Pirate Pride

The Newsletter of the
Merrillville Community School Corporation
May 2020

A Message from the Superintendent

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

I hope this edition of Pirate Pride finds all of you healthy and safe.

It has been quite a challenge for everyone handling the current building closures during this pandemic. I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation to all the family members, parents, and especially the students that are working hard from home to keep up with their learning. All the teachers and administrators miss all of our students.

The teachers and administrators have also been working hard to prepare and teach lessons virtually. Everyone should be proud of how well they have stepped up to this historic challenge.

I would also like to mention that administrators are working on a detailed plan for students and parents to return to schools to collect belongings. We have to make sure we are systematic and safe. I will announce this plan when all the details are finalized, but I wanted you to know that it is coming.

We are all in this together. Our Pirate Pride is showing every day

Be safe! Stay well!

Nicholas G. Brown Ed.S.
Superintendent



New Iddings principal appointed

The Merrillville Community School Corporation Board of Trustees approved Superintendent Nick Brown's recommendation to appoint a new elementary school principal at last night's meeting.

Michelle Coughlin, Salk Elementary School assistant principal, will become the new principal of Iddings Elementary School for the 2020-21 school year-beginning July 1.

"Michelle has been an assistant principal in Merrillville School Corporation for three years," said Mr. Brown. "She also served as the lead principal at last year's summer programming.

"Michelle brings a wealth of experience as an instructional coach and assistant principal at Merrillville Community Schools," he added. "I am excited for her and Iddings, as her experiences and skills will complement the good work already being done at the school."

As Salk Elementary School assistant principal, Mrs. Coughlin's responsibilities included creating student schedules, evaluating teachers, monitoring and hiring aides, running the Safety and PBIS committees, serving as school test coordinator for third and fourth grade students for ILEARN and IREAD, and communicating with teachers, parents and students regarding all school matters.



Michelle Coughlin

Mrs. Coughlin grew up attending the Merrillville schools and returned in 1999 as an elementary teacher, where she served at both Miller and Salk Elementary Schools. During the last 20 years, Coughlin also served in the capacities of literacy coach and dean of students at Merrillville Intermediate School.

"Being named the principal at Iddings Elementary is a great honor," said Mrs. Coughlin. " I am excited to join the dedicated staff working hard for students each and every day.

"Merrillville Schools are focused on students and creating quality learning experiences in every classroom," she continued. "I look forward to taking the success that is in place at Iddings and continuing to work for the best interest of each and every student, the families and the community. I look forward to the chance to meet the students and families in person!"

Mrs. Coughlin earned her bachelor's and master's degrees from Indiana University and her administration certificate from Purdue University.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

Thomas G. Bainbridge
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Member

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Member

SUPERINTENDENT
Nicholas G. Brown, Ed.S.

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of Pirate Pride. If you have story ideas, questions or comments, please contact the Corporation's Public Information Officer at dstuckert@mvsc.k12.in.us or 219-650-5477.

Athletic director recognized

Indiana Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association named Jeff Fairbairn the Middle School Athletic Director of the Year!

Mr. Fairbairn is in his 10th year as the athletic director at CPMS and 16th year teaching. During his time as AD, he was the head coach of the high school girls' track program from 2011 to 2014 and currently the head coach of the high school girls' soccer program since 2016.

Mr. Fairbairn created a Hall of Athletes showcasing the student athletes in all the sports at Pierce Middle School as well as established the Pierce Pride program honoring student athletes' accomplishments in the classroom on their respective athletic teams. In addition, he created and now maintains the corporation athletic web page, Twitter, Facebook and Instagram pages.



Jeff Fairbairn

He also created and organized the annual "Paint it Pink" cancer awareness night which raises money for the St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital.

Click here to order your spirit wear to show off your PIRATE PRIDE!

Start and dismissal times to change in 2020-21

The School Board recently approved Superintendent Brown's recommendation for new start times for the 2020-2021 school year.

Mr. Brown said the reason for this recommended change is student safety. Current bus routes and start times have high school and middle school students being dropped off to school before the staff members were on duty.

This resulted in large numbers of students, almost 1,500 students at the high school and 500 middle school students, waiting with minimal supervision for almost 45 minutes before school began, presenting a significant safety issue for students.

