

Cardinal Connection

Middleton High School

September 2017



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Principal - Steve Plank



Hello to all Middleton High School Cardinal families. Wow, what an intense and yet exciting few weeks we've had at MHS as we've made final preparations for the new school year! I'd like to welcome all of you back to the new school year! Summer around a school is almost as busy as during the school year. This summer was no exception with curricular improvements and updates, hiring of staff, professional development, policy updates and planning for the upcoming academic year.

Now that school has begun, I'm sure that everyone is abuzz about some personal wins and highlights during these first days of school. We have had a lot to celebrate and as each day passes, I become more proud to serve the Middleton and Cross Plains communities and especially all of our students.

I'd also like to welcome you to the return of the Middleton High School Newsletter, *The Cardinal Connection*. As part of our continued effort to do everything we can to ensure you know what's happening at MHS, we're resurrecting this long dormant communication format. The goal is to have six issues during the 2017-2018 school year. Following this first issue, we will target the following publication dates: October 20, December 1, January 19, March 9 and April 27. Finally, please keep an eye out for "*Plank's Podcast*," a new method for me to communicate with you. I'll be doing short (3 minute) video podcasts to give you regular updates about the happenings of MHS. The first couple will come to you via Infinite Campus with directions for how to subscribe.

With so much great stuff happening at MHS, I recognize that most of you would simply like to know more about what's going on. Hence, these communication methods aim to inform, celebrate, inspire, and offer a glimpse into what is happening in this wonderful place. I welcome any feedback, hints, suggestions, and ideas. I will continue to play with the formatting and persevere over the content, tone and message. In advance, thanks for reading and watching.

Whether you are a first-time or experienced parent of a high school student, one thing is for sure...this time around will be different for you and for your student. Given the unrelenting pace of change within today's educational landscape, it is always essential to revisit what we've got going on. That said, please enjoy this first issue which contains a tremendous amount of insight as to all that MHS has to offer.

Who's Who at MHS

Associate Principals for Teaching & Learning - Lisa Jondle and Jeff Kenas

Welcome back to another wonderful year at Middleton High School. There is a lot to be excited about, from our extensive course offerings, accomplished teaching staff, and opportunities in athletics, clubs and extracurricular activities. We hope that your students take advantage of the academic and extracurricular activities that we offer at MHS.

Our primary role as Associate Principals for Teaching and Learning is to work with all content teaching staff with the exception of Student Services and Special Education. Although we have many roles, our primary job is to help our teachers continue to grow as educators, assuring that all of our students continue to get the highest quality education possible. We are also available to assist with any questions or concerns you may have around our curriculum, instruction, and/or assessment practices.

Our high school goals continue to be focused on increasing student achievement and culture and climate

for students and staff. This year we will be focusing on building relationships and connecting with families. One of the ways we hope to achieve these goals is through a couple of updates to our advisory and All School Resource (ASR) procedures. First, we are keeping all freshman with their advisors for the first two weeks of school to teach them our ASR expectations and procedures. Second, we have switched our freshman and sophomore advisories to meeting on A-days to better assist them with signing up for ASR in a meaningful and productive way. During the study hall, advisors will be checking in with students to make sure they are signed up for a specific ASR and provide any necessary assistance. We encourage you to reach out to your child's teachers or advisor at any point should you have any questions or concerns.

We're anticipating another wonderful year at Middleton High School. We have an excellent staff, supportive community and eager students, assuring us that our students will have an outstanding experience.

Special Education Coordinator - Pat Godar

As special education coordinator, I have the pleasure of working with our staff to assist students who need a 504 or Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as part of their support at the high school. Most public schools provide this type of support to about 10% of their student body. At Middleton High School we serve around 200 students in this manner. We are also a highly inclusive environment, providing support for students in classes that may be academically challenging, but provide valuable learning opportunities through peer interactions. Our goal is to help all students become career or college ready. Some students who receive special education services will eventually not need them, others will need significant support throughout their life. Through the individual programming that we set up for each child, we strive to prepare them for life beyond high school. In future newsletters I will highlight some examples of this type of programming. Feel free to contact me at pgodar@mcpsd.k12.wi.us with any questions.

