



JUNE 2019

MUHLENBERG
SCHOOL DISTRICT

news

LAURELDALE, PA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



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Congratulations

Muhlenberg High School Class of 2019

Commencement for the graduating Class of 2019 was held on June 5, 2019 at the Santander Arena. The 295 graduates in the Class of 2019 have excelled in academics, athletics, the arts, and community service. The Class of 2019 has earned over 3.5 million dollars in scholarship monies to various universities and colleges across the United States. 79% of this graduating class will be attending universities, colleges, community colleges, technical and trade schools, or the military. 54% of the

Class of 2019 are first generation college students. 26% of the Class of 2019 attended the Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center. 52% of the seniors who attend the RMCTC will be entering the workforce in the area in which they studied over the last three years.

On behalf of the administration and faculty of Muhlenberg High School, we wish the Class of 2019 the very best as they enter this new chapter of their lives.

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**MUHLENBERG
SCHOOL DISTRICT**

Dr. Joseph Macharola
Superintendent
610-921-8000, Ext. 1271
macharolaj@mail.muhlsdk12.org

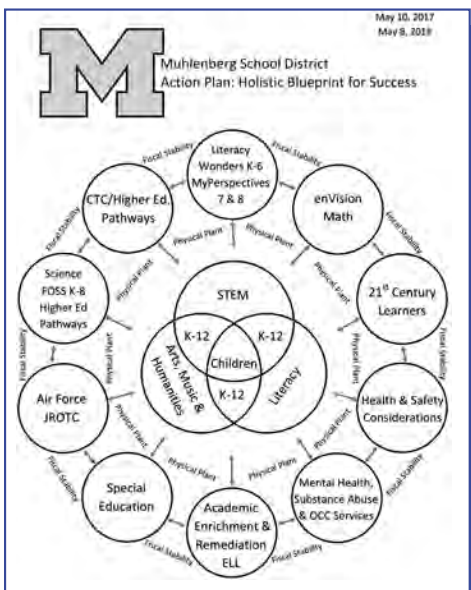


**"IF YOUR PLAN IS
FOR ONE YEAR,
PLANT RICE.**

**IF YOUR PLAN IS
FOR TEN YEARS,
PLANT TREES.**

**IF YOUR PLAN IS
FOR ONE HUNDRED
YEARS, EDUCATE
CHILDREN."**

CONFUCIUS



Democratic Responsibility for Our Children and for America

Dear Muhlenberg School District Community Members:

The Muhlenberg School District has provided enriching learning opportunities for generations. Our history continues to be the cornerstone for continuous improvement. You will see the power of education in the hundreds of children who graduated this past June 5, 2019. Our mission and role in American society has never been more important than it is today. We know by continuously investing in quality programs and technology that our children K-12, unquestionably, will have the proper tools to prepare them for their future. This is only a portion of the incredible responsibility in delivering instruction and teaching social and emotional skills to cope with society's demands and prepare children to be productive citizens.

The Muhlenberg School District is a beautiful and inspiring blend of children from all parts of the world and from multi-dimensional backgrounds. Our keystone in reaching our children, with all of the tools and materials in consideration, is the human spirit from teachers, staff and administrators who care about our children.

The 2019-2020 school year will be an exciting time for the Muhlenberg community. You will see this in our holistic plan for success and in our action plan's concentric circles, which clearly define the focus of our district. A new pilot addressing social-emotional skills K-12 will commence next year; in addition to an aggressive plan to address cyber learning through the Muhlenberg Virtual School. These two avenues will provide much needed pathways to enhance the district's dire responsibility in addressing the needs of our ever changing community.

In this edition, you will find clear evidence of previous district initiatives from over the past six years which have resulted in tremendous opportunities for our children. These opportunities include literacy, math and science pilots and initiatives which have resulted in new programs in the district. We have invested millions of dollars in technology along with an emerging initiative of one-to-one capabilities for our children at the secondary level. Career technology pathways for our high school students attending Reading Muhlenberg Career & Technology Center continue to emerge with an all-time high number of Muhlenberg School District students attending RMCTC over the past two years. The JROTC program has completed its second year with over 300 cadets experiencing the importance of service, knowledge, integrity, character, and pride and respect for the greatest country on earth, the United States of America.

The Muhlenberg School District has an incredible responsibility to invest and grow our children academically, socially, and productively with care and respect. Our rich cultural enrollment only stands for the hope and promise for all children to pursue the American dream. I wish you the very best in the spirit of the Muhlenberg School District.

