

Monmouth Academy Newsletter

November 29, 2019



Meet M.A.'s October Student of the Month, Kaitlin Hunt

Kaitlin Hunt, Class of 2020, was selected as Monmouth Academy October of the Month. Kaitlin is the Captain of the M.A. Cross Country and Track and Field teams; Vice President of the National Honor Society; Huddle Leader for FCA; member of the Academic Decathlon and math team; Kaitlin is enrolled in University of Maine at Augusta Psychology 101 as well as Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus BC, AP English Literature, AP U.S. Government and Politics. In presenting this award, Ms. Small, M.A. math teacher, remarked, "Kaitlin is a leader at M.A. who competes on academic teams, athletic teams, and assists students and staff." Kaitlin is the daughter of Christie and David Hunt.

Dr. Cheri Towle, RSU 2 Superintendent, to Hold Community Forum - Tuesday, December 10, 2019, 6 p.m. - Henry L. Cottrell School Cafeteria

From Dr. Towle: "As your new Superintendent, part of my entry plan is to hold a community forum within each town to listen and learn about the strengths and needs of our schools. You are all invited to attend the following community forums to participate in a conversation about the future of RSU 2. I look forward to meeting you and learning from each of you."



MAD Players Production of *The Outsiders* a Fantastic Success Forty-three MA students, nearly a quarter of MA's enrollment, came together to perform *The Outsiders* at historic Cumston Hall. By all accounts, this production was a wonderful success. Congratulations MAD Players and Ms. Alyssa Littlefield, Director on once again doing an outstanding job! Thank you to Ms. Damon-Therault and her art students for once again making incredible sets.

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Teachers Shave and Raise \$450 for St. Jude's Children's Hospital



Yes, Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Anderson do resemble bandits and perhaps even appear to be up to no good. Actually, they received the most votes to shave their beards during "No Shave November" sponsored by MA's National Honor Society. Seven staff members grew out their whiskers during the month, while these three teachers maintained their pre-existing beards. The MA community voted per donations as to which staff member would shave. Overall, \$450 was raised to donate to the St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Thank you to Mr. Urquhart, Mr. Mitchell, and Mr. Anderson for shedding your whiskers! And, thank you to the many students who participated and/or donated money. Finally, thanks to Mr. Amero, Mr. Dube, Mr. Libby, Mr. Pascarella, Mr. Schultz, Mr. Snedeker, Mr. Wing for growing out their whiskers for this great cause.



Have You Downloaded the RSU 2/MA App Yet?

Follow all M.A. and district news on your smartphone. The RSU 2 app is available in the Apple and Android app store, just search for RSU2. Visit <http://www.kidsrsu.org/article/126354> to view a short video to help you get started.

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Purple Rain for the March of Dimes



On November 26, MA students and staff wore purple to help Monmouth Academy's Future Business Leaders of America chapter show support and spread awareness for the March of Dimes, in honor of World Prematurity Day, and remember those families fighting for their babies.

Mustangs Student-Athletes Receive Conference Recognition: Congratulations to the following MA Student-Athletes for being honored by the Mountain Valley Conference (MVC) and Campbell Conference (Football) for their outstanding play during the 2019 fall season:

- 1st Team Boys Soccer: Cameron Armstrong, Hayden Fletcher, Gabe Martin
- 1st Team Girls Soccer: Alicen Burnham, Libby Clement, Audrey Fletcher
- 1st Team Girls X/C: Holly Hunt, Kaitlin Hunt
- 1st Team Boys X/C: Joe Crocker
- 1st Team Girls Golf: Averi Beaudoin, Abby Flanagan
- 1st Team Boys Golf: Ryan Burnham
- All Conference Football: Jacob Umberhind
- 2nd Team Boys Soccer: Thomas Neal, Ed Zuis
- 2nd Team Girls Soccer: Natalie Grandahl
- 2nd Team Girls X/C: Amber Curie, Lydia Roy
- 2nd Team Boys Golf: Matt Fortin
- Honorable Mention Boys Soccer: Jacob Godbout, Cody Michaud
- Honorable Mention Girls Soccer: Jordyn Gowell, Anna Lewis
- Honorable Mention Girls X/C: Mackenzie Grant
- Honorable Mention Football: Kyzer Card, Nick Deblois

Important Upcoming Dates:

12/03	MA & MMS (Grades 6-8) Winter Concert - 6:30 p.m. - MA Cafeteria
12/10	Superintendent Towle's Community Forum - 6 p.m. - HLC Cafeteria
12/23-01/02/20	No School - Winter Break

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Class Fundraising at Monmouth Academy - Why Do Classes Need to Fundraise?

