



MILWAUKEE
HIGH SCHOOL
of the Arts

DECEMBER 2011

MILWAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Intellectual Growth through Creative Expression
2300 West Highland Ave. Milwaukee, WI. 53233
414 934-7000 - School Bell Schedule: 8:45 AM-3:55 PM

MHSA is the only public performing high school in the state of Wisconsin. Students spend two hours of each day in their chosen major: Visual Arts – Theatre – Creative Writing/Journalism – Dance – Music
MHSA also offers the following Advanced Placement courses: Art History – Biology – Chemistry - English Language - English Literature - Music Theory – Physics – Spanish - Studio Art - US Government - US History



Important December Dates

- Dec. 1 World AIDS Day
- Dec. 2 Senior Yearbook Materials Deadline!
- Dec. 2-3 Theatre of Protest 7:00 PM
- Dec. 4 Theatre of Protest 2:00 PM
- Dec. 6 Blood Drive
- Dec. 8 Food for Thought Art Show
- Dec. 9-10 New Horizons Dance 7:00 PM
- Dec. 11 New Horizons Dance 2:00 PM
- Dec. 13 Senior Night! (seniors and parents) 6:00 PM
- Dec. 16–17 *Amahl and the Night Visitors* 7:00 PM
- Dec. 21 Theatre Dance Recital 5:00 PM
- Dec. 22–Jan 2 Winter Break

SENIOR NIGHT!!! Dec 13 @ 6 PM



This meeting is for graduating seniors and at least one parent/guardian. The evening will include, a light supper and a chance to learn about:

- Credits/ Requirements for graduation
- The graduation ceremony and information from Senior Representatives
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

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YEARBOOK INFORMATION FOR SENIORS DUE DECEMBER 2, 2011

These materials are due December 2, 2011! Senior portraits will be printed in the yearbook free of charge. Baby pictures and quotes will cost \$7.50 each. Quotes are limited to 30 words or less. The smallest acceptable photo is a 2.5" x 3.5" wallet. Please write your name clearly on the back of all photos and quotes and give them to Mr. Wszalek.

ACT Test Dates:

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Fee Required
Feb. 11, 2012	Jan. 13, 2012	Jan. 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 - 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

Basic ACT is \$34.00. ACT with writing is \$49.50. Late fee is \$21.00

For more information about ACT testing and fees, go to:

<http://www.actstudent.org/index.html>

Juniors!

There is still time to sign up for Spanish 1. It will be offered after school starting this month and will be worth one full credit. Students must be able to stay after school Tuesdays/Thursdays from 4pm-5pm, and must have excellent attendance. There is a sign- up sheet outside of Ms. Craine's door in the guidance office. ¡ Nos vemos pronto!

(See you soon!)

B L O O D D R I V E
T U E S D A Y D E C . 6 , 2 0 1 1

MHSA is hosting a blood drive from 8am. -1pm in the gym. Donors must be at least sixteen years of age (sixteen year old donors must have a parental consent form filled out upon arrival). Here are a few things you need to know before donating :

- **SLEEP!** get a good night's sleep.
- **EAT!** regular meals to make sure that you are not donating on an empty stomach.
- **Drink!** Plenty of fluids. When you donate blood, your body loses about two cups of fluid. After donation your body replaces the fluid almost immediately by drawing water into your blood from surrounding tissues.
- *Drinking water thirty minutes before the donation has been found to enhance the donation experience by replenishing fluid loss from donation and helping to prevent one of the most common types of donor reactions: Light-headedness.*

The donor consent form can be found online at: www.bcw.edu

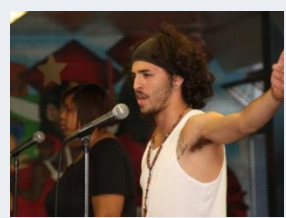
December is poetry Out loud month!

Once again, Milwaukee High School of the Arts will take part in Poetry Out Loud, a National Recitation contest. During December, all students will be asked to memorize poetry. Classroom-level winners will compete to be Grade-level winners. On Thursday December 15th, Grade level winners will compete for the top two spots to represent HMSA at the regional Competition. Parents can:

- Check out the POL website <http://www.poetryoutloud.org>
 - Browse the wide selection of poems and see the criteria use tips and evaluation criteria.
 - Ask your students what poem they are memorizing.
 - Give students a chance to share a poem or two with you!
- “ By memorizing and reciting a poem, you make it part of you”

Theatre of protest

As part of the ongoing exploration of the many different genres that comprise the theatre curriculum at MHSa, the Department is proud to present the first evening of Theater Of Protest. The performances will comprise of three short plays from different countries and cultures. The first, “Los Venditos” was created by Luis Valdez and Teatro Campesino. The second piece, “Valley Song” (this piece is being directed by Stacy Kolafa of MHSa) and the final piece is a short adaptation of “Accidental Death of an Anarchist” by Dario Fo. So please come join us! We trust you will enjoy these three strikingly different pieces and the wonderful work of our actors and guess directors.





