

HOT SPOTS

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HOT TOPICS



Middletown High School FFA students pose at a statue of Barbro at Churchill Downs in Louisville, Kentucky. The students were in Kentucky in October to participate in the National FFA Convention, where several MHS students won recognition for their efforts.

MHS FFA students win awards at convention held in Louisville

The Middletown FFA Chapter had 15 people go to National FFA Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, this October. Aubrey Wishner participated in the Creed Speaking contest and was a national finalist receiving fourth overall, a gold emblem and a cash prize.

The Horse Evaluation team placed silver overall and team members Taylor Bullen received a gold emblem, Ava Brenengen and Sara Wenner received silver emblems and Jody Eccard received a bronze medal.

The Floriculture team also received silver emblem with Ellie Grossnickle and Emily White with gold emblems, Victoria Rodgers and Kylie Pagliochini with silver medals.

Kiley Slimmer participated in the Job Interview contest and received 15th place and a silver medal.

Chapter Delegates included Josh Moore and Tristen Baker. Jared Wojton was a member of the National FFA band and was the drum major and first chair tuba. We also sent two American degree recipients, Jessica Imler, and Dane Grossnickle. Dane was a national FFA officer candidate and made it to the final round.

During National Convention the students did various activities outside of the convention center. They went on a tour of Churchill Downs, played laser tag, rode go-carts, went to the Louisville Slugger museum, saw thousands



MHS sophomore Aubrey Wishner receives an award for fourth place in the Creed Speaking contest. Wishner was a national finalist and won a gold emblem and a cash prize.

of Jack o' lanterns, went bowling, attended a Justin Moore concert and an FFA dance, and spent time with members from other chapters.

In the convention center, the students always had something fun and new to do. They were in competitions, getting autographs from members of other states, going to convention sessions, making posters, watching speaking finals, going to workshops, watching the national band and chorus, going to the career expo, shopping in the FFA mall, and cheering on their chapter members.

Congrats to all students who competed in events at The 87th National FFA Convention. Go All Out!

HOT SHOTS



We've Got It Covered

Students in the Learning for Life class have been working hard to complete safety panels for the windows in classroom doors. The felt panels have been created to provide a quick and easy way to provide coverage in case of an emergency, such as a lock down. The panels are made of black felt, which is rolled up to the top of the window frame. During an emergency or lock-down drill, a staff member will simply release a loop of yarn from an affixed button. The felt panel will quickly unravel and cover the window. The panel can then be rolled back up and attached to the button to once again allow for visibility into the classroom. Thank you to Ms. Cashdollar and her students for providing such a quick and easy way to promote safety standards in our school!

Have a Super Day

Photos by Molly Spillman



Above, FCPS Superintendent Dr. Alban poses with journalism students Kaela Pratt and Mary Kate Frey during Dr. Alban's recent visit to MHS. Below, Kevin Swann shows Dr. Alban the RT Media broadcast studio.



Want your website, Twitter account, Facebook page, or Instagram feed listed here?



Contact Brooke Hontz at Brooke.Hontz@fcps.org

Woodworking class finishes projects

Students in the class of woodworking are finishing up their projects and are ready to take them home. Students in levels 1 through 4 have worked hard to complete their projects to perfection. Notable projects include the country bench, made by those in level 1, and the Adirondack chair, made by those in level 2. Other great projects under construction include the country shelf, picture frame, wooden clock, hunting calls (Deer & Duck), candle holders, bread box, end table, rocking chairs, blanket chest and even a poker table. As the end of the semester nears, more and more great works of art will appear from this class of craftsmen.



Choral Winter Concert coming soon

The Choral Winter Concert will be held on Thursday, Dec. 18, at 7 p.m. in the MHS auditorium. The concert is free and everyone is welcome to attend. Prelude music will be provided by the Middletown Brass Quintet starting at 6:45 p.m.

The Winter Concert will include songs from the FCPS Choral Adjudication, where both our Concert Choir and Vocal Ensemble earned Superior Ratings. Other selections will include everything from "Mambo Italiano" and "Let it Go" to "We Need a Little Christmas" and "My Favorite Things."

Congratulations to Sarah Martin, and Julia Usiak for being accepted in the Maryland All-State Choir!

The Jazz Ensemble will be playing at the varsity basketball games on Dec. 12, 19, and 22 and many



more through January and February. A concert featuring the Elementary Band, Middle School Band, and High School Jazz Band will be on Jan. 14 at 7 p.m. in the MHS auditorium.

