

District Adds New Communication Tools

Earlier this year, installation of a digital billboard along Park Avenue in front of the Middle and High School building was completed. This remote-controlled display projects a slideshow, rotating every 3 to 5 seconds, with the most pressing news and information for MG families, staff and community.

Additionally, a mobile app was initiated in an effort to better communicate with staff, families and the community.

The app mirrors the information found on the revitalized website and includes details for each district building, including announcements, events, athletic schedules and cafeteria menus.

The free app is available in both Apple and Google Play stores by searching for Mount Gilead EV Schools or by scanning the appropriate QR code at the right.





Cherry Street Renovations; Fieldhouse Build Continue

Phase 1 of renovations to the Cherry Street building that began last Fall is nearly completed.

The building, dedicated in 1952, had only had minor updates and repairs since it was first constructed. Recently a new floor; new windows, door and lights; new bleachers; an updated sound system; a fresh coat of paint and a fixed roof with 10-year warranty are a few of the most noticeable changes.

Stadium improvements, including the addition of a 7,000 square-foot fieldhouse building, are also underway.

After a short hiatus due to winter weather, the construction crew is back on site. Roof trusses, walls and windows have been added in recent weeks and crews continue to connect electric and water services.

Upon completion, our community that attends athletic functions at the stadium will find new restrooms with adequate facilities, a larger concession stand space that will allow our Athletic Boosters to provide an expanded menu, much needed storage space for field and athletic equipment, covered entryway for patrons to get out of the weather when needed, and two flexible locker room spaces that will provide additional indoor space for athletic teams in the winter season too.

Scan the QR code at right with your smartphone camera to view a short video on all of the recent updates to our athletic facilities.



Inside this issue:

Preschool/K Registration Info	FFA News	Theatre Events	Winter Sports Recap
Spring Sports Schedule	Park Ave PTO News	Chief's Club Summer SACC	VR in the Classroom

From the Desk of Superintendent

Dr. Zack Howard (zackhoward@mgschools.org)

Over the past few years while serving as the Superintendent of Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools, I've had individuals ask me questions about the income tax that helps provide local funds to the school district.

The first thing to note is that the school district has a continuing 0.75% income tax that was approved by the voters years ago. More recently in 2019, voters approved an additional five-year limited 0.75% income tax. The current five-year income tax is due to expire at the end of 2024. The total income tax assessed currently is 1.5%.

Our district has a strategic plan that was developed with multiple stakeholder input and our ability to implement the strategic plan is contingent in part on school funding. I'm very proud that as a district, we're making steady progress. Our most recent State Report Card earned our district a 4 out of 5 stars. Our Middle School is rated a 5-Star school and our High School is a 4.5 Star school.

Our strategic plan calls for us to "Equip", "Empower", and "Inspire" our students. At the High School we're working hard with our students on graduation pathways so that every student is prepared for what lies ahead whether that is learning a skilled trade in partnership with Tri-Rivers Career Center, enrollment into the Military, pursuit of higher education or even direct employment following graduation. We have long standing programs like Jobs for Ohio Graduates (JOG) and Career Based Intervention (CBI) to support our High School students or new programs like Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS), College Credit Plus (CCP) Academy, or Robotics/Drones/Engineering and Vocational Agriculture now starting at the Middle School. Park Avenue Elementary is beginning to infuse Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) into their curriculum. This Spring, our Park Avenue students will produce a musical - "Finding Nemo Kids"!

We've improved our athletic facilities considerably. Our track and football field were the worst surfaces our kids would compete on throughout the season leading into 2021. Today, our kids compete on the best track and football field in the region and the stadium is a wonderful place to hold athletic competitions. With a new stadium building set to be completed by the Fall Season, our fans will have wonderful restrooms and concession facilities where previous facilities were inadequate.