New Horizons 2011 Faculty Dance Concert

The New Horizons concert will feature works choreographed by members of MHS Dance Faculty Anna Brueggeman, Dean Drews and Roxy Kess. New Horizons will explore the dance genres of Ballet, Modern, Jazz, African, Hip Hop and Liturgical dance styles. MHS Alumni will have a strong showing of their artistic growth, Ariel Asch (a recent graduate from Fordham In New York) creating a work on our level 7/8 dancers; Stephanie Lossmann (Milwaukee Ballet giving us a look at contemporary ballet, while David Roman gives us some attitude with his lyrical and 50's jazz styles).

This year the MHS Dance Department lost one its brightest crimson stars. Alumni Devin D. Williams died on September 7th, while dancing in Atlanta, Georgia. His alumni friends and teacher have dedicated a dance choreographed in his honor to celebrate his life in dance, while healing our hearts.

Dec. 9 & 10 at 7pm. And Dec. 11 at 2pm.

Admission is \$6.00 general public, \$4.00 for students and seniors



EFNEP

(Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program)

Nutrition Classes

Parents! Learn to grocery shop wisely, store foods safely, plan nutritious and tasty meals, and balance healthy eating with physical activity. Classes will be held Tuesdays from 10:30am. - 12:00pm.

December 6, 2011	Build strong bones
December 13, 2011	Go lean with protein
December 20, 2011	Make a change & CELEBRATE!

To register or more information, Contact Ms. Beckley:

(414) 267-5181

North Division High School

1011 W. Center Street, Room 158

Milwaukee, WI. 53206

The Big Read Milwaukee

The Big Read is a national literacy project funded by the National Endowment for the Arts. Its aim is to reach reluctant and lapsed readers, as well as to encourage whole communities to explore culturally relevant literature. The Big Read in Milwaukee will focus on Harper Lee's American classic *To Kill A Mockingbird*. The readings will occur at various Milwaukee Locations, will be accompanied by a book discussion and would last no more than two hours. The readings run through March. Volunteers would read aloud from the novel in front of a public audience. Here are some upcoming locations. You can be a volunteer! At : bigread@milwaukeeep.com

Sat., Dec. 3, 2011 2pm. - 3pm. At the Milwaukee Public Library (Villard Ave) 3310 W. Villard Avenue
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Mon., Jan. 9, 2012 7pm. – 8pm. At Literary Services of Wisconsin 2724 W. Wells
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Thu., Jan. 12, 2012 6pm. – 7pm. Milwaukee Public Library (Zablocki) 3501 W. Oklahoma Avenue

Tue., Jan. 17, 2012 6:30pm. – 7:30pm. At the Milwaukee Public Library (Bay View) 2566 S. Kinnickinnic Avenue
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Mon., Jan 23, 2012 6pm. – 7pm. At the Milwaukee public Library (Capitol) 3969 N. 74 th Street
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Mon., Jan. 30, 2012 5:30pm. – 6:30pm. At the Milwaukee Public Library (center St.) 2727 W. Fond du Lac Avenue

Benefits of parent involvement

- Children tend to achieve more, regardless of ethnic or racial background, socioeconomic status or parents' educational level.
- Children generally achieve better grades, test scores and attendance.
- Children consistently complete their homework.
- Children have better self-esteem, are more self-disciplined, show higher aspirations and motivation toward school.
- Fewer children are being placed in special education and remedial classes.
- Children from diverse cultural backgrounds tend to do better when parents and professionals work together to bridge the gap between the culture at home and the culture at school.
- Junior high and high school students whose parents remain involved usually make better transitions and are less likely to drop out of school.

The Ten Rules of Concert Etiquette

- 1. Refrain from talking.** This is the first and greatest rule. This rule includes whispering to or disciplining your other children.
- 2. Refrain from unwrapping noisy candy wrappers during the performance.**
- 3. Turn off pagers, cell phones and watch alarms.** While many phones and pagers now have very symphonic—like rings, they don't always fit into the musical score, nor do they provide pleasant sounds for your neighbors.
- 4. Do not wave to your children during the concert**
- 5. Do not take flash photography**
- 6. Please do not walk down the center isle with your video camera.** Video cameras work just as well from the back of the auditorium.
- 7. Do not leave as soon as your child's portion of the concert is over.** All of the students deserve a full audience for their performances.
- 8. Applaud at appropriate times.** Some music has several sections. Remember, it's not over until all of the sections have been performed.
- 9. Do not leave the auditorium during the music.** Wait for a break in the concert to visit the restroom, unless you are carrying a screaming child, in which case you should leave quietly and quickly, PLEASE!
- 10. Go to the concert expecting the best.** You just might be surprised how good your student sounds when the other students join in!