HOT STUFF

Senior interviews ready students for days ahead

On Thursday, Nov. 13, 140 seniors participated in a mock interview program at MHS, a requirement for graduation from Frederick County Public Schools. The interviews were held in the Media Center, and were conducted by the Rotary Club of Carroll Creek.

Some 30 interviewers spent approximately 10 minutes interviewing, reviewing the resumes and high school transcripts of each student. Students who were interviewed are currently enrolled in English 12, or in English 101 at FCC this semester. Students who take English 12 next semester will be interviewed in the spring.

Teachers Jim Zimmer and Alisa Gibson and secretary Vicki Grossnickle coordinated this activity with the Rotary Club through member, Suzie Smith.

According to Zimmer, "While some students in high school have had real job interviews, not all have. This experience gives all students a taste of the interview process prior to leaving high school. Many are anxious prior to the interview, but most come out with a sense of pride for having had a successful interview experience. It's always nice to see students dressed in a professional manner."

The Rotary Club members often remark how impressed they are by the performance of MHS students. Congratulations to the students who have completed this requirement.

Seniors: Need info? Try Remind101 group

Are you signed up to receive up-to-the-minute senior class information? Consider signing up for our Remind101 group.



To receive messages via text, text@mtownhs to (657) 204-1880. You can opt-out of messages at any time by replying, 'unsubscribe@mtownhs'.

Or to receive messages via email, send an email tomtownhs@mail.remind.com. To unsubscribe, reply with 'unsubscribe' in the subject line.

Senior plan volleyball tournament for spring

We will have our first volleyball tournament on March 20, 2015 beginning at 2:45 p.m. We already have over 50 students signed up to play.



If you are interested in playing on a team, please contact Mrs. Anderson. Registration is \$20 per player with a minimum of six players per team. You don't need to have mad volleyball skills to participate, just a mad ability to have a great time!

Volunteers are also needed to help with set-up/tear-down, concessions, referees, ticket-takers, etc. Concession donations will gladly be accepted. Please contact Mrs. Anderson at cynthia.anderson@fcps.org, or Mrs. Boyll at lisa.boyll@fcps.org.

Young authors' contest offers opportunities

Writing Contest: Are you a creative writer? Have you already written an original short story/essay or poem? Or are you looking for an opportunity to become a published writer?

The High School Young Authors' Contest is open to students in grades

9-12. See Ms. Leonard in Room 510 to pick up a packet or ask your English teacher. This is an excellent way to earn recognition for your creative, hard work by the State of Maryland International Reading Association Council. The deadline to submit your writing to Ms. Leonard is Dec. 15, 2014.

SGA holiday happenings

Teens For Jeans
The SGA will be collecting gently used jeans through Dec. 23. The jeans will be given to shelters in our community and passed out to teenagers in need. There is a bin in the MHS cafeteria that you can put your jeans into.

Holiday Spirit Days
• Monday, Dec. 22: Flannel Day
• Tuesday, Dec. 23: Ugly Sweater and Festive Hat Day
***All spirit apparel should meet school appropriate dress guidelines. (See student planner pgs. 13-14)



Movie Night
The Middletown SGA will be sponsoring a free movie night for MHS students.

Date: Friday, Dec. 19, at 8 p.m.
Where: MHS Auditorium
Extras: Popcorn will be provided and drinks and candy can be purchased and only MHS students will be admitted

Rotary Clubs sponsor annual speech contest

The Rotary Clubs of Frederick is sponsoring their annual 4-Way Test Speech Contest. The contest is open to all 11th- and 12th-grade students enrolled in Frederick County Public Schools. Children of Rotarians are not eligible to participate. Each school will select one representative to participate in the Frederick County contest.

Speech guidelines:

Contestants may speak on any subject, but must incorporate all aspects of the Rotary Four-Way Test, including these exact words:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Speeches must be at least 4-6 minutes in length. The speech must be memorized (limited reference to notes is permissible).

Students will present speeches to a panel of staff after school during the first week of January. One student will be selected to compete in the Frederick County contest. Prizes include: first place, \$500; second place, \$425; third place, \$350; and fourth place, \$300.

Top winners will move onto the district competition with the possibility of winning up to \$1,500. If interested, contact Mr. Zimmer (room 315) by Friday, Dec. 19.

Scholarship season here for graduating students

Scholarship season is here! Students should be searching for and completing scholarship applications.

There are many types of scholar-

ships. Merit scholarships are based on a student's academic, artistic, athletic, or other abilities. Most merit scholarships are awarded by private organizations or universities.