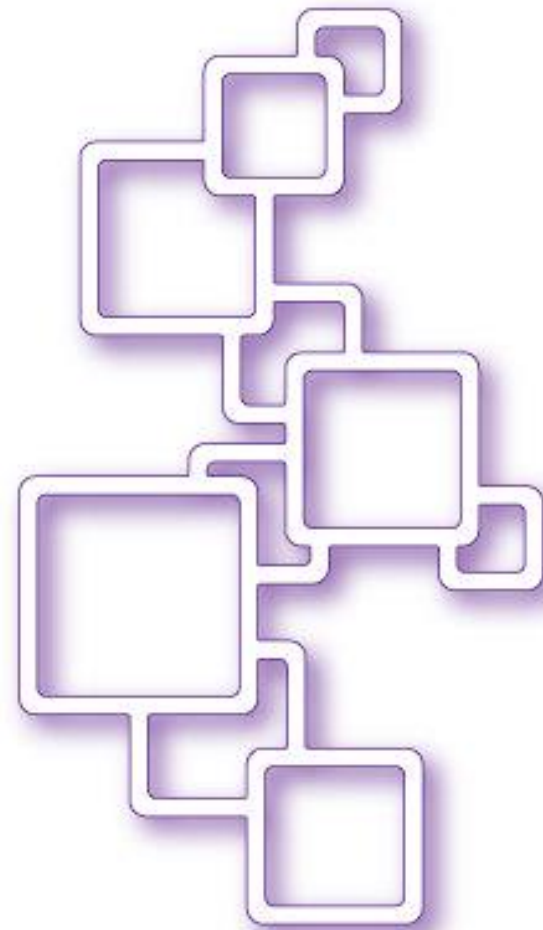
Cherry Street gym has been refurbished and the next generation can add to the rich history that exists in that space. Our track and Cherry St. gym are open during the day throughout the week for our community to use for exercise. While great strides have been made, we would like to continue renovating Cherry Street to protect our investment and enable students to attend school there once again as growth necessitates it.

The following questions have been raised specific to the income tax often:

CAN THE DISTRICT HAVE INCOME TAX LEVIES WITH BOTH THE TRADITIONAL AND EARNED-INCOME TAX BASE?

No. ORC 5748.02 (E) prohibits a district from having school district income tax levies with both bases.

The MGEVS currently has a continuing .75% Income Tax approved that is "Traditional". The renewal levy that is on the ballot is for an



additional 5 year time period and must also be “Traditional”. While the district is not opposed to making the renewal income tax levy one that is “earned-income”, Ohio Revised Code does not allow for two separate income types and the district cannot afford losing at the ballot to convert the .75% continuing “traditional” income tax to an “earned income tax” as the continuing income tax generates roughly 50% of our local share of school funding.

CAN THE INCOME TAX ON THE BALLOT TO RENEW THE TIME-BOUND 5 YEAR LIMITED INCOME TAX BE CONSIDERED A RENEWAL?

Yes. ORC 5748.02(B)(1) states that *If the tax rate being proposed is no higher than the total tax rate imposed by the expiring tax or taxes, the resolution may state that the proposed tax is not an additional income tax.*

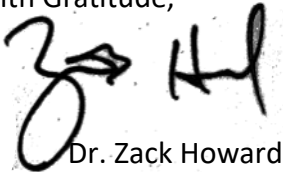
IF THE RENEWAL INCOME TAX IS PASSED, WHEN WILL THE DISTRICT BEGIN COLLECTING?

January 1, 2025

Hopefully, this information helps you become a more informed voter on March 19, 2024. As always, if you ever have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to me.

It's an honor to serve this school community!

With Gratitude,



Dr. Zack Howard
MGEVS Superintendent



MGHS Digital Media Students Provide Digital Showcases

Mount Gilead High School's Digital Media Technology students have been busy curating “Digital Showcases” of various points on the district.

Under the direction of teacher Tom Lewis, students were assigned to record MG Schools in real life. Showcases include: MGEVS Strategic Plan overview; Mount Gilead High School; Middle School and Park Avenue Elementary showcases; an athletic facilities update and catching up with our SRO - Officer Turner.

All of these videos can be watched in the app or on the website at mgschools.org



Curriculum and Development Updates

Director Emily Ross (eross@mgschools.org)

In my role as Director of Curriculum and Development, I facilitate the Ohio Improvement Process, focusing on enhancing student success. We have three main district-wide improvement goals from 2021-2024:

1. Improve Student Achievement,
2. Develop Educator Capacity, and
3. Ensure Students are Ready to Learn.

Each school tailors its specific goals under these areas. We regularly monitor progress, updating goals every three years to guide funding plans.

Recently, we completed the One Needs Assessment, using state-collected data like graduation rates and test scores. Staff and administrators provided input through surveys. Luckily, our data aligned well with our goals, so we're refining rather than starting anew.

The next step is creating a One Plan, including SMART goals, action steps, and evidence-based practices. This plan ties into our funding application for Federal Title and IDEA Special Education Funds, with each goal having an associated funding measure. We aim to share our One Plan with the community by April, seeking input before board approval through a draft on the website and a request for feedback from stakeholders.