Photo by sara Raasch

A musician must make music, an artist must paint, a poet must write, if he/she is to be ultimately at peace with himself. What one can be, one must be".

Abraham Maslow

Parents! Help support our PBIS initiative

What is PBIS?

(Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports)

PBIS is a joint effort between Milwaukee Public Schools Department of Parent and Student services and the Milwaukee Teacher's Education Association to effectively reduce classroom disruptions and student suspensions through a school-wide systematic tiered -intervention approach. Data shows that schools that implement PBIS with fidelity see decreases in disruptions and suspensions and increases in student achievement. For more information go to:

<http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>

See Ms. Moore in the Parent center if you need to have computer access or would like to become a parent volunteer.

Moorejc@milwaukeek12.wi.us. (414) 934-7059

Be a **STAR**

All MHSA students and staff are
expected to be:

Safe

Timely

Accountable

Respectful

Winter Break!! December 22 through January 2



Winter Break!

January 2012

Jan. 3 - school resumes

Jan. 11 - Jazz Bazaar

Jan. 16 - MLK Jr. Day (Martin Luther King holiday no student attendance)

Jan. 17, 18,19 - High school midterm exams

Jan. 19 - Comedy Night! (adults only)

Jan. 20 - record day (no student attendance)

Jan. 24 - Spring auditions for non-Milwaukee residents

To Kill a Mockingbird, The Pulitzer Prize-winning tale about innocence, tolerance, family and the courage to live what you believe, comes to breathtaking life on stage in January at the Milwaukee Repertory Theatre.

January 31- March 4, 2012

<http://www.milwaukeeerep.com/>

Milwaukee High School of the Arts

2300 West Highland Avenue

Milwaukee, WI 53222

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission statement:

To provide an educational experience this enables all students to nurture their academic and artistic talents to the fullest. Students will develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills, communicate effectively and become proficient in the use of modern technology. The MHS staff, in collaboration with parents and the community, will create an educational atmosphere fostering excellence and achievement. The school's curriculum, based on respect for the people of all cultural backgrounds, prepares students to be responsible citizens of a democratic society.

Our Major Areas of study:

Visual Arts Dance Creative Writing/Journalism Music Theatre

For more about Milwaukee High School of the Arts, please visit our web site:

<http://www.mhsarts.com>

Please consider joining our email list. If you are a parent of a current student, you can opt to receive the newsletter by email only. Send me the name of your student and street address so I can take you off the mailing list. If you are a community member or alumni, I can add you to one of those lists. Save a Tree! Keep costs down. Email: moorejcmilwaukee12.wi.us.

Want to submit an article? Contact me by the 15th of the month.

Jessalynne Moore, MHS Newsletter Editor

Labels for Education

Ms. Kolafa is still collection Labels for Education for the Spanish Department in order to purchase a projector. However, there is also a chance to enter to win a tech makeover for the school that we can enter daily until Dec. 31!

Web site: <http://www.labelsforeducation.com> for more information.

Reminder! Cell Phone Policy!

Parents please remind your students that they can possess phones but not activate, display or use them!



Congratulations!

MHSA's very own Mr. Jerrell Braxton received Social Worker of the Year recognition award for 2011-2012 by the Wisconsin School Social Work Association (WSSWA). Way to go Mr. Braxton and thank you for all that you do!

Felix Ramsey (a Junior here at MHSA) has been selected for a position in the 2012 GRAMMY Jazz Ensemble! Felix is one out of thirty students selected from across the country through the GRAMMY Foundation. This is a tremendous honor!

Wow!

Justin Sparapani and Mikey Murry were the top two finishers in October's Voltage Teen Poetry Slam! They have qualified to go to the state finals held in April in Milwaukee. Go Get em'!

For more details, see Mr. Bruss or call (414) 934-7144

Congratulations to all MHSA Honor Roll students! Keep it up!



New Concept Self Development Center will be presenting group parenting classes.

All classes will be held at the District Parent Resource Center in North Division from
5:00-7:00pm

- If you can not make the first set of sessions, don't worry, there are more sets scheduled throughout the school year.
(Parents only attend one set of sessions.)
- Participants who meet all attendance requirements will receive a Certificate of Completion on the last day of class.

**For more information or to register:
Call Ms. Beckley at
(414) 267-4982 or
Visit the District Parent Resource Center,
Room 158**

January 3, 2012
January 10, 2012
January 17, 2012
January 24, 2012
January 31, 2012

**District Parent Resource Center
North Division
1011 W. Center Street, Room 158
Milwaukee, WI. 53206
(414) 267-4982**

Topics will include:

- **Communication and Listening**
 - **Lifestyles and Role Models**
- **Human Sexuality/Sexual Abuse Prevention**
 - **Discipline vs. Punishment**
 - **Building Positive Self-Esteem**
 - **Problem Ownership**
- **Behavior Expectations and Child Development**
 - **Children Home Alone**