

# For the Parents, Students, Staff & Community of Middletown High School

# Middletown High School

Main Office 240-236-7400 Fax Number 240-236-7450

Principal

Denise Fargo-Devine

Assistant Principals
Lee Jeffrey
Chris Bittner

Guidance Department
Sue Mentzer-Blair
Caitlin Eckert
Brad George
Paula Langley

School Support Teacher Kevin Lynott

Website mhs.fcps.org



# Principal's Message

Dear Parents (Staff and Students),

Thank you for your continued support of Middletown High School and all that we do with and for our students. It's great to see so many of you at Back-to-School Night, competitions, parades, boosters' meetings and other events and functions. As Term One draws to a close, there are several things I'd like to highlight.

<u>Student Achievement</u>: Access your child's (children's) grades through Pinnacle at least once per week. Better yet sign up for automatic updates/alerts. Look for missing work or grades and inquire about them through the teacher. Teachers are available to meet with parents or to work with students right after school.

If you are the parent of a ninth-, 10th- or 11th-grade student, ask your student or his/her counselor to view his/her four-year plan (developed in grade eight). Make adjustments as appropriate. If you have questions or need a counselor to meet with you, please contact the school's counseling office.

#### Attendance/Late-to-School

This is a friendly reminder to send notes for absences within two days. Also, remind students to ask for make-up work and keep after them (check through Pinnacle) until they submit all missed work.

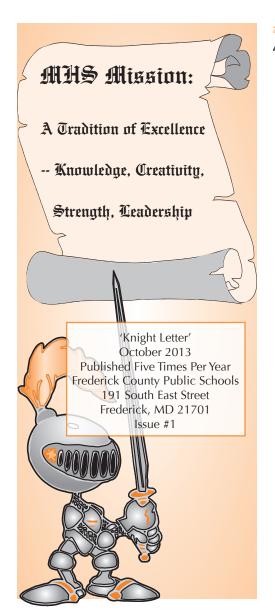
With the change of weather, we notice an increase in students being late to school. The best practice is to get up earlier and leave the house earlier to avoid traffic back-ups and ensure a timely arrival.

#### Other Items:

- Join PTSA, Sports Club, Vocal Music Boosters, Band Boosters, Drama Boosters Even if you don't attend meetings, your membership goes a long way toward the funding of each group's budget.
- A reminder that cell phone usage is not permitted during the school day; it is a nuisance and interruptive. Not only should cell
  phones be turned off, they should not be worn (on the belts, around neck, etc.). Please talk with your sons/daughters and make
  sure they understand that cell phones and communications devices need to be "stowed away." Oh, by the way parents, please
  don't text your child at school.
- This is a notice we are required to announce to students and send home to parents: "It is unlawful for students to possess or use any weapon on school property. Students who have or use a weapon on school property will be suspended from school, and the police will be notified of the incident. A weapon is any object designed to harm another physically or an object which issued in a way that can physically harm another. Our school is committed to providing each of you with a safe environment, and we will do all we can to carry out that responsibility including, if necessary, conducting searches of student lockers."
- Parents or others should not bring "carry-out" food to school to give to their son/daughter. According to BOE regulation 200-32,
   "no food or beverage will be offered for sale to students from the beginning of the school day until the end of the last lunch period
   by other than the School Food Service Department." In addition to the sale of items, the policy states: "...the preparation... of
   food items by any profit-making organization is not authorized until after the last lunch period. This includes food or beverages
   to be delivered to the school as requested by individual students or groups of students."
- Please continue to monitor the apparel of our students. Some issues include shorts/skirts that are too short, tops with skinny straps/
  too low cut/not covering the mid-section, wearing of head gear, shirts with inappropriate information written on them (offensive
  socially, displaying alcohol/tobacco/drugs/weapons, etc.
- If you are picking up or dropping off your son/daughter, please do so in the upper parking lot.
- The annual Lions Club Halloween Parade will be Thursday, Oct. 24, at 6 p.m. Staging is on Martha Mason and Schoolhouse between Route 40 and Green Street. You can only access the high school via Green Street or through the park from approximately 5:45-7 p.m.

#### **Upcoming Events**

- Spirit Week and Homecoming was Oct. 7-12. SGA planned the entire week and organized many new activities. It was a greatly spirited time and I hope that our students enjoyed all the changes.
- ASVAB (Armed Forces Vocational Aptitude Battery) test on 10/25. See Counseling Center for details.
- Thursday, Oct. 24 End of Term One
- Late October (most likely) Release of School Progress Index from the State of Maryland for high schools. We will keep you posted as to the release date. The information is based on last school year's student performance.



