

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, Calculus, Art History and Studio Art.



November Events

- Nov 2 PTSO @ 6PM
- Nov 4 Auditions for Fall 2010 @ 6 PM
- Nov 5 Theatre Students to England
- Nov 7 Auditions for Fall 2010 @ 10 AM
- Nov 9-10 WKCE Testing for Grade 10
- Nov 12 SGC @ 6 PM Library
- Nov 13 *Raft of the Medusa* @ 7 PM
- Nov 14 *Raft of the Medusa* @ 7 PM
- Nov 15 *Raft of the Medusa* @ 2 PM
- Nov 18 Piano: Paint and Play @ 7 PM
- Nov 20 Kanopy Dance Concert @ 7 PM
- Nov 22 Theatre Students Return
- Nov 24 Fall Band Concert @ 7 PM
- Nov 26-27 Thanksgiving Break

Coming in December

- Dec 4 No School
- Dec 5 Winter Music Concert @ 7 PM
- Dec 7 PTSO 5:30 Social / 6 PM Meeting
- Dec 8 Financial Aid Workshop @ 6 PM
- Dec 10 SGC @ 6 PM
- Dec 11-12 Dance Concert @ 7 PM
- Dec 13 Dance Concert @ 2 PM
- Dec 16 Theatre Dance Recitals
- Dec 18 Skylight Performances @ 2 PM
- Dec 18 *It's a Wonderful Life* @ 7 PM
- Dec 19 Winter Dance Mini-Camp
- Dec 23 Winter Break Begins

Please check our website for last-minute calendar changes and updates:

<http://www.mhsarts.com>

November 2009



In Flanders Field

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below
We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields

Lt. Colonel John McRae, MD 1872-1918 Canadian Army
In honor of Veteran's Day - November 11th

DATE CHANGE: WKCE Testing 10th Grade Students

The district has changed the WKCE test date to two days: November 9th and 10th.

All students will come to school on both days. Students in grades 9, 11 and 12 will go home at 10:15 AM on both days. Yellow bus transportation will be available at 10:15 AM.

All 10th graders will stay all day on both days for testing until 3:45 PM. Yellow bus transportation will be available at that time, also.

From the Guidance Department Attention All Seniors:

***College Applications!** Now is the time to check for **deadlines**. Check the websites of the colleges you are considering for admission procedures. (They are very comprehensive and helpful!) Most students now apply online. Keep a **notebook** of your usernames and passwords to avoid forgetting or confusion.

***Get Ready for FAFSA!** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). After January 1st, you must complete this form at www.fafsa.ed.gov. But **now** you can look over the forms, set up your pin numbers and get a 'feel' for it.

***Scholarship Opportunities** are posted on the bulletin board in the hall by the counseling area. There are many other opportunities in the drawers in that area. (Please don't remove the forms from the drawer. We will make copies for you.) Scholarships will be announced throughout the year. Many college websites list scholarship information.

***HELP!!** Want a session with a college-planning advisor? **Mr. Khang** will be coming in to meet with and assist students individually. SIGN UP WITH MS. BURTIN in the main office to get a 15-minute help session!

ACT Information can be found online at: www.act.org

ACT TEST DATE	Registration Deadline
December 12, 2009	November 6, 2009
February 6, 2010	January 5, 2010
April 10, 2010	March 5, 2010
June 12, 2010	May 7, 2010

Advanced Placement Exams (Results from spring, 09)

MHSA proudly offers Advanced Placement classes and exams! During this past spring, 149 various tests were taken by our hard working students. A score of 3, 4 or 5 can result in college credit! A score of **5** is very high and our school boasts 10 such scores:

Art History 1
Biology 1
English Language and Composition 2
English Literature and Composition 2
U. S. Government and Politics 2
U.S. History 2

The number of tests taken by students with a score of 3 or 4 was: **76**.

All in all, **56%** of tests attempted at MHSA resulted in a score of 3 or higher.

Congratulations to our AP staff for their hard work, and good luck to all students taking AP classes this year!

