



## December Events

- Dec 1.....HS BB @ Home
- Dec 2.....HS District Band and Choir
- Dec 5, 7-8.....HS BB Tournament
- Dec 7.....MS BB @ Ell-Saline
- Dec 8.....FFA Beef Expo @ Hutch
- Dec 9..Debate Tournament @ Home
- Dec 11.....Scholars Bowl @ Sedgwick
- Dec 12.....K-2 Music Program
- Dec 14.....MS BB @ Home
- Dec 15-16.....Regional Debate Tourn
- Dec 18.....MS BB @ Sacred Heart
- Dec 18.....HS Vocal/Band Concert
- Dec 19.....HS BB @ Sterling
- Dec 21-Jan 4.....Christmas Break



The 5th grade class poses next to the Black Hawk helicopter at the Salina Military Base.

Photo by Casie Wiens

# Fifth Grade Students Participate in Educational Experience

On Tuesdays, in the month of Nov. and Dec., the 5th grade students will be taking five trips to STARBASE at the Salina Military Base.

The STARBASE program engages students with its "hands-on, mind-on" experiential activities.

STARBASE stands for science, technology, academics, reinforcing, basic aviation space exploration.

"We learn about math, science, and technology," fifth grader Lane Durst said.

The program encourages students to set goals and achieve them.

"There are many things we hope our students take away from this experience. We hope students learn how to work

collaboratively in their teams as they do experiments. We also hope students start to really understand the engineering design process that takes pieces of everyone's ideas and tweaks them into something better than any of them could have thought of themselves," fifth grade teacher Katie Stucky said.

Students work together to explore, explain, elaborate, and evaluate concepts they have to figure out how to use.

"We toured the Black Hawk airplane with night vision goggles," fifth grader Braden DenHartog said.

The goal is to motivate them to explore STEM as they continue their education. The program encourages students to set

goals and achieve them.

"We learned about CAD, which I'm pretty sure it just means designing," fifth grader Kepple Adolf said.

CAD is computer-aided designing with the use of computer systems to help in the creation, modification, analysis, or optimization of a design.

STARBASE has been something that the Moundridge 5th graders have participated in for several years, and it continues to be to be a great learning experience and helps them think about possible careers choices for the future.

Cayman Wiens



November 2017

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# Cat's Corner

A Publication of 21st Century Journalism at MHS

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17 MHS students performed in the play "You Can't Take It With You."

# MHS Performs "You Can't Take It With You"

This year, instead of a musical, MHS performed a play titled "You Can't Take It With You" on Nov. 10 and 11 in the auditorium.

The play is about a family who lives in New York City in the 30s. This family has one purpose: they do what they want, rather than have normal jobs and go to work every day. The thinking is that "life is better if you do what you want rather than what you have to do", so they adopt that philosophy. As the play goes on, they meet another family and the play is the story of those two families and how they work out their different world view.

"The play is not as big of a production as the musicals....we do not have to sing and worry about the group dances", senior Luke Ratzlaff said. He has been involved in the musical the last three years.

Since it is just a play, and last year was

a musical, this is just strictly acting", senior Noah Eichelberger said. He has been involved in the musical since he was freshman, too.

For the play the actors practiced very hard for many weeks. They enjoyed practice: "I like staying around my friends", Eichelberger said.

The actors enjoyed it. "I just like to be able to just be goofy and people will laugh at me, because I'm being funny or doing something dumb", senior Bethany Stucky said. This is her third year acting.

"It is always fun to do because you get to be in front of people and mess around and act like yourself more or less", senior Peyton Fast said. He has been involved in the musicals for the last three years.

"This is the first play I have done and I like it more than musicals", Fast added.

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## 21st Century Journalism Class

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This newsletter is a production of the 21st Century Journalism Class of 2017-2018. Advisor is Ms. Melanie Krehbiel. Questions or comments may be directed to: krehbielm@usd423.org.

