



*Students at
Opening Assembly
for full story see
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You are invited

OPEN HOUSE

SEMESTER 1

September Calendar of Events

- 9 - Picture Day
- 15 - Open House 6:45-8:40p.m.
5:45p.m. Grade 9 Parents Cookout - Commons
6:00p.m. Grade 12 Parents Mtg. - Auditorium
- 12-17 - MUHS Spirit Week
- 17 - Homecoming Dance
- 28 - Grade 9 Day at Bread Loaf

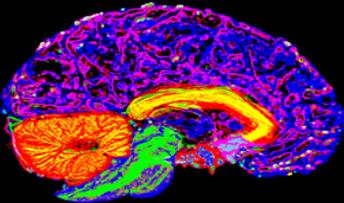
Announcements

Postage Error

We apologize for the recent mailing that arrived home requiring additional postage. This occurred due to an error in programming the postage meter. We deeply regret the inconvenience this may have caused.

Highly Qualified Teacher Status Notification

Parents have the right to request information on their child's teacher's qualifications. To request this information, please contact Principal William Lawson at 382-1199 or at wlawson@addisoncentralus.org.



Vermont Brain Bee

a neuroscience competition for high school students

A new 'Brain Science Club' will have its first meeting on MONDAY, September 19th from 3:05-4:30!!

This weekly after school club is for any student interested in learning about our fascinating BRAINS!

This will also be an opportunity to prepare for the 3rd Annual Vermont Regional Brain Bee at UVM on Feb. 11, 2012 and the Middlebury College – 'Brain Science' Discovery Day on Dec. 3, 2011.

We hope to follow the contents of "Brain Facts" a 74 page primer on the brain and nervous system and downloadable from the society of neuroscience: <http://sfn.org/index.aspx?pagename=brainFacts§ion=publications>

Demonstrations, activities, video clippings and guest professors from Middlebury College will delve into the topics of - the neuron, brain development (the teenage brain), sensations, memory, movement, mental disorders and more.

This club will be led by Lisa Bernardin, a TBI (traumatic brain injured) survivor, Nina Wright and other Middlebury College neuroscience major undergraduates.

For more information: <http://www.vermontbrainbee.com> or contact Lisa Bernardin at vermontbrainbee@gmail.com

Principal's Opening Assembly Remarks

Good Morning and Welcome Back!!

You have probably noticed the high water. Please heed Mr. Farrell's caution for yesterday. Most of the deaths which have occurred this weekend in Vermont appear to be cases where the power of flood water, were underestimated.

I wish to give you an update of what MUHS is doing to assist those Vermonters who have had their lives disrupted by the extensive flooding. Through our new Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Gail Conley, I have extended an invitation to the Rochester High School to, if necessary, have their students attend school here. If this happens, I am certain that you will welcome these students to our school. There may be obstacles to having this happen. We should know by next week.

I will start by thanking Mr. MacIntire and his custodial and maintenance crew for all of their work in getting the building, grounds and classrooms cleaned, repaired and improved.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Mr. Farrell for his work in making certain that our sports teams were ready to get their seasons underway. It should be noted that Mr. Farrell also helped with some of the grounds chores so that the grounds crew could complete the new greenhouse which our Alternative Education program will use to grow and sell produce for the Cafeteria. This will be a noteworthy lesson in sustainability.

Finally, I wish to thank Assistant Principal Dieman and the office and Guidance staff for all of their efforts in attending to the myriad of details necessary to make certain that students and teachers are prepared and supported to accomplish their work.

I'm certain that Mr. Farrell will speak to you about involvement, so I'll not dwell on that other than to say it is an important part of doing well in school.

I do want to mention two other important parts of having a successful school experience. The first is to work hard and effectively. This year, your teachers will be stressing the importance of learning effective study skills such as being organized. So when they encourage and expect you to use one of these Planners, it is vital that you do so. The second thing that will be important to your success is to be ready to leave high school with a well thought plan for your post-secondary life. If you're a senior, you should really be fine tuning these plans now; if you're a sophomore or junior, you should be considering options and making certain that you have a plan and schedule that will achieve you're ultimate goals. Grade 9 students should be spending time with your advisors developing a four-year plan which will make you feel confident that as you graduate you will know what your next steps will be.