*** Side Note: When I originally wrote this article, I felt like it had too much educational jargon in it. So I asked Chat GPT to make my text easier to read. It was vastly improved and I found it very useful to compare both versions to see how it was changed. The Chat GPT version is what we published above, and the program responded to my request saying: Certainly! Here's a more straightforward and reader-friendly version of the text.

As educators we need to understand how to use AI tools to prepare our students for the quickly changing future. This is one small example of how I was able to enhance my own writing and editing skills. The Lt. Governor recently released an AI toolkit to help teachers, parents & policy makers harness the power of AI in schools: <https://innovateohio.gov/aitoolkit/ai-toolkit>

300+ Meals Served at Annual FFA Pancake Breakfast

On Saturday February 24 the Mt. Gilead FFA Chapter held its annual Pancake Breakfast during the annual Peak and Criswell Consignment sale. The chapter members served over 360 community members a pancake and sausage breakfast. This activity provides the chapter the ability to build relationships with in the community as well as raise some funds for leadership and contest events and activities.

The Chapter would like to extend a special thank you to our Gold Sponsors, Albert Farms, Central Ohio Farmers Co-Op the Mt. Gilead Branch and Gilead Fitness. Our Gold Donors Tidy Tim's Inc., Mike Sayers Farms and Peacock Water. Without these gracious sponsors our breakfast would not be possible. Finally, the chapter would like to extend a huge thank you to the Morrow County Pork Producers and Tom Blankenship and Duane Straley.



JOG Busy with Classes; Service Opportunities

The high school Jobs for Ohio's Graduates (JOG) classes have been busy. We celebrated our transportation department during Love the Bus Month, by making cards to thank them for all they do for our district.

We collected used shoes from the elementary, middle school and high school to donate to the Snuggle for Hope quilting group. We collected a total of 180 pairs of shoes! Thank you to everyone who donated shoes.

The JOG students continue to work with their little buddies at the elementary school. This year we have helped our buddies learn to play board games and work together as a team to win.

JOG is currently planning the annual garage sale. It will be held June 6th-8th at Park Avenue Elementary in the gym. Watch for signs, and come out to support a great cause.

Senior JOG students paired up with Senior Transitions classes completed their cooking unit by preparing breakfast for the staff. For the month of December they learned about eating a healthy breakfast and how to prepare several different meals. Students learned about cutting veggies, measuring, and reading a recipe. Students then had to choose a recipe, prep and cook/bake the meal for the staff breakfast. Students and staff enjoyed the morning.



New Park Avenue Integrated Arts teacher helps students become authors

Under the leadership Lauren Heffelfinger, a new Integrated Arts teacher at Park Avenue, students in the library have had the opportunity to see their ideas and stories set to page.



Park Avenue third grade authors with their books about Fall: Amellia Cross, Airyanna Shaw, Kynleigh Beltz, and Brycen Meade.

"A number of our students have been busy writing this fall and some of them gave me their original works for others to check out of the library," Heffelfinger said.

Parent volunteer Courtney Marks digitized all of the books, the copies were printed, laminated and made into books for all students at Park Ave to look at during library time! They are housed on the Reference shelf and have been picked up by many students. Some students from other classes have come to request the next installment of fourth grader Duke's comic, *The Blue Juice*.

New Marching Band Uniforms to be Debuted this Fall

The Mount Gilead Music Department would like to thank the School Board and Mount Gilead Community Members, Friends, and Families for their support during fundraisers and for donations this season. We raised enough money to get NEW band uniforms for the 2024 - 2025 Marching Band Season. We are excited to debut them at a football game this coming football season.

Band and Choir held a OMEA Contest Preview Concert on Thursday, February 29th. These Pictures show both MG Concert Band and Symphonic Choir performing at the that concert. The OMEA District Contest was held March 8th for band and March 9th for choir at Lexington High School

The Music Department has a very busy season ahead of them. Here are a few dates to mark on your calendars.

- Swing and Sing Concert: Jazz Band & Show Choir - March 19th at 7:00pm
- Spring Music Concert: All Band & Choirs - May 19th Middle School at 2:00pm
High School at 3:30 pm
- Memorial Day Parade: Marching Band - May 27th 1:00pm
- MGHS Graduation: Concert Band & Choir - June 1st 4:30pm

Stay updated on all Music Department information on our Facebook page.



Save the Date!