Dr. Joseph Macharola
SUPERINTENDENT

Responsabilidad Democrática Para Nuestros Hijos y Para América

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg ha brindado oportunidades de aprendizaje enriquecidas durante varias generaciones. Nuestra historia sigue siendo la piedra angular de mejoras continuas. Verán el poder de la educación en los cientos de niños que se graduaron el pasado 5 de junio de 2019. Nuestra misión y función en la sociedad estadounidense nunca ha sido más importante de lo que es hoy. Sabemos que, al invertir continuamente en programas y tecnología de calidad, a nuestros hijos/as de K-12, sin duda, tendrán las herramientas adecuadas para prepararlos para su futuro. Esto es solo una parte de la increíble responsabilidad de impartir instrucción y enseñar habilidades sociales y emocionales para hacer frente a las demandas de la sociedad y preparar a los niños/as para que sean ciudadanos productivos.

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg es una mezcla hermosa e inspiradora de niños/as de todas partes del mundo y de fondos

multidimensionales. Nuestra clave para llegar a nuestros hijos, con todas las herramientas y materiales en consideración, es el espíritu humano de los maestros, el personal y los administradores que se preocupan por nuestros hijos/as.

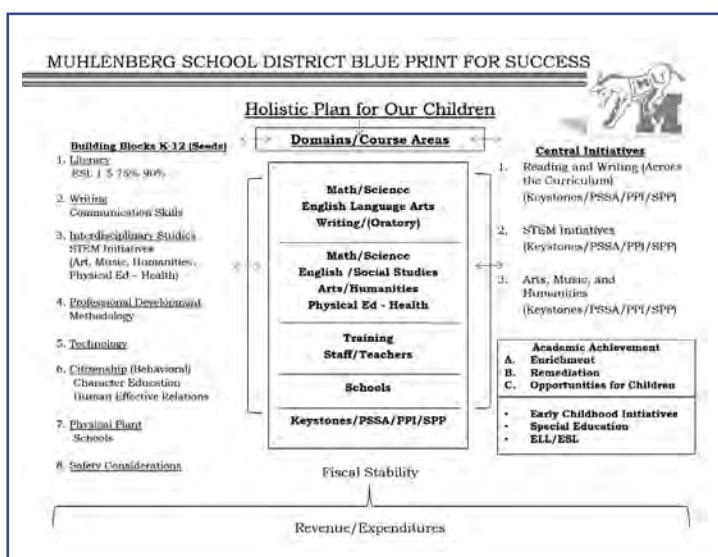
El año escolar 2019-2020 será un tiempo emocionante para la comunidad de Muhlenberg. Verá esto en nuestro plan holístico para el éxito y en los círculos concéntricos de nuestro plan de acción, que definen claramente el enfoque de nuestro distrito. Un nuevo piloto que abordará las habilidades socioemocionales de grados K-12 comenzará el próximo año; además de un plan agresivo para abordar el aprendizaje cibernético a través de la Escuela Virtual de Muhlenberg. Estas dos vías ofrecen vías muy necesarias para mejorar la responsabilidad del distrito para abordar las necesidades de nuestra comunidad de cambio constante.

En esta edición, encontrará evidencia clara de iniciativas

anteriores del distrito de los últimos seis años que han dado como resultado oportunidades tremendas para nuestros niños/as. Estas oportunidades incluyen programas e iniciativas de alfabetización, matemáticas y ciencias que han dado como resultado nuevos programas en el distrito. Hemos invertido millones de dólares en tecnología junto con una iniciativa emergente de capacidades individuales para nuestros niños/as en el nivel secundario. Las vías tecnológicas de carrera para nuestros estudiantes de escuela secundaria que asisten RMCTC continúan surgiendo con el número más elevado de todos los tiempos de estudiantes del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg que asisten al CTC en los últimos dos años. El programa JROTC ha completado su segundo año con más de 300 cadetes que experimentan la importancia del servicio, el conocimiento, la integridad, el carácter, el orgullo y el respeto por el mejor país del mundo, los Estados Unidos de América.

El Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg tiene la increíble responsabilidad de invertir y hacer crecer a nuestros niños/as académica, social y productivamente con cuidado y respeto. Nuestra enriquecida inscripción cultural sololamente representa la esperanza y la promesa para que todos los niños/as puedan perseguir el sueño americano. Les deseo lo mejor en el espíritu del Distrito Escolar de Muhlenberg.

