Pirate Pride

The Newsletter of the
Merrillville Community School Corporation
January 2021

Board president retires after nearly 22 years of service

A school board career that started in 1999 as an appointment to finish out someone else's term came to a close last month after nearly 22 years. Tom Bainbridge wrapped up his last board meeting Dec. 15, retiring from the Merrillville Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees.

Though he won't be on the dais listening to Superintendent Brown or discussing issues and voting on agenda items with his fellow board members, Mr. Bainbridge, his passion for Merrillville Schools and children, and all of his efforts and influence will continue to be felt for years to come.

THE MERRILLVILLE WAY

Of the many highlights of his career on the school board, he is particularly proud of the way the board has conducted business throughout the years, using what has been called the "Merrillville Way," a tone of concern and kindness practiced throughout the entire corporation.

According to Mr. Bainbridge, the "Merrillville Way" makes Merrillville unique, and he knows it will continue with the current board.

"It's the feeling of family within our students and staff," he said. "When someone comes to our board meeting, they see compassion and a board who truly cares about them.

"The board has always looked upon every student as their own regardless of race, creed or any affiliation," Mr. Bainbridge continued. "This includes staff also."



Tom Bainbridge

As a family, he said it doesn't mean they don't argue or disagree; it means they are in it together, and they have each other's back.

"Board members don't look at their positions as a job," he said. "It's not about statistics. It's about doing whatever is necessary to help that person advance. It's about compassion for that person sitting next to you, in your classroom or anywhere in the corporation."

One example of the "Merrillville Way" he cited was last summer when the board chose to hold its meeting in the high school auditorium, so the anticipated large number of attendees could safely attend and present their concerns about starting school in the fall in the middle of a pandemic.

"We wanted to hear what they had to say," he said. "They have the right to tell us what their opinions are. The decision that we make is going to affect their lives for the next few months.

"This is how we do things in Merrillville," he continued. "It isn't about us,

cont'd page 8

Celebrating Regional Champions



MHS Pirates won against the Elkhart Lions in November to win the IHSAA Regional Title! This is our eighth regional title. We are PIRATE PROUD!

Prepare to earn your high school equivalency diploma

Merrillville Adult Education (MAE) can help individuals earn their High School Equivalency Diplomas by preparing them to complete the TASC (Test Assessing Secondary Completion) Test.

Upcoming 2021 TASC Test dates include: Jan. 18 and 19, registration deadline Jan. 14; Feb. 1 and 2, registration deadline Jan. 28; and Feb. 15 and 16, registration deadline Feb. 11.

MAE's free TASC preparation classes are designed for students to go from their current knowledge to a point where passing the TASC test the first time is a reasonable goal.

Instruction is available Mondays through Thursdays, as long as the Lake County COVID-19 numbers allow. MAE also offers modified online classes.

TASC preparation classes are not required prior to taking the TASC Test.

Free career training is available to those who qualify.

For more information, **click here** or contact the Adult Education Office: **sgreen@mvsc.k12.in.us** or 219-650-5318.

MAE is located using the Door F entrance of Merrillville High School, 276 E. 68th Pl.

Maintain your contact info in Skyward Family Access

Did you get a new phone number or email address? Did you move?

Parents, your children's school may need to contact you in an emergency or you may qualify for benefits from the state, and the state will get your address from your school corporation.

These are two of many great reasons why parents are asked to maintain their contact information in Skyward Family Access accounts. **Check contact information** online often to make sure it is up-to-date!

UPDATE CONTACT INFO

If your address needs updating, please bring two forms of proof of residency to your child's school.

Please log into your Skyward Family Access account to change email addresses, phone numbers and more.

INCOME CHANGE

Parents whose income has changed may want to apply or re-apply for the free/reduced lunch status for the 2020-2021 school year.

Though meals are free till the end of the school year, the free/reduced lunch status includes textbook assistance.

In addition, the state uses the corporation's database to identify families in need of financial assistance and sends out P-EBT cards to the addresses on file.

Please take the following steps to make sure you receive all the benefits to which you are entitled:

1. Please make sure the corporation has a current and approved application on file for your family. If you are unsure of your child's current status, please **login to your Skyward Family Access account**.

2. If you have not filled out a free/reduced lunch application for this school year, please do so as soon as possible via Skyward Family Access. Log into your access account, then select "Food Service," and then your child's name. Then click on "Applications."

You can also **download an application here,** complete it and bring it to any school to be processed.