INDIAN-BALL

3rd Annual

Dodgeball Event

Park Ave Preschool 4 year olds to 5th grade
students and their favorite adult



Saturday, April 6, 2024
Cherry Street Gym, 6-8 pm

Sponsored by Park Ave PTO

**BUY THE BOOK
THEY'LL CHERISH**

High School Yearbooks always contain your student's memories of that school year: the people, the clothes, the events and more. By purchasing the 2024 Mizpah, you're buying something your student will cherish always. Please note that we have changed publishers, so follow the information below to order:

1. Go to: www.herffjones.com
2. Click on the top menu option:
Yearbook→ Buy a Yearbook
3. Enter the school order number: 25621 - or - search
for the school name: Mount Gilead High School

Follow the directions after that to select your yearbook and options for personalization. It is highly recommended that seniors order a book with the ship to home option.

Virtual Reality in the Classroom

This year Park Avenue students have the opportunity to visit far away lands, see cultures from long ago, check out a variety of habitats, and more. All these are possible with the use of Virtual Reality headsets. Park Avenue's principal, Ally Schleichert, saw the value in having VR headsets as a resource for our students and set the acquisition in motion. With the help of gifted funds and grant money, the district was able to purchase the headsets.

Recently fourth graders (pictured at right) used the headsets to look at different habitats. Students were studying plant and animal adaptations that enable them to live in different environments. With the use of the VR headsets they were able to see a variety of animals in their natural environments. Students responded with excitement to the opportunity. "I like that you can move and change worlds," "It helps you visualize," and "It lets us learn more about an animal's habitat." were typical comments made by students. These comments were of course accompanied by "Oohs and aahs" and "I saw a ..." Having the headsets allowed students to experience new places, and the excitement about learning was incredible.

VR headset classroom kits are also being used by Middle and High School students.



TRIO Program Explains Importance of GPA to Freshmen Students

TRIO Talent Search recently spent a day at the high school helping freshmen learn about and understand the importance of their GPA. Students learned how their choices over the next 4 years can impact their GPAs for the better or worse and discussed how to balance their competing priorities. TRIO is always accepting new applicants, please use the online link to apply <https://botform.compansol.com/220883414682055>



SAVE
the
DATE

Mount Gilead High School Prom
April 20, 2024

Screening & Registration for 2024-2025 Kindergarteners to be held in May



It is once again time to register new kindergarten students into the Mt. Gilead Exempted Village Schools for the 2024-2025 school year. The dates will be Thursday May 16, and Friday May 17, 2024. Parents should call the office at (419)946-5736 after April 1st to schedule an appointment. Students will be screened for Kindergarten at this time.

**CHILDREN MUST BE FIVE YEARS OLD ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1, 2024
TO BE ELIGIBLE TO BEGIN KINDERGARTEN.**

Parents will need to supply the following on the day of registration:

- A copy of the child's legal birth certificate (not souvenir copy)
- A copy of up to date immunization records
- Proof of residence (utility bill or purchase/rental agreement)
- Custody papers, if applicable

School Navigator Provided by PASS

Article Submitted by MGEVS School Navigator, Jeff Beale

Why have a school navigator? Research finds that providing increased support to students is linked with better academic performance (Johnston et al; 2020) and evidence shows student's sense of belonging is protective for mental health (Gopalan 2023).



I'm Jeff Beale, a retired teacher from Ohio's largest urban school district. Since December 2023, I've been facilitating as Mount Gilead Schools school navigator through collaboration as an educator staff for Prevention Awareness Support Services (PASS) Delaware-Morrow County.

The school navigator program is fully funded and fiscally responsible for by the Delaware-Morrow Mental Health and Recovery Services Board. The school navigator is considered part of the Ohio Department of Education and Workforce's Tier I prevention strategies. Also known as universal prevention, which can be offered to all students and focuses on developing knowledge and skills to engage in healthy behaviors and decision-making. This increases awareness of the dangers and consequences of risky behaviors like substance use, suicide, bullying, and other harmful behaviors.

The school navigator can act as a link between the schools and community resources. The navigator works hand in hand with the school counselors, school social workers, teachers, school resource officers, and other school staff to provide referrals to community resources for students and families.

Finally, I'd like to conclude you with the special words from Mount Gilead mission: To inspire individuality, equip all students for success, create school spirit, and enrich community pride.

MG FFA Members Approved to Receive State Degree

Congratulations to five Mount Gilead FFA members who have been approved to receive their State FFA Degree on Friday May 3rd @ 5:30 pm at the 96th Ohio State FFA Convention. Those receiving State Degrees are: Colton Beck, Megan Beck, Natalie Jagger, Miguel Martinez and Kimberly Staley.



