

Music Notes

May 2022
Issue 2

Quarterly News from MMAC / Middie Music Boosters

Supporting the musical arts at Middletown High School & Middletown Middle School

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MUSIC | SCHEDULE

- 05/17 Graduation
- 05/18 Last Day of School
- 05/27 1p MB music read-through
- 05/30 MB Memorial Day Parade
- TBD MMAC Food Truck Rally & Cornhole Tournament
- 07/11 MB Pre-camp begins
- 07/24 - 07/29 Marching Band Camp
- 08/03 MB Picture Day
- 08/09 First day of school

*MB =Marching Band



MHS Musical: Little Shop of Horrors

By Joe Woodring, MHS Choir Director

The high school music department presented the spring musical *Little Shop of Horrors* on April 8th and 9th. While the cast was small, the crowds to see the show were big. Senior Gabe Penny and Junior Kimber Spaulding starred as Seymour and Audrey, while sophomore Isaiah McCuller both voiced and puppeteered our Audrey II plants. We look forward to an even bigger show in 2023!

Support Middie Music with AmazonSmile & Kroger Rewards

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way for you to support MMAC and the musical arts every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you will find the exact same low prices, vast selection, and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, and Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the musical arts at Middletown High School. • Visit smile.amazon.com and add **Middletown Musical Arts Club** as your charity of choice.

Kroger Community Rewards is committed to helping our communities grow and prosper. Year after year, local schools, churches, and other nonprofit organizations, including MMAC, will earn millions of dollars through Kroger Community Rewards. Kroger Community Rewards makes fund-raising easy... all you must do is shop at Kroger and swipe your Plus Card! • Visit www.kroger.com/i/community/community-rewards & select **Middletown Music Boosters** as your charity of choice.

Purple Pizzazz: The Comeback

By Joe Woodring, MHS Choir Director

Purple Pizzazz is wrapping up our 2022 competition season, which was all about rebuilding our program after not competing in person during Covid. Our students gained knowledge and motivation to keep building after competing this year and we have increased from 24 members this year to a roster of 44 show choir members next year. We hope to increase our ranks of combo and crew next fall as well.

We will be competing in at least six competitions in 2023 and could use more parent volunteers for crew, props, backdrops, and costuming. Contact me or the MMAC Boosters to get involved!



MMAC NEEDS

GRILL REPAIR

Concessions Committee is in search of a technician to repair & clean two propane grills at Barnitz stadium. One grill has defective wheels; the second will not pump fuel.

Contact:

mmaccontact@yahoo.com

REFRIGERATOR

Concessions Committee is in search of a second refrigerator for the concession stands at Barnitz Stadium. One refrigerator was graciously offered to MMAC at our last May meeting.

Contact

mmaccontact@yahoo.com

CHOIR RISER

With increase in Show Choir membership for the 2022-2023 school year, we are in need of a fourth riser.

Contact Joe Woodring for more information:

jwoodring@middletowncityschools.com

Winter Guard Ends on a High Note

By Kandi Barnes, Secretary

The 2022 Winter Guard season saw a return to in-person competition. Middle Winter Guard competes in the OIPA (Ohio Indoor Performance Association) circuit. They compete with guards from across Ohio.

Winter Guard welcomed a JV team (top right) back this year to great success! The JV team competed in the Junior Novice division. They spent time learning the basics of spinning a flag and drill. During the OIPA state competition they won first place, bringing the Junior Novice state champion banner back with them.

The Winter Guard Varsity squad (bottom right) had a fantastic season as well. They compete in the Scholastic A division. They competed in two regional competitions, both taking place in Indianapolis. They placed very well in both competitions. In the OIPA state competition, they brought home a 2nd place. This year also saw Varsity compete in the WGI World Competition. They made it to the semi-finals round at WGI!!

Thank you to Stephanie, Sydney, Austin, Christian and Gina for another successful season! To Andrea, Sam and Kat, thank you for allowing us to watch and cheer on your Senior season!



VOLUNTEER DATES

**Tuesday 06/14 at 7:00pm &
Tuesday 07/12 at 7:00pm
Monthly MMAC Meeting**

Join the MMAC board, trustees, & volunteers at our next Boosters meeting. Getting involved is the best way to support music education in Middletown! MMAC meets monthly, on the second Tuesday of the month in the MHS band room. Join us!

Contact:

mmaccontact@yahoo.com

**Saturday TBD at 12:00pm
MMAC Cornhole Tournament &
Food Truck Rally**

Need food truck vendors (dine to donate) and parent & student volunteers to run beverage fundraiser booth and raffle. In search of loaned cornhole equipment. Event held at Swollens Park in Downtown Middletown.