Dr. Joseph Macharola
SUPERINTENDENT





Seniors Rafael Sanchez, Eric Brady, and Alexis Cheeseman prepping Muhl Mocha orders.



Senior Alexis Cheeseman en route making deliveries.

Muhl Mocha Debuts at MHS

In the fall of the 2018-2019 school year, a new endeavor started at Muhlenberg High School. A group of students led by MHS Special

MUHLENBERG HIGH SCHOOL

Education teachers **Amanda Kemmerer** and **Jennifer Hausman** and Transition Coordinator **Tianna Schaefer** launched Muhl Mocha. Muhl Mocha is a weekly service that offers a variety of hot beverages (coffee, tea, hot chocolate) to high school staff. Students process the orders through an online ordering system, fill the orders and deliver them to the staff members throughout the building. The students generate invoices, distribute them and process payments.

While providing a convenient opportunity for teachers to get a little pick me up, the students are working on employability skills. Instruction and practice on work related soft skills is embedded into the activities. Focus is on improving skills in the areas of reliability, initiative, productivity, safety, travel, organization, communication/interpersonal skills, problem solving and self-regulation. Academic skills such as reading, writing, measurement and math calculations are also included in the process.

MHS Assistant Principal **Lori Morris** said, "I look forward to my Muhl Mocha delivery every Wednesday. It has been rewarding to see the social skills of our students grown under the direction of our teachers. Our students are able to work on skills for life and provide a boost of energy to our teachers' day."

The students have filled more than 500 orders this year so far. In addition, some weeks, a sweet treat is also available for purchase. Future plans for Muhl Mocha include adding additional sales days and offering periodic opportunities to sell to other MHS students.





High School Students Network with Professionals



On March 8, 2019, fourteen young men and women from Muhlenberg High School attended the Annual Youth Leadership Program, sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce at PSU-Berks. The students had the pleasure of learning the 5 C's: Character, Communication, Choice, Courage, and Confidence and how they lead to career success.

Approximately 100 professionals from the county were in attendance as mentors for the high school students. This conference offers the opportunity for young men and women to learn more about their chosen career path by attending breakout sessions with professionals in their career choice. Sessions on: cashing in on your passion, finance your future, and five words, were some of the sessions that the students attended. The conference encourages young men and women to pursue their career goals. We even met up with an MHS alumni **Beth Bankemper**.

Muhlenberg IMPACT News

The Muhlenberg IMPACT Committee is busy sponsoring activities, recognizing staff for their never-ending passion, creating rewards for positive behavior and academics and providing incentives that hopefully will make students feel better about themselves.

IMPACT continues to sponsor the cell phone recycling fundraiser. Protect the environment while supporting our high school program. One hundred percent of the proceeds will help fund IMPACT. Please bring your old cell phones to **Ms. Denise Zielinski** at the high school.

IMPACT is looking for businesses,

individuals and civic organizations to become involved with Muhlenberg IMPACT. You could sponsor awards, prizes, t-shirts, banquets, leadership conferences and offer discounts on goods and services for students and/or faculty. Participants in our program have found that it increases the exposure of their businesses to teenagers and their parents, who often accompany them.

IMPACT sold carnations for Homecoming and Valentine's Day. They were sold during all three lunch periods. This was a wonderful way to encourage school spirit and random acts of kindness.

Our program is totally committed to helping others achieve success academically and personally. We are planning many more school activities this year. Please encourage your children to get involved and stay involved with school clubs and high school activities. It makes school so much more enjoyable and gives you memories that will last a lifetime. Contact Ms. Denise Zielinski at 610-921-8078 to find out how you can make an "IMPACT" at Muhlenberg High School.



Kindness Crusader

It's a bird! It's a plane! No, it's the Kindness Crusader (also known as, **Mrs. Venza**, Muhlenberg Elementary Center Principal)! On Fridays, the Kindness Crusader visits classrooms with her yellow scooter, the Kindness Cruiser, and recruits members to the Kindness Crew to help spread kindness at Muhlenberg Elementary Center. Mrs. Venza reads stories about kindness to the children and discusses how we all have a responsibility to make everyone feel safe and welcome in our school. Also, every week teachers nominate a student from their class to be recognized for being kind and compassionate toward others.