Theatre Department News for November 2009

By Ralph Janes, Department Chairperson

By this time a large group of Theatre Students will be in England performing, studying and immersing themselves in Theatre. As a department we become more resolved every year we do this to make this the backbone of the senior year.

TeenWrites: *CHANGE* is probably one of the more complicated productions we have ever embarked upon. By the time we are done in April 2010 we will have employed hundreds of writers, scores of musicians, a phalanx of dancers and choreographers, dozens of professional artists, a handful of professional performing arts companies, toured the show close to ten thousand miles, and it will have been seen by thousands of people in multiple countries. Not bad for a Milwaukee Public School, huh? You can check out the blog on the MHSA website which is: mhsarts.com and follow the journey all year long.

Raft of The Medusa by George Kaiser is in the studio this month and I am very sad to miss it while in England. It was the first piece of Theatre I saw when I moved to Milwaukee (directed by Bill Jackson, at Milwaukee Youth Theatre) and it has stayed fresh in my mind as a very powerful and stirring drama. Gus Rich is directing this with a wonderful cast.

Remember to mark your calendars for *It's a Wonderful Life* on December 18. Thanks for supporting live theatre!

Raft of the Medusa

In September of 1940, a ship carrying children to Canada from the bombed cities of England was torpedoed on the high seas. This is the story of thirteen children who survived in a lifeboat and what happened during the seven days they drifted. This highly dramatic piece is appropriate for grades 6 and up.

MHSA Auditorium Friday and Saturday, November 13 and 14 at 7 PM
Sunday, November 15 at 2 PM

Ticket Prices: \$6 adults / \$4 students

Paint and Play Piano Concert: November 18 at 7 PM

This annual recital features students from the MHSA Piano and Visual Arts Departments. Visual Arts students create on-the-spot artwork inspired by the musical selections of the Piano students. The audience is surrounded by original artworks and musical interpretations by the end of the evening.

Madison's Kanopy Dance Performs Here November 20th

Kanopy Dance is the first modern dance company in Wisconsin and they produce wonderful work. As part of a reciprocal relationship with MHSA they will be performing on November 20th at 7:00 pm in the Mainstage Theatre. They will also be holding a master class in the afternoon. Tickets are only \$6/\$4 and FREE for MHSA students. Please bring everyone! This is a fundraiser for the Theatre and Dance departments. <http://www.kanopydance.org/>

Fall Band Concert: November 24 at 7 PM

The MHSA Concert Band and Wind Ensemble perform from the 19th-21st centuries. This exciting concert also features the talents of the MHSA Jazz Big Band.

New Student Auditions for next fall are underway. We held an Audition Workshop in October. The actual auditions will be on: Wed., Nov. 4 at 6 PM and Sat., Nov. 7 at 10 AM. Details can be found on the MHSAs website: <http://www.mhsarts.com>.

Current Students: If you are going to change your major or become a double major you must see Mr. Wszalek and fill out a change form!

More Community Learning Center Offerings

The courses for CLC are still being updated. Information will be available in the main office. Here are some of the Academic / Enrichment classes: Human Rights, Homework Help, Reading Enrichment, Science Club, Math Camp, Spanish Tutoring, and Spiders (Poetry).

There are also some Recreational / Cultural Activities: Cheerleading, LUNA, Health and Fitness, Ocean of Soul, Photo Club, Mural Club and Fencing Club. Here are two more offerings:

Debate: Will meet on Wednesdays and Thursdays after school in room 227.

Fashion Show: Will be starting to meet every month to plan the February 2010 MHSAs Fashion Show. Please see Ms. Balistreri for details.

Senior Yearbook Portraits, Baby Pictures and Wills are due Nov. 6. We will place one senior yearbook portrait in the book for free. Placement fees are \$7.50 for baby pictures and \$7.50 for wills. Wills must be 30 words or less and typed. Label all items with your name and place them in Mr. Wszalek's hands or mailbox by 4:30 PM on Nov 6.