BOARD OF SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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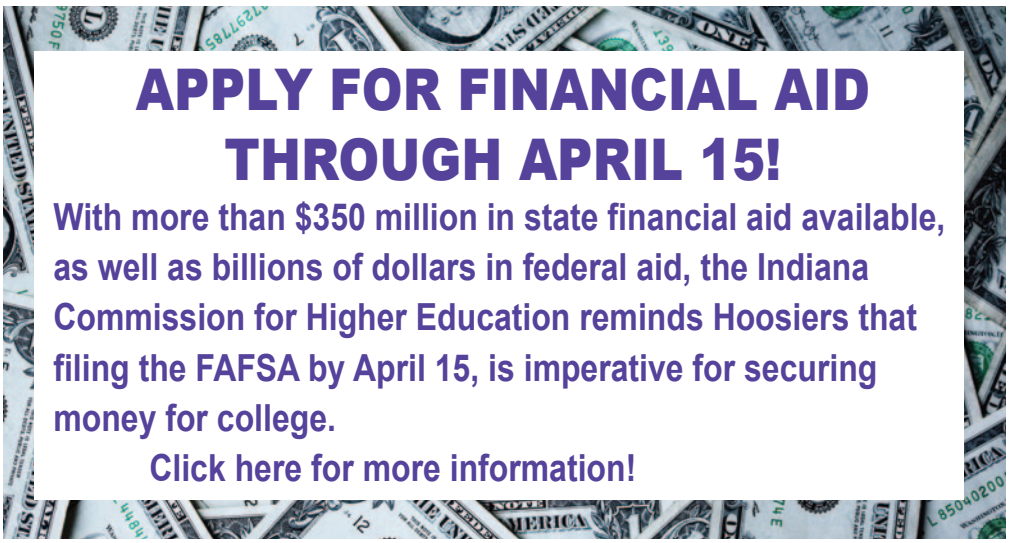
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SUPERINTENDENT

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.



APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID THROUGH APRIL 15!

With more than $350 million in state financial aid available, as well as billions of dollars in federal aid, the Indiana Commission for Higher Education reminds Hoosiers that filing the FAFSA by April 15, is imperative for securing money for college.

Click here for more information!

Food Service director to retire next month

Colleen Hostetler, director of Food Service for more than 21 years, will retire in February. She was hired as assistant food service director and became the director shortly afterward.

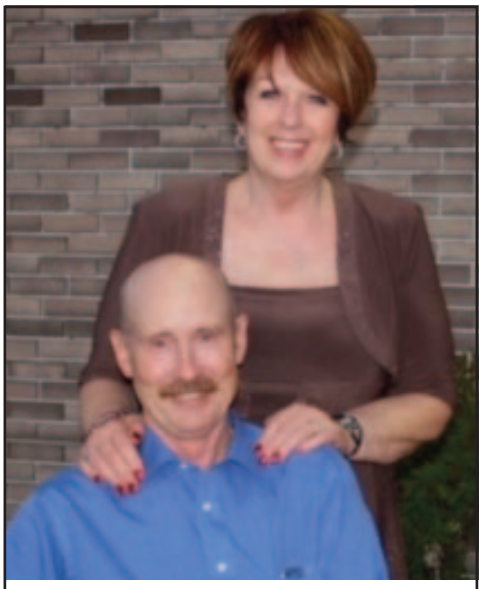
Her favorite memories of working for the Merrillville Community School Corporation are when the MHS choir visits the Central Office and sings for the staff.

She also loved the Senior Drive Around on the day of the senior breakfast.

She plans to travel during her retirement.

Her parting message to everyone, "No matter what you choose to do in life, do the very best that you can and love it."

Thank you for all of your years of service and dedication to the Merrillville students! We will miss you!



Colleen Hostetler & her husband Larry

Free meals continue for the school year

The USDA has granted a waiver allowing free meals for all children ages 18 and under to continue until the end of the 2020-21 school year.

Parents, drive through and pick up meals for your children. Go to any school listed; you do not have to go to the schools your children attend.

Click here to view the schedule.

Parents will receive three breakfasts and lunches on Mondays and four breakfasts and lunches on Thursdays!

On Monday, Jan. 18, there will be no distributions due to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday; instead, distributions will be Tuesday, Jan. 19, same times and locations as usual.

Stay tuned for information on food distributions for the Presidents' Day Holiday in February.