Also, both the high school and middle school students had to wait a significant amount of time at the end of the day for the buses to arrive. This resulted in students standing outside or waiting in the gym for more than 30 minutes for the buses.

The new start times have a minimal effect on the elementary and intermediate students' day. The new start times primarily affect the high school and middle school students.

For the 2020-21 school year, students in elementary schools and Merrillville Intermediate School will begin their school days at the same time as last year, 7:55 a.m., with an additional 10 minutes for drop off. Dismissal, however, will be 10 minutes earlier, 2:15 p.m.

Middle and high school students' start times will change with a later start time of 8:35 a.m. and 8:30 a.m., respectively. Drop-off times will be after 8 a.m. and schools will be dismissed after 3 p.m.

The later start times for the high school and middle school students solves the issue of students being dropped off before staff is on duty for supervision. This later start also provides the students a larger portion of the day in sunshine waiting for the buses than currently occurs.

The schedule changes for buses, Adventure Club, sports practices and additional programs will be announced as we get closer to the new school year.

It is not our intention to create any hardships with schedule adjustments, as we do not take these changes lightly. We understand families are busy with all sorts of schedules and that routines help to keep everyone organized and energized. We make these changes out of great concern for the safety of your children, our students.

We hope giving you this information now will allow you enough time to adjust your schedules and make necessary accommodations for the start of next school year.

School Board Approved March 17, 2020
MCSC School Start & Dismissal Times
Current start times in RED
New start times in PURPLE

	START	DISMISSAL
Elementary Schools & Merrillville Intermediate School	7:55 a.m.	2:25 p.m.
Elementary Schools	7:55 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Merrillville Intermediate School	7:55 a.m.	2:15 p.m.
Merrillville High School & Pierce Middle School	7:45 a.m.	2:48 p.m.
Merrillville High School	8:30 a.m.	3:15 p.m.
Pierce Middle School	8:35 a.m.	3:20 p.m.

VOTING WHILE QUARANTINED

PRIMARY ELECTION: Tuesday June 2, 2020 • LAKE COUNTY, IN

REGISTER TO VOTE

- Voter registration deadline: MONDAY, May 4
- Register to vote at IndianaVoters.com
- Check your voter registration at http://indianavoters.com/ Or by calling (219) 755-3795
- Early Voting IN PERSON if allowed will begin May 26.
- Early Voting Deadline is June 1 at noon.



REQUEST AN ABSENTEE BALLOT

- *ALL* voters may participate by mail.
- Get an absentee ballot application: https://www.in.gov/sos/elections/2402.htm Or by calling: (219) 755-3795
- Submit your absentee ballot application by May 21. Mail it to: Lake County Board of Voter Registration 2293 N. Main St. A 205 Crown Point, IN 46307 Or email to: lcabsenteevoting@lakecountyin.org Or fax: (219) 755-3801
- The Election Board will mail you your ballot.
- Make sure to sign and date the ballot envelope.
- Ballots must be received by Tuesday, June 2nd at noon.

New resources result from recent Family Survey

The goal of the Family Survey sent by Merrillville Community School Corporation social workers was to collect critical information from parents about concerns and needs in providing educational services for their children as they adjust to new daily lives in response to COVID-19.

We identified these key Family Survey findings:

- More than 80% of respondents stated they were at a level of 7 or above out of 10 on "coping" with changes that COVID-19 has brought to our school community. In fact, 68% were at an 8 or above.
- Respondents also identified a need to have correspondence with school personnel via email and/or phone regarding a child's academic and overall well-being.
- Respondents also indicated a desire to have increased resources/activities (SEL) to keep children engaged and access to coping strategies and support for family during these trying times.

To support some of the concerns and needs, district social workers added new resources to our district social work COVID-19 resource website. Here is a live link: https://sites.google.com/mvsc.k12.in.us/mcscsocialworkcovid-19/home

District social workers are working hard to support students, families and teachers. Social workers are reaching out via email and Google Voice/Hangout. Please reach out to district social workers and continue to answer their emails/calls for support.

Reminder: As social workers work from home using Google, their calls may appear as unavailable or from an unfamiliar number as they try to reach you at home to offer support.