School Resource Officer - Tyler Loether

I am looking forward to a great year as the School Resource Officer (SRO) at MHS! This is my first year as the SRO and I look forward to meeting and building relationships with students, staff, and parents. I'm a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and proud member of the UW Alumni Band. I have 7 years of law enforcement experience and currently serve the Middleton Police Department as an instructor in: Defensive and Arrest Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Operation and Vehicle Contacts and am also one of our field training officers. In 2014-2015 I served in the role of Detective for Middleton PD and investigated a wide range of crimes including drug investigations, robbery, burglary, sensitive crimes and fraud.

The safety of everyone at MHS is and always will be my top priority. In addition, I view our SRO position as a vital role to establish a positive connection between our local law enforcement and the community we serve. This liaison position will allow me to have positive interactions with students, staff and parents on a daily basis. I believe these relationships can benefit our safety by opening up communication and dialog. I look forward to serving the MHS campus not only as a law enforcement officer but also guest speaker and mentor for our students.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the safety of our school, or general law enforcement questions, I can be reached by phone: (608) 829-9665 or email: tloether@mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

Let's have a great 2017-2018 school year and Go Cardinals!

Advisory Coordinator - Jason Adams

I have the honor of serving as a Physical Education/Health teacher at Middleton High School. New this year I will be the Advisory Coordinator for grades 9-12. I am very excited to be presented with this fantastic role that will provide insight and coordination of the Advisory program at MHS. During the month of September students will engage in activities with their Advisories and peers that include logistical day-to-day operations of the school so they are prepared and informed, community building activities, mindfulness and stress management, as well as information regarding Service Learning opportunities.

Take time to talk with your child about the unique experience they are having in Advisory. It is our hope that they are enjoying Advisory and feeling that they are valued and informed.

Library/Media Center - Ellen Baum

If you would like to volunteer in the library this year, please contact Ellen Baum, the librarian at 829-9874 or ebaum@mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

Parent volunteers can choose 1-2 hours per week, on a specific day and time that works best for them.

Please stop by the LMC during Back to School Night to learn about LMC services that support your students' curriculum.

Amazing Programs

After Hour

Homework Club is now called "After Hour." "After Hour" runs Tuesday-Thursday from 4:00-5:00 in the Collaborative Learning Center (CLC). It will begin on Tuesday, September 26th. All students are welcome and no sign-ups are necessary. "After Hour" is meant to assist students with homework, study for tests, work on projects, or provide a safe place to be until they have athletics or a ride home. If you have any questions, please contact Drew White at dwhite@mcpasd.k12.wi.us or call (608) 829-9783.

Testing Center

The testing center is located in the CLC. It is a great resource available to students who need a quiet space to test, or need to make up or re-take a test or quiz. It is open during All School Resource (ASR) on B days, but students need to reserve a spot in FlexiSched ahead of time. The testing center is also open throughout the school day and tests can be taken by appointment and with approval from the teacher. If you have any questions, feel free to email Emily Theis at etheis@mcpasd.k12.wi.us

Technology Access for All

The Technology Access For All Program is part of a district initiative to provide students at the high school and middle schools with access to technology. Students who can demonstrate a significant economic need can apply for a scholarship to offset a substantial portion of the cost of the device. Currently, the district is selling Lenovo N21 Chromebooks for \$40 and Ti84-plus graphing calculators for \$20 to students who



qualify for free or reduced lunch or who can demonstrate a significant economic need. High school and Middle School students can also check out a MiFi to take home Internet access. This Internet access uses a 3G or 4G cellular connection through Verizon and it's filtered by the district's web content filter the same way Internet content is filtered from school.

The forms to complete are located here:

<https://sites.google.com/a/mcpasd.k12.wi.us/techdirector/home/tafa>

Campus Portal Info

The Middleton-Cross Plains Area School District uses Infinite Campus to take attendance, post assignments, and grades and organize census data for our students and families. Infinite Campus has developed the Campus Portal, a web portal tool, to allow parents/guardians the ability to view the records of their children via the internet.

