MARENGO COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL NEWSLETTER
September, 2018

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LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

Welcome to the 2018-19 school year! As we move into the school year we want to welcome our students, families, and the community to participate in activities and become part of our school culture. Our mission, "Where learning is valued and excellence is the standard," is focused on the success of ALL students, and the support and participation of their families is encouraged.

Students are back in classes and have moved from summer camps to school activities. Our athletes in Cheer, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Tennis and Volleyball are on the fields and courts and are working hard toward successful seasons. The Band and Color Guard are preparing for Settlers Days, and student groups like the Reading Club, Student Council, Freshmen Mentors and others are working to make this the best year yet. With the variety of activities and athletics that are available we urge students to become involved in our school; there is something that will hopefully appeal to everyone.

We are excited to unveil our Advisory program this year. The MCHS Advisory program aims to give every student a point person who becomes a contact for that student's family and teachers during the student's four years at MCHS, improve school climate by enhancing both student-to-student connectedness and student-to-staff connectedness, and finally, to provide a more personalized and supported educational experience.

I want to thank all the staff who worked throughout the summer to plan for the year, especially the maintenance staff that always does a great job preparing the building and grounds. This summer, the grounds crew worked around the seal coating of the parking lots and roadway repairs in getting everything looking great for the start of school. Between their efforts, the indoor summer cleaning crew, secretaries, IT and administration, we are off to a great start. The teachers are back to classroom activities and the bus drivers are back on the road. We are excited to see everyone active and ready to help every student strive for success in high school and future years. We are committed to establishing and maintaining a learning environment "Where learning is valued and excellence is the standard." Have a great school year!

FOOD SERVICE INFORMATION

If your student qualifies for free or reduced price meals, they may purchase one breakfast and one lunch per day. Five components are included in meals. They are: grain, meat, fruit vegetable and milk. In order for a lunch to qualify for free or reduced pricing, your student must have three of the five components offered and one of the three components must be a fruit or vegetable. **If a student purchases a la carte items, a second meal, or extra milk they will be charged at the per item price regardless of free lunch eligibility.**

When a student's funds are in a negative balance, a reminder phone call will be sent to the student's parents until funds are added to the lunch account. Parents can set up a low balance reminder to notify them to replenish their student's account. This reminder is located in the parent portal under the notifications menu.

If a parent/guardian regularly fails to provide meal money and does not qualify for free meal benefits, the Principal will direct the next course of action. Continual failure to provide meal money may require the District to notify the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and/or take legal steps to recover the unpaid meal charges.

GREEK GODS AND GODDESSES IN THE MODERN WORLD

On Monday, August 27th, MCHS became Mount Olympus for the Humanities Mythology Mixer. As a culminating project for the summer reading of Edith Hamilton's *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, Humanities students were asked to select a god or goddess and place that entity in today's world. They were tasked with writing a poem, explaining the changes to the god/goddess, drawing an illustration of the character, creating a costume depicting the modernization, and finally taking on that character for the Mixer to show they understood their selection. Not only did students explore the gods and goddesses in a creative fashion, but it was also a great way to welcome the new freshman class into the MCHS Humanities program.

SAT TESTING FOR SENIORS

MCHS is offering the SAT without essay to seniors on October 10th. Space is limited to 25 students, so sign up today. The cost is $47.50. Payment may be made online via the MCHS Web Store or a check may be turned in to Mrs. Gorter (Counseling Secretary).

SAT test prep will be offered on September 19th and October 3rd from 6-7pm. Any senior retaking the SAT may sign up for this free test prep opportunity. Sign up in the Counseling Office.

SAT TESTING FOR JUNIORS

Junior students will be taking the SAT this year as a part of the state of Illinois assessment program. In order to provide students opportunities to familiarize themselves with the test, MCHS has scheduled practice tests for Freshmen through Juniors. On September 12th, underclassmen will take an SAT practice test. The results will be shared at conferences.

FINANCIAL AID PRESENTATION AT MCHS (No RSVP required)
Date: Monday, September 17th at 6:00pm
Where: Marengo Community High School auditorium.
Who: Any parent/guardian and students wishing to gain more knowledge on Financial Aid
Topics: Federal and state grants, the work-study program, student loans, scholarship application process, financial literacy, financial aid advocacy, and FAFSA tips! **FAFSA filing begins October 1, 2018!** Contact your student's counselor with questions.

FAFSA AND FINANCIAL AID NEWS

Seniors will learn about Financial Aid, FAFSA, and paying for college on Tuesday, September 18th, when a Financial Aid specialist speaks to all MCHS Senior English classes.

FAFSA Application Available October 1, 2018

Description: FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Need help filling out your FAFSA? Participants will go line by line through the FAFSA form. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the form used by the U.S. Department of Education to determine student's Expected Family Contribution (EFC) by conducting a "need analysis" based on financial information, such as income, assets, and other household information. The form is submitted to and processed by a federal processor contracted by the U.S. Department of Education (ED). The results are electronically transmitted to the financial aid offices of the schools listed on your application. FAFSA is the application used by nearly all colleges and universities to determine eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid, including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.

Class of 2019:
Complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov
Apply for a FSA ID (one for the student, one for the parent) at FSA ID link.
Have the following with you. Failure to do so may result in not being able to complete the application.

1. Student's 2017 U.S. 1040 and W-2 forms
2. Parent's 2017 U.S. 1040 and W-2 forms
3. Student's drivers license and social security card
4. Parent's social security cards
5. Records of total untaxed income for 2017 (i.e. public aid, social security, Veteran's benefits, child support)
6. Student's alien registration number, if a permanent resident
7. Records of current asset information (i.e. saving account, checking account)
8. Month and year of marriage, separation, divorce or other change in marital status

Records of net worth of investments for both parents and students
Note: Net Worth = Current Value minus Debt

READING CLUB OPEN HOUSE

The MCHS Reading Club held an Open House to kick off the school year on Friday, August 24th, before school in the Media Center. Fifteen students attended, and each student who attended got to select a free book. We talked about club activities, such as the Book Fair, meetings during Advisory periods on certain Fridays, and possible field trips.

Our first official meeting will be during the Advisory period on Friday, August 31st. We will begin planning activities for the year, and will select a book to read and discuss. We have many new members this year, and I am looking forward to getting to know them and hearing about the books they love to read!

ART PURCHASE AWARDS

Three MCHS students were recognized for receiving Art Purchase Awards at the Board of Education meeting on August 20, 2018. Alexia Menig (first), Mackenna Mortensen (second), and Caitlin Alejandre (third) display their pieces below with school board secretary Linda Dujmovich. Congratulations to these students!