Merrillville Social Work Team

Merrillville High School
Trisha Keown, MSW, LSW, LSSW:
tkeown@mvsc.k12.in.us
Carol Dahlen CMHC,CTP-C:
cdahlen@mvsc.k12.in.us

Pierce Middle School
AJ McKeague, MSW, LSW:
amckeague@mvsc.k12.in.us
Stacy Mills, MSW, LCSW
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Merrillville Intermediate School
Jose Mendez, MSW, LSW:
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Gina Eustace, MSW, LSSW, LAC
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Iddings Elementary School
Nicole Dominguez, MSW, LSW:
ndominguez@mvsc.k12.in.us

Fieler Elementary School
Annette Brown-Gilliam, MSW, LSW, LSSW: abrown@mvsc.k12.in.us

Salk Elementary School
Patricia DeJesus, MSW, LSSW, LCSW:
pdejesus@mvsc.k12.in.us

Miller Elementary School
Nancy Fleming, MSW, LSSW:
nfleming@mvsc.k12.in.us

Wood Elementary School
Dorthea Robbins, MSW, LCSW:
drobbins@mvsc.k12.in.us

LINK TO MORE ONLINE RESOURCES

Online Kindergarten Registration

Your child must be age 5 by Aug. 1, 2020.

Visit www.mvsc.k12.in.us

- Enter the requested information.
- Check out the video!
- Receive supplies/goodies/funpack after registering.

For more information, call the Merrillville Community School Corporation, 219-650-5300.





Merrillville High School

CLASS OF 2020
TOP 10 GRADUATES



Shamiya Beasley
Valedictorian



Brisa Sanford
Valedictorian



Ryan McLaughlin
Salutatorian



Jacob Maldonado



Desirae Williams



Briana Thomas



Isaiah Henderson



Keili Cruz



Sadia Hildebrand



Kayla Alcox

*Photographer Tom DiGrispino * www.tomdigphoto.com*

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

Merrillville school information is available at your fingertips.

See all the events in the district or select an individual building.

Find out what bus your student rides and the rules and regulations of Transportation.

Get links to Family Access, Food Services, District Calendars and more!

The app can be downloaded at the Apple and Google Play stores.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Box Tops help our schools

Traditional Box Tops clips are being phased out, but may continue to be found on many products throughout stores. Clip and save them for school.

Scan your receipts with Box Tops merchandise using the free app you can download from the app store. You'll earn money for your school! All Merrillville schools participate, except the high school.

The app will find participating products purchased at any store and instantly add cash earnings online.



Staff retirements

Debbie Staffeld
23 years

Ms. Staffeld is a MHS math teacher! Some of her favorite memories at MCSC include the projects she used to do with her Honors Geometry classes.

They designed spinners and blew bubbles with the Zome tools. When they got the Netbooks, they designed nets, printed them, cut them out and folded them into 3-D shapes. She said they always enjoyed designing a 9-inch square quilt block and at one point the lower part of her room was covered in years of quilt blocks.

She hopes retirement will give her more time for gardening and doing a little quilting on her own. There will probably be some volunteer work mixed in



and of course, more time to spend with family, especially her three little grandsons.

"Students, you have to learn to play the 'game.' The game of school prepares you for the game of life. What you get out of it will depend on what you are willing to put into in. PREPARE! Nobody does well in the big game if they don't go to practice."

Sharon Row
17 years

Ms. Row is retiring from her MHS business and technology teaching role, but she has served in a variety of positions over her MCSC career: 5th grade music at MIS, Merrillville Career Consortium CTE district coordinator for three years (since inception), organizational administrator for Microsoft Office Specialist and Internet Core Competency Certification programs at MHS for six years, dual credit instructor for 10 years, Mock Trial coach for five years, and MHS internship coordinator for 12 years. She also worked with the State of Indiana DOE and developed teacher Praxis certification exams and curriculum and academic standards for new CTE courses for 10 years.

She said her favorite memory is of Tim James and Dan Schoon organizing the "Party in the Hallway" to celebrate and recognize her book authorship in Goodheart-Wilcox's Business Management Book. "The MHS drum corp was phenomenal, even with Mr. James learning how to play the drums at the last minute just for me. I am going to



Ashley Jamerson, Class of 2011, and Ms. Row.

miss these two great guys!"