Each year, the graduating class needs to raise approximately \$2,500 to cover the cost of formal graduation ceremonies. These expenses include caps and gowns, flowers, decorative rental plants for the stage, and Senior Reception refreshments. In addition, the class needs to raise \$4,500 for Project Graduation.

Each class elects a president and a vice-president who lead their respective class in planning fundraising efforts; however, each class greatly needs your assistance to raise the necessary funds for graduation and Project Graduation. Classes typically complete a variety of fundraising activities including requiring class dues. A description of MA's graduation ceremonies and Project Graduation are included below.

Monmouth Academy Senior Reception & Class Day Ceremonies (These proceed the graduation ceremony.)

Senior Reception

In 1991 Senior Reception was established to replace "Baccalaureate" (which had existed for approximately over one hundred years and was of a religious nature). The program for Senior Reception is developed by members of the Senior class under the guidance of the MA faculty and staff. It is a "reflective" time for Seniors and their parents and creates a wonderful "tone" for the following two events (Class Day and Graduation).

In past years, Seniors have read a poem, reflective essay, or even a short story (ie. Dr. Suess' *The Places We Go*), performed a musical piece, and shared a slide show or video. In addition, Seniors present the history of their class from their Freshman through their Senior years. At the end of the evening, there is a candle lighting ceremony (which the class participated when they were Sophomores at Sophomore Awareness). Each Senior Reception is slightly different each year depending upon the member of each unique Senior class. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony in the M.A. Cafeteria.

Class Day

Class Day is a Monmouth Academy tradition that has existed for over sixty years. At this ceremony, a multitude of scholarships are awarded. A majority of these scholarships are managed by the Monmouth Academy Trustees and are named in honor of many M.A. graduates and former faculty members. Also, local scholarships are awarded and presented by each organization's representative. In addition, Seniors are recognized for their contributions to Monmouth Academy's clubs, organizations, athletic teams, music program, etc. Seniors who have achieved Summa Cum Laude for their high school career and Seniors with the highest academic content area scores are recognized. Finally, at this event, the *Will of the Class of 2020* is presented.

Monmouth Academy Project Graduation - "What is it, why do we do it, and how can you help?"

Graduates of Monmouth Academy have participated in Project Graduation for nearly three decades. In Maine, the idea for Project Graduation grew out of post-graduation tragedies that occurred in the late 1970's and early 1980's. During that time period over thirty young people were killed in drug and alcohol related accidents on graduation night.

Monmouth Academy's Project Graduation has traditionally been an all night, drug/alcohol/tobacco/vapor free celebration for all members of the graduating class. In all likelihood this will be the last opportunity for their entire class to be together. Immediately following the graduation ceremony, the graduates are bussed to a facility where they will spend the night safely "locked-in" and head back to Monmouth at approximately 5:30 a.m. Please note that Project Graduation at M.A. is not a "class trip". In past years, our graduates have gone to places such as the Augusta YMCA and the Alford Youth Center in Waterville.

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While at the facility graduates enjoy a night filled with many planned activities, entertainment, games, door prizes, and lots of great food. The facility chosen, as well as the activities planned for the night, is designed to accommodate all graduates, including those with specific physical needs. The Class of 2019 enjoyed the following at the Augusta YMCA: swimming, basketball, ping pong, pool, rock wall climbing, volleyball, ultimate Frisbee, video game competitions, door prizes, movies, and more! The class also had a comedian company come to the YMCA, which was a great success.

Regional School Unit #2 and Monmouth Academy's staff and administration strongly encourage participation of our graduates and support Project Graduation.