# PUSA News

#### **SEE OUR WEBSITE!**

For all kinds of PTSA and school information, check out the PTSA website at: www. middletownhsptsa.com. You can also find a link on the MHS school website home page.

### **EXPLORE THE ARTS! PARTICIPATE IN PTA REFLECTIONS**

This year's theme is "Believe, Dream, Inspire." Create an original work in one of the six categories and be recognized: Dance Choreography, Film Production, Literature, Music Composition, Photography, or Visual Arts. Entry deadline is Nov. 1. To participate, pick up an application and complete information in the Media Center or download it at www.middletownhsptsa.com (click on "Reflections"). If you have questions, contact your Reflections chair, Theresa Tarleton at ttarleton@comcast.net.

#### **GET INVOLVED – JOIN THE PTSA:**

We would like to encourage all MHS families to join the MHS PTSA, a vital part of MHS's outreach to the community. In addition, the PTSA is a wonderful way to work collaboratively to help our students succeed, advocate for our academic programs at MHS, and to speak as one voice for the quality educational needs of our children.

Some of the things we do are:

- Provide information to all parents at our monthly programs
- Work with our student committee to address student issues
- Fund scholarships for selected graduating MHS senior(s)
- Host staff-appreciation events
- Participate in the PTA Reflections Art Program
- Work with the FCPS staff, Board of Education, and our administrators to meet the educational needs of our children.

We meet the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Media Center, where we have a short meeting (20 to 30 minutes) followed by an informative program. Being a part of the PTSA is a great way to meet with school leadership, teachers, and other MHS

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Michael Behre, MD . James Roessler, MD . Kevin Hohl, MD

Adriana Hohl, MD • Andrea Kaleta, MD • Amy Gallaway, CRNP



"The Mount developed my leadership skills and I was pushed to be a better person. I not only learned the classroom material, but more importantly, how to apply this knowledge in the workplace. I'm very grateful for the education I received."

Katelyn Flohr, C'13 | Fairfield, PA Audit Staff, CPA firm CohnReznick



Come for a visit! Fall Open House, Sun., Nov. 3. Or take one of our daily tours. For more information or to register, visit www.msmary.edu/MHS

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parents to talk about current topics and events at MHS.

For more information about membership, please contact MHS PTSA Membership chair Debbie Reichelt at dareichelt@comcast. net or MHS PTSA President Daphne Gabb at dagabb@comcast. net. To join, download the MHS Membership form at www. middletownhsptsa.com (click on "Why Be A Member"). Return the completed form by mail, along with your \$6 dues, to MHS PTSA at 200 Schoolhouse Drive, Middletown, MD 21769.

#### PTSA OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS NEEDED

We are currently in need of the following officers and committee chairpersons:

**Vice President:** Assists the president in various matters and covers meetings when the president is unable to attend.

**Secretary:** Takes notes and publishes meeting minutes for all meetings.

Hospitality & Teacher Appreciation: Organizes efforts to show our teachers how much we care for them, especially during Teacher Appreciation Week (early May).

**Baccalaureate:** Organizes a committee of students and parents to plan and execute the senior baccalaureate program just prior to graduation.

**Volunteer Coordinator:** Collects contact information for parents wishing to volunteer and connects them with committee chairs when needs arise.

Scholarship Program: Collects applications in late March, forms a committee to review applications, select awardees, and present the awards at the Senior Awards Ceremony in May.

Student-Chaired Committee: Facilitates a student-run committee for student-led projects within the guidelines of the PTSA purposes.

Please contact Daphne Gabb if you can help: dagabb@comcast.net

### **UPCOMING PTSA MEETINGS:**

Held in the Media Center at 7 p.m.: Tuesday, Nov. 19

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PTSA PRESIDENT:

The Middletown PTSA is looking forward to a wonderful year! We would like for you to think of the PTSA as the Academic Boosters and the Source of Information for Parents. We plan to have a program every month to give you information that will assist you as you guide your student. Our program schedule will be announced at least a month ahead of time. Please let us know if there are topics you would like us to address.

The education of our children is a partnership with our teachers, staff, and administrators. It truly does take a village to raise a child. If we work together, we can help every student at Middletown High be as successful as possible and be ready to face their future after high school.