In her next chapter, she says she'll continue to provide support for professional Indiana teacher members across the state with Indiana Professional Educators and spend time with her daughters and grandchildren.

"Teachers are your lifeline while you're in school. Every day, they sacrifice their own time, family and lives to ensure YOU have the knowledge, skills and discipline you'll need to be successful in real life. Honor and respect them while you have them because one day, it will be too late to thank the teacher who enabled you to enjoy a rich, rewarding life."

Congratulations on your retirement! We will miss you!

Patty Kistinger
25 years

Ms. Kistinger is the office manager/administrative assistant at Merrillville Intermediate School. She also worked at Iddings Elementary School and Pierce Middle School along the way. She says her favorite memory is the kids; "if you made a difference in one student's life, it was worth it."

Her future plans are to travel, and she says, "I will miss seeing students eager to learn daily and the camaraderie of my bosses and coworkers."

Lynn Butler Shoback
21 years



Ms. Shoback is retiring from being an elementary teacher. She taught first, second and third grades at Miller Elementary School. Her favorite memory is the healthy food holiday feast.

She actually worked at Wood Elementary School for NISEC before being hired by MCSC.

While retired, she hopes to substitute teach for a few years and spend time with family.

"Remember that everything you do is part of learning."

David Jenkins
26 years

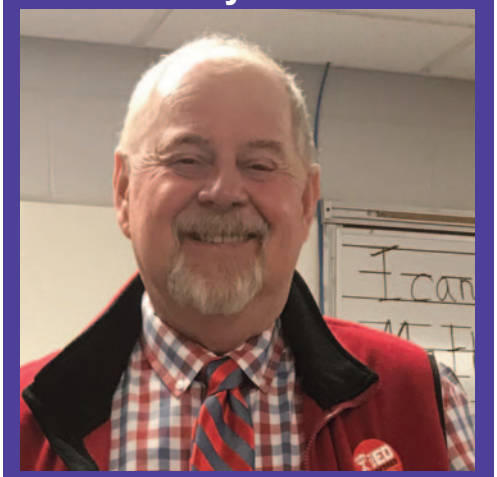


Mr. Jenkins spent his career at Pierce Middle School in many capacities. He enjoyed many roles: an industrial tech teacher, Chess Club sponsor, 7-8 grade track coach, drivers education instructor, department head, and wellness center supervisor.

He says his favorite memory is of the people he works with.

When he retires, he plans to vacation, hunt, fish and farm!

David Demmon
12 years



Mr. Demmon is retiring from being an elementary teacher at Iddings Elementary School. He also taught at Merrillville Intermediate School.

He says as a teacher at Iddings, he was right around the corner from the classroom in which he was a student 50+ years ago! He hopes to continue to stay in education in another role.

"'Once a Pirate, Always a Pirate,'" it's been a great honor teaching in Merrillville!"

Pam Schiller
46 years



Mrs. Schiller spent her career at MCSC as an art teacher, starting at Salk Elementary then Harrison Jr. High, Harrison Middle School, Fieler, Miller and lastly at Iddings Elementary School.

She says her favorite memory is the joy of teaching art to thousands of Merrillville students and the pleasure to work with such incredible colleagues over the years.

In her retirement, she says she is looking forward to the luxury of traveling with her husband when it is not tied to a school vacation.

"My greatest wish is for everyone to find a profession that brings them as much joy and fulfillment that teaching art to children has been for me. Retiring was not an easy decision but I realize that it is time for me to start a new chapter in my 'Book of Life.'"

Download the 2020-21 School Calendar here!

Permanent Ink poets attain accolades, closure

Members of Merrillville High School's Permanent Ink Slam Poets' Club had their in-person competition season cut short amid rising concerns about COVID-19 in mid-March, but recently the group had a chance to shine a few more times in a digital space.



Permanent Ink group poses for a photo at the March 5 bout.