JROTC cadets enjoy blended learning





Students participating in the MHS Air Force Junior ROTC program learn through a combination of virtual and in-person learning. Educator SMSgt Wrasman takes his students through an inspection to make sure they are in appropriate dress.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jan. 15
Third Grading Period Ends

Jan. 18
No school/Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Feb. 12-15
No school/Presidents' Day

March 5
Fourth Grading Period/ Trimester 2 ends

March 9
No School for all students, teachers

March 29-April 2
No school/Spring break

Longtime teacher started Merrillville career as volunteer

Vicki Antich has been a first grade teacher at Salk Elementary School since 1998, but she's been a teacher with Merrillville Community School Corporation for a total of 32 years!



Vicki Antich

"Before being hired as a teacher, I started working with Merrillville students as a volunteer," Mrs. Antich said.

In the spring of 1988, she began her teaching career in a fourth grade classroom at Fieler Elementary School. The following year she started teaching second graders at Miller School, which lasted until 1998 when she came to Salk to teach first grade.

What has kept her here so long?

"Honestly, I could never picture myself doing anything else other than working with kids," she said.

One of the things she likes most about working at Merrillville Schools is "We are like a family. I love the diversity we share, and I think we are stronger because of it."

She hopes to retire soon to spend more time with her BFF, her hubby.

"Although I am sure I will continue working somewhere, I am hoping to have some time to pursue my artistic side," she said. "I love drawing, painting, and hand-lettering signs."

What has inspired her to keep working here so long?

"We inspire each other," she said. "We have never been afraid to share ideas or help those in need."

She added, "As many would agree, 2020 has been the year of all years. I know the hurdles have seemed insurmountable but we have found ways to succeed because we have done it together.

"Parenting is one of the hardest jobs I have ever done and to all of the parents, staff members, etc. who have endured this epic journey with me... THANK YOU. YOU are truly appreciated!"

Students place in Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest

Pierce Middle School seventh grader Paige Mick won the grand prize for the Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest SAFE For Lake County, For Life!

She won a laptop, and her poster design is now up on a billboard on Broadway near 61st. Take a look for it while driving safely!

Also placing in the contest:

- Sixth grader Ella Escobar, MIS, won Second Place 5th-8th Grade category!
- 10th grader Izza Aftab, MHS, won Second Place 9th-12th Grade category!

See more on **SAFE'S FB PAGE**.





Seventh grader Paige Mick shows off her new laptop.

DOWNLOAD OUR APP

App Store Google Play

School information 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.

Love of community, children keep sisters teaching at Merrillville for more than three decades

Michele Shalla has been an elementary school educator in Merrillville for 34 years, teaching kindergarten at Miller and first grade at Iddings.

She is currently teaching kindergarten at John Wood Elementary School.

Why after more than three decades is she still working here?

"The children, families and people I have worked with throughout the years are fabulous," she said.

"I love working with the children who are growing up in the same community that I was born and raised in throughout my childhood," Mrs. Shalla said.

"I love my job!" she said. "Every day spending time with my adorable kindergarten class is invigorating and keeps me young."

She is contemplating retirement sometime in 2022-23.

"But we'll see," she said. "Maybe longer. My husband and I have made plans to be snowbirds (winters in Florida).We would like to travel and spend time with family."



Michele Shalla



Bridget Gates

Bridget (Hamang) Gates is a Title 1 Reading Specialist at John Wood Elementary and has been at the school for 34 years; a total of 35 years with the Merrillville Community School Corporation.

"I have taught first, second, fifth and sixth," she said. "This is my 21st year of Title 1 Reading.

"I love the dedication of the staff," Mrs. Gates said. "I love the students and all they have to share with me. I also love teaching with my sister, Mrs. Shalla, who also teaches at John Wood."

She said she has stayed so long because, "they say, 'if you love what you do, you will never work a day in your life.' I truly love what I do and enjoy all the children have to teach me.

"I knew I was going to be a teacher in 2nd grade," she continued. "I also had teachers who inspired me and told me I was doing the right thing by going into teaching. Two of those teachers taught at MHS: Mr. Jerry Reinhart and Mr. Joe Morrow."

She hopes to retire in June 2022.

"That will be 36 years with Merrillville and 40 years of teaching," she said.

Her plans for retirement include relaxing with her hubby, traveling a little and maybe becoming a grandma someday.

She said being born and raised in Merrillville, graduating from MHS (Class of 1978) and the fact that her 92 year-old mother and many of her siblings still live in Merrillville are some of the things that inspire her to keep working here.

TECHNOLOGY HELP DESK

If your children have any tech problems, please have them contact the helpdesk at 219-650-5376 or email helpdesk@mvsc.k12.in.us.