Middle School Art Club has Busy Winter, Students Chosen for State Exhibition

Article and Photos Submitted by Maria Miller, Middle School Art Club Advisor

We have been busy in Middle School Art with lots of fun activities and awesome art achievements! Art club had some great opportunities for community involvement this year. We were invited to paint faces at the Fall Festival at the Morrow County Fairgrounds and participated in painting the windows in downtown Mount Gilead for the Christmas season.

In December, we took our first art club field trip to WinterFair at the Ohio State Fairgrounds. This is a festival with more than 400 artists and craftsmen from across the United States. Students had a chance to interview the artists, create a craft with four different art guilds and take part in a large collaborative artwork. We also had our annual art club Holiday Craft Sale and Make n Take evening. Students at the elementary and middle school had a lot of fun creating one of a kind holiday crafts and ornaments and art club students created unique hand-made crafts to sell during the school day.

Students have been making great art and have the chance to display it in a few different venues. Two talented middle school artists, Peyton Hayes in 6th grade and Maci Guy in 7th grade, have their artwork displayed in the 44th Annual Youth Art Month and Young People's Art Exhibition. There are eight regions in Ohio representing the Ohio Art Education Association, and this year's show includes 115 student artworks from all over the state.

In addition, many middle school artists in this year's 6th, 7th and 8th grade classes will have their artwork on display at Artapalooza at the Mid-Ohio Educational Service Center in Mansfield, Ohio. Artapalooza displays more than 500 student artwork pieces from area public and non-public schools. Artapalooza will be held April 12th - 17th at the MOESC offices in Mansfield.

Lastly, be on the lookout for the annual District Fine Arts Festival which features art and music from the high, middle and elementary schools in May.

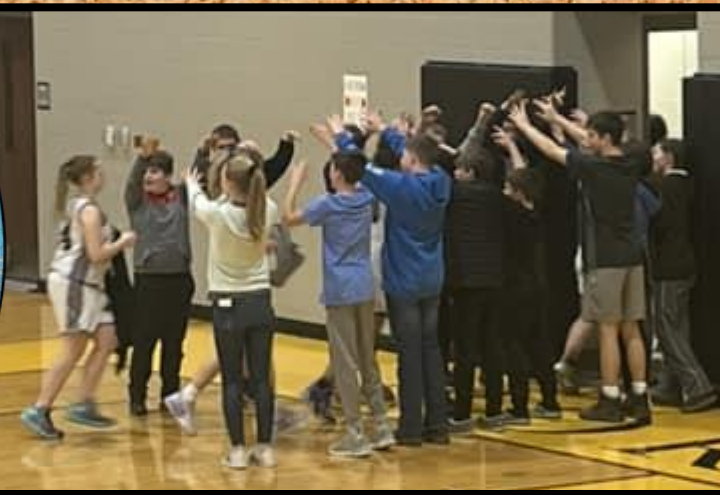


Middle School art club members Andrew Holden (center) and Violet Mullens (right) interview an artist during their field trip to Winterfair.



Above: Art Club students sell holiday ornaments and crafts during lunch. Proceeds from these sales goes to help fund future sales and field trips. Below Artwork by 6th-Grader Peyton Hayes (left) and 7th-Grader Maci Guy (right). These pieces were on display at the Young People's Art Exhibition in Columbus.







PTO-Sponsored Events and Activities a Great Supplement to Elementary Education

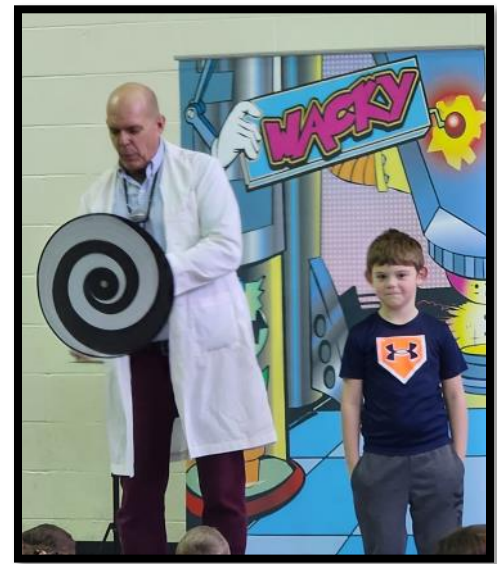
Article and Photos Submitted by Lori Levering, Park Ave PTO President

The Park Avenue PTO continues to bring exciting events and activities to the elementary students. Upon returning from Christmas break, students were treated to a “Wacky Science Show” where they were introduced to the types of science and the scientific process without even realizing it.

