

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, Chemistry, Physics, American Government, Art History and Studio Art.

September Dates

- Sep. 1 First Day of School
- Sep. 6 Labor Day No School
- Sep. 9 SGC @ 6 PM in Library
- Sep. 13 PTSO Meeting @ 6PM Cafeteria
- Sep. 15 Theatre majors to Spring Green
- Sep. 17 Third Friday
- Sep. 21 Photo Day
- Sep. 25 Tour for 50th reunion
- Sep. 27 OPEN HOUSE and POTLUCK
Potluck and Music 4:30 - 6 PM
Program Begins at 6 PM

October Dates

- Oct. 1 Banking Day - No School
- Oct. 4 PTSO Meeting @ 6PM Cafeteria
- Oct. 8-9 Who I Am Dance Concert 7PM
- Oct. 13 PSAT All Day
- Oct. 14 SGC @ 6 PM
- Oct. 15 No School
- Oct. 20 6PM Audition Workshop Grade 8
- Oct. 26 Math and Literacy Family Night
- Oct. 28-29 No School(Teacher Convention)

The dates and times of our October Parent Teacher Conferences are being decided. They will be held sometime during the week of October 11th.

Check our website for changes, updates and additions.

<http://www.mhsarts.com>

Bell Schedule

School Start at 8:35 AM

School Ends at 3:45 PM

September 2010

The Song of Purple Summer

From Spring Awakening



*The earth will wave with corn
The Gray-fly choir will mourn
And mares will neigh with
Stallions that they mate, foals
they've borne
And all shall know the wonder
of purple summer.*

Steven Sater and Duncan Sheik

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Welcome back to our returning parents and a warm welcome to those of you who are new to MHSA.

Welcome to our family.

We hope you like it here!

OPEN HOUSE is Monday, Sept. 27th

We kick-off the night with a PTSO-sponsored Potluck Supper from 4:30 until 6:00 PM. Come listen to our talented Jazz students, talk with parents and staff, and eat. Then grab a seat in the auditorium for the 6PM program!

We will provide beverages
grilled meats and meatless options.

**\$3 per person suggested donation.
Please bring a dish to pass!**

Details are on page 7.

MHSA General Information

We are a performing arts school with high academic standards.

School Starts at 8:35 AM School is Dismissed at: 3:45 PM

Please make every effort to be on time to school.

School Fees: Student Fees: \$60 (All students) Science Fees: \$15 (Any science class)

Senior Fees: \$40 (All seniors pay this in addition to the student fee.)

Fees can be paid in the office by cash or check made payable to MHSA. Please write the name of your student on the memo line of your check and keep your receipt.

School ID Policy: A valid 2010-2011 MHSA ID is needed to enter MHSA and the cafeteria.

Revised MPS Cell Phone Policy: The cell phone policy is as follows. Students can possess phones but not activate, display or use them. Phones that are activated, displayed or used will be confiscated and turned over to Central Office. Keep them off and out of view and you can use them after school to call your parents for a ride.

Drop-Off and Pick-Up Area ALERT: DO NOT use the area on Highland Avenue in front of MHSA to drop off and pick up your student. This area is for BUS TRANSPORTATION and creates a DANGEROUS situation for everyone. Please use the student parking lot located to the east of MHSA. You can access it from Juneau Avenue (north side of MHSA) between 22nd Street and 24th Street. Help make our neighborhood a safe place!

Third Friday Matters! September 17th

Our budget is determined by the number of students actually “counted” in school on the third Friday of the school year. September 17th is that day. A special program called “Real Character” which focuses on making the right choices when confronted with issues including pregnancy, suicide, and drug use will be presented that day. Character building, self-esteem, and motivational activities will also take place if Friday is free of rain (and snow).

Spring Break Date Change! Please note that the Student Handbook lists Spring Break as starting on Good Friday, April 22nd and going through May 1st. The MPS School Board CHANGED Spring Break to the week BEFORE Easter in order to accommodate the ACT Exam given to all juniors in MPS on April 27. Spring Break is now: Mon. April 18 through Monday, April 25.