Access to student information empowers parents to have improved communication with their children about their academic experience. This tool is not meant to replace the personal contact we wish to have with our

students and their families. Our hope is that it will enhance communication between home and school so that those personal contacts become even more meaningful.

If you would like to set up the portal on your mobile app, simply download the app, type in the District number NLLJWP and log in.

If you have any questions, either contact campus portal helpline at 829-9600 or email webmaster@mcpasd.k12.wi.us.

French Exchange 2018

If your student is studying French at MHS this year, please consider hosting a French student in your home April 13-24. We need 36 host families. Your student can get the information from the French teachers Mesdames Dueppen and Bartholomew.

The students that host in April have the option to travel to France June 15-29 for a 12 day stay with their French exchange partner followed by 3 days in Paris.

Want to know more? Then please attend our French exchange informational parent meeting on Monday, September 18 in room 1124 from 6-7 p.m. The deadline for registering for the trip is October 15, 2017. We will continue to accept host families beyond that date.



August Training a Success: Link Crew Ready for the 2017-2018 School Year



This school year the Link Crew program will be celebrating its 5th year of implementation at Middleton High School and over 400 juniors and seniors have participated in the leadership training program in that time. With one of the largest freshmen classes in recent history, this year's Link Leaders were excited and ready to welcome them with open arms. This class of 90 leaders were selected from over 200 applicants. They were required to submit a short video and participate in face-to-face interviews to demonstrate their dedication and leadership qualities. To prepare them for the herculean task of supporting the transitioning 8th graders into the high school environment every leader attended and participated in May Development Day in the spring and two days of August

training in the late summer. Topics covered in these training sessions were focused around development of positive leadership skills, how to build meaningful relationships with new students, and a how to create and implement curriculum to help students have a great high school experience. For the first year, additional training was provided to Link Crew Leaders by the Student Equity Coalition (SEC) centering around the concepts of equity, social justice, fairness, and being culturally competent leaders. Each year the program grows and evolves to meet the needs of the student population and school community. This year aims to be the best year for Link Crew to date!

Student Services

Associate Principal for Student Services - Omar Rodriguez

Our small learning community structure (**Red Maple and White Spruce Teams**), in conjunction with our integrated student services model, provides an innovative opportunity to deliver individualized student-centered support for all students to reach their full potential. As a Student Services Team, one of our priorities is to establish an inclusive environment where all students find a sense of belonging. These tenets guide our daily practice and response to student needs. In this newsletter, we will strive to communicate comprehensive insight into our department through multiple perspectives, including: Deans, Counselors, School Psychologist, Social Workers, Student Engagement Specialist and School Nurse. We look forward to a successful school year!

Making an appointment with a member of the Student Services Team

In order to best meet student needs, we ask both students and parents/guardians to schedule an appointment with Student Services Staff so we are able to devote our time and attention to your questions and/or concerns.

Students: Visit the Student Services Office and speak to Ms. Middleton, Ms. Bremmer or Ms. Herbin to make an appointment with a member of your Student Services House Team.

Parents/Guardians: Directly schedule an appointment with a Student Services House Team member via phone or email.

For a complete list of **Student Services and all MHS contact information**, please go to the MHS website and click on “Departments” in the red bar across the top of the page.

For your convenience, we have also listed a few **important numbers below**:

Attendance Line:	829-9050	District Service Center:	829-9000
MHS Main Number	829-9660	Lunch Express Information	829-2343
Transportation	829-2365	MHS Website: www.mcpasd.k12.wi.us/mhs	

Message from the Deans of Students

Mr. Lundquist, Red Maple House and Mr. Ecklund, White Spruce House

The first step towards success at school is being at school. When walking into the doors, students have taken a step into strengthening not only their world knowledge but also strengthening their interpersonal skills and problem resolution abilities. At Middleton we understand the importance of making sure the students at MHS are at school, in class and engaged. According to the National Center for Education Statistics, students who attend school regularly have been shown to achieve at higher levels than students who do not have regular attendance. Poor attendance has serious implications for later outcomes as well. High school dropouts have been found to exhibit a history of negative behaviors, including high levels of absenteeism throughout their childhood, at higher rates than high school graduates. Our entire Student Services team is dedicated to doing all we can to provide the best education possible for the students. Part of that work is helping to do whatever we can to get students in the doors at MHS.