The team was able to compete via massive Zoom video call using pre-taped submissions of performance poetry. Although the team took third in its digital makeup quarterfinal bout on April 17 and did not move on to the semifinal round, senior Rebecca Saluska and junior Da'Nyjah Wash advanced as individuals to the semifinal round to represent Permanent Ink.

There were four semifinal bouts. Wash competed April 23 and scored 28.1 of a possible 30 points for her piece titled "Illusion."

Saluska, only the second four-year poet in 10 years of Permanent Ink, received a 10 from one judge en route to scoring a 28.2 for her piece titled "Broken Records and Rocky Paths" during a Saturday afternoon bout April 25.

Neither poet advanced to the April 30 individual finals, but they were happy to have poetry and cheers from teammates and 70-plus strangers back in their lives in some form during the quarantine period.

The Chicago-based youth poetry festival and competition Louder Than a Bomb, celebrating its 20th year, was cut short this year like most of American life.

The event had quarterfinal competition on March 11 and 12, and Merrillville had qualified to compete March 12 but was unable to attend. The next day the remainder of Louder Than a Bomb was postponed indefinitely.

It turned out four teams like Merrillville were unable to so much as attend the quarterfinal competition at Columbia College in downtown Chicago. The makeup bout online April 17 was a historical first for the storied event.

Merrillville poets Jewel Williams, Maleya Hall, Wash and Saluska had to film themselves performing at home, and they and Imani Johnson and Avery Timmons, who were part of the previously recorded four-person group ensemble piece, had to sign waivers to send to organizers.

Wash had a pet rabbit in her final video, and Saluska had a cat break something in one of her bloopers. The rush of competition and the fun of creating submissions were welcome breaks from monotony.

Congratulations
CLASS of 2020
Merrillville High School
PIRATE PRIDE!

We are so proud of our seniors! We are celebrating their accomplishments with a billboard on the corner of Broadway and U.S. 30, facing west, for three weeks beginning May 18. Watch for it!

Intermediate school teacher wins Armstrong Award

Merrillville Intermediate School fifth grade math and science teacher Joy Kent was one of 12 teachers from around Indiana recognized as the 2020-21 winners of the Armstrong Teacher Educator Award.

The award is given out annually to outstanding Indiana teachers, recognizing their contributions above and beyond the job of teaching. As Armstrong educators, they share their experiences with Indiana University School of Education undergraduates and work with faculty on research during the school year.

In her ninth year of teaching, Ms. Kent sees the work of a teacher as an adventure. She is always looking for new ways to improve her teaching. One example of this is the way Joy became an advocate for STEM in her building, planning innovative activities to support students with critical thinking.



Joy Kent

Described as an "ambassador" for her school corporation by one of her colleagues, Ms. Kent sponsors family engineering nights, serves as the PTO teacher representative, volunteers for all school functions, and maintains an active presence on social media.

She truly wants all students to experience the joy of learning and actively models what it means to be a lifelong learner for her students.

Indiana House Resolution honors choir participants, program

MHS Choir ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble participants and our choral program were honored by Indiana Representative Lisa Beck in House Resolution 51 last month.

In the resolution, the Indiana House of Representatives congratulated the members of the Merrillville High School Choir on their recent success at the Indiana State School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble, honored the enduring legacy of the Merrillville Choir and wished them continued success in the future.

House Resolution 51

A HOUSE RESOLUTION congratulating and honoring the Merrillville High School Choir.

Whereas, Members of the Merrillville High School Choir earned 15 gold solos and three silver solos at the Indiana State School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble held on February 22, 2020, in Indianapolis;

Whereas, Merrillville Choir students continue a legacy of excellence having been awarded more than 1,300 medals, 1,225 gold and 76 silver, during the last 13 years of competition;

Whereas, The Merrillville Choir has sent between 25 and 45 students each year for the last 13 years to competitions, preparing more than 400 events between solos and ensembles;

Whereas, Students of the Merrillville Choir are led by Choral Director Melinda A. Reinhart;

Whereas, The students of the Merrillville Choir showcase their talent through hard work, dedication, preparedness, and camaraderie; and

Whereas, The Merrillville Choir is a fine example of talented students sharing a love of music and showcasing their talents in the spirit of competition: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana:

SECTION 1. That the Indiana House of Representatives congratulates members of the Merrillville High School Choir on their recent success at the Indiana State School Music Association's State Solo and Ensemble.