Share your experiences and get a chance to win

- Have some great news to share about our schools?
- Have a great experience or a fabulous teacher that needs some kudos?
- Did one of our staff members make your day?
- Did your child get the help he or she needed?

Please share that on our **NICHE page!** We really appreciate your feedback; in addition, every month each person who participates will be entered into a drawing to win $1,000!



NICHE conducts this drawing, so

- alumni,
- parents,
- PTO members,
- high school students,

please share your good news and success stories **HERE** and get your chance to win!

Career readiness class features interviews with leaders, virtues

Marc Ulrich might be a brand-new Pierce Middle School teacher virtually educating his way through the uncharted territory of a pandemic, but he's giving his students some food for thought when it comes to their futures.

Mr. Ulrich teaches 8th grade College and Career Readiness, an elective course to prepare students to succeed in life after high school.

Some of the careers they explore include STEM, financial, communication, music, fashion, veterinary, business, consulting, as well as education.

"I want my students to understand WE are responsible for creating the society and culture we want to live in," he said. "Students have been asked what is one problem in the world today that you want to see solved in your lifetime."

An interesting feature of his class is every Friday Mr. Ulrich shows his students an interview with a business leader that he conducted and recorded, so students learn more about specific careers and hear some great advice from the leaders themselves.

Recently Mr. Ulrich interviewed CBS Sports broadcaster Malik Zaire, former Notre Dame quarterback, and talked about football and sports broadcasting.

"He reminded the students of the importance of networking and perseverance," Mr. Ulrich said.

Other featured interviews included an advocate for an organization that helps victims of human trafficking throughout the world; a former intern at Disney's Animal Kingdom; and a consultant who helps businesses streamline their communication.

Of course, Merrillville High School teachers are also great career resources; Mr. Terrell Taylor, construction educator, and Basketball Coach "Bo" Patton, business educator, were some the class' most popular interviews so far.

While the Friday interviews are especially interesting, there's even more to this College and Career Readiness class.

"I have come up with 11 image-based virtues that I think are essential to success in life after high school no matter what path or field students will choose," Mr. Ulrich said.



Mr. Ulrich interviewed CBS Sports broadcaster Malik Zaire, former Notre Dame quarterback, and talked about football and sports broadcasting.

They discuss an image each week.

"We just wrapped up a lesson I call the 'Rearview Mirror,'" Mr. Ulrich said. "In order to make informed decisions for the future (the windshield), we should first glance at the rearview mirror (the past) and what's currently going on besides us."

Each day they discuss a lesson, he said, then students are assigned a daily participation assignment. Each Thursday students teach him the lesson via Flipgrid presentation.

"The reason I have students 'teach me' is because every single business leader we have interviewed has commented on how crucial communication is for their success," Mr. Ulrich said. "My hope is that our students would be effective communicators no matter what they end up doing."

Examples of other image-based virtues Mr. Ulrich uses in his class



- **Iceberg: You may get a job based on your gifting and education, but that doesn't mean you'll keep your job. Your character and integrity are the biggest determining factors in keeping your job.**
- **Boat sail: We don't control what happens to us, we only control how we respond. Sometimes the wind changes; we can either get frustrated or change the direction of our sails.**
- **Thermostat: It's easy to function as a thermometer and notice when things need improvement. It's a completely different thing to function as a thermostat and trigger the solutions. Act more like a thermostat.**
- **Sequoia: We are better together, and community matters. Learn from the sequoias and their family clusters.**

MIS project takes learning beyond the classroom

Like many things, COVID-19 delayed the building of a special educational project at Merrillville Intermediate School earlier this year, so staff and volunteers took advantage of the warm fall weather to get it started.

The group created a garden, installing four raised beds, filling them with soil, and laying mulch. In addition, garlic and strawberries, both hearty enough to make it through the winter, were planted so there will be something to harvest when the students return.



Staff and volunteers at Merrillville Intermediate School work on installing a garden that will help support the agriculture and natural sciences career pathway for students.

According to Nichole Perez, MIS K-6 college & career readiness counselor, the garden, which was made possible by grant funding from the Merrillville Education Foundation, will provide a new component to the students' science classes and help support the agriculture and natural sciences career pathway for students.

"It will give students a taste of nature and gardening, and they will learn more about where their food comes from," Ms. Perez said. "Teachers will be able to take them outside and show them first-hand how their learning applies to life."