Message from the Counselors

Red Maple: Theresa Brown, Michael Kusch, Marcy Smith

White Spruce: Gust Athanas, Kristin Muenster, Jessica Pellegrino

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR SENIORS

Please see below for important information as you start your senior year:

- Senior Class Meeting for students to cover college admission process will take place on Tuesday 9/12/17 during advisory study hall in the PAC.
- Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting with their counselor after the senior class meeting on 9/12/17. Please see Ms. Middleton, Ms. Bremmer, or Ms. Herbin in the Student Services Office if you would like to schedule an appointment.
- Instructions for sending transcripts will be covered at the senior class meeting. You may request transcripts for colleges/universities and NCAA via [Parchment \(www.parchment.com\)](http://www.parchment.com). If you will be using [The Common Application \(www.commonapp.org\)](http://www.commonapp.org), your transcript will be uploaded to your account at a later date.
- Upcoming ACT test dates: www.actstudent.org
- Upcoming SAT test dates: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>
- REMINDER: Parents and students are invited to attend High School 101 at 5:45pm on Wednesday 9/13/17. Counselors will cover graduation requirements and post-secondary processes. Please stay afterward for Back-to School Night beginning at 7:00pm!

Message from the Social Workers

Claire Staley, White Spruce House and Kristin Wilson, Red Maple House

The Social Workers would like to share the [MHS Website->Department->Student Services->MHS Student Service Resources Page](#) with you. Please check it out. If you need something that is not listed here please feel free to send us a message. We can talk with you privately about any concerns that may affect your child's academic and personal success.

We're also happy to introduce our two School Social Work Interns, Kat Swanson, White Spruce House, and Laura Glaub, Red Maple House. They will be with us through May 2018.

- Kat Swanson is a School Social Work graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. Her previous work experiences include serving as an Americorps Youth Counselor with Briarpatch Youth Services. She was also an intern at The Middleton Youth Center where she provided support services to our Kromrey and Glacier Creek Middle School students. Kat has an undergraduate degree in education and is passionate about addressing any barriers students might have to achieving their academic and life goals.
- Laura Glaub is also a School Social Work graduate student at the University of Wisconsin. She is currently starting her fourth year working for Madison West High School as the MSCR (Madison School and Community Recreation) After School Director. In this role, Laura focuses on homework club, job readiness, driver's education and fostering students to be ready for their next steps. Before working at Madison West High School, Laura was the AmeriCorps member at Madison's Spring Harbor Middle School where she supported the after school program. Laura is passionate about furthering restorative justice efforts and preparing students for college, career and community.

Advanced Learning & Assessment

Coordinator of Intervention and Assessment – Rachel Wimer

CAPP/Dual Credit Information

The deadline to register for UW-OshKosh CAPP classes is September 11th. Students should have already completed a UW-O application (step 1). They now need to register (step 2) for specific classes using the student ID sent by UW-OshKosh. A

registration help session will take place during ASR in the LMC on 9/11. Payment (step 3) will be due between 9/20 and 10/1. The cost for CAPP credits this year is \$100/credit. Financial assistance is available to qualifying students.

Assessment Corner

The **PSAT** test will take place at Middleton High School on Wednesday Oct. 11th. This is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship program and is optional to district Sophomores and Juniors. The registration window is open from 9/8 - 9/24 on a first come, first serve basis. To register, students must go to www.TotalRegistration.net/PSAT/501320. The cost of the test is \$30, and scholarships are available.

ACT Aspire and Forward results from last year have arrived and will be distributed to 10th and 11th grade students in their Advisories in late September. Thank you to all of our students for their efforts in testing last spring.

The ACT will be taken by all Juniors on February 27 & 28 during the school day.