SECTION 2. That the Indiana House of Representatives honors the enduring legacy of the Merrillville Choir and wishes them continued success in the future.

SECTION 3. That the Principal Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit copies of this resolution to the office of State Representative Lisa Beck for distribution.

Meal distribution increases as shutdown continues

More Pirate families are taking advantage of the Merrillville schools' free meals for students, school corporation statistics show.

On May 7, Food Service staff distributed a total of 10,528 meals to families who came to pick up breakfasts and lunches for their students.

Almost every Monday since the schools closed on March 12, Merrillville students were able to obtain meals for three days. May 7's distribution total equaled 2,632 meals per day, servicing 1,316 students, which is approximately 21% of the corporation's 6,195 student body.

The corporation distributes meals twice a week, so Merrillville students are also able to get meals on Thursdays, receiving breakfasts and lunches for four days.

"Watching the numbers climb every time we go out to serve meals is what we expected," said Colleen Hostetler, director of Food Service.

"Families have lost their jobs due to closures of so many places, because of COVID-19," she continued. "The Merrillville Food Service Department is just happy to continue to feed our students when they need it most."

Once schools closed, the school corporation identified more than a dozen sites, including all of its schools, as locations where student meals can be distributed twice a week at various times. The service started on March 17, a Tuesday, with a distribution of 1,760 meals reaching 440 students.

As of May 7, Merrillville Food Service staff has distributed a grand total of 132,646 meals over 16 distribution days.

Penny Parmley, Merrillville High School cafeteria manager, provided a request for families picking up meals on future dates.

"We ask that parents allow site workers to place the meals in car trunks to avoid any unnecessary contact," she said.

For more information on the student meal distribution program, visit the school corporation website, www.mvsc.k12.in.us.



Food Service staff, from left, Rebecca Renn and Jayne Valant at John Wood Elementary School. The two made sure students had breakfasts and lunches for four days.

Food Services receives donation

Merrillville Community School Corporation was selected to receive a $5,100 donation from the Indiana Toll Road – School Food Relief Fund. As the operator of the Indiana Toll Road, ITR Concession Company says it strives for active community involvement across Northern Indiana.

"This gift will help us meet the cost of feeding seven days a week instead of the normal five and the cost of our time and a half labor force that we are grateful for," said Colleen Hostetler, Food Service director.

Senior Yard Signs

We are proud to support our seniors with yard signs to help celebrate their accomplishments! When you see one, honk your horn in support of a 2020 Pirate graduate!



Shutdown is no excuse when it comes to training

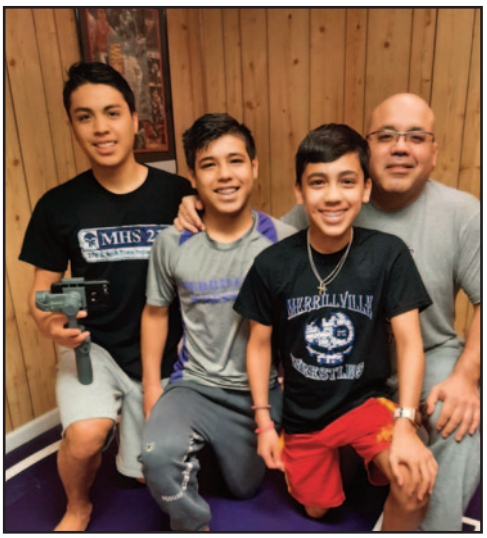
MHS Wrestling Coach David Maldonado is helping young wrestlers stay on their toes during this stay-at-home time.

The 1993 state champion at EC Central turned his basement into a virtual wrestling training room, and with the help of his three sons, he is posting wrestling videos on the Merrillville Pirates Wrestling Club's Facebook page, thanks to the support of Al Padilla, club president.

Wrestling training sessions go live every Tuesday and Thursday from 6-7:30 p.m. After each Facebook Live video, Mr. Maldonado has a short question-and-answer period for the viewers.