There is a link on our website that has INFORMATION for SENIORS. This site will be updated soon to let you know what is expected and offered during your student's senior year.

Buy a Yearbook for \$50 until Dec 22. After that, the price will go up. Order in person with Mr. Wszalek or online. Checks and money orders should be payable to MHSAs Yearbook. http://www.milwaukeehighschoolofthearts.org/MHSAs_yearbook.php .

Collaborative Cinema - Call for Screenplays

Collaborative Cinema has just opened the call for entries for Wisconsin high school students to submit their ideas for screenplays. This is the first stage of the Collaborative Cinema program in which they produce a short film to show at next year's festival. You can find out all the information on their website. There is also an online entry form. Entry forms may also be printed and mailed in if you do not have Internet access. Check out: <http://milwaukee-film.org/education.shtml>

Kids Write the Darnedest Things:

During the banquet scene, Lady Macbeth was afraid that her husband would expose himself in front of the guests.

From *More Anguished English* by Richard Lederer
An expose of embarrassing, excruciating, and egregious errors in English.

For Parents and Guardians

Parent Climate Survey: If you want your opinion to count, please fill out the Parent Climate Survey. It can be taken online at: <http://www.milwaukee.k12.wi.us>. Go to the Parent drop-down menu and click on **Parent Climate Survey** by December 22, 2009. Hard copies are available in the main office.

The Parent Assistant is a tool for parents and guardians to check on their student's grades, assignments, attendance and schedules. You need to apply for security access before you begin. Application forms are available online and in the main office. The online link is the same as above. Go to the **Parent** drop-down menu and click on **Parent Assistant**.

Dear Artists and Art Lovers:

Please join us for a series of discussions about the state of the Arts in Milwaukee. Arising from a grassroots effort, which began in Catalano Square this summer, the Milwaukee Arts Advocacy Breakfast will resume meeting once a month, with space generously provided by the Skylight Opera Theatre. Everyone is invited: artists of all disciplines, patrons, donors, board members, arts educators, critics, & anyone who cares about art in Milwaukee. Meetings will take place at 8:00AM on the first Friday of each month, beginning Nov. 6th.

November's Discussion Topic: THE ROLE OF THE ARTS EDUCATOR: PERSPECTIVES ON ARTS EDUCATION IN GREATER MILWAUKEE

Moderator: Ray Jivoff

[Milwaukee Arts Advocacy Breakfast](#)

FRIDAY, NOV. 6TH

8:00 - 8:15AM: Mingling/Introductions

8:15 - 9:30AM: Open Discussion

Broadway Theatre Center Bar/Bistro

158 N. Broadway, 2nd floor

Please use the Studio Theatre entrance and elevator.

BYOB: Bring your own breakfast

Upcoming meeting dates: Dec. 4th, Jan. 8th, Feb. 5th, Mar. 5th, Apr. 2nd, May 7th

Please share this message with any friends or colleagues who might like to attend.

Remember that you are always welcome to join us at our PTSO and SGC Meetings.

Next PTSO: Monday, Nov. 3
5:50 PM Social Time
6:00 PM Meeting
MHSA Cafeteria

Next SGC: Thursday, Nov. 12 @ 6PM
MHSA Library

Use the Staff Parking lot on the west side of the building in order to gain entrance.



See our new Logo!

Current Students In and Around Town

Alyssa Sylvester, a senior Theatre and Voice major, has been touring Milwaukee with the production of *NORMAL: A family musical of hope and survival*. MHSa staff member, Christopher Wszalek, is the Musical Director of the musical, which was presented at MHSa in October.

Alyssa has just been cast in the First Stage Children's Theatre production of *The Wiz*. Look for her in the role of Dorothy in March of 2010. There will be two casts for the production and we will let you know which dates Alyssa will perform.

Margarita Klikizos, an MHSa junior Dance major, just finished dancing with the Milwaukee Ballet in their production of *Cinderella* at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts. If you happened to see the ballet, she was the Clock Hour #11 on stage left.