Project Graduation funding is completely fundraised by the members of the Senior class and their parents. In addition, local businesses have generously supported the cause not only with monetary donations, but also with donations for door prizes, food, and supplies. Depending upon how much is donated, the size of the class, and what the class desires for activities/food/etc. approximately \$4,500 needs to be fundraised (this includes the facility rental and transportation).

Finally, Project Graduation needs parents to **organize and plan the event, deliver food/supplies to the event location, possibly cook food, and chaperone the event.** Without the efforts of our parents, Project Graduation could not take place.

In closing, please note that Project Graduation is not a class trip. Again, the purpose of this night is to provide a safe and fun environment for our graduates. Since I have attended approximately eighteen Project Graduations, I have witnessed first-hand the range of emotions our graduates exhibit from right after the graduation ceremony to 5 a.m. the next day. There is no question in my mind that each graduate is in a much more "stable" place emotionally than the hours that follow graduation.

Please consider assisting your young adult's class to ensure that they have this wonderful opportunity!

Monmouth Academy Class of 2020 Post-Secondary (College, Internships, Military) Acceptances

It is the time of year when many of our young adults have begun the process of applying to colleges and universities, internships, and/or enrolling in the military. Congratulations to the following students on their acceptance to following post-secondary institutions:

Bates, Brock	Husson University
McKenzie Boucher	Husson University
Libby Clement	Husson University
Caitlin Cram	University of Maine at Farmington; Central Maine Community College
Logan Farr	Southern Maine Community College
Jordyn Gowell	Husson University; University of Maine
Natalie Grandahl	Penn State
Katie Harris	Husson University; University of Maine
Kaitlin Hunt	University of Maine
Samantha Hickman	Thomas College
Annalyse Lewis	Hartwick College; University of Maine

If your son/daughter has been accepted to a post-secondary school, please pass along the acceptance letter to our guidance office. This is important as the guidance staff keeps a record and uses this information to determine which students may be eligible for academic scholarships. Also, if your son/daughter has enrolled in an apprentice program, enlisted in the military, etc., please pass that information along as well.

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Next HOW Emailing - Monday, December, 9, by 8 a.m.

On Monday, December 9, in addition to receiving via email your young adult's pace status, you will also receive notice if your young adult is not meeting *Habits of Mind (HOW)*. *HOW* and our new pace descriptions are described below. If you have any questions about these, please contact (email or call) your young adult's teacher. Teachers' email addresses can be found here: <http://www.kidsrsu.org/o/ma/staff>.

Habits of Work (HOW)

Habits of Work (HOW) are important skills and characteristics that lead to success not only in learning, but also in personal and professional life. Last year MA piloted *HOW* and this year *HOW* has been incorporated in all courses and learning experiences. We expect our learners to strive daily to meet the "3 P's": *P*repare for class and learning; *P*articipate and engages in positively in class learning; and *P*erseveres and puts for effort each day. Learners will receive scores bi-weekly on their *HOW* in each of their courses, and parents/guardians will receive these scores via mail four times per year. In addition, parents will be notified via email through the *Behind Pace List* when learners are not meeting *HOW*. [Click here to view the scoring guide MA's Habits of Work](#).

Behind Pace List (BPL)

Based on parent feedback we have made changes to the *Behind Pace List (BPL)*. In place of numbers, when a learner becomes "behind pace" the following letters will be used to describe what extent the learner is "behind pace":

BPL Notations and Accompanying Language

Letter Notation	= Language that will print on email to learner, parent (s)	Color on BPL
BPL is blank	Learner is on pace	none
"S"	Learner is slightly behind pace and may need to work with the teacher outside of the class period	Green
"N"	Learner is notably behind pace and must work with the teacher outside of the class period	Yellow
"E"	Learner is extremely behind pace and must consistently work with the teacher outside of the class period	Red

Notation for Learners Who Are Not Meeting *Habits of Work (HOW)*

Letter Notation	= Language that will print on email to learner, parent (s)	Color on BPL
"D"	Learner is not meeting <i>Habits of Work (HOW)</i>	Yellow

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