

MILWAUKEE HIGH SCHOOL OF THE ARTS

Intellectual Growth through Creative Expression

2300 West Highland Ave. Milwaukee, WI 53233 414-934-7000 8AM-4PM

MHSA is the only public performing arts high school in the state of Wisconsin.

Students spend two hours of study each day in their chosen major.

Visual Arts Theatre Creative Writing/Journalism Dance Music
We offer Honors classes. We also offer AP classes in English, History, Biology, Physics, American Government, Art History and Studio Art.

May Dates

- May 2 New Student Orientation 5:30
PTSO 6:00 - 7:00 PM
- May 3-11 AP Exams
- May 11 ACT Make-Up Day (Juniors)
- May 12 SGC 6PM Library
- May 13 Rexnord Awards Ceremony 7PM
- May 18 PTSO Fundraiser at Skylight
- May 19 Creative Writing Showcase 6PM
- May 20 Regular School Day
- May 20 Prom
- May 24-26 Senior Theatre Projects 4PM
- May 25 Jazz Finale 7 PM
- May 26 Student Dance Recitals 7 PM
- May 27 Student Dance Concert 7 PM
- May 28 NHS Fundraiser 9:30 AM Rosebud
- May 31 Final Piano Concert

Coming in June

- June 1 NHS Induction
- June 1-2 Senior Exams
- June 3 Band & Alumni Concert
- June 4 Spring Music Concert (off site)
(Vocal & Orchestra)
- June 6 High School Musical Celebration
at the Skylight Opera Theatre
- June 8 Graduation (yay-yay-yay!)
- June 9-14 Final Exams
- June 15 Records Day

Note: Final Exams and Records Day may change if a make-up day is added to the calendar.

Check our website for changes, updates and additions at: <http://www.mhsarts.com>

School Starts at 8:35 AM
School Ends at 3:45 PM

May 2011



Black Boys Play the Classics

The most popular “act” in Penn Station is the three black kids in ratty sneakers & T-shirts playing two violins and a cello—Brahms. White men in business suits have already dug into their pockets as they pass and they toss in a dollar or two without stopping. Brown men in work-soiled khakis stand with their mouths open, arms crossed on their bellies as if they themselves have always wanted to attempt those bars. One white boy, three, sits cross-legged in front of his idols—in ecstasy—their slick, dark faces, their thin, wiry arms, who must begin to look like angels! Why does this trembling pull us? A: Beneath the surface we are one. B: Amazing! I did not think that they could speak this tongue.

-- Toi Derricotte

Black Boys Play the Classics was one of the poems that Chantal Tribble recited for this year’s Poetry Out Loud competition. (See page 3 for details.)

~ Upcoming Events ~

Advanced Placement (AP) Exams

AP exams are scheduled for May 3 - May 11. Only those students who signed up and paid for the exams by the March deadline are eligible to take them. **Students need to arrive by 7:40 AM for an 8AM exam.** Remember: the College Board has eliminated its long-standing “guessing penalty” on AP Exams.

AP Exam Schedule: May 3 - May 11

Date of Exam	Class	Time of Exam
May 3	AP Art History	12 PM – 4 PM
May 5	AP English Literature	8 AM – 12 PM
May 6	AP US History	8 AM – 12 PM
May 9	AP Biology	8 AM – 12 PM
	AP Physics	12 PM – 4 PM
May 10	AP Government	8 AM – 12 PM
May 11	AP English	8 AM – 12 PM
	AP Statistics	12 PM – 4 PM



**Prom 2011: A Night in Hollywood
May 20 at The Italian Community Center 7 - 11:30 PM**

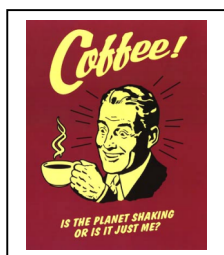
You must be a junior or senior to purchase tickets. Tickets are \$65 per person or \$120 per couple. You **CAN NOT** purchase tickets if you are on the Unfinished Business List (UBL) or if you have any suspensions for the 4th mark period. You must bring your school ID to prom. Doors close at 9PM. No excuses!