# A Time to Give Thanks

A few elementary students were asked what their meaning of Thanksgiving is, what they are thankful for, a tradition that their family does every year, and their favorite part of Thanksgiving. "[My favorite tradition that my family does is] we drive out into the country and hunt turkeys," first grader Braxton Giesbrecht said.

Kindergarteners and twins Ampton and Kasen Stos enjoy playing at Thanksgiving. Their favorite tradition they do on Thanksgiving is making pumpkin cookies.

Kindergartener Preslie Doanes meaning of Thanksgiving is having a good time with family.

"Thanksgiving is the privilege of gathering with family and friends for food, fellowship and fun," kindergarten teacher Mrs. Anita Beasley said.

Jessica McKay



Photo by Jessica McKay

Thanksgiving art by the Kindergarteners.

## What are you thankful for?

"[I am thankful for] the family we get to meet."

-Braxton Giesbrecht, first grade

"[I am thankful that] we get to be with family."

-Zoe Winsor, first grade

"I'm most thankful for time spent with my family and extended family."

-Mrs. Beasley, Kindergarten teacher

"[I am thankful for] family and friends,"

-Mrs. Brandewiede, first grade teacher

# MHS Students Share Thanksgiving Traditions

According to history.com and telegraph.co.uk, Thanksgiving Day traditionally kicks off the 'holiday season' in the United States. The day was set in stone by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1939 and approved by Congress in 1941. FDR changed it from Abraham Lincoln's designation as the last Thursday in November.

In 1621, the Plymouth colonists and Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest feast that is acknowledged today as one of the first Thanksgiving celebrations in the colonies. For more than two centuries, days of Thanksgiving were celebrated by individual colonies and states. It wasn't until 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, that President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed a national Thanksgiving Day to be held each November.

'The National Thanksgiving Proclamation' was the first formal proclamation of Thanksgiving in America. George Washington, the first president of the United States, made this proclamation on Oct 3, 1789.

While today's Thanksgiving celebrations would likely be unrecognizable to attendees of the original 1621 harvest meal, it continues to be a day for Americans to come together around the table. Today it changed more to a family-time feast where all family members hang out and eat together.

This year, senior Bryant Olson will go to his grandmother's house where he and usually his whole family eat turkey.

"I have about the same routine every Thanksgiving. We show up, eat, and watch football. We used to play football in the yard but we all got too big," Olson said.

According to Olson, Thanksgiving is for giving thanks for the things that you have but in America the people like to give thanks for what they have and then go spend money on Black Friday the next day. Olson's favorite part about Thanks-

giving is eating all the good food.

"The thing I'm most thankful for this Thanksgiving is probably my family," Olson said.

Senior Allie Sparks celebrates Thanksgiving by making a big meal, sitting around the table, and eating all the food. She really likes Thanksgiving because she doesn't get to see her family a lot because her parents work separate jobs and they have different schedules, so Thanksgiving allows them to be together as a family. So her favorite part about Thanksgiving is the time she can spend with her family.

"I don't have the same routine every year. Sometimes we have extended family coming down to our house but this year is going to be just immediate family at home," Sparks explained.

Sparks thinks that Thanksgiving is being together with the people you love, and just being able to eat a lot of good food together.

"I'm probably the most thankful for having a life that I get to be free and do what I want instead of being having my life chosen for me," Sparks said.

Sophomore Ashleigh Accardi will be going to Brooklyn, New York with her family and they will eat turkey and all the typical Thanksgiving foods. Most years she has about the same routine, but some years she and her family go to different family members' houses and eat, hang out and spend time together.

"I like that we get a lot of food and that we get to see some family that we don't usually get to see very often," Accardi explained.

For Accardi, Thanksgiving is a time of hanging out with your family and getting to know each other better, but her favorite part about Thanksgiving is still the food.

"This Thanksgiving I will probably be the most thankful for my family," Accardi said.