At Muhlenberg Elementary Center we believe that it is important to meet the needs of our students socially, emotionally and academically. In conjunction to Mrs. Venza's visits, a new class was added to the special area rotation schedule this school year. Our school counselors, **Mrs. Gift**, **Mr. Foster**, and **Mrs. Hoffmaster** teach a Social Emotional



MUHLENBERG ELEMENTARY CENTER

Learning (SEL) class using the Second Step program. Every student has this class once every 6-day-cycle where they are taught skills for learning, empathy, emotional management, and problem solving. The classroom teachers review these topics during Community Meeting time each morning and throughout the day to reinforce and practice these very important life skills.

We are so proud of all of the kind acts our students perform on a daily basis!



MEC YouTube Video Series

The Muhlenberg Elementary Center recently created a School-Home Connections YouTube Video Series where they post short videos to share information with families about strategies, ideas, and techniques they use at school. The video series is a work in progress and they are adding new videos and playlists to their channel all of the time. Currently, they have *Mindfulness Monday*, *Tech Tip Tuesday*, and *Wellness Wednesday* videos available. They are working to add *Thinking Cap Thursday*, which will feature learning strategies that parents and guardians may find helpful when working with their child on school work.

Go to www.YouTube.com and search Muhlenberg Elementary Center to access these videos. They are also posted to the Muhlenberg Elementary Center Facebook page.

STAFF UPDATES



Meet our New Assistant Principal at MEC Mr. Antonio G. Mirabito

I am thrilled to be the new Assistant Principal at Muhlenberg Elementary Center. I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I earned my undergraduate degree from East Stroudsburg University in 2009. I then went on to receive my master's degree in Management and Leadership from East Stroudsburg University. After a few years in the business world, I went back to school and earned my teaching certification from Drexel University. I have taught for eight years in both 4th and 5th grades in the Bethlehem Area School District. During that time I attended Moravian College, attaining a principal certification in May of 2018.

During my time at Hanover Elementary School I was heavily involved in the school and community. I was lead teacher, student council coordinator, safety patrol advisor, and fundraising coordinator, among a few other roles. I have a passion for technology use in the classroom and was able to win a technology innovation grant that helped me to complete an action research project focused on personalized, adaptive, and differentiated learning software.

In my personal time, I enjoy spending time with my wife traveling and attending sporting events. I am a huge sports fan and have coached football and basketball for over 10 years. I am very excited to be joining Muhlenberg Elementary Center and can't wait to become part of the community.

Mr. Antonio G. Mirabito



Technology Bytes

Google has created a very useful application called Google Translate that can easily be accessed through a website interface or downloaded for free as a mobile app for Android or iOS. Google Translate can translate multiple forms of media including text, speech, images, websites, or real-time video, from one language to another. It supports over 100 languages at different levels and can translate languages via photo, via voice, and via real-time video in "augmented reality mode." It also has the ability to translate physical signs in real-time using the device's camera. The "conversation mode" allows users to communicate fluently with a nearby person in another language. You can access a document with helpful directions by going to the following URL **bit.ly/GTRANSLATE**

R.E.S.U.L.T.S.

Muhlenberg Elementary Center Principal **Mrs. Krista Venza** and Muhlenberg Middle School Dean of Students **Mr. Jon Treese**, published the book *R.E.S.U.L.T.S.* in February 2019. This book provides applicable strategies for teaching students to make positive choices, take necessary action and promote growth.

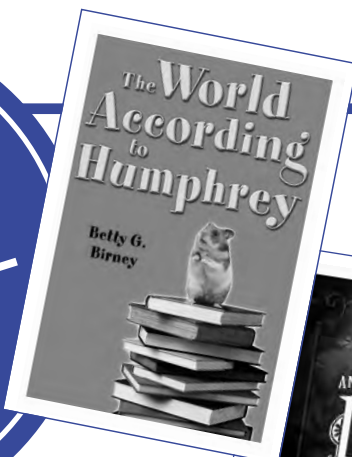
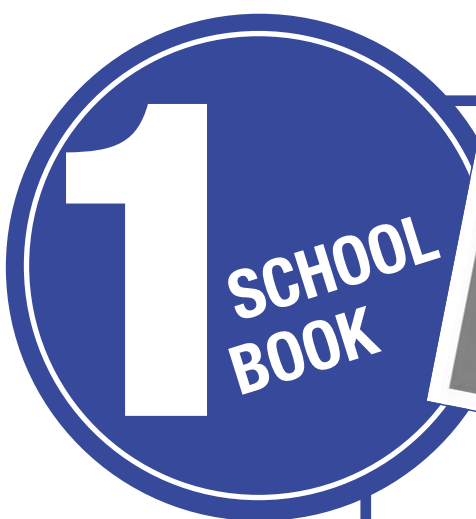
This book is a combination of inspiring stories and a framework that promotes positive behavior and responsibility for learning. From *R.E.S.U.L.T.S.*, educators are empowered to make a difference in the lives of their students. **Congratulations Mrs. Venza and Mr. Treese!**