Pre-paid \$30 entry fee per team. Outdoor, double elimination on 8 to 12 courts. Open to the public. Raffle, vendors, music, & food trucks. Spectators welcome. Free admission & lawn chairs permitted. Check-in at 12:30pm.

Contact:

mmacpresidentmhs@gmail.com

**Sunday 07/24 at TBD
Band Camp Check In**

We need marching band parents who can help with check-in stations at Band Camp to help answer questions and direct students and parents. Contact:

mmaccontact@yahoo.com

Beyond the Curtains

By Brandy Rogers, Trustee / Outgoing MMAC Secretary

It's no secret that Middletown High School has a superior music department which promotes hard work, dedication, teamwork, and a plethora of other skills that will only help our students excel in their future, no matter the path they take after graduation. Coordination of the fantastic directors we have in Mr. Leisten, Ms. Hoevel, Ms. Hall, Mr. Woodring, and Ms. Miller, the lessons they teach will last a lifetime, even if they decide to move into a different direction than sticking with music after high school (although we always hope they do not lose the music!). Behind the curtains, however, is a usually small group of parents helping to move the gears for our children's educators to set them on a path to those superior ratings, and it's easier to help out than you may think!

Oftentimes you will see the same group of parents at each of the events whether it be a Friday night football games, or a competition two hours away. The Middletown Musical Arts Club is comprised of five Officers: a President, Vice President, two Treasurers and a Secretary; let me tell you how big of an advocate for your kiddos this group is! Between crunching numbers to ensure each kid eats when they travel for a show to coordinating concert fundraisers to make those meals possible, this group of parents has your kid's back! They help the directors of each program to ensure they have the tools they need to garner that success. While the Officers can handle the big stuff, there are a lot of little things that they could use some help with! Sometimes just dropping off a bag or two of ice at Barnitz when you drop your student off, or a couple hours spent on a concession stand one night can go such a long way! There are so many simple opportunities to help this program, and I promise you your time spent with the other parents and the kids is valuable!

While all parents with a child in the music program are always welcome to join the monthly booster meetings, we understand it's just not possible for everyone. If you have interest in being that person who saves the day with a few bags of ice (which you would be reimbursed for), or jumping in a concession stand to also help raise funding for these programs, please reach out to the Officers, they will gladly point you in the direction of what you can do to help because at the end of the day, it's about supporting our directors who are leading our kids to success and there is nothing sweeter!

HOW YOU CAN HELP - MMAC has established a Membership Committee which organizes parents and volunteers into the Boosters and fill needs of the music classroom and extracurricular activities. **If you are interested, email mmaccontact@yahoo.com or message us through the Middletown Musical Arts Club Facebook page.**

2022-2023 Marching Band Student Leaders Announced

By David Leisten, Band Director and Max Pickett, Percussion Director

We are fortunate to have a band that is full of students who are strong leaders and examples of how to act, march, play, perform, practice and work. There is room for every returning member in the marching band to be a leader and example to younger members. You don't need a title to lead, just a great attitude and work ethic.

- Our Field Commanders: Audrey Barnes, Joseph Shaw, Logan Wysong-Ward.
- Our leadership team for Winds: Lucy Strothman, Flute; Autumn Collins, Clarinet; Gabe Gasper, Alto Sax; Cohen Nichols, Trumpet; James Patton, Mellophone; David Smith, Low Brass; Katlyn Boggs, Trombone Squad Leader.
- Our Prop / Equipment Leaders: Steven McDonough, Collin Dobrozsi, Caleb Ratliff.
- Our Percussion Leaders: Josh Mumford and Audrey Allen.

Destination Disney World 2022

By Corey Hall, MHS Orchestra Director



The Orchestra / Show Choir Disney Trip was fantastic! Our students represented MHS with class and pride and got many compliments along the way. Students spent four days in the parks and participated in two different workshops through the Disney Imagination Campus.

Show Choir students completed a Disney Broadway Magic workshop with a Disney clinician, which simulated the audition and production process for a Broadway show, culminating in a mini performance.

Orchestra students participated in a Soundtrack Sessions workshop, during which they sightread and developed a short section of a Disney motion picture soundtrack, to be synced with the animation. They learned about the skills needed to be a session musician and simulated the recording studio environment and process.

We are tremendously grateful for the donations from community members and organizations as well as the assistance that MMAC provided for fundraising. Because of this generosity, we were able to eliminate price increases AND provide ALL meals for every student for the entire trip. THANK YOU!