Year Book Photos: Will be taken on September 21. If you are a senior and you don't want to submit a senior portrait, you can use the photo that is taken on the 21st.

Senior Information: Seniors have the option of having senior portraits, baby pictures and “wills” in the MHSA yearbook. Senior portraits, baby pictures and wills are due November 12. Senior portraits will be placed in the yearbook for free. Baby pictures and wills cost \$7.50 each. Wills 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 wills.

New Policy for Volunteers: If you are volunteering at MHSA please sign in at the Safety Desk and proceed to the office. You should see a white 3-ring binder that says VOLUNTEER SIGN-IN BOOK on the counter in the main office. Please sign in here, too. We need to keep track of our volunteer hours. We would also like to have some sort of recognition for all volunteers at the end of the year. If you sign in - we will know to invite you.

A Message from The Principal

Hello MHSA Students and Families:

There is excitement in the air at Milwaukee HS of the Arts. We have over 900 students, an energized staff and a curriculum that will assist us in developing your child into a productive citizen. It is not a surprise that Milwaukee High School of the Arts is one of the most sought after schools in the Greater Milwaukee Area. However, we must make sure that all of our students are meeting the demands of local, state and national standards. This will take some work, and we at MHSA are up to the task of delivering sound instruction to our students. As mentioned in my opening letter to you, we are continuing our investigation as to ways that we as a staff can deliver instruction in a more efficient and effective way. We know that the techniques offered through "Understanding By Design" (UBD) will give our staff the tools to help deliver instruction more effectively. To help familiarize you more with UBD, it is essential that everyone is aware of the basic UBD structure.

1. **Essential Question:** How do we know that students comprehend the lesson?
2. **Enduring Understanding:** Recognition, identification, and understanding key concepts are prerequisite knowledge for applying those concepts in an authentic context.

As we grow in UBD, I want our students and families to grow along with us.

We want to make this school year an exemplary one by giving our students every opportunity possible to realize their full academic and performance potential, while accomplishing our overall goal of improving our math scores this year. Remember, our urgent factor is MATH. All of our students will need to improve. In order to assist in this endeavor, we will begin our after school session during the week of Sept. 13, 2010. I encourage all students that need additional assistance in math, to please sign up with the Community Learning Center (CLC) office. Achievement cannot be accomplished only at the school level, so I urge all parents to take time out of their busy schedules to become familiar with our school and their child's homework. We will be successful in reaching our goals, if we work as an entire team. I look forward to seeing you all at the upcoming Open House on Monday, September 27, 2010.

-- Barry Applewhite, MHSA Principal

How To Find Out What You Need to Know

There are many ways we try to communicate with you and your child:

- Student Planner, Morning Announcements, Flyers, Posters (for your student)
- Automated Phone Calls
- Letters mailed to your home including Progress Reports
- Parent Assist on the MPS website <http://mpsportal.milwaukee.k12.wi.us/portal>
- PTSO and SGC Meetings
- Weekly Newsletter by Email Only (Sign up for this on the MHSA home page)
- Monthly Newsletter
- MHSA Website <http://www.mhsarts.com>

The Student Planner that your child received during registration is FILLED with important information from Auditions and Athletics to Guidance and Graduation Requirements to Visitors and Work Permits. It is a great tool that parents should also have. We are working on getting an up-to-date Parent Planner printed.

Parent Assist will let you check your student's grades, assignments, progress and schedule. You can sign up for Parent Assist at any MPS school.

How To Find Out What You Need to Know (continued from page 3)

Check your mail for the monthly newsletter. It will usually come out the first week of the month (except for the September issue). If you prefer to get the newsletter by Email Only (and save trees and stamps) follow the instructions on the back of this newsletter. You can also view and download the Newsletter from the MHSa website.

NOTE: Our dates/times may change from time-to-time. We will try to notify you and your student. Please make it easier on us by signing up for the weekly update, checking the website, and/or having a current phone number and address on file with the main office.