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Photo by Hilarie Hecox

Moundridge "Team A", (from left to right) Luke Ratzlaff, Ben Schrag, Noah Eichelberger, Trevor Kohl, Cross Lintecum, Jakob Sindermann, and Mylaya Bell- Martinez, after their victory at home meet on Nov. 6.

# Scholar's Bowl Defends State Title

The Moundridge High School Scholar's Bowl team started their season as defending state champions.

The team had their first tournament at Lyons on Oct. 26 and earned 3rd place.

"[My goal for the season is] to defend our state title," senior Bryant Olson said.

On Monday, Nov. 6, the Scholar's bowl team participated in a home meet with Moundridge "Team A" taking 1st place.

"Team A" included seniors Luke Ratzlaff, Ben Schrag, Jakob Sindermann, and Noah Eichelberger, juniors Trevor Kohl, and Mylaya Bell- Martinez, and sophomore Cross Lintecum.

The questions the teams are asked usually come from nine categories.

The question categories include social studies, math, science, language arts, fine arts, year in review, sports, world language, and miscellaneous.

"Our strengths are definitely math and world language. Probably science as well. We really struggle with fine arts, language arts, and social studies, as often, these questions are very trivial," Coach Adam Robb said.

Robb has been coaching Scholar's Bowl since he started teaching at Moundridge High School.

"I participated in Scholars Bowl in high school, and the teacher I replaced at MHS was the coach at the time I started teaching here - so it was a natural fit," Robb added.

There are 15 members on the Scholar's Bowl team this year.

The team includes seniors: Eichelberger, Olson, Chris Leddy, Schrag, Jerod Kaufman, Ratzlaff, Sindermann, Viviane Guenole, and Jessica Ullom- Minnich, juniors: Kohl, and Bell- Martinez, and sophomores: Lintecum, Aaron Green, Daniel Kaufman, and Kyler Dalke.

Jenika Allenbach

# High School Play, Continued...

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"It is a fun experience and it's kind of cool to see how everything comes together," senior Bryant Olson said. Olson has been involved in the musicals for the last three years too, so it is not a new experience.

After the play the actors were happy about the results.

"We had a blast, it was excellent. I enjoyed it so much, and I think it went well," senior Jessica Ullom-Minnich said.

"I am happy and we had a really good time during the production and practicing," senior Christian Walls said.

On Friday FCCLA served a fundraiser dinner. 110 people enjoyed it in the MMS

Commons before going to the play.

The food was cooked by Mrs. Kaufman's class and the Commons were decorated with fall decoration, like pumpkins on each table, which some people bought. FCCLA members were the servers, so they saw how to work in a restaurant for a night.

Greta Frosio

# FFA Members Travel to the FFA National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana



Photo by Ali Torr

The members of FFA posed for a picture at Fair Oaks Dairy. Those students are: (left to right) junior Cassidy Finley, sophomores Alayna Colwell and Ashleigh Accardi, freshman Silas Courtney, junior Keira Sebrant, freshman Hannah Bibb, and sophomore Carson Orpin.

The Moundridge FFA Chapter traveled to Indianapolis, Indiana, for the 90th annual FFA National Convention from Oct. 24 through Oct. 27.

The FFA members who partook in the trip were: freshmen Hannah Bibb and Silas Courtney, sophomores Ashleigh Accardi, Alayna Colwell, and Carson Orpin, juniors Cassidy Finley, and Keira Sebrant, and advisor Ali Torr.

"The FFA trip was an educational experience with a twist of fun," Torr said.

The first thing they did was watch the Cinch World's Toughest Rodeo.

"The thing I liked the most from the rodeo was the saddle bronc riding and

trying to explain how the point system for bull riding works," Bibb said.

The next thing they got to experience was a tour of the Fair Oaks Dairy. There they saw piglets of all sizes, adult hogs, and dairy cattle.

"My favorite thing that we did while we were at Fair Oaks Dairy was watching the birthing center," Courtney said.

The third activity they participated in was the second general session. The session was in the Bankers Life Fieldhouse, which is the home court of the Indiana Pacers. At the session, the group was able to hear the National FFA Officer Team speak about some things in their lives.