His oldest son, Jacob, who is ready to graduate from MHS, films the activities. Jacob finished sixth in the state at 145 pounds and was the Ward E. Brown Mental Attitude Award winner. He will head to Wabash College to play soccer.

Mr. Maldonado's other two sons, David Jr., a freshman at MHS and semi-state qualifier with a 4.0 grade-point average, and Matthew, a seventh-grader at St. Mary's in Griffith, are his apprentices on the mat.



Senior wins scholarship

Shamiya Beasley was one of 13 seniors student athletes who will be honored with the 2020 C. Eugene Cato Memorial Scholarships, sponsored by the IHSAA and the IHSAA Foundation.

Scholarships are awarded to well-rounded, positive role models who have demonstrated excellence in academics, school and community involvement, character, sportsmanship and citizenship.



Shamiya Beasley

Shamiya, who is one of two class of 2020 valedictorians, will receive a $2,500 scholarship for her prep accomplishments and be recognized at this year's Thomas A. Brady Sports Achievement Awards Dinner established by Methodist Sports Medicine. The dinner was postponed due to current events and will be rescheduled for a later date to be announced.

MERRILLVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

HEAD START

Head Start Preschool

Open Enrollment!

Start the process NOW by calling our Head Start office at (219) 756-5940

If you are a resident in the Merrillville Community School Corporation boundaries and have a child who will be the age of three or four by August 1, 2020, call our office.

Head Start

2020-2021 School Year

HEAD START

AGE 3 or 4 on or Before August 1, 2020

Call today to start the application process

(219) 756-5940

Microsoft recognizes three MHS students

Microsoft recently sent senior Kameron Priest a certificate and letter congratulating him on placing second in the State of Indiana while earning his certification in MOS (Microsoft Office Specialist) Excel 2019.

In addition, MHS had two MOS Excel 2016 state contenders this year: junior Brendan Wolski and sophomore Joseph Green took second and third in state, respectively. In Wolski's case, the first place winner from Twin Lakes High School confirmed he will go to the National Championship.

Winners are ranked by test scores; in the case of a tie in scores, the winner becomes the fastest time to complete the test.



Kameron Priest

Thompson named to team

Keon Thompson Jr., guard on the MHS boys basketball team, was named to the Indiana Junior All-Star team. He was one of six players chosen to the core group and will compete against the Kentucky Junior All-Stars on June 1 and the Indiana All-Stars on June 3.

The junior averaged a team-high 30.0 points, 10.3 rebounds and 2.4 assists per game and shot 54% from the field and 74% at the free-throw line.

Keon was also named to the 2020 IBCA (Indiana Basketball Coaches Association) Subway Underclass All-State Supreme 15. The "Supreme 15" is the top honor awarded, and players were voted to that group without regard to school size.



Keon Thompson Jr.

PARENTS & STUDENTS

Tutoring Help By Phone!

Indiana's Call & Learn

THE PROBLEM

Indiana's students are continuing the school year with remote learning. But many students don't have internet access.

THE SOLUTION

CALL & LEARN is here for YOU. Students can call 1-877-45-STUDY toll-free M-F from 1pm-5pm. K-6 graders are paired with a general teacher. Students grade 7-12 get a mentor with expertise in math, science, language arts, and social studies.

- The volunteers are retired teachers, ready to help students with their specific school questions.
- Students get the help they need while still maintaining stay-at-home directives.
- To ensure the student's safety, all phone calls are anonymous and recorded.

CALL & LEARN is ready to help.
Call 1-877-45-STUDY

3 Ways To Respond to the 2020 Census

1. Respond **Online**

my2020census.gov

Most households received their invitation to respond to the 2020 Census between March 12–20. These official Census Bureau mailings will include detailed information and a Census ID for completing the census online.

If you do not have an invitation to respond, simply indicate that you do not have a Census ID and then enter the address for which you are responding.