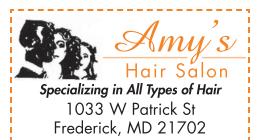
Please join us in our efforts to assist in the excellent education available to our children here at MHS. Let us know where you might be able to help by returning the blue volunteer form or answering requests for assistance.

We hope you will find benefit by joining the PTSA this year. Our first two programs, "High School 101 for Parents" and "Parent to Parent: High School Navigation and College Prep," were wellreceived. Please join us each month as we have other informative programs for you.

I am looking forward to a wonderful year here at MHS! Please feel free to contact me or anyone else on the PTSA with any suggestions or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Daphne Gabb, MHS PTSA President 2013-2014



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# Autumn Library Events

## **FALL IS A GREAT TIME TO VISIT**

Fall ... into a great book, dvd, audio book, playaway, magazine; download ... music, books, audios! You won't find a better time to visit the library, in person or online! And... the teen programs are into the fall celebrations with pumpkins, ghoulies, and too good to be true, football!

Seek the Unknown Movie at The Library-Tuesday, Oct. 15, at 3 p.m.

It is Teen Tech Week at the library! When seeking the unknown, a good movie and pizza is always helpful! Investigate the fun! Registration required; snacks will be served.

Mashed Pumpkins and other Ghoulie Things-Tuesday, Oct. 29, at 3 p.m.

Groan, moan, and sigh. The month of trickery and treats is coming to an end with a jolt! Snacks will be served.

Fantastic Football Films- Tuesday, Nov. 5, at 3 p.m.

It's first down; you are the greatest Monday morning quarterback ... do you drop back and punt? Huddle, choose the movie, and maybe do an end run for that last piece of pizza!? Registration required; snacks will be served.

Not Book Group, Book Group: Too Good To Be True, Tuesday, Nov. 12, at 3 p.m.

The Not Book Group, Book Group can't believe its luck. Just what have they seen that is too good to be true! Snacks will be served.

Teens, Grades 6–12 . . . refreshments may be served at each program . . .

"O hushed October morning mild, Begin the hours of this day slow, Make the day seem to us less brief..." -Robert Frost (1874–1963). A Boy's Will



Registration Required! Please call or stop by the Middletown Branch Library.

The Middletown Branch Library is located at 101 Prospect St., phone number 301-371-7560. www.fcpl.org Please note the library's hours:

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# Internship Opportunities

At Middletown High School, our motto is "A Tradition of Excellence: Knowledge, Creativity, Strength, and Leadership." In order to keep with this tradition, we want to offer our students opportunities that will help them grow into contributing members of our society. One way to do this is through Internships. Internships offer a gateway to real-world work experience, full-time jobs and networking opportunities that would be tough to get anywhere else.

<u>US News</u> reports that an average of 37 percent of college students held internships at some point in their undergraduate studies, and this number continues to rise. We want to prepare our students for this experience and perhaps give them a "leg up" in the College acceptance process.

We are asking our Middletown community for two things:

- If you are an employer or work for someone who may be able to offer an Internship to one of our students, please contact us. We are always looking for Partners in all fields – Medical, Legal, Engineering/Construction, Agriculture, and Business.
- 2. Encourage your students to use an elective credit as an Internship and get the "real world" experience. This is also a great opportunity to explore career ambitions.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss either option at Middletown High School at the following:

- Alisa Gibson, Transition Education Coordinator, alisa.gibson@fcps.org 240-236-7561
- Jim Zimmer, Transition Education Coordinator, james.zimmer@fcps.org 240-236-7530.





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# FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# THE SCHOOL YEAR AT A GLANCE

#### 2013

Teachers Report to Work: Training and Preparation
First Day of School
Schools and Offices Closed*
Schools Closed*
Schools Closed*
2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
High School Assessments
PSAT Testing
Schools Closed* for Students: Teacher Professional Development Day
End of First Term
Schools Closed* for Students: Teacher Work Day
2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students (Mid-Term): Teacher Work Session
Elementary and middle schools open 4 hours late due to evening Parent-Teacher Conferences; no pre-k classes
Elementary and middle schools dismiss 3-1/2 hours early due to afternoon Parent-Teacher Conferences; no pre-k classes
Schools Closed*
Schools** and Offices Closed
2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
Schools* and Offices Closed
Schools** and Offices Closed