Photo by Silas Courtney

Sophomore Carson Orpin poses for a picture in his FFA Official Dress.

"My favorite thing that happened while we were at convention was when we were at our hotel and got to meet other people from other schools and talk to them at our hotel," Sebrant said.

The FFA members also got to meet and have dinner with Advisor Torr's family at The Iron Skillet which is the restaurant her grandpa owns.

"My favorite thing that we got to do while we were in Indiana was eating with Ms. Torr's family," Courtney said.

The trip ended when they pulled back into the Moundridge High School parking lot around 5:30 pm on Oct. 27.

Ashleigh Accardi

# Art Students Travel to Nelson Atkins



Photo provided by Google

The Nelson Atkins Museum is in Kansas City

Twelve MHS students and two sponsors traveled to Kansas City on Nov. 18.

The two sponsors were Kelsi Chisholm and Daagya Dick.

They went to look at art at The Nelson Atkins Museum of Art and try new things such as food and activities that they may never get to experience otherwise.

They went to this museum to look at the diverse collection of art and historical artifact.

"We ate at an Ethiopian restaurant called The Blue Nile, and then went to the museum, ate food and then went home," Chisholm said.

The students who went on the trip presented slide shows they made featur-

ing one of the artists whose art is at the museum.

"The goal of the art trip was to enrich students' learning of the arts," Chisholm said.

The club that attended this event is called Cultural Connections.

This club gives opportunities to students to engage in extracurricular activities such as, music, art, foreign language, and theatre.

Cultural Connections Club is not an exclusive club.

The next event is planned for December 2. The students will be going to the state music and band competition in Wichita.

Katlyn Streight

# KS Schools Take on Redesign Project

The Mercury 7 is a new project started in Kansas featuring seven schools that will serve as models of innovation for the rest of the Kansas school districts. According to the Topeka-Capital Journal, state education officials announced that the seven schools will represent the state's efforts to change the way schools operate, while embodying the "Kansas Can" vision. The modules of the "Kansas Can" vision are social-emotional growth, kindergarten readiness, individual Plans of Study, H.S. graduation, civic engagement, and postsecondary success.

"I think a big positive for this project will be that it will individualize education. It will create ways for students to pursue their goals and passions and help them develop a sense of career paths earlier on," Principal Hilarie Hecox said.

The Mercury 7 project is named after the seven astronauts who piloted space flights for the Mercury mission from 1961-1963 with the goal to land on the moon. They are also referred to as the "Original 7." The group of schools are named after these astronauts because they are serving as the initial "test subjects" for the project.

The seven chosen districts and the astronauts they will represent are Olathe-USD 233 (Gordon Cooper), Twin Valley-USD 240 (Gus Grissom), Stockton- USD

271 (Deke Slayton), Wellington- USD 353 (Scott Carpenter), McPherson- USD 418 (Wally Schirra), Coffeyville- USD 445 (John Glenn), and Liberal- USD 480 (Alan Shepard).

To be eligible for the redesign project, the schools had to designate one elementary school and either a middle or high school to undergo the redesign, committed to certain outcomes determined by the Kansas State Board of Education. The districts also had to have support from their education board, their faculty, and their local education department.

"They started this project with a select group in order to serve as 'test subjects.' [If this succeeds] I think students will be put in grades based on ability not age and they will gain a sense of emotional readiness for the future instead of just academic," Hecox said.

These schools will serve as models and as sites for Kansans to learn, study, and visit. The redesign will start at the beginning of the 2018-2019 school year. The schools have already started to visit other districts that have encompassed some type of learning standard unique to them to get ideas for the redesign.

29 Kansas school districts that applied to be part of the Mercury 7 project. The 22 schools that were not chosen can still

be a part of the project in a more indirect way. These schools have the chance to serve as part of the "Gemini" team, representing the astronaut group that succeeded the Mercury group.