She said sixth graders, especially, learn about plant structure, plant life and photosynthesis.

"We are excited to begin our journey to bring more real-world experiences for our students with the MIS garden project," said Principal Kara Bonin. "We want to extend learning outside of the classroom integrating skills of problem-solving, community building, and academic standards. We plan to start small with a gardening club and build to integrating this into our curriculum for all students."

Though Ms. Perez said they spent a good chunk of the funding received on the project, there are leftover funds for items like hoses, watering cans and more plants. Ultimately, she said their vision includes even more raised beds and fencing.

In planning this project, Ms. Perez said she was introduced to many supportive volunteers, including people at the Purdue Extension and the Lake County Master Gardeners who all either helped or advised on the project.

With their guidance, there may be future opportunities to plant a pollinator garden to help with the crops and additional gardens for Merrillville schools that don't have the land for gardening, she said.

Merrillville Intermediate School December Students of the Month

See photos by clicking here.

Sixth Grade

Daryahn Alcox
Quaron Andrews
Jayda Encinas
Makayla Ford
Irais Gallegos
Capri Harris
Clyonna Horton
Aniece Johnson
Aowen Kiel
Jeremiah McCoy
Carmelo Medrano
Nevae Nunn
Robyn Roberson
Isaiah Robinson
Lilliana Salinas
Jose Weatherspoon
Charisma Wilburn
Egypt Williams
Shawn Wilson
Marcus Worley

Fifth Grade

Amari Anderson
Liliana Arce
Herbert Campbell
Samiya Clark
A'Mya Collins
Aiden Davison
Maliyah Hall
Lailiana Hudson
Patrick Jackson
Kristian Johnson
Jayden Lamboy
Lendale Loyd
Daniel Martinez
Brooklyn McDonald
Natelie McGee
Izabella Mijares
Rhea Moore
Zion Payton
Ricky Rowe
Elisea Tisby
Nicholas Yocum

Click here to order your Piratewear TODAY!

Board president retires after nearly 22 years of service

From page 1

it's about them. It's about their kids. It's about how this affects their lives.

"We listen to our people, and it shows how we do things in Merrillville," he said. "We don't just arbitrarily make a decision."

While it may seem to many that the only investment of time a school board member makes is two meetings a month, Mr. Bainbridge paints a different picture.

Board members spend a lot of time communicating with the superintendent, legislators, students, and other board members, according to Mr. Bainbridge.

In addition, he said there are special meetings to attend and a constant need to continue education and understand trends.

EXEMPLARY BOARD

Merrillville Community School Corporation Board of School Trustees has been an Exemplary Board for a very long time. An Exemplary Board is a highly respected status that takes a lot of time and energy by board members to achieve.

According to the ISBA (Indiana School Boards Association) website, the Exemplary Governance Award is the highest award it offers school boards that meet specific requirements and show evidence of leadership and effectiveness in student achievement, continuous improvement, strategic planning, policy and self-governance.

This award clearly demonstrates EGA expectations, showing how training and continuous education translates into more effective leadership and governance performance.

Mr. Bainbridge said board members have opportunities to attend seminars in Indianapolis pertaining to topics like law, latest trends, budgets, bargaining, and more.

"We need to keep educated to be able to make the decisions," he said.

After spending more than two decades on the board, he learned that one of the biggest misnomers about the board is people think it runs the school corporation.

"We don't micromanage," he said. "We set some policies and are mostly responsible for monitoring the financial aspect. That means, we are responsible to monitor that taxpayers' money is being spent in the best interest of the students.

"We are not there to get your friend's kid out of trouble," he continued. "A board member should never try to circumvent the system. That's not a good board member, and they are abusing their position."

HIGH STANDARDS

According to Mr. Bainbridge, the Merrillville Community School Corporation has set the standards for other schools over the years, another board accomplishment of which he is very proud.

"When we go to the ISBA conventions or seminars and people approach us and ask, how we would handle a certain situation in Merrillville, you know you're doing it right," he said. "We are highly respected in the way we do things with other school boards and throughout the state. Merrillville has kind of set the norm.

"We maintain a high standard in both academics and discipline," he said. "Regardless of their home lives, our students are going to have to live in that big world, and the company they work for is going to have certain standards for them to stay employed.

"The standards we set in Merrillville should have them prepared for whatever they choose in life," he said.

He said the board's purpose is to make sure kids are ready for life when they graduate.

"There are rules they need to follow, and the rules are there for a reason," he continued. "When you are going 90 mph on I-65, the cop that stops you isn't going to give you a break because you were having a bad morning."