Student Dance Recital and Concert

The student dance recital and concert are always exciting presentations of many styles of dance. They are the annual culmination of student work by all dance majors at MHSA. The recital (Thursday, May 26 at 7:00 PM) is the presentation of faculty-choreographed works for the beginning and intermediate-level dance majors. The student concert (Friday, May 27 at 7:00 PM) is the presentation of advanced student choreography projects.



Dance Recital: Thursday, May 26 at 7PM (In Dance Studio - FREE)
Dance Concert: Friday, May 27 at 7PM (In Auditorium - \$6 adults and \$4 students)



**Last Chance
Final Parent and Staff Morning Coffee ~ MHS Library
Thursday, May 26 from 7:30 AM - 8:45 AM**

Please join us for stimulating conversation, darn good coffee, and homemade goodies baked by an unknown Keebler Elf.

Students and Staff in the Limelight

Congratulations to Chantal Tribble ~ Poetry Out Loud

MHSA's own **Chantal Tribble** placed in the top ten at the National Endowment for the Arts "Poetry Out Loud" competition which took place last week in Washington D.C. Chantal won a \$1000 scholarship and \$500 for MHSA. (This is in addition to the money she previously won for herself and for MHSA for winning the State Competition.) It is important to note that this is the FIRST year that MHSA has entered the Poetry Out Loud contest. We are very proud of Chantal, and also her mentor, Katherine Katter!

Felix Ramsey Performs with Marvin Hamlisch

As a result of his performance in a Master Class here at MHSA with Marvin Hamlisch, Principal Pops conductor of the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, **Felix Ramsey**, sophomore vocal major, has been invited by Maestro Hamlisch himself, to sing "One Song" on the "Marvin does Marvin" concert with the MSO this weekend.

Friday, May 6 at 8PM Saturday, May 7 at 8PM Sunday, May 8 at 2:30 PM

Additionally, Hamlisch invited Felix to sing with the San Diego Symphony (for which Hamlisch also serves as Principal Pops conductor) in July on a Patriotic Pops concert. There will be an article in the JS this week with details. This is a tremendous honor and accomplishment.

Visual Art Winners

Winners in the 2011 Wisconsin State Fair Young People's Art Exhibit have been announced. Out of 485 statewide entries, Milwaukee High School of the Arts had the following Visual Art students winning Ribbon and Cash Awards:

Caleb Hunnicutt, Jalen Leichman, Juan Pantoja, Erin Tate, and Pierre Treivy.

Their work, and the work of other Visual Art students from MHSA will be on display in the Expo Center Lobby during the 43rd annual Wisconsin State Fair held at the Fairgrounds Aug. 4-14.

Staff Members in Area Production

MHSA Physics / Theatre teacher, **Steven Koehler**, will be performing as "the boss" in the Skylight's production of *Adding Machine - The Musical* which runs from May 20 - June 12. See page 7 for details on seeing this production.

MHSA Spanish Teacher, **Stacy Kolafa**, has been cast as Grace Ferrell in The Patio Player's production of *Annie* which runs April 29 - May 8 in Menomonee Falls. Grace is Daddy Warbuck's secretary. The show is at 7:30 PM on April 29, 30, May 6, 7 and at 2PM on May 1 and May 8. For ticketing information check the website fallspatioplayers.com or call 262.255.8372.

Creative Writing (CW) News and Showcase on May 19th

There is a guest artist / graduate student from UWM's film department who has been collaborating with CW senior students in creating film projects that are student driven. There is no word on when these films will be screened. If you come to the **Creative Writing Showcase on Thursday, May 19 at 6PM** you may find out. Listen to the power of the written word.

Poetry Slam City Winners!