The Gemini schools will not receive "on-site" coaching from the Kansas State Department of Education as the Mercury group will, but will still be devoted to the redesign, will have the ability to collaborate with the Mercury schools, and will share and develop a project timeline with the KSDE. Some of the schools around Moundridge that will be a part of the Gemini team are Newton, Burrton, Canton-Galva, and Hillsboro.

Change is hard. A disadvantage of this project is the amount of change people are willing to handle. Will this project produce a generation of students who can function in the real world but still be able to further pursue their individual goals and passions? Or will it instead produce "robots" that only know certain things? A hope for this project is that it will spark a change in the education system that will benefit students and change the way they are required to learn in schools. Students will hopefully have the ability to prepare for their goal career paths at an early age, which is the biggest goal.

Sierra Diehl

# MS Girls Basketball Kicks off Season

The 2017-2018 middle school girls basketball season starts this month. They are very excited for their first game on November 20.

"I'm ready for the first game, I'm done with all the practicing, eighth grader Rebecca Schlosser said.

Basketball is a great way to connect with everyone.

"Getting to go to other schools and getting more involved is my favorite part," seventh grader Kindall Elmore said.

These girls have big goals, personal and team, to accomplish this season.

"My personal goal is to try my best and

if I can't make shots, play good defense," eighth grader Kate Eichelberger said.

There is a lot of meaning behind sports. Basketball is the one that these girls connect with the most.

"I like to connect to people and this is a way I can participate and get involved," seventh grader Maggy Adolf said.

The coaches have a lot to look forward to working with these girls.

"We do a team activity every month off the court so we can get to know each other better. I think it helps me gain an understanding of what makes each student athlete "tick" and who/what is

important to them," Coach Toews said.

The coaches have goals as well. "It is my hope that these girls will have improved throughout the season. If we continue to improve the wins will come at some point in their basketball career," Coach Toews said.

The coaches like to coach for certain reasons.

"I do enjoy coaching. I enjoy the interaction with the girls. I like getting to know these girls off the basketball court as well," Head coach Annie Toews said.

Adrian Neufeld

# MMS Boys and Girls Basketball Schedule

MS BB at Moundridge w/ Sterling	November 20th
MS BB at Moundridg w/ Little River	November 28th
MS BB at Berean Academy	November 30th
MS BB at Ell-Saline	December 7th
MS BB at Moundridge w/ Sedgwick	December 14th
MS BB at Sacred Heart	December 18th
MS BB at Marion	January 4th
MS BB at Moundridge w/ Halstead	January 8th
MS BB at Hutch Trinity	January 11th
MS BB at Moundridge w/ Bennington	January 18th
MS BB at Goessel	January 22nd
MS BB at Moundridge w/ Inman	January 25th
MS BB at Remington	January 29th
MS BB HOA League Tournament at Remington	February 1st
MS BB HOA League Tournament at Remington	February 3rd
MS BB HOA League Tournament at Remington	February 5th
MS BB HOA League Tournament at Remington	February 8th



Photo provided by yearbook

Anthony Everheart and Nike Torrente play for the middle school team.

# MS Boys Basketball Starts Season

This year the MMS basketball boys have their work cut out for them.

Last year the team had 6 wins and 10 losses.

"We have a pretty short team, so we expect that we will have to do a lot of pressing, run the ball and be more quick", Assistant Coach Larry Diepenbrock said.

The team has several different opponents in the league this year, with skilled players. They expect that they are going to have some battles this year.

To be at the same level as the oppo-

nents, the MMS players are training with a lot of conditioning, running, passing, dribbling and especially playing good defense.

Also, the average height of the team is about 5'4".

"I expect to see bigger people, we have to use quickness to counter it," Mr. Diepenbrock said.

Kase Ptacek, one of the MMS basketball players has high expectations this year, and hopes to have a successful team and good record.

Brayden Schrag and Joseph Schrag think that Inman is their biggest rival this season.

Landon Kaufman, who plays as point guard or shooting guard, has good expectations this year.