RAISES WITHOUT REFERENDUMS

Another board accomplishment of which Mr. Bainbridge is very proud is the fact that Merrillville teachers and staff have received raises every year without requiring a referendum.

"Every single year, teachers and staff have gotten raises, and it has never cost the taxpayers one more cent," he said.

"People don't realize that. We are one of only three or four school corporations that have not gone to referendum."

He said that the school's share of property taxes has actually decreased 32 cents per $100 in last six years, and this year it will decrease 42 cents per $100, yet staff has always gotten a raise.

CONSTRUCTION WITHOUT REFERENDUMS

In addition to not going for referendum for salaries, the corporation has never asked the taxpayers for additional money to update all of its building facilities.

"We saw in advance that all day kindergarten was coming all across the country," he said. "The state legislature said we needed to prepare for this."

Mr. Bainbridge said that led them to renovate each elementary school to make room for all day kindergarteners, and gave fifth and sixth graders their own school.

"The theory was fifth and sixth graders didn't need to be in the same schools as kindergarteners and first graders," he said. "They don't have the same interests."

The same theory also applied for fifth and sixth graders to remain separate from seventh and eighth graders.

Therefore, Harrison Junior High was renovated to become Merrillville Intermediate School for fifth and sixth graders, and Pierce Junior High was renovated to become Pierce Middle School for seventh and eighth graders.

"We saw this coming four years prior," he said. "We had to be astute, learn and be ready."

With those changes, the Merrillville Community School Corporation saw a

cont'd page 9

MHS senior poets takes second in PNW slam

Congratulations to the poets of Permanent Ink who were selected to compete in the Purdue University Northwest Impact Slam via Zoom call last month.

Senior Avery Timmons won second place and a $75 prize for his piece entitled "My Mother's People."

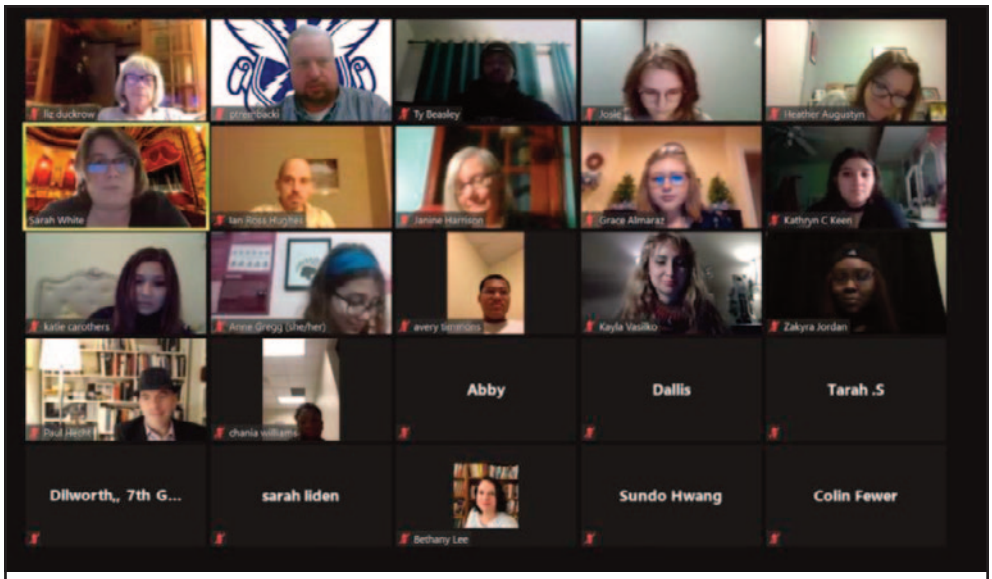
Sophomores Chania Williams and Tobias Stroh also earned entry into the slam.

The theme of the slam was loss and bereavement as a reflection on 2020. More than a dozen college and high school poets competed.

Avery lost a very close race to a college senior.

The head of the English Department at the university gave a special mention to Merrillville's Permanent Ink Slam Poets' Club for its continued participation in PNW poetry events and the lasting relationship between the schools.

This was the fourth year in a row that Permanent Ink competed in a poetry slam at the university.



More than a dozen college and high school poets competed in the Purdue University Northwest Impact Slam via Zoom.

Board president retires

From previous page

96 percent drop in disciplinary issues, and taxpayers never saw a referendum for any of the renovations.