Congratulations to **Mr. Bruss** and the poetry slammers for winning the Poetry Slam Citywide Championship! This is their second "First Place" win in the past two years! The students wrote and performed outstanding and emotionally moving pieces.

Internships, Events and Opportunities

Summer Dance Intensive at MHSA

June 27 - July 29 10AM - 3PM Monday - Friday

Guest Faculty Include:

Allyne D. Gartell - Founder & Director of the Atlanta Dance Connection

Richard Freeman - Former Dancer with Dallas Black Dance Theatre

Toshia Vaughn - Founder and Director of Jubilee Arts Academy (Los Angeles, CA) and former dancer with Lula Washinton Dance Company

MHSA Alumni - Stephanie Lossmann, Robert Ruffin and Zachary Todd Orr

Contact Ms. Jordan (934-7051 for more information).

Calling All Teen Actors, Singers & Writers: Next Act Theatre

NEXT ACTORS: SUMMER THEATRE FOR TEENS is a six-week intensive summer theatre playwriting workshop. The program is offered free-of-charge to 20 Milwaukee area teenagers, from June 15 through July 23, 2011. Under the guidance of adult teaching artists, the teens invited to participate will write an original hour-long musical play, and then they will rehearse and tour the finished production. **Auditions: May 14 and May 15 10AM – 2PM.** Schedule a 10-minute audition time slot at 414 278-7780 or email Matt: mkemple@nextact.org.

The 6-week program begins June 15. Next Actors is open to committed high school students (freshmen in fall '11 to graduating seniors).

National Honor Society (NHS) Event at Rosebud Cinema Drafthouse Morning of Saturday, May 28th

This year's NHS fundraiser will benefit the organization, Doctors without Borders, and its work in treating the cholera epidemic in Haiti. The event at the Rosebud will include presentations by NHS students, t-shirt sales and tickets to a **reserved showing** of the soon-to-be-released "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides." Ticket prices will be \$10. Rosebud Cinema is located at 6823 W. North Ave. in Wauwatosa. The event runs from 9:30 AM - 1PM.

A note of Thanks from Mrs. Garcia – To our Families

Thank you, thank you, thank you!!! I am so grateful for all of your help with our MSO Concert. I was amazed to see how much delicious food there was to eat – MHSA families are exceptionally generous. We are looking forward to another event like this next year and I would be grateful for your suggestions. More forks and more drinks are already on my list...

Thank you so much to all of you who brought your work colleagues, neighbors, and families to the concert. We heard from Maestro Hamlisch (or from his 'people!') and he enjoyed himself and would like to work with us again. We are planning to take a trip to New York next spring to be MSO fans – they have been invited to play at Carnegie Hall in May 2012. Please let me know if you are interested in joining us for this adventure as a chaperone. Student deposits of \$75 are due on Friday, May 6th.

Again – thank you for your show of support for your children and their school. It was a wonderful concert!

MAY 20, 2011 - STUDENT ATTENDANCE DAY

We were scheduled to have a Banking Time Day in May. Alas, no more.

Friday, May 20, 2011 will be a regular day of instruction for students and staff.

MPS and On-Going Budget Information

These are uncertain times. In order to keep informed about the Budget Crisis in MPS and to get other pertinent information, please continue to check the MPS Website. MPS Superintendent Thornton also updates his Blog every week or so - and there is some great information in there too. Type in or click on: <http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>. Look for "budget impacts" and that will bring you to the link for: <http://www.superintendentthornton.blogspot.com/>.

New! Senior Exit Survey

All seniors are now required to complete a Senior Exit Survey. Students can access this from the MPS Portal Home Page. Click on **Students**. On the student toolbox page under "more tools" you will find a button for **Senior Exit Survey**. Click on this button to start the survey. Students do NOT need to log into the portal to take the survey which ends on June 3.