Purple Pizzazz in Disney World

By Joe Woodring, MHS Choir Director

MHS Show Choir members, including combo and crew members, had the privilege of participating in the Disney Broadway Magic Workshop during our recent trip to Disney World. Students got the opportunity to learn and perform a scene from *Frozen: The Musical* and had a great time working with a professional musical theater director.



STUDENT SNAPSHOT

By Kai Slough, Violin player

The Disney trip that I took with my orchestra and choir was one of the best trips I ever went on. While we were in Animal Kingdom, it was a bit of an experience seeing how the café was very interactive and entertaining while having a chance to eat there. The gift shop staff was friendly and very kind. It was just as fun to look around and see how everything has its unique touches.

Just as much, the other parks had fantastic staff and fireworks and music and light shows took my breath away. I say the very best was the Harry Potter areas-- definitely my favorite of all time.

DISNEY DONATIONS

By Sarah Allen, Treasurer

We sent out the bat signal for some additional funds to help offset the costs of Orchestra and Show Choir's Disney trip and the following donors answered the call! Due to these donations, we were able to provide all meals and extra costs as well as FIVE scholarships!

MUSICAL ARTS HERO \$3000-\$5000

Kelly Cowan / CBI

ARTS CHAMPION \$1000-\$2999

Anonymous Community Member

ARTS ADVOCATE \$500-\$999

Maple Park Auto Collision • Abby Hupp • Anny Stevens-Gleason

ARTS ACTIVIST \$100-499

Jen Battaglia • Claire Costello • Kelly Cuvar • Courtney Killin • Jeff Mellott • Catherine Reed • Joseph Rolph • Sarah See

ARTS ALLY \$3-99

Suzi Rubin • Amy Wray • Ami Vitori • Kyndall Ostermann • Keith Mattocks • JoAnne Ashworth • Stephanie Rolph • Corey Hall • Robyn Hadden • Cassidy Zimmerman • Liz Leis • Kelley Laurens • Stephanie Storck • Kolleen McDonald • Susan Wise • Erin Gittinger • Jillian Monroe • John Tennant • Janis Dutton • Rebecca Chupka • Christine Cantrell • Angela Hensley • Amy McCloud • Suzanne McFalls • Megan Wright • Rachel Davis • Anna Masson • Tim Smith

THE CLASS OF 2022 MUSIC DEPARTMENT PHOTO DROP

From Corey Hall, MHS Orchestra Director

We have seven graduating seniors in Orchestra this year. Across the board, these students are strong leaders, academically brilliant, talented, kind, giving, hilarious, driven, and have outstanding character and integrity. Some are headed to college while others are entering the workforce right away. We will miss them terribly, but we are so proud of them and can't wait to watch them succeed!

Thank you for your leadership, talent, and commitment, seniors! Pictured left (L-R): Carlos Ybarra, bass; Jacob Dameron, cello; Nora McGuffey, viola; Elliot Warner, viola; Noah Locke, bass; Ava Forbes, viola; Austin Faries, cello.



From David Leisten, Band Director

To the class of 2022, we thank you for everything you have meant to the band program for the past seven years. We hope to see you all in the near future and can't wait to watch all the great things you will do in the future.



CLASS OF 2022 RECOGNITION

MMAC / Middle Music Boosters 2022 Scholarship Recipients

Jacob Dameron
 Charlie Farno
 Jordan Johnson
 Autumn Martin
 Gabriel Penny
 Jaden Rogers
 Elliot Warner

Middletown Community Foundation Scholarship Recipients

Noah Locke
 Mason Malicote
 Au'Laila Million
 Jaden Rogers
 Ethan Wysong-Ward

National Honor Society Members Class of 2022

Benjamin Alcanter • MB
 Laci Cope • CB, SC crew
 Emma Cox • MB, WE, O, SC crew
 Logan Flack • WE
 Ava Forbes • MB, O
 Andrea Hernandez • MB
 Noah Locke • O
 Nora McGuffey • O, SC
 Au'Laila Million • SC
 Ahvonni Richardson • SC
 Jaden Rogers • MB, WE, JB, C
 Rhiannon Snodderly • MB, CB, WE
 Elliot Warner • O
 Ethan Wysong-Ward • MB, WE, JB

AND A NOD TO 2023

National Honor Society Members Class of 2023

Robert Anderson, Tanner Back, Caroline Campbell, Amberly Cawein, Kevin Chairez, Autumn Collins, Lucas Dingledine, Avery Earls, Asia Espiritu, Sander Gerzema, Zora Gyebi, Margaret Hall, Chase Hanavan, Courtney Holt, Grace Lampart, Nalta Langster, Kady Lynch, Courtney Lyninger, Jordan Magill, Heath McMonigle, Josh Mumford, Jada Patton, Kimber Spaulding, Makenna Tindal, Clark Jorel, Caroline VonHolle, Sophia Whitt, Keeghan Wills, Logan Wysong-Ward