Spring College Fair 2019



MUHLENBERG HIGH SCHOOL

Approximately 65 juniors took advantage of the opportunity to attend the 27th Annual Spring Berks County College Fair on March 5, 2019. This trip was available to all juniors at MHS. The juniors were bused to Alvernia University to meet with over 110 colleges and universities. The students were equipped with questions to ask a college representative and a list of the colleges that would be represented. The students had the opportunity to speak to the college representatives in order to start creating a list of the colleges that they would be interested in applying to early in their senior year. At this point the juniors should be making a list of schools that they would like to visit this spring or summer.



One School, One Book had a whole new look this year! For the first time ever, students and families at both Muhlenberg Elementary Center and C.E. Cole had an opportunity to vote on their book choice. Muhlenberg Elementary Center students

ELEMENTARY CENTER + C.E. COLE INTERMEDIATE

and families voted *The World According to Humphrey* by Betty G. Birney as their choice to read together. Students and

What's So Cool About Manufacturing?

On Tuesday, March 5, 2019 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Reading Pa, Muhlenberg Middle School's *What's So Cool about Manufacturing* video production team took home top honors as they won Best Videography.

MUHLENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

Under the guidance of **Ms. Luft**, one of our outstanding middle school art teachers, the team of **Kylie Loiacono, Melanie Mendoza, Avreiona Sadler, Morgan Antonacci, Skyler Koch, Angel Perelta** and **Joel Ponce** created a 2-minute video featuring East Penn Manufacturing. In the fall of 2018, the team visited the facility taking nearly eight hours of footage and condensed it into a promotional video featuring the benefits of manufacturing. This is the third straight year that Muhlenberg Middle School has taken home a top honor from the competition. This year was a bit different as every school district in Berks and Schuylkill County entered a team. We are so proud our young filmmakers!



Two screen captures of the Muhlenberg Middle School's winning video for Best Videography in this years' competition.

families at C.E. Cole voted *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate as their top choice. Each family received a copy of the book to take home and read!

During the *Read Across America Literacy Event* held on February 27, the reading department concluded *One School, One Book* with various hamster and gorilla themed activities! In addition to the evening literacy event, students had an opportunity to answer trivia questions related to the books to win a prize during school. A plethora of students from both MEC and C.E. Cole completed a Reflection Project of their choice

related to Humphrey or Ivan at home with their families after reading the book.

In addition to reading, the students at C.E. Cole collected "Pennies for Primates" during the month of February to donate to the Philadelphia Zoo. The students collected over \$1,108! As a result of their generous donations, C.E. Cole will be symbolically adopting an animal per grade level—a gorilla, African lion, and a penguin at the Philadelphia Zoo! Additionally, a donation to symbolically adopt a gorilla family has been made toward the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International. Due to the overwhelming generosity of the students, C.E. Cole will be also donating to the local Humane Society. A banner acknowledging the largesse of the students will hang in the C.E. Cole cafeteria as a memento of their successful achievement.

AFJROTC

As we close our second year it is time to reflect on the status of the program. Retention, or how many cadets return for the following year, is usually a good indicator of the health of the program. The Air Force tracks how many freshman return, and their expectation for a unit is to have 50% of the freshman continue in the program. Our unit has a goal that 70% of all cadets return. Our numbers are really great. 70% of the freshman are returning, 84% of the sophomores, and 100% of the juniors will be with us next year. The middle school has eighty-three 8th grade students that have signed up for the program, although we will only be able to accept 60 of them, due to classroom size. The bottom line is that the program is healthy and we will start next year with more than 150 cadets which is our limit.

The cadets were asked to highlight their accomplishments for this year. They are summarized in bullet format:

- **Adopt a Family.** Goal: \$1,000 raised from their pockets to provide 10 families with holiday meals. Result: raised \$1,200.
- **Community Service hours.** Goal: 2,700 hours. To date: 3,700 hours reported to the Air Force
- Attendance was higher than the school average with few discipline referrals
- **Retention goal:** 70%. Attained: 84%.