2. Respond By **Phone**

English	844-330-2020	Portuguese	844-474-2020
Spanish	844-468-2020	Russian	844-417-2020
Arabic	844-416-2020	Tagalog	844-478-2020
Chinese (Mandarin)	844-391-2020	Vietnamese	844-461-2020
Chinese (Cantonese)	844-398-2020	English *(Puerto Rico Residents)*	844-418-2020
French	844-494-2020		
Haitian Creole	844-477-2020	Spanish *(Puerto Rico Residents)*	844-426-2020
Japanese	844-460-2020		
Korean	844-392-2020	Telephone Display Device *(TDD)*	844-467-2020
Polish	844-479-2020		

Phone response hours of operation are from 7 am to 2 am EST, 7 days a week

3. Respond By **Mail**

Homes in areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire (sometimes known as the census form) and all homes will receive a paper questionnaire if they do not first respond online or by phone.

Shape your future START HERE >

United States Census 2020



Merrillville Schools Student Meal Distribution

During pandemic shutdown

Mondays & Thursdays, times vary per location.

Breakfasts and lunches will be distributed to students from school cafeteria entrances and from buses at listed parks and churches.

Locations and times include:

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

* 73rd & Bigger Streets
* Stefek Park, 70th & Harrison St.

11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

* Tan Tar Apartments, 5850 Pennsylvania St.
* Wirtes Park, 5860 Roosevelt St.
* Wood Elementary School, 6100 E. 73rd. Ave., Door C

11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

* Fieler Elementary School, 407 W. 61st Ave., Door C
* Iddings Elementary School, 7249 Van Buren St., Door L
* Merrillville High School, 276 E. 68th Pl., Door J
* Merrillville Intermediate School, 1400 W. 61st Ave., Back door west of Door F
* Miller Elementary School, 5901 Waite St., Door A
* Pierce Middle School, 199 E. 70th St., west of Door 3
* Rethink Church, 2920 W. 73rd Pl.
* Salk Elementary School, 300 W. 77th Ave., Door B

12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

* Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 5375 Harrison St.

On Mondays, students will receive breakfasts and lunches for three days; on Thursdays, they will receive breakfasts and lunches for four days.

Please check www.mvsc.k12.in.us for the most current information regarding meal distribution and school closings.

updated April 17, 2020

Seniors, we're doing an online tribute to you!

What's your next step? Email a photo of yourself in attire from the college or school you will attend, or even a sign or something acknowledging what your future plans are. Photos are subject to rejection if not appropriate. Photos must accompany your given name and phone number.

Email to mcscmedia@mvsc.k12.in.us by MONDAY, MAY 18. Questions? Call 650-5477.

Jostens

Merrillville High School Class 2020

GRADUATION CAP & GOWN / YARD SIGN PICK UP DRIVE-THRU EVENT

Monday Tuesday & Thursday MAY 18, 19, & 21

MHS Class of 2020 CAP & GOWN delivery has been scheduled for a "Drive-Thru" event on Monday & Tuesday, May 18 & 19 from 8:00 am – 3:00 pm or Thursday, May 21 from 3-7 pm on the east side of the campus at door F.

All traffic must enter campus from Broadway, and come down the north drive past Central Office toward the Freshman Center. Follow signs to Door F. For the safety of all involved and to keep this event as efficient as possible, please follow the steps below:

***Prior to pick-up, please make sure your order is paid in full.**

If you have a balance, please pay online at orders.jostens.com or call 1-260-758-9673, Monday - Friday 8:30-5:00.
Checks cannot be accepted.

Parents/Students should pick up graduation supplies at the assigned times below based on student last name.

MONDAY, MAY 18		TUESDAY, MAY 19		THURSDAY MAY 21
8:00a - 9:30a	A-B	8:00a - 9:30a	M	**Students who are not able to pick up cap and gown because of AP testing or work schedule conflicts may pick up cap and gowns during an alternative pick up time of 3pm - 7pm, Thursday, May 21.
9:30a - 11:00a	C-D	9:30a - 11:00a	N-P	
11:00a - 12:00p	E-G	11:00a - 12:00p	R	
1:00p - 2:00p	H-I	1:00p - 2:00p	S-T	
2:00p - 3:00p	J-L	2:00p - 3:00p	U-Z	

**We must all be mindful of social distancing so please stay in your vehicle.

**Provide the delivery team your student name. Jostens staff will place your orders in the trunk of your vehicle.

**Please leave campus immediately after pick up.

Once you receive your graduation items you may contact Jostens at 1-260-758-9673 with any questions or sizing issues.