Even though he will have plenty of newly found free time, Mr. Bainbridge says he has no plans for retirement.

When he was growing up, he said some people stepped into his life to help him find the direction he needed, and with that, he learned to give back. It appears he plans to continue that practice.

"I've worked with and for young people for 50 years starting as a youth director at our church," he said.

"I'm not ready to be put out to pasture yet," he said. "I have some people who have been calling me for three years to work with and for the veterans. I'll probably do that. Veterans stick together."

Singers recognized in virtual contests



MHS Choralteen members earned four more gold medals during Dec. 5 Virtual ISSMA Solo and Ensemble.

Junior Andre Burns' Piano Solo scored 8 (perfect score is 7), and his vocal solo scored 10 (perfect score is 9).

The Jones Ensemble performed Donde Hay, scoring 9.5 (perfect score is 9). The Burns Ensemble sang Bashana Haba'ah and scored 10 (perfect score is 9).

Quote from the ensemble judge: "I am very appreciative of the professionalism of this group and the other Merrillville ensemble. Students and director should be applauded for creating beautiful music safely and at such a high degree of musicality."

Earlier in the fall, members of MHS choir competed in the first round of Virtual Solo/Ensemble. Sophomore Kaleigh Stroh and Junior Alexus McGriggs earned gold medals on their vocal solos and the CT Seniors, and the MHS Choralteens also earned gold medals on their competition pieces.

The 2020-2021 Choralteens also competed for the first time in the ISSMA Fall Virtual Organizational contest on Nov. 14. They received gold ratings from all three judges on their Advanced Vocal Jazz set.

Although Blended Learning was approved for choir students last fall, less than 20% of enrolled choir students attended Blended Learning classes every week.

These voice students had to learn their repertoire virtually and attend Monday night extra-curricular rehearsals to quickly fine-tune and polish before recording their ISSMA submissions.

Several times some students had to learn additional voice parts to cover for missing students to round out weaker sections before recording.





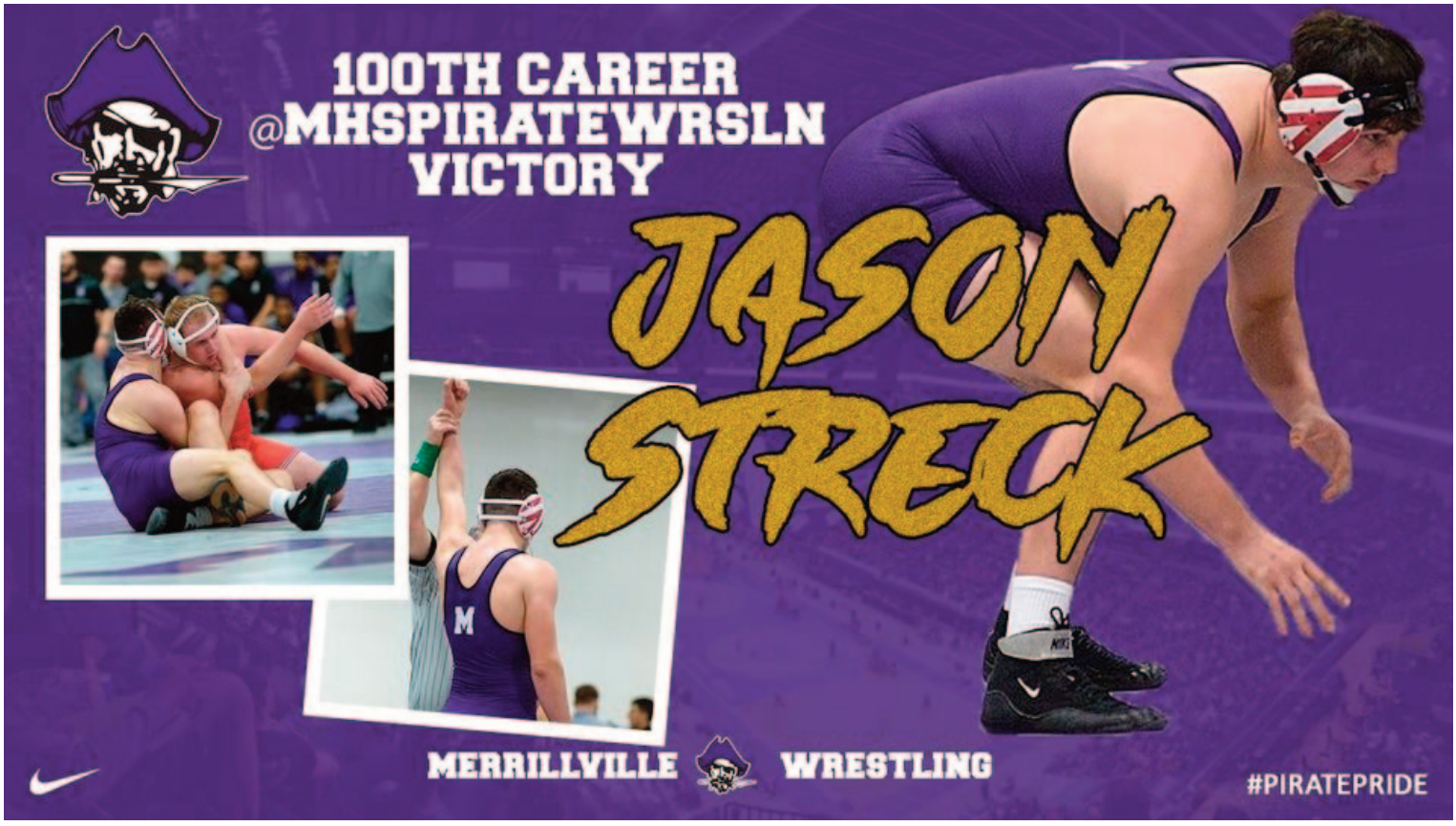
Pierce Pirates win Conference Championships

