical, but has a strong interest in street art.

This was another opportunity to meld his interests.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



CBS-2 Spotlight



Staff, students show Mundy Pride for TV cameras

We played host to special visitors on Feb. 9 who shined the spotlight on Mundelein High school throughout Chicagoland.

Reporters from CBS-2 spent much of the day at MHS, arriving before 7 a.m. and staying until 6 p.m. The station featured Mundelein High School as part of its SPOTLIGHT series. They promoted our award-winning Show Choir, Robotics team, swimming and diving teams and much more.

These live segments were relatively short, but the school was featured every 15 minutes during the morning news broadcast and again during the evening news.

Students, staff and administrators spoke on-camera about all the amazing things MHS has to offer and did their best to show off our Mundy Pride.

Enjoy these short segments that were broadcast and posted online by CBS-2:

[Mundy Pride at MHS](#)

[Pep Rally](#)

[State Walk](#)

[Science](#)

[Show Choir](#)

[Girl's Basketball](#)

[Boy's Swimming](#)

[Boys' Basketball](#)

[Boys and Girls Soccer](#)

[Universidad de Padres](#)



MHS senior earns Evans Scholarship

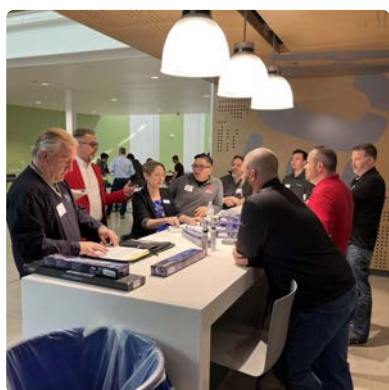
MHS senior Sergio Rodriguez has earned the prestigious Chick Evans Scholarship for golf caddies that covers tuition and housing for all four years. He will be attending the University of Illinois-Chicago next year.

The Evans Scholars Foundation awards full tuition and housing scholarships to high-achieving caddies with limited financial means. Evans Scholars are selected on the basis of a strong caddie record, excellent grades, outstanding character and demonstrated financial need.

“Sergio has impressed me with his academic abilities, leadership skills, and commitment to helping others succeed,” MHS teacher Nicole Malham wrote in her nomination letter. “Sergio displays a high level of maturity and responsibility. He takes initiative in volunteering his free time to tutor younger AVID students. Sergio is always polite, respectful, and engaged in the classroom. He is a strong role model for his peers.”

Established in 1930 by the Western Golf Association and celebrated amateur golfer Charles “Chick” Evans, Jr., the Foundation administers the nation’s largest scholarship program for caddies.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)



MHS organizes first county-wide team-based challenge for trades

About 30 MHS students attended the first Lake County Manufacturing, Engineering, Technology and Trades Team-Based Challenge Event on March 19. Mundelein High School organized the event which included more than 100 students from nine Lake County high schools.

Industry partners also attended the event and worked with teams of students to solve one of five problem scenarios. The students use skills learned in class to solve a real-life scenario that’s connected to industry. The categories were carpentry, electrical, automated assembly, children’s furniture and manufacturing.

This event fulfills the state-mandated Pathway framework of offering two team-based challenges within a student pathway. For many of our students, this was their first of two team-based challenges that they will complete in order to earn their pathway completion.

The event also brought in over 30 industry professionals from all over northern Illinois to mentor and work with each of the students on their proposals. Thanks to the following industry partners: Larsen Manufacturing, Meyer & Sons, LMT Onsrud, Laser Precision, Scot Forge, CLC Construction Services, Aldridge Electric, PolyClip, Eirich Machines, Kelso-Burnett and Fischer Paper Products.

MHS students experience realistic healthcare work

About two dozen MHS students in February visited with Northwestern Medicine’s training staff at Lake Forest Hospital. The students spent about three hours speaking with health care professionals about career opportunities and then taking part in a highly interactive hands-on series of medical rotations.

The students learned how to insert IV’s, intubate mannequin “patients,” administer medicine and treat patients in trauma care.

“It was really fantastic for them to experience,” said Alex Kapotas, MHS Career Exploration and Internship Coordinator. “This was experiential learning and it provided context to their learning. This wasn’t something they could learn in a book. It was about as real as it can get.”

While students were working with mannequins and not real patients, their “patients” still were able to breathe, speak, bleed and register a pulse.

The students also noticed the attitudes among the healthcare professionals, Kapotas said. “Everyone who worked there was happy to be there. The students need to see people who have passion for their jobs,” he said.

MHS students also visited Grayslake North High School in March for a similar program with Endeavor Health and are scheduled to visit Advocate Condell Medical Center’s trauma center on April 19.



School Board News

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.

Impact Fees Resolution - **Board Approved**

The School Board approved a resolution that calls for municipalities to use a widely recognized industry-standard formula for projecting student growth in new developments when setting developer impact fees. The approach is designed to shield the Mundelein tax base from



MUNDELEIN
HIGH SCHOOL

unwarranted strain of residential developments while upholding the District's commitment to high educational standards.

[READ THE FULL STORY HERE](#)

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.



February
Mustang Pride Award recipients



March
Mustang Pride Award recipients

University of Louisville Jazz Faculty Visits MHS

The Louisville University Jazz faculty visit our Jazz Orchestra and our Jazz Ensemble on March 12. They listened to our groups perform, and the MHS students listened as the faculty played. Students and teachers then broke off into small group lessons. It was a unique experience for our students.

They also received this spontaneous compliment from one of the visiting faculty members:

"There's this feeling that is somewhat rare in a young ensemble," he told the Jazz Ensemble. "It's a feeling of community that I'm getting. The horns and rhythm section have a rare integration in listening to each other. You guys are just playing together fabulously. It's impressive."



Musicians Wall

Mundelein High School now has a space that honors our All-State Musicians from past to present. The wall is located just outside of the auditorium and gymnasium. It's another one of many ways that our students feel seen and honored.



Common Ground

We're proud of our diversity at Mundelein High School and on March 19 we celebrated with our 6th Annual "Common Ground" cultural fair. The event was open to students all day and contained booths with cultural artifacts, music and cultural dances. Evening events included an international



Upcoming Dates to Note

- Monday, April 1 - School resumes
- Wednesday, Thursday, April 10-11 - State Testing/Special Schedule
- Monday, April 8 - Solar Eclipse/Special Schedule
- Friday, April 12 - Annual Career Fair & Job Expo
- Saturday, April 13 - El Baile 2024
- Friday, May 3 - Prom/Special Schedule
- Saturday, May 4 - SAT Test Administration
- Tuesday, May 14 - Senior Honors Night
- Wednesday, May 15 - Last Day for Seniors
- Thursday, May 16 - Senior Cap/Gown Pickup
- Sunday, May 19 - Graduation
- Wednesday, May 22 - Special Schedule
- Thursday, Friday, May 23-24 - Semester 2 Finals
- Tuesday-Friday, May 28-31 - Emergency Days (if needed)



* See [our website](#) for details on these and other important dates

Student assembly focuses on self-care

MHS students gathered on Feb. 29 (Leap Day) for a program on Resilience and Self-Care.



Special guest speaker Ashley M Cullen-Williams from Honey



"R-E-S-I-L-I-E-N-C-E"



Students work together to form letters across the gym

B Wellz speaks about
Resilience and Self-Care.



Peter Gill

Director of Public Relations