EVENTS:

- Archery and Rifle Drill team
- At Christmas helped lay 44,000 wreaths at the Fort Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, and later helped retrieve them
- POW/MIA presentation at Vietnam Memorial in City Park
- POW/MIA presentation for Hometown Hero event at Reading airport



- Assisted with Bingo at Lebanon VA Hospital
- Marched in three Parades and asked to carry the colors for the Vietnam Vets in all parades
- Completed a nearly flawless inspection from HQ AFJROTC
- Completed the Leadership Reaction Course at Fort Indiantown Gap
- Assisted the Berks County Veterans Dinner/Dance committee for the annual ball
- 27 Color Guard and Sabre team events
- Ushers for the Adams Family play
- Assisted the Berks County Manufacturing event at the Doubletree hotel
- Visit to Senior ROTC unit at Penn State University
- Toured PA Air National Guard Air Operations Center
- Bataan Memorial Death March: 14 miles in 4 hours
- Presented colors at Berks County School Directors Convention
- Dining/Out and Military Ball
- Three day trip to Washington DC
- 17 cadets attending Cadet Leadership Course at the Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina

According to the cadets the highlight of the year is that we were able to raise enough money so that we could purchase ABU's (camouflage uniform) for all upper class cadets. The goal is to have enough money and purchase uniforms so that all cadets will have them next year. The cadets love wearing them and would wear them every day if HQ didn't limit us to one day a month.



2019 PA School Breakfast Heroes

The national anti-hunger campaign, *No Kid Hungry*, recently announced their 2019 Pennsylvania School Breakfast Heroes. This year's inductees included educators, administrators, and food service staff from school districts across the commonwealth who were nominated by members of their local community for going above and beyond to make school breakfast possible for all students.

We are proud to announce that **Mr. Carey Kline**, Muhlenberg School District Food Services Director, was named the 2019 Pennsylvania School Breakfast Hero! The staff of Muhlenberg Elementary Center nominated Mr. Kline for his tireless devotion to the students of our district. He cares deeply about all of our students, knows many by name, and makes each student feel welcome every day in the cafeteria. Mr. Kline knows that good nutrition is an important factor of our students' success in school.

One in six children in Pennsylvania face hunger and school breakfast helps combat this statistic. Research shows that hunger has long-term ramifications on children, including lower test scores, weaker attendance rates, and a higher risk of hospitalizations and chronic diseases.

Unfortunately, too many Pennsylvania students are missing out on school breakfast because they are unaware of the program or don't arrive to school in time to participate. We are thankful to our school breakfast hero, Mr. Kline, who works every day to make sure that our school breakfast program reaches all the students who might benefit.

Thank you and congratulations, Mr. Kline!

Dapper Dudes Field Trip & Fundraising



On February 19, the Dapper Dudes took a magnificent field trip to the DaVinci Center. Dapper Dudes is made up of a diverse group of fourth grade boys selected by C. E. Cole staff to help model and support the high standards of conduct that is expected here at Muhlenberg. The boys gained science knowledge

C.E. COLE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL

through several hands-on exhibits, engineering workshops, and live science shows. The boys were fully engaged with all the activities and well-behaved.

The C.E. Cole Dapper Dudes are comprised of 4th grade male students whom have spent the past couple months engaging in various learning experiences that include social etiquette, team building, problem solving, and service to others. Muhlenberg Faculty, Staff, and Community Members use their life experiences to prepare lessons for the Dapper Dudes to take part in.

As part of the Dapper Dudes program, the boys were tasked as a group to select a service project to complete for this school year. They took a survey at the beginning of the program to determine a service project. The boys overwhelmingly decided that they would like to help families in need in the Muhlenberg community and decided to conduct a Non-Perishable and Toiletries Donation drive. For a week and a half in March, the Dapper Dudes led the charge to collect these donations. At the end of the donation drive, the students at C.E. Cole collected enough donations to assist 13 Muhlenberg families during Easter.

Paint the Rain Barrel Competition

Members of the Science Club and High School Art Club participated in the Berks Conservation District's "Paint the Rain barrel Competition." The theme for this year's competition was "Healthy Soils are Full of Life." Muhlenberg won third place overall in the competition and the rain barrel was auctioned off to generate funds for scholarships for local students pursuing a degree in Environmental Science.