Current Volunteer Opportunities

- Sell Spirit Wear Sale during Lunch Hours on Fridays (11:31 - 1:52)
- Sell Popcorn on Fridays (times to be determined)
- Assemble the Monthly Newsletter (once a month for 2 hours)
- Next PTO Meeting: Monday, September 13 @ 6PM - Cafeteria
- Next SGC Meeting: Thursday, September 16 @ 6 PM - Library
- New Members needed for Action Team for Partnerships (ATP) Meeting TBD

If you are interested in any of these positions please call your MHSa Parent Advocate, Sara Raasch, at 934-7059 or by email at: raaschsm@milwaukee.k12.wi.us

SPORTS at MHSa

There are many athletic opportunities at MHSa. The following sports are offered either at MHSa or on a co-op team with Pulaski High School and/or Carmen High School. It may already be too late to join some of the fall sports. You can check with the coach or the athletic director.

FALL: Co-Ed Cross Country Boys: Football and Soccer. Girls: Swim, Golf, Tennis, Volleyball

WINTER: Boys: Basketball, Swim, Wrestling Girls: Basketball

SPRING: Boys: Baseball, Softball, Tennis, Golf Co-Ed Track Girls: Soccer

You need to fill out **4 forms**, which are in the front office. We require a copy of the student's insurance card and a \$25 fee. (If you pay before practice starts, it will only cost you \$20. You also need to be cleared by John Pitta, our Athletic Director, BEFORE you can start practice. Contact him at: pittajv@milwaukee.k12.wi.us or at: 414-303-3090 cell, 414-267-8215 office.



Fun! Fitness! Friends! = Cross Country

Cross Country is here for another year.

No experience is necessary.

Please see Coach Wojnar (MHSa Art Department)

The Cross Country Captains this year are:
Sean Hirthe and Kathleen Jorgenson

Swimming and Diving at MHSa

Girls Swim runs to the end of October. You don't have to know how to swim to join. There are coaches available for teaching. We take a bus to Pulaski HS after school for swim practice. Practice for diving is before school at Pulaski. We compete, have parties and just have a good time. If you have questions you can contact: Colleen Mrotek at: colleen_2011@sbcglobal.net.

Theatre Department Newsletter for September 2010

A new season starts at MHSA and all the experiences from the short respite come into play. Some students have been enjoying time with their families, some making theater, some traveling, and some wondering what this new experience at MHSA will bring to them. So here are some brief new updates:

Our students have been working with NextAct and Skylight and Boulevard this summer to make wonderful art - some studied with Milwaukee Rep actors and some of our alumni traveled back to England to see their host families from last year's UK exchange. (In fact, to my surprise, I met them in London as we got the same flight back to Chicago.) Some traveled to National competitions and some have been working on Indie Films and Indie music -- what a wonderful set of experiences to bring back to this year.

I journeyed to Edinburgh for the Fringe and saw amazing Theatre and have been both humbled and inspired. I truly hope that I can bring some of that inspiration back to us here at MHSA. I also hope I can take students to that festival at some point to experience the quality of work. My travels were also about increasing the potential for our students to travel overseas to experience new Theatre.

I worked with a whole bunch of people to put in a new dance floor in 236 to replace the health hazard that was there before. I think I can say that this is the best sprung dance floor in the state if not the upper mid-west, so please come and check it out. (Please take your shoes off if you are going into the room.) There are many people to thank for that: faculty and students and my family and friends, but that will come later. This year will bring exciting work to our stages as we prepare a double header of Shakespeare and Commedia with two different Directors and hopefully one of these pieces will go to the state competition in November. Our older students will be heading to Spring Green for a few days this month to see American Players Theatre (APT) and take classes, as well as to go to Frank Lloyd Wright's studio. Field trips this year will take us to the Rep, Skylight and InTandem. Our partner Theaters will be in with workshops and residencies. Hopefully it will all come together without too many new grey hairs.

Thank you for sharing your lives with our school. Please continue to support the Arts, our/your students, and special places like MHSA. --Ralph Janes, Theatre Department Chair



Photos:

Left: Dance floor being built

Right: New Dance floor finished



Dance Department News

Mark your calendar for October 8 and 9 Dance Concert: The *Who I Am* concert is the culmination of choreography work by advanced dance students. It centers around movement reflecting who the students are as individual human beings. The students develop these solo works through an in-depth exploration of literal and abstract movement responses to their own writing about a significant event in their life. A few group works will also be presented by "Tour de Force" MHSA's student dance company.