Additional 2017-18 ACT test dates and registration information can be found at www.actstudent.org

ZAPS ACT Test Prep Seminars offered at MHS

Monday-Tuesday, September 18-19, 2017

4:00-6:30 pm OR 7:00-9:30 pm

Price: \$89.99

Register at: www.doorwaytocollege.com or call 877-927-8378



2017-18 SAT testing dates and registration information can be found at the CollegeBoard

webpage: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register>

For questions, on CAPP/Dual Credit classes or testing contact Rachel Wimer at rwimer@mcpasd.k12.wi.us or 829-9790.

Athletic and Activities News

Athletic Director – Bob Joers

Homecoming week October 2-7th

The Fall Sports are in full swing, as are many of the clubs. MHS is looking to get students involved and one way to do so is to participate in the Homecoming festivities. This year's Homecoming theme is "Outerspace".

- Many of the teams will be participating against Beloit Memorial that week, so come on out and cheer on our Cardinals.
- Each of the days during Homecoming week there will be theme days:
 - Monday 10-2 - Cheesehead/WI pride day
 - Tuesday 10-3 - Tropical
 - Wednesday 10-4 – USA day - Spirit Night
 - Thursday 10-5 – Spacejam day (space and PJ)
 - Friday 10-6 – Cardinal & White Day (T-shirt Day)
- Mark your calendars for Wednesday night October 4th for Spirit Night. The evening begins with our community parade from 6 p.m. – 6:30 p.m., where clubs or sports teams can create a golf-cart float. District staff and their families can play on inflatables set-up from 6:30 – 7:45 p.m. in Breitenbach stadium. At 7:45 p.m. the Cheer Squad will be performing. The main event will start at 8 p.m. with our annual powder puff game matching flag football-wits between juniors and senior classes. At half-time of this game there will be the partner dance and tug-o-war between classes.
- On Friday, October 6th there will be a Pep Assembly in the Varsity gym at 9 a.m. All students will be in attendance and parents are welcome. That evening will be the match-up between Beloit Memorial and your Cardinals in the



Homecoming Football game. Game time is 7 p.m. at Breitenbach Stadium. There will be performances by the MHS Band, the Dance Team and the Cheer Squad.

- The Homecoming week will wrap-up with the Homecoming Dance on Saturday, October 7th in the MHS Courtyard from 8 – 11 p.m. Tickets can be purchased on the website via FeePay or beginning the week of October 4th during lunch hours in the Courtyard. Students should watch the announcements for specific details.

MHS Chosen to Receive the WIAA Award of Excellence

The Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association salutes the 15 schools that met the criteria to be the *inaugural* recipients of the Award of Excellence in 2016-17. The award recognizes member schools for their efforts and achievements in the areas of sportsmanship, ethics, integrity, leadership and character. MHS is proud to be one of 15 schools to receive this impressive award.



Upcoming Dates

September

- 11 Middleton Theatre Kickoff
- 12 Senior Class Meeting
Student Activities Fair
Theatre Boosters Meeting
- 13 High School 101/Back to School Night
- 14 Chamber Singer Auditions
- 18-19 Theatre Fall Auditions
ZAPS ACT Prep
- 19 Band and Orchestra Parent Organization Kickoff
- 22 No School
- 25 Informance – Choral Boosters
- 25-29 Jazz Band Auditions
- 28 Home Football Game – Parents Night
- 29 New Club Application Due

October

- 2 Homecoming Week Begins, Youth Options
Apps. Due
- 4 Parade, Link Crew Tailgate, Spirit Night
- 6 Homecoming Pep Assembly (Special B-Day
Schedule)
- 7 Homecoming Dance
- 8 NHS Induction (1:00 - PAC)
- 11 PSAT - Fieldhouse & Varsity Gym
- 17 Picture Retake
- 17 Last Day to Drop a Class
- 17 Financial Strategies for Post Secondary (PAC)
- 18 Parent Teacher Conferences (4-7, Invite)
- 25 Blood Drive – Fieldhouse
- 25 Parent Teacher Conferences (4-5, Invite / 5-8,
Arena)
- 26 No School - PD Day
- 27 No School

For dates/times/locations of more MHS events check the MHS Calendar of Events on the MHS website:

www.mcpsd.k12.wi.us/mhs