My closing advice is work hard, be efficient, make safe and healthy decisions, have a plan for graduation and get involved! Have a great school year! Thank you.



Summer Curriculum

New Grade 9 Study Skills Program

Being organized is one of the key factors in high school success. Keeping track of assignments, keeping binders and backpacks neat, knowing how to read texts and take notes, and studying for tests are all critical to being successful in high school. To some, this comes easily, but to many, it is quite difficult, and for these students achieving success is also harder.

To help better prepare our students for success, MUHS grade 9 teachers have committed to teaching study and organizational skills through the fall semester. In particular, all 9th graders have been given a planner. Teachers will incorporate the use of the planner in class. Teachers of grade 9 students will also teach notebook organization as part of the course work. This pilot program will be assessed at the end of the semester.

This grade 9 Study Skills pilot program was developed as the result of a six month process in which the school considered the best way to teach study skills. A consultant, Joyce Stone, working with Learning Lab Coordinator Jim Burnett, recommended that study skills be incorporated into the 9th grade curriculum. This recommendation was strongly supported by Principal William Lawson and Assistant Principal Catherine Dieman. Mr. Lawson and Ms. Dieman convened a group of teachers to work with Ms. Stone over the summer with the goal of making recommendations. This group, which represented teachers from all departments, recommended that the initial focus be on the use of planners and on having an organized notebook. However, this pilot group is also trying other study skills strategies and will reconvene in the fall to assess results. At that time students and teachers will also assess whether this emphasis on study skills has been beneficial.

Parents and guardians can support the program at home by regularly asking to see your student's planner. The Guidance Office and the Learning Lab can also provide your student with handouts on different study and organization skills.

There will be much discussion this year at MUHS on how we can best prepare our students for 21st Century learning and employment. Our review of how to best teach study skills and organization is based on the recognition that in this increasingly complex world all students will benefit from developing organizational and study skills. If you have any questions or comments about our Study Skills program, please contact Jim Burnett, at 382-1103.

Summer Activities / Peer Leaders

Summer Curriculum Work

The summer provides an opportunity for planning and preparing for the school year. In addition to the grade 9 workshop, another twenty-seven members of the faculty worked during the summer on a variety of educational endeavors. MUHS has established committees to work towards its forthcoming accreditation and the seven standards' committees met to begin data collection and reports. Another group created school-wide rubrics to pilot this school year. The Alternative Education Program met with a curriculum consultant. The English department worked on common summative assessments and the world language department prepared for the AP French curriculum audit. Ashlie Yates prepared for her new role as the Community Service Coordinator and other teachers worked on updating course syllabi and Common Tasks. The Curriculum Leaders, together with the administration, developed the 2011-12 School Action Plan.



Summer School

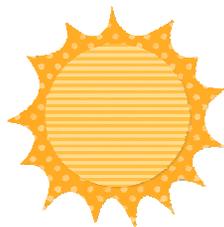
Chris Johnstone directed our summer school program which enrolled 31 students. Teachers included Al Calzini, Ashlie Yates, Andrew Pezzulo and Tony Rutkowski. We are pleased that so many students took advantage of this opportunity.

Peer Leaders

MUHS Peer Leaders welcomed incoming 9th graders during Orientation on August 30th. Peer Leaders helped 9th graders to navigate lockers and their academic schedules/classrooms for the upcoming year.

Peer Leaders will be present in 9th grade advisories on Mondays and Fridays during first quarter to assist new students with assimilating to a new environment and finding ways to become involved in their new school.

Peer Leaders will be working to ready themselves for September 28th when they host 9th graders for the day at Middlebury College's Bread Loaf campus.