*MB=Marching band; CB=Concert band; WE=Wind ensemble; JB=Jazz band O=Orchestra; SC>Show choir; C=Combo

After One Year of Volunteer Work

By Shana Crain, MMAC President

It has been over a year since I attended my first MMAC meeting. My daughter, Esme Crain (trumpet, class of 2025) was in marching band as an 8th grader during the limited 2020 season. But last May, we attended the marching band registration meeting for the 2021 season, where Director David Leisten announced that the Boosters group needed trustees (voting members) and volunteers to help during the upcoming season. I thought to myself, "What the heck?" And in that moment, a Music Booster was born.

In the Covid Era, Boosters unfortunately lost countless resources, including volunteers and fundraising opportunities. The hiccoughs of dwindling enrollment also played a role. However, this last school year, we have worked together with the music directors to rebuild a full, normal season and music year for our students. We were able to grow the Middletown music department and all it provides with marching band, winter guard, and show choir competitions, full concessions at varsity games, our annual craft show, and TWO Disney trips! Our success can especially be attributed to Booster volunteers who helped with fundraising, planning, and rebuilding. THANK YOU to our directors and to those parents who came forward this last year to help!



Music Department enrollment is up. As our music department grows, so should our Boosters. When your child graduates from high school, so do you. As our 2022 graduates leave, so do the Class of 2022 Boosters. That means we need new Boosters to step up! If you are a current Booster volunteer, please introduce yourself to a parent you do not know. Make them feel welcome. New parents—WE WELCOME YOU! Your ideas, talents, and experience will help us grow. If you can only attend our meetings or can only donate a box of applesauce packets or a bag of ice for away competitions—every little bit helps. It takes a village to support this Music Department, and we need your help! And we have a blast along the way!

ELECTION RESULTS - We had a solid turnout at our annual membership meeting and elections on May 9th. Congratulations to our newly elected Executive Officers: President: Shana Crain, Vice President: Beth Johnson, Secretary: Kandice Barnes, Treasurers: Sarah Allen & Arica Ratliff.

Our MMAC Trustees for the 2022-23 school year are: Julie Collier, Noah Cornett, Theo Cox, Kindra Davis, Jen Grams, Jordan Long, Angela McLaughlin, Rodney McLaughlin, Kristina Miller, Billy Poynter, Julie Poynter, Gary Ratliff, Brandy Rogers, Darrell Rose, Monica Rothe, Chris Snodderly, Landon Snodderly, Wendy Snodderly, Suzy Tadych, Stephanie Walters, Gerald Westphal. There are seven new names on this list! Congratulations!

STAY INFORMED

Follow our online resources to stay informed about performances, dates, and fundraiser opportunities!

MUSIC DEPARTMENT/MMAC WEBSITE

middiemusicboosters.org

FACEBOOK

MMAC Page: *Middletown Musical Arts Club*

Guard Page: *Middletown Colorguard*

Band Group: *Middletown Middies Band Program* (private group; submit survey questions)

TWITTER

Band: *Middletown HS Band*

Guard: *MiddletownColorguard*

INSTAGRAM

Show Choir: *purple.pizzazz*

MMAC EXECUTIVES

2021-22 EXECUTIVE BOARD

Shana Crain, President

Beth Johnson, Vice President

Kandice Barnes, Secretary

Sarah Allen, Treasurer

Arica Ratliff, Treasurer

MUSIC DIRECTORS

David Leisten, MHS Band

Amy Hoevel, MHS Band

Ashley Martin, MMS Band

Joseph Woodring, MHS Choir

Christian Longberry, MMS Choir

Stephanie Miller, Guard

Corey Hall, MHS Orchestra

Maureen Driscoll, MMS Orchestra

MMAC CONTACT

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Content Request & Deadline for Newsletter Contributions

The MMAC newsletter team is currently looking for additional content for future issues of *Music Notes*. We invite Members (Directors, parents/guardians, students) to submit articles and photos for publication and potential topics for Band, Choir, Guard, Orchestra, and including past and future music department events, shows, music culture, alumni features, student involvement, etc. Issues of *Music Notes* will be released quarterly in the months of February, May, August, and November.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES - To submit articles, photos, or information for publication, please submit no later than the **third Monday of the publication month** to mmacontact@yahoo.com. Articles received will be reviewed by the *Music Notes* team and may be edited with discretion for length or grammatical errors. **Deadline for the August 2022 issue is: 08/15/2022.**