Join the MHS A Dream Team on Saturday, May 7, 2011 Making Strides Against Breast Cancer

The Dream Team is the MHS A secretarial staff: Lolita Pearson, Pat Hron, Sonja Jenkins and Regina Walton. Join them in the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk at Discovery World, 500 N. Harbor Drive. Registration begins at 8:30 AM. The event begins at 10 AM.

Keep on walking ... and you will find yourself at **Comedy Sportz** in time for the NOON match which pits the Milwaukee High School of the Arts and Crafts team against the Plymouth Jolly Pranksters. The H.S. League Tournament is on Saturday, May 7 at NOON. Tickets are \$3. Comedy Sportz is just south of downtown Milwaukee between The Third Ward and Walker's Point at 420 S. First Street. It is next door to Independence First.

New Library Books for May - Parents, You Can Check Them Out Too!

Non Fiction/History

Five Thousand Years of Slavery by Marjorie Gann and Janet Willen

Chronicles the history of slavery around the world over the course of five thousand years, and includes personal accounts, photographs, maps, and suggestions for further reading

Biography

I Beat the Odds: From Homelessness to The Blind Side and Beyond by Michael Oher with Don Yeager
Football player Michael Oher is the young man at the center of the true story portrayed in both the book and movie *The Blind Side*.

Speculative

Afterlife (An Evernight Novel) by Claudia Gray

When a shocking twist of fate turns Bianca into a wraith and Lucas into a vampire, the star-crossed lovers have no choice but to return to the sinister Evernight Academy to deal with the repercussions.

Starred Review/ Historical Fiction

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly

An angry, grieving seventeen-year-old musician facing expulsion from her Brooklyn private school travels to Paris to complete a school assignment and uncovers a diary written during the French Revolution by a young actress attempting to help a tortured, imprisoned little boy--Louis Charles, the lost king of France.

Realistic Fiction

Strings Attached by Judy Blundell

The author is a winner of the National Book Award for *What I Saw and How I Lied*

When she drops out of school and struggles to start a career on Broadway in the fall of 1950, seventeen-year-old Kit Corrigan accepts help from an old family friend, a lawyer said to have ties with the mob, who then asks her to do some favors for him.

NOMINATIONS FOR MPS SCHOOL GOVERNANCE COUNCILS (SGC)

A ballot will be mailed to each household in early May and it will contain the names of parents who want to serve on the MHSA SGC. Ballots are due back by May 31.

Volunteer Opportunities for Parents

- Box Office: May 27 (dance) June 3 (band) June 4 (vocal/orchestra)
- Be the lead parent for the G.E. Community Service Day on August 24, 2011
Call Sara at 934-7059 if you can volunteer

Upcoming Parent Meetings at MHSA

PTSO usually meets the 1st Monday of each month. **There will be NO JUNE MEETING!**
SGC rotates between the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month.

Group	Date/Time/Place	Monthly Focus	Contact
PTSO	Monday, May 2 @ 6 PM Cafe/Parent Room	New Student Orientation Rexnord Honors Program Skylight Event	Sara Raasch 934-7059
SGC	Thursday, May 12 @ 6 PM Library	Variety of Topics	Tyne Turner mike8963@yahoo.com

District Advisory Council - Two Positions Still Available

The District Advisory Council (DAC) is the parent advisory group for the district. All schools are required to have at least two parent representatives. As a rep, you are responsible for attending monthly meetings and sharing the information with parents at MHSA. The DAC meets the first Thursday of each month at Central Services from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you have questions about the DAC, contact Tamara Johnson, MPS Parent Involvement Coordinator at 414-475-8310 or johnsots@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

Region, DAC and Families First Monthly Meetings

The Following Meetings are open to all parents and guardians and take place once a month at MPS Central Office. The address is 5225 W. Vliet Street.