World Languages and English Departments



The World Language Department has three new faces! The MUHS community is pleased to introduce a new Latin teacher, Christine Heagy, a new French, Spanish and Latin teacher, Michelle Steele and a new part time Spanish teacher, Arianna Bailey.

Ms. Heagy (Magistra) grew up on a fruit orchard, Honey Bear Orchard, in Lebanon PA. She graduated from Allegheny College in Pennsylvania where she majored in Classical Studies and spent time studying in Athens, Greece. During that time she studied both Ancient and Modern Greek. She enjoys volleyball and sewing (as she worked in the Theater department in college).

Ms. Steele comes to MUHS from Winooski High School where she taught language for 3 years. Prior to that she taught in Brattleboro Middle School. She earned her BA from UVM and her Master's from the School for International Training in Brattleboro, VT. Ms. Steele grew up in Vermont and decided to study French as her grandparents were French Canadian. Besides French and Spanish, Ms. Steele has studied German, Mandarin Chinese and American Sign Language.

Ms. Bailey is a 1999 graduate of MUHS! She received her BA degree from New College of Florida and perfected her Spanish by travelling in Mexico, Spain and Chile. She earned her Master's degree in 2010 from Middlebury College. Ms. Bailey taught Spanish at the Red Cedar School in Bristol for one year and was the Spanish teacher at Rutland Middle School for four years. Both Ms. Heagy and Ms. Bailey also teach at Middlebury Union Middle School. Welcome to all three!

The English Department is pleased to continue working with the Town Hall Theater. This is the third year of our concerted effort to establish a relationship and work together. We have been fortunate enough to have had funding over the last few years from MUHS, the Addison Central Education Endowment Fund (ACEEF), and Town Hall Theater. This year, we have coordinated with THT and The Middlebury Actors' Workshop to attend a matinee performance of Of Mice and Men at THT on Friday, September 30th. Approximately two hundred MUHS students will attend. Public performances will run through the weekend and tickets can be purchased at www.townhalltheater.org.



Guidance

College Fair

This year, the College Fair will be held at the University of Vermont. Representatives from over two hundred colleges will be on hand to talk with students on the evening of Wednesday, September 14th from 6-9pm and during the morning of Thursday, September 15th from 9-11:30am. The guidance office has reserved 2 buses on the 15th to bring students to the fair. In addition to meeting with representatives at the fair, we will travel to St. Michael's College for a presentation on the college selection process, and a tour of the campus. Finally, we will finish our visit by literally getting a "taste" of college life by eating lunch in the college cafeteria.

This is a great opportunity to get our junior students started on the college selection and exploration process. Students interested in attending the College Fair day need to sign up in the guidance office by September 12th.

Senior Parent Night on the College Application Process

On October 6, 2011 from 7:00pm-8:00pm, Mr. Bob Clagett, will be on hand to discuss the college application process for seniors. Mr. Clagett has had extensive experience in admissions having worked in admissions and financial aid at Harvard prior to his role as the Dean of Admissions at Middlebury College. In addition to Mr. Clagett's presentation, school counselors will also be on hand to discuss resources and procedures in the guidance office for college planning.

Upcoming Junior/Senior Events

SAT

The first SAT of the year is scheduled for October 1st. The regular registration deadline is September 9th. Late registration deadline is September 21st. The next available SAT is scheduled for November 5th.

PSAT

The PSAT is the practice or preliminary test for the SAT. The test is also the entrance test for the National Merit Scholarship program for juniors. This year, the PSAT will be given at Middlebury Union High School on Saturday, October 15, 2011. There will be no charge for our students to take the test here at MUHS. We encourage all junior students considering attending college to take this test. Sign up is with Ms. Bearor in guidance office. Once students signs up, they will be given a PSAT bulletin that provides additional information about the test as well as a practice test. We do have a limited number of seats available, so please encourage your son or daughter to sign up as soon as possible. Please see your school counselor for more information.

Middlebury Union High School

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