The dance department is collecting old, unused and unloved cell phones for a fundraiser. You can drop them off in the main office. Please mark them "For Dance Dept."

New Staff Members

We are pleased to announce that all members of our staff that were laid-off at the end of the 2009-2010 school year are back at MHSA. We also welcome these new staff members: Shelon Wade, Bookkeeper; Hanna Wolfe, Nurse; Mary Elsner, Librarian; Sandra Caine, Safety; Jeff Kanderski, Technology; Para-Professionals: April Bell, Olen Franklin and Elizabeth Kelln; Teachers: Kevin Berlin, Judith Collier-Thompson, and Michael Schmidt, Math; Adam Kane, Physical Education; and Ewaohi Amu, Science.



Introducing our Full-Time Nurse at MHSA!

Hello! My name is Hannah Wolfe and I am the new school nurse at MHSA. I will be at MHSA full time Monday-Friday 8-4 p.m. Last year I worked for MPS with elementary students and prior to that I had been working as a registered nurse at St. Francis Hospital on the Mental Health unit as well as Labor and Delivery and Mom/Baby. High school nursing is new for me as well as new for MHSA.

I plan on getting immunizations up to date, providing a safe environment for students with chronic illnesses such as diabetes and asthma, administering scheduled medications, advocating for students and their families to access their source of primary health care, and caring daily for students who are ill or injured. I have forms in my office for medication administration; staff cannot administer medications without these forms on file. Also, I will be at the open house this month (September 27) if you would like to meet me or ask any questions. Feel free to call with any questions or concerns before then.

I look forward to being at MHSA this year! Thank you! Hannah Wolfe, RN 934-7019

Math News

Welcome Back Students! This is a reminder that all incoming freshmen, returning sophomores and juniors need to have a TI-83/84 calculator for their math classes. Target and Wal-Mart are great places to find these as well as any office supply store like Office Max or Office Depot. We are all looking forward to a new year and great things!

MHSA Community Learning Center (CLC) and Neu-Life CRC

The MHSA Community Learning Center (MHSA-CLC) has a new partnership with Neu-Life Community Resource Center. In addition to enrichment classes, CLC will offer an Academic Power Hour targeted to students who need the most academic help.

CLC Opening Day: Monday, September 13

Hours: Monday - Thursday 3:45 PM - 6 PM and Fridays 3:45 PM - 5 PM

All students participating in after-school activities must be registered with the CLC. Registration forms will be available in the main office. Completed forms should be placed in the CLC mailbox in the main office.

The MHSA-CLC will offer academic support, enrichment, arts, and recreational activities. Details regarding program offerings and structure are being developed throughout the district. MHSA parents and students will be informed of specific offering and dates as they become available. If you have more questions please call Jody Rhodes at 588-1589.

BACK TO SCHOOL POTLUCK and Open House

Monday, September 27th

The Potluck Starts at 4:30 PM in West Parking Lot / Cafeteria
and Open House Begins at 6PM in the Auditorium

We will supply grilled brats, hot dogs, veggie dogs and beverages.

Please bring a side dish to pass...

...like

potato salad, bean salad, coleslaw, 7-layer salad, Greek salad, fruit salad or a hot casserole
or baked beans or chicken wings or maybe veggies and dips...

Use your *imagination*.

(If you are coming late - bring a dessert.)

**\$3 PER PERSON SUGGESTED DONATION TO DEFRY COSTS
MAIN DISH AND BEVERAGES PROVIDED**

Please return the bottom portion to school so we know
how many buns to butter.

Back to School Potluck Reply Form

Please return to the Office and place in Sara Raasch's mailbox.

Name: _____

Total # attending: _____

I can bring: _____.

I can help set up 3:30 - 4:30 PM I can help serve 4:30 - 6:00 PM I can help clean up. 6:00 - 6:45 PM

(The program begins at 6PM in the auditorium. If you are new to MHSA, do not sign up to help clean up.)

My phone # is: _____ Email: _____

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