"At least over half of the we should win", Kaufman said.

Dawson Stucky, who plays as shooting guard position, likes to play basketball because he can be with his friends and also he likes to be competitive against other teams like Inman or Sedgwick.

Pedro Domecq

# Alumni Share Memories of Time at MHS

The Moundridge High School graduates have taken many different paths after their time at MHS was complete. Some have gone to college, some to technical schools, and some straight into the workforce.

Nicole (Schrag) Darcy graduated from MHS in the class of 1997. She did not enjoy being here at the time but if you asked her now she would love to come back. Darcy went to school at Moundridge from kindergarten until she graduated.

"My favorite memory from my time spent at MHS is following all of our athletic teams as they faced off against our rivals." Darcy explained how all the kids who went to school and even the ones who didn't rallied around the teams and showed up to support the students.

"That community is hard to find and, in my opinion, one of the best things about living and growing up in Moundridge."

She had multiple favorite teachers such as Mr. Ratzlaff in math, Mrs. Stevens in English and Drama, Mr. Hollinger in art, and Mrs. Hetzke in P.E.

"It's funny how, at the time, you focus on why they are being so 'tough' on you, but after so many years away, you realize they are part of the reason why you WILL BE successful after you leave - Mr. Ratzlaff pushing me harder to apply myself, Mrs. Stevens showing that you can add laughter and joy even when you are working, Mr. Hollinger encouraging us to stretch our comfort zone and put inward talents on outward display, and Mrs. Hetzke getting us off our bums and trying new things," Darcy added.

Darcy participated in FCA, FHA [Future Homemakers of America], and StuCo.



Photo by Sierra Diehl

Shelly Sperling  
STUCO.



Photo by Sierra Diehl

Nicole Marie  
Schrag

After graduating with a degree in Psychology and a minor in business, she moved to Houston, Texas, as a part of a management training program with a focus in Human Resources. She has been fortunate to lead teams across the globe, which has meant that she has had exciting opportunities to see the world and many different types of cultures. She is currently working for Under Armour as the head of HR for the marketing and innovation organizations.

Sheldon Sperling graduated in the class of '67 at Moundridge. He met and dated Marvetta, his wife of 48 years. Sperling loved music and debate. One of his favorite memories from high school is looking back over his right shoulder at the cutest girl in the back of the clarinet section who was, of course, Marvetta.

"I played oboe with and against the super-talented Marilyn Crabb and was marching band drum major. Sang in the role of the captain alongside June Galle, Ron and Dennis Huxman, and others in a

memorable Gilbert and Sullivan musical, 'H.M.S. Pinafore,' directed by Roland Sawatsky and Loren Goering, who were seriously talented vocal music and drama teachers."

Sperling was fortunate to have highly skilled debate colleagues in high school and in college. He attended Hutchinson Junior College and graduated from Northeastern State College in 1971.

"Marvetta and I married the week before we moved from a community with no welfare, no crime, no divorce, intact families, and solid spiritual foundations to ...Tahlequah," Sperling stated

From 1983-1985, Sperling was an assistant DA in the district 27 DA's Office covering four counties (Wagoner, Cherokee, Sequoyah, and Adair) in eastern Oklahoma. He handled everything from traffic tickets to juvenile offenses, misdemeanors, felonies- even several capital murder trials- and advised county officers.

ZiZi Sebrant

# Thanksgiving Continued...

continued from page 2

Senior Pedro Domecq doesn't have Thanksgiving in Spain, so he is very excited for celebrating it this year. During Thanksgiving break, he will go to Colorado with his host parents.

"I think Thanksgiving is a way family joins together in groups and they share all their life along all the year," Domecq said.

Senior Viviane Guenole is very excited

for Thanksgiving because she doesn't celebrate it in Germany and also because it is typical American. This year she will be at her host family's grandparent's house or at their house. The whole family will be there.

"I think it's typical to eat turkey and to be with the family and just enjoy the time," Guenole said.

Nina Steinmetz