The 16th Annual MHS Multi-Class Reunion

Classes of the 50's, 60's, 70's and 80's

**Saturday,
September 14, 2019
Evergreen Country Club
12 Noon until closing
\$3.00 cover**

**Need more information?
Contact:**

Sue (Deprill) Crupi
610-777-3875
scrupi@aol.com

Bill Sandel
610-921-2620
sandel2003@comcast.net

Tracey (Cote) Trout
tbt1018@comcast.net

Muhlenberg Middle School Music News

This has been a great year for the music students of Muhlenberg Middle School.

Berks Junior County Chorus auditions were held at Governor Mifflin High School in February. Nine students from MMS were selected to participate in this ensemble. Those members were: **Leah Steinmetz** (soprano), **Roxsonna Janiszewski** (soprano), **Rowan Crammer** (alto), **Sri Oruganty** (alto), **Cristian Batista** (tenor), **Matthew Abadam** (bass), **Trayton Winter** (bass), **Darian Bornmann** (bass), and **Kyle Hernandez** (bass).

Berks Junior County Band and Orchestra auditions were also held in February. Eight students from MMS were selected for the ensembles: **Emily Yarish** (flute), **Marissa Hermany Rothermel** (flute), **Sarah Love** (clarinet), **Cristian Batista** (clarinet), **Sierra Shade** (clarinet), **Trayton Winter** (trombone), **Gabriella Foster** (baritone), and **Sri Oruganty** (violin).

MUHLENBERG MIDDLE SCHOOL

These students proudly represented MMS at the Berks Junior County Music Festival on March 30 at Boyertown Middle School West.

The Middle School Jazz Band, Blue Groove, had a great year performing throughout the community and at local jazz festivals. The band received "Superior" ratings at several jazz festivals and won several section awards and solo awards. Soloist awards went to **Ryan Neuheimer** (drums), **Kyle Hernandez** (flugelhorn), **Matthew Abadam** (trumpet), **Cristian Batista** (bass), **Bella Foster** (tenor sax), and **Amelia Carmello** (vibes).

Congratulations to all the students for an amazing year of music at MMS!

Thank you for your continued support of these students' musical endeavors!

Final Duet

The Muhlenberg Music Department and community celebrates two incredibly talented musicians again this year. Seniors **Caldonia Carmello** and **Joel Evans** achieved remarkable milestones this school year as members of the school music program. They have been representing MHS in a variety of music festivals their entire high school careers. This year alone Joel and Cally have been involved in nine different events. They, however, saved the best ones for last.

For the second year in a row, Cally, as she likes to be called, reached a PMEA (Pennsylvania Music Educators Association) State Ensemble. Last year she was accepted into the State Wind Ensemble; this year she performed in the State Band. Playing in the first clarinet section, she had the opportunity to rehearse and perform in Pittsburgh at the PMEA State Music convention. Students selected for this band are chosen from the 501 school districts throughout Pennsylvania. Only a few students from Muhlenberg have ever managed to be chosen two years in a row. Before the state festival, Cally performed with both the PMEA District 10 and Region V bands. Cally is planning to study Environmental Science next year at the University of Delaware. Congratulations Cally!

Joel Evans took things one step farther. For the first time in Muhlenberg history, Joel was chosen to be in the ALL-EAST Orchestra. The ALL-EAST region of the national music organization is comprised of eleven states from Maine to Maryland. Joel was selected to

MUHLENBERG HIGH SCHOOL

play in the percussion section of this elite ensemble. The ALL-EAST orchestra also performed at the PMEA state convention in Pittsburgh. At the concert, Joel was presented with the prestigious Irene Christman Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to the top high school musician in Pennsylvania who is planning to major in the field of music education. Prior to the convention, Joel also performed with the PMEA District Band, District Orchestra, District Jazz Band, District Chorus, Region Orchestra and Region Chorus. Joel plans to attend Temple University next year to major in Music Education with a Jazz emphasis. Congratulations Joel!

Again, congratulations to this amazing pair of musicians, you have represented Muhlenberg in the best possible way!

Dave Luckenbaugh
MHS Band Director





This year's HS Reading Olympics Competition was held at the BCIU on April 10. The Olympic Readers Club represented Muhlenberg with two teams comprised of 9-12th grade (pictured left), and one 9th grade team from the middle school. Students read a minimum of three books in order to participate in the competition; however, many read a lot more! We celebrated reading and fun and excitement were had by all who attended, including the chaperones!

