

Middie Times

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PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Supporters of Middletown High School,

The nights are starting to feel chilly, the days are beginning to seem shorter, the middle football team is 7 and 0 and life at Middletown High School is good. Did I mention that our marching band was recently named Grand Champion for the first time at the Logan Elm Competition? Well if I didn't, I should have because both groups of students, Football and Band are competing at a very high level and, in the process, making us all here at the high school very proud.

The great part about being principal of MHS is having an opportunity to be a part, albeit a very small part, of all of the activities that take place every year here at Middletown High School. Our students are involved in a wide range of different activities and clubs from the many athletic teams that compete all year to band, orchestra, show choir and a host of other activities associated with the arts. On the academic side we currently have a chapter of National Honor Society, as well as National Honor Societies in French, German, and Spanish, not to mention our grade level and building level student government organizations.

When beginning this letter I really had not intended to write about the many activities available to students at MHS: my intent was to mention the successes that our football team and band have experienced in the early going. Having fulfilled that obligation in the first few sentences, I could not help but begin thinking about the numerous clubs and activities available to our students. Approximately 40% of our students are currently involved in extra curricular activities of some sort; our goal is to have 100% of our students involved in extracurriculars on some level.

Research has shown, in numerous studies, that students who are involved in school activities do better in the classroom than those students who are not. Obviously, there are exceptions to this rule; nevertheless, I believe that as a general statement of fact it is safe to say that students who are involved in school activities benefit

academically. This is why I have always encouraged students to "get involved," whether by joining a club, trying out for a team, or becoming involved in the arts. Whatever the case, you will be better off for the experience.

I believe this letter has made abundantly clear the fact that I'm a big supporter of extracurricular activities. I find that they support, rather than detract from, our academic programs while at the same time helping to build character in young people. As always, thanks for your continued support, and remember, we can continue to improve both on the field and in the classroom, as long as we support one another.

MHS NEW TEACHERS

Middletown High School has 15 new teachers to the building faculty. Eight of the 15 are first year teachers while the remaining 7 are transfers from other schools. We extend a warm welcome to each of them from all of us. The new teachers are: LeeAnn Brewer, David Chapman, Terry Cole, Rosanne Garber, Kelly Gardner, Charlie Hacker, Barb Heflin, Daniel Kelley, Joyce Leifheit, James Lorz, Jim Marcum, Tony Michele, Mark Ratliff, Andrew Trokan, and Bruce Ralston.

MHS STUDY TABLES

Middletown High School has an excellent program to assist students after school with their studies. Study Tables are held in the cafeteria every Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. Three teachers are on hand each day to help students with their work and to offer a quiet place to study. An activity bus comes to the school at 3:30 to pick up students.

Study Tables are a terrific chance for students to find help with difficult subjects or to get caught up if they have missed a few days. They are also a great opportunity for students to utilize websites such as Study Island or others that offer OGT, SAT, and ACT practice. The faculty tutors for the MHS

study tables are: Mrs. Jennifer Moon, Ms. Angela Arent and Ms. Amy Janning.

LADY MIDDIES OF EXCELLENCE

The Lady Middies of Excellence held their first Cinderella's Closet event on Monday, September 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Middletown High School Media Center. The group offered gently used formal dresses, shoes and accessories at a nominal



cost, so that many young ladies can enjoy a magical night and create special high school memories.

Nearly \$200 was raised during Cinderella's Closet and The Lady Middies of Excellence donated the proceeds to Citizens Against Domestic Violence, a local nonprofit organization which acts to promote an awareness of Domestic Violence and the damage it does to individuals, and to family, church, and business relationships. The group presented a check to CADV in a meeting on Thursday, October 8. The Lady Middies of Excellence plan to open Cinderella's Closet again this spring to help young ladies find affordable prom gowns.

FRESHMEN ACADEMY

The Middletown High School Freshmen Academy is an Intervention Program specifically targeting incoming students who have struggled to find success within the traditional school setting. Freshmen Academy students typically have experienced two or more areas of academic failures; are deficient in areas emphasized on the Ohio Achievement Test; and are disconnected from school due to non-attendance.

The Freshmen Academy strives to meet the needs of each and every student. The traditional school setup, including large classrooms, and conventional instructional strategies have been replaced with smaller class sizes, hands on and computer assisted learning, educational field trips, and motivational/inspirational speakers. Additionally, students have been assigned a

mentor teacher that works closely with the family (students and parents/guardians); monitors the students academic progress, behavioral status and attendance; and prepare weekly progress reports to inform students and their family of his/her academic status.

The immediate goals of the program are to improve attendance by 10 percent, the acquisition of five credits by 100 percent of the students, increased positive student behavior by 10 percent, and reduce the ninth grade retention rate by 30 percent. The long-term goals of the program are improved

performance on the Ohio Graduation Test, improved academic achievement in the tenth grade and a reduction in the dropout rate.

SPORTS NEWS

On September 29, the MHS Volleyball teams packed the house with all proceeds going to the Susan G. Komen



Foundation for breast cancer research. Over \$1000 was raised for this charity.



Keeping The Teams in Tune

Dr. Mark Frazer (a former Middle football player) and Dr. Scott True of Summit Family Physicians are on duty for all Middle athletes. Atrium Medical Center provides Kevin Stokes, a registered Team Trainer for MHS. Together they keep Middle student athletes in playing form, offer pre-season physical exams and are available to prevent and assist with injuries.

As of this issue, our Football Team is 7-0.

MHS DATES TO REMEMBER

OGT Testing – week of Oct. 26 – 30

Booster Club Waffle Breakfast – Oct. 31 @ 7 am

Band Concert – Nov. 3 @ 7 pm

Early Release Day - Nov. 4
Senior Panoramic Picture - Nov. 13 @ 9 am
Early Release Day - Nov. 18
Parent/Teacher Conferences - Nov. 19 3-8:30 pm
Thanksgiving Break - Nov. 26 & 27