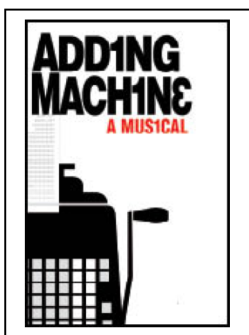
Region Parent Meetings Meets the First Thursday of each Month from 6 -7 PM	District Advisory Council Meets the First Thursday of each Month from 7-9 PM	Families First Meets the Third Wednesday of each Month from 6-8 PM
May 5	May 5	May 18
June 2	June 2	No June Meeting

ALL STUDENT FEES AND FINES MUST BE PAID BY MAY 6, 2011!

Students who do not pay their fees and fines will not be allowed to participate in Graduation ceremonies or go to Prom. Please call Ms. Pat Hron in the main office (934-7000) if you have questions about fees and fines.

Not getting enough information from MHSA? Sign up for the MHSA Weekly E-Newsletter. Go to: www.mhsarts. Find the pink tab on the right that says "Weekly E-Newsletter." Click on that. Type in your email address. You will now receive weekly updates from MHSA.

Want the **Monthly Newsletter** sooner and in color? Get it by email and print it out yourself. Send an email to: raaschsm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us and list YOUR NAME, YOUR STUDENT'S NAME and your MAILING ADDRESS so you can be taken off the postal route.



Annual PTSO Fundraiser at the Skylight ~ May 18th

- ◆ Adding Machine - A Musical
- ◆ Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 PM ~ Preview Night (not open to public)
- ◆ \$20 per person Tickets are LIMITED and are selling like hotcakes! (Ticket form is below. Tickets will NOT be available at the door. You must pre-pay for this event.)

We will be seated in the Dress Circle where tickets normally cost \$65 and \$67. If you like what you see (and you will) PLEASE spread the word to family, friends and co-workers. That helps ensure that the audience at the Skylight is always filled. **As a bonus ~ MHSa physics and theatre teacher, Steve Koehler, is in this production!**

Darkly comic and heartbreakingly beautiful, *ADDING MACHINE – A MUSICAL* is an adaptation of Elmer Rice’s 1923 Expressionist drama. It tells the story of Mr. Zero, who after 25 years of service to his company is replaced by a mechanical adding machine. In a vengeful rage, he murders his boss. But there is also romance and redemption. Milwaukee native Joshua Schmidt says he wrote *ADDING MACHINE – A MUSICAL* with Skylight in mind! Already a hit in New York and Chicago, we are thrilled to be performing this Wisconsin premiere.

“Remarkable Theater!” -- The New Yorker “Exciting and Adventurous!” --New York Post
 “A Masterpiece of Expressionism!” Variety

If you can’t attend on our special Preview Night - please try to attend on another night and support our community partner, The Skylight Opera Theatre.

<http://skylightopera.com>

Preview Night is Wednesday, May 18, 2011: 7:30 PM Show Time

Parking is sometimes hard to find. Please be at the theatre at least 30 minutes before the show starts to get your seat.

- Entire ticket price benefits MHSa PTSO
 - Tickets are in the Dress Circle (upstairs) The 1st Row is RESERVED for MHSa PTSO.
 - All other seats in the Dress Circle are general seating.
 - Place your order form (and payment) in the PTSO mailbox in the front office or mail it to MHSa - PTSO, 2300 W. Highland Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53233
- Questions? Call Sara Raasch at 934-7059.

The Adding Machine - Ticket Order Form

of Tickets _____ @ \$20.00 each = \$_____

Print Name: _____

___ I will pick up Tickets

___ Student will pick up tickets _____(Name of student)

Checks should be made payable to: MHSa PTSO
 Tickets can be picked up in the parent room off of the cafeteria.

Milwaukee High School of the Arts
2300 West Highland Avenue
Milwaukee, WI 53233

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide an educational experience which 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 MHSA staff, in collaboration with parents and community, will create an educational atmosphere fostering excellence and achievement. The school's curriculum, based on respect for 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 your street address so I can take you off of 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: raaschsm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us.

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

Sara Raasch, MHSA Newsletter Editor