Need-based scholarships are based on a student's and family's financial record. Students must apply for need-based scholarships with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This federal form is available Jan. 1, 2015.

Students must pay careful attention to FAFSA due dates which are set by the colleges and universities to which the student is applying. The biggest piece of advice that college financial aid representative give is: be VERY CAREFUL and submit your FAFSA by the due date!

Student-specific scholarships are based on special factors such as gender, race, medical history, religion or other factors. Career-specific scholarships are offered through organizations and colleges. Finally, college specific scholarships are offered to highly qualified applicants; they are primarily given to students who exhibit superior academic and person achievement.

There are also many ways for students to find scholarships. The Internet is a great place to start. Some national websites to start with are www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com, and www.bigfuture.org. Students should also be logging onto their Naviance sites and accessing scholarship applications under the "Colleges" section. The MHS Counseling Department also produces a bi-monthly counseling and scholarship bulletin. This bulletin is sent out through "Find-Out-First" and is published on the MHS website. Many local scholarships are featured on this bulletin.

Students are also highly encouraged to search for scholarships on the websites of the colleges they plan to attend. Colleges often offer scholarships related to specific majors. Finally, students should check with employers for scholarship opportunities.

Students are encouraged to maintain close contact with their counselors as they apply for scholarships. Many scholarships may require official transcripts and recommendation letters. Good luck to all students as you endeavor into the next stage of the college application process.

Scholarship Opportunity Community Foundation of Frederick County:

The Community Foundation of Frederick County is pleased to announce that its scholarship application will be available for the 2015-2016 academic year beginning Thursday, Jan. 15, 2015. By completing one general application, students will be considered for more than 250 available scholarships. It is estimated that more than \$700,000.00 in scholarships will be available for the 2015-2016 academic year.

The completed application must be submitted online no later than 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, Feb. 15, 2015.

The application can be accessed through the Community Foundation website at www.FrederickCountyGives.org, then clicking on "Apply for Scholarships" located on the right side of the page.

Changes have been made to the application and applicants will no longer be required to submit letters of reference. Graduating seniors will need to submit a scanned copy of their junior year final transcript

and students already enrolled in college must submit a copy of their most recent transcript.

Students about to complete their senior year of high school, students already enrolled in a trade school, college or university, and non-traditional students over the age of 21 are eligible to apply. Scholarships for graduate study are also available. All students are encouraged to apply.

FCPS taking applications for student board member

Are you a student leader? Do you think you have what it takes to be the voice of all students in Frederick County Public Schools? Do you want to make a difference?

Frederick County Public Schools is accepting applications for the 2015-2016 Student Member of the Board. Any current 10th- or 11th-grader is eligible to apply. For more information or to obtain an application please contact SGA Advisor, Ms. Barlow (room 217), Assistant Principal, Ms. Hontz, or Curriculum Specialist Mike Bunitsky (mike.bunitsky@fcps.org). Additional information also available on FCPS.org under For Families and Students or Board of Education.

Completed student packet is due to Michael Bunitsky, 191 South East Street, by 4 p.m. on Jan. 9, 2015. The five top candidates will be notified by Jan. 15 and continue on to the candidate forum. All middle school and high school student throughout the county will have an opportunity to vote for a candidate. The winner of the election will be determined on April 29, 2015.

A few kind reminders regarding MHS parking

All students who drive to school and park in any of the school lots should have a student parking permit. See Ms. Sgrignoli if you have not been issued a student parking permit. Cars without a permit are subject to receiving a ticket.

It is especially important that administrators and law enforcement officials have parking availability in close proximity of the building. We ask that students and parents, please do not park in the reserved spots along the front parking circle. These spots are reserved all day long, including evenings and weekends.

Administration offers a holiday message to all

As we prepare to embark on winter break, we want to express our appreciation for everyone who makes it possible for our students to come to school every day, on time, and ready to learn.

Thank you to our students, families, and staff who have made gift and monetary contributions to help make the holidays special for local families in need.

Thank you to our teachers for regularly providing rigorous and engaging lessons so that our students can leave MHS well-prepared for college and the workforce.

We especially appreciate the extra effort on behalf of students to avoid taking additional time off around the break. Just a couple of missed days of instruction can add up to an enormous amount of missed learning and make up work.

Wishing all a wonderful holiday season and a relaxing break!

Just a reminder that schools will be closed Dec. 24 through Jan. 2. Schools will re-open on Monday, Jan. 5.