The **TeenWrites** production *Changes* was recently featured on WISN.com. Here is the link:
<http://www.wisn.com/news/21389083/detail.html>

Alumni Updates The Saluted at the Rave

2009 Graduates Eris Cambell, James Cameron, Paul Mrotek and Barry Keefe are members of *The Saluted*. Last March they survived the first round of Battle of the Bands at the Rave. They played again in August and tied for First Place. Congratulations guys. We salute you!

MHSa PODCASTS

MHSa has entered the 21st century with the introduction of podcasting and Internet resources. As more teachers develop content, we will post links on the website and in this newsletter.

Mr. Delutio Podcasts
<http://adelutio.podbean.com>

Ms. Bugni WikiSpace for AP English Literature
<http://mhsanativeson.wikispaces.com/>

TeenWrites Blog
<http://teenwriteschange.wordpress.com/>

Ms. Halsey Podcasts
<http://khalsey.podbean.com>

Entertainment Books and Spirit Wear will be on sale during evening events and also on Fridays during the lunch hour. We are working to get photos of Spirit Wear on the MHSa website. Entertainment Books cost \$35. We don't have many left. If you want one, you can send money with your student to purchase during Friday lunch OR send a check for \$35 made payable to MHSa PTSO and put it in the PTSO mailbox in the main office. Let us know how to get the book to your student or to you.

Brothers of Kwanza - African-American Male Support Group

By Jerrell Braxton, MHSA School Social Worker

Consider these sobering facts: Eighty percent of African-American male students are functioning at or below a 2.0 grade level; the life expectancy of black males is between 60 –65 years of age (lowest of all ethnic groups); black male unemployment is 50% in Milwaukee (2nd in the nation); black males have the highest rate of cancer; homicide is the largest cause of death amongst African-American youth and there are more African-American men of college age in prison than in college. Issues affecting the African-American male continue at epidemic proportions.

This is why we meet!

The “BROTHERS OF KWANZA” program is entering its **18th** consecutive year at MHSA. We are proud that MHSA is a proactive forerunner in MPS and the city of Milwaukee in addressing the devastating issues that plague this particular population. We are in fact one of the original mentoring programs in the city and the nation. For your information, this program has been recognized locally and nationally. **It is also important to note that the MHSA family is viewed as a model of collectively working together to bring about positive changes. One example was last years “HANDS AGAINST GUN RALLY”. Remember the African Proverb; it takes an entire village to raise a child. We need your support!**

For the benefit of new staff and parents, “BROTHERS OF KWANZA” is an African-American male support group that is designed to address issues, problems, and solutions that pertain to the deteriorating status of African-American males in our society. We focus on 5 social indicators that affect black males, such as: **HEALTH, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, CRIME AND LIFE EXPECTANCY.** **The goals of the group are to educate, elevate, empower and develop critical thinking skills.**

Parent Information Session: Sat., Nov. 21 I AM AN INFORMED PARENT!

This session is for any parent/guardian or adult who wants to know the latest information on childhood diseases, how these diseases affect a child's learning, the latest on the H1N1 Flu Virus and how to keep our children safe and disease free. You must register for this. (The first 100 people to sign up will be registered.)

TIME: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Registration begins at 9:30 Lunch will be provided. Sessions will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: New Testament Central City Church, 2400 West Center Street (414) 263-0130

Topics: Childhood Diseases and How to Avoid Them
Keeping Our Children Healthy
The Latest on the H1N1 Flu Virus

Program, resource materials, snacks, and surprises are included! **REGISTER** by November 18. Call Patricia Kirby at (414) 773-9827 or Kathy Witkowiak at (414) 475-8607.
SPANISH AND HMONG INTERPRETERS WILL BE ON HAND

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. You can join the "Parent" list or the "Friends of MHSA" list.
Save trees. Save the ozone. Keep costs down. Join by emailing: tototoo@tds.net.

Want to submit an article? Contact me by the 15th of the previous month.

Sara Raasch, MHSA Newsletter Editor