The 8th grade basketball team, bottom photo, finished the year with an overall record of 8-2, 5-0 in conference and winning the Conference Championship for their second year in a row.

The champions are: Nathan Gills, Jayden Holmes, Jovan Clark, Albren Johnson, Quitman Ireland, Aidan Dilosa, Ishmael Alvarez, Kaiden Wilbon, and Jalen McAlister.

The 7th grade A team, top left, finished their season with 8 wins and 3 losses and a conference record of 5-0, securing a conference championship!

Champions include Erick Cummings, Reginald Hinton, Javis Hall, Julian Holmes, Arvee'A Ford, Greg Hughes, Cuba Smith, Darnell Bowles, Trevor Goodwin, Damion Jones Jr., Paul Washington, Bryce Peters.



Reasons to smile: Look at what our students have achieved

Click inside the star to view :

MHS Honor Rolls

MIS Honor Roll

MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Pierce Honor Roll

Wood Elementary School Students of the Week in December:
- Jaxon Mick
- Arianna Torres





Above: Iddings Elementary School staff sport their new shirts to support Anti-Bulling Week last November! Left: Salk Elementary School Assistant Principal Nikki Laird (from left), Principal Nick Petralia and Instructional Coach Tammy Rassbach cheer on teachers with their Woot Woot Wagon during virtual learning.

#ICYMI:

Click the image to the right to watch the recent video recognition of our athletes.



February is Career & Technical Education Month

February is CTE month, but anytime is a great time to talk about the Career and Technical Education opportunities that Merrillville High School offers.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses prepare students for high demand careers with a depth of learning that builds real-world skills, giving students the ability to graduate ready for a job, certification or technical school.

MHS offers 54 CTE courses and 28 CTE pathways for graduation.

During this pandemic, as many as 200 students taking CTE classes have been experiencing blended learning, which means they learn at home as well as at school. They participate in virutal classes, but they also come into school for their hands-on experiences or labs, which could be welding, culinary arts, fire and rescue, radio and television and many more.

MHS staff is committed to providing a safe environment for students to gain their hands-on skills and experiences.

Students hoping to earn college credits from Ivy Tech for the high school classes are required by the state to attend these dual credit classes in-person. These classes include: Automation and Robotics in Manufacturing, Anatomy & Physiology, Construction Trades, Principles of Business Management, Digital Applications and Responsibility, Entrepreneurship and New Venture, Principles of Marketing, Business Law and Ethics, Digital Applications and Responsibility, Intro to Early Childhood Education, Health, Safety, and Nutrition, Education Professions, Health Science Education, Fire and Rescue, Electronics and Computer Tech., Radio and Television and Welding Technology.

In these instances, teachers are simultaneously educating students in their classes with the ones who remain virtual.





Above: Radio & Television students practice their camera skills.

Right: Teacher Mr. Sokol gears up to do a demonstration for his students in Welding Class.

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SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. will be giving away the Triumphant Founder Pearl Anna Neal Scholarship in the amount of $125,000 to a female high school senior!

The application is due Feb. 28.

For additional information, **click here**!