HS Reading Olympics Competition

Turnitin

MHS's use of Turnitin is just one more way of preparing our students to be able to succeed at the college level because all of the major colleges are using it, or a similar service. It has proven to be a true college preparatory experience as it introduces a system of standards and expectations. It aligns with our district's initiative to provide our students with the best forms of technology-based instruction.

From a teacher aspect, this program has cut grading time in half, allowing for quicker responses, quicker feedback to students, and more writing opportunities. The plagiarism aspect of the program has actually made students more accountable, and many of them are now focused on making sure they are citing correctly and collaborating without copying. Students are becoming

better writers with a better work ethic because they are being held accountable for their academic integrity.

For students, the program has helped them to be able to see the mistakes in their writing and have the opportunity to edit and fix them prior to fully submitting by the deadline. It also allows students to receive feedback from the teacher through the system with links that help them to fully comprehend the mistakes they are making, beyond the simple text written by the teacher. Previously, with hand-graded papers, students were only able to see the shorthanded note by the teacher, but with this program they are able to go through to the definition of the term and then see the steps on how to improve in the future.

The benefits of Turnitin include:

- **Helps create a culture of academic honesty and pride**
- **Provides students with the opportunity to correct errors and improve writing ability before a grade is awarded.**
- **Allows peer to peer collaboration, which is built into the software, again aligning with a district initiative to create 21st century learners.**
- **Allows teachers the most versatility in providing detailed and personalized feedback**
- **Allows for a system of peer feedback that is anonymous and instantaneous**
- **It provides immediate feedback during the revision and editing process. (This is a big plus!)**

by Megan Given



HS Blood Drive Committee

The Muhlenberg High School Blood Drive Committee was presented the Local Leader Award for the first time on April 4, 2019. It was in recognition of collecting 220 units of blood from students, staff and community members during 2018. The first blood drive held at MHS was held May 31, 1994. That is 25 years of blood drives and an impressive number of lives saved! Not only do the drives provide lifesaving blood products, it also earns scholarship money for MHS students.

The dates of the upcoming drives are 11/7/19, 1/30/20, and 4/23/20. The drives are held in the school for students and staff from 8 a.m.–3 p.m. The MKBC mobile lab sets up in front of MHS for community donations from 3:30 – 7 p.m.

Left to right: **Mr. Mish** (MHS principal), **Bhaavana Oruganty**, **Peter J. Castagna, Jr.** (CEO/President of MKBC), **Shawnaleh Cada**, **Jesus Dominguez Castaneda** (coordinator), **Tom Matthews** (MKBC Account Manager), **Sharon Lountzis** (MHS School Nurse), **Conner Barrett** (coordinator), **Mackenzie Schlegal**, **Michelle Bui**, **Francisco Alba**, **Desiree Sheetz**, & **Lisa DiSalvo**.

This year was the start of something new in the gifted program: *The Gifted Mentor Program*. Twenty gifted students participated along with students in grades 9-10 volunteered to mentoring students in grades 3-6. Students met with each other, worked on projects and homework, participated in scavenger hunts, played games, and were able to ask questions about the different buildings and programs in the Muhlenberg SD. 'We played a scavenger hunt game and we won cupcakes!' stated 4th grade student, **Estella Kerper**! The program was a success and beneficial for all those that participated.

Gifted Mentor Program





**801 BELLEVUE AVENUE
LAURELDALE, PA 19605**

PHONE: 610-921-8000

FAX: 610-921-8076

E-mail: lawp@mail.muhlsdk12.org

www.muhlsdk12.org

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EQUIPPING, ENGAGING, EMPOWERING

MISSION: Excellence in Action

VALUES & BELIEFS

Students learn differently.

Students learn best with challenging and relevant curriculum.

Students thrive in a safe learning environment.

Teachers lead learning through passion, perseverance and personality.

Teachers create a culture of high expectations.

Teachers are inspirational role models.

Students, parents and families, the school, the school board,
the community and business leaders

create partnerships that drive students success.

An informed and involved learning community is essential to the
development of strong educational partnerships and quality programs.

The learning community equips, engages and empowers learners.

VISION STATEMENT

The Muhlenberg School District is committed to guiding all students on a path of excellence with active and purposeful learning experiences, a growing and comprehensive curriculum, collaborative and innovative staff and creative use of technology and resources coupled with an unrelenting desire for success.

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