# December 26-31 Schools\*\* Closed

\*BOE Approved \*\*State Mandated

#### 2014

January 1	Schools** and Offices Closed
January 2	Schools Re-open
January 6-9	High School Assessments
January 10	End of Second Term and First Semester
January 13	Schools Closed* for Students: Teacher Work Day
January 14	Second Semester (Third Term) Begins
January 20	Schools** and Offices Closed
February 14	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
February 17	Schools** and Offices Closed
February 18	Schools Closed* for Students: Teacher Curriculum Day
March 3-12	Maryland School Assessments: Math and Reading
March 20	End of Third Term
March 21	Schools Closed* for Students: Teacher Work Day
March 24-31	Maryland School Assessments: Science
April 1-11	Maryland School Assessments: Science
April 14-17	Schools Closed*
April 18-21	Schools** and Offices Closed
May 2	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
May 19-22	High School Assessments
May 23	2-Hour Early Dismissal for Students: Teacher Work Session
May 26	Schools** and Offices Closed
June 11*	2-Hour Early Dismissal/Last Day of School for Students: Teacher Work Session
June 12*	Last Day of School for Teachers
July 4	Schools** and Offices Closed

<sup>\*</sup>Includes 5 days for snow or other emergency closings. If all days are not needed, the school year will be shortened by the number of unused days to provide 180 days for students. If more days are needed, the last school day may be later and/or days may be made up elsewhere in the school year to provide 180 days for students.



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# Drama Boosters News

### **BOOSTERS MEETINGS SCHEDULED**

The MHS Drama Boosters meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in room 508 (Mrs. Nicklas' room). The next meeting will be Nov. 6.

#### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

The drama boosters support all aspects of the drama program at MHS. Your involvement in the boosters can be as a paid member (membership is \$5 and entitles you to vote) or you can simply come to meetings and/or volunteer to help with the productions, events and set construction/painting throughout the year. We deeply appreciate any amount of volunteer time you are able to give to help support drama at MHS.

## **SAVE THESE DATES FOR UPCOMING MHS PRODUCTIONS:**

Arsenic and Old Lace Dec. 6-8 The Sound of Music April 4-6

Middletown High School presents: **Nightmare in the Valley Haunted House**On the Knight's Stage in the MHS Auditoric

October 18-19 (6-10 p.m.)
October 20 (5-9 p.m.)
5-6 p.m. family Hour
October 25 & 26 (6-10 p.m.)
Admission \$5 (children under 10 - \$3)



# Freshman Shirts On Sale

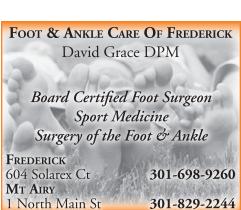


# Class of 2017

#### FRESHMAN T-SHIRTS ON SALE

Class of 2017 is selling t-shirts. If you didn't get one at the freshmen orientation, you still can!!!! Shirts cost \$15. Make checks payable to MHS; please note the name of the student and the adult size. Checks may be brought into the front office or delivered to Mrs. Anderson in room 516. Thank you for your support!









We can guide you through those questions and more:

- · What activities?
- What H.S. courses?
- Crucial timelines!





Frederick County Board of Education 33 Thomas Johnson Drive Frederick, MD 21702 Middletown High School

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# Middletoum IIA

### **FLOAT IS BIG SUCCESS**

Middletown FFA members made a big splash at Heritage Days with their agriculture-themed float made from a hay wagon and a lot of imagination. Other members who weren't riding on the float made their way downtown on tractors and horses, both of which were big hits with the crowds lining the sidewalks.

## **BULB SALE IS A BONANZA**

Our annual fall bulb fundraiser was a success with plenty of bulbs being sold. Thanks to everyone who ordered!

#### FRESH FRUIT ON THE WAY

The FFA will soon be starting its annual citrus sale, which is always a bit hit for those who like great fruit at a great price. If you are interested, see Mrs. Shriner in Room 439 for more details and a sales form.

## **POPCORN DELIGHTS**

The FFA plans to sell popcorn products from the Catoctin Popcorn Company. See Mrs. Shriner for a sales form!

# Holunteers

### **MERITORIOUS SERVICE HOURS**

Every year MHS students volunteer hundreds of hours with organizations in the community. We know many students offered their services throughout the summer. Students are encouraged to record and submit their hours to the Transition Education Office (Mr. Zimmer and Mrs. Gibson – Transition Education Coordinators) as soon as they are completed.

Students who have submitted at least 75 hours receive recognition each year at an awards assembly in the fall. The Meritorious Service Hours form can be obtained from the Transition Education Office (Room 220) or on the Coordinators Websites (MHS Website >Staff >Transition Ed>Mr. Zimmer or Mrs. Gibson).