In February, we held our 3rd Annual Denim & Diamonds dance where students danced the night away with their special adult. A special thank you to Erin Kelty, Victoria Knuckles, and Melinda Martin, K-kids advisors, for taking pictures for our little Indians. Also, in February, the Mansfield Astronomical Society brought their mobile planetarium to Park Avenue Elementary. Students in grades 1, 3, and 5 got to visit and learn about our solar system and the upcoming solar eclipse.

Planning for our 2nd annual Indian-Ball (dodgeball) event is currently in process. The event will be held April 6 from 6 to 8 pm at Cherry Street. More information and pre-registration papers will be sent home with students prior to spring break. We are looking forward to a fun night of some friendly competition.

Interested in learning about future events and volunteering?
Park Avenue PTO meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30 pm in the Park Avenue Library. Stay up-to-date by following us on Facebook at Park Avenue PTO (Parent Teacher Organization).



Park Avenue PTO Provides Mobile Planetarium Visit

Park Avenue students in grades 1,3, and 5 got to visit the mobile planetarium from the Mansfield Astronomical Society in late February. The group set up the portable planetarium in the gymnasium for the day and classes rotated through for a 30 minute time frame learning about the solar system and eclipses.

This program is just one of many events the district has planned leading up to the eclipse on April 8th.

Pictured are some of the 3rd graders excited about this experience and what they got to see inside.





Chiefs Club Summer SACC

JOIN US THIS SUMMER

Available for
students currently
enrolled in K-5th
Grade at Park Avenue

Intervention,
Themed STEM
activities, Crafts,
and Field trips



June 10th-July 25th
Monday-Thursday



Scan here to
request a packet



Packets will be sent
out after Spring Break



**Enrollment forms due
by May 1st**

***No enrollment forms will be accepted after May 1st**

Contact Erin Whipple
419.946.5736 ext 3112
chiefsclub@mgschools.org



Attention Alumni: If your class is having a reunion and you'd like to spread the word, or if you've already met and would like to share information or pictures, please contact *The Communicator* Editor Kelly Hand at khand@mgschools.org or (419) 947-9517 x 2218

MGEVS Searching for Preschool-Aged Children with Disabilities



What is Child Find?

Child Find is the process of locating, identifying and evaluating children with disabilities that may be in need of special education or related services.

What is the purpose of Child Find?

- To alert parents, professionals and the public to students who may have special needs.
- To guarantee that school districts find children who may have disabilities and who otherwise may not have come to their attention.
- To enable eligible children to receive the special education and related services that are needed.
- To promote public awareness of disabilities.

What is a disability?

A physical or mental condition for children ages birth to 3 that may result in a developmental delay requiring special education and related services. For children ages 3 through 5 — A child who is experiencing a delay in one or more of the following areas: physical development; cognitive development; communication development; social or emotional development; or adaptive development; or, a child who is identified with any of the conditions listed in the paragraph below.

For children ages 5 through 21 — Identification of one or more of the following conditions: autism, deaf blindness, hearing impairment including deafness, cognitive disability, multiple disabilities, orthopedic impairment, other health impairment, emotional disturbance, specific learning disability, speech or language impairment, traumatic brain injury and/or visual impairment.

How can you help?

If you are aware of a child who may have special needs, please notify his/her school district, Parents, relatives, public and private agency employees, childcare providers, physicians and concerned citizens are encouraged to help school districts find any child, ages birth - 21, who may have a disability and are in need of special education and related services.

What happens next?

The school district will contact the parents of the child to discuss the next steps in the evaluation and identification process. This process is provided at no cost to the family. If a need is identified, the child can begin receiving the appropriate special education and related services during the school day.

Who can you contact?

If you have a child ages 3-5 years of age and have concerns about a suspected disability, please contact Stacy Gabriel or Molly Clapper by phone: 419-946-5736 Ext 3142 or email: sgabriel@mgschools.org or mclapper@mgschools.org



**American Red Cross
Blood Drive**

March 19th & May 14th
Mount Gilead Church of Christ | 322 Iberia Street
Register today at redcrossblood.org

Elementary Artists Display their Work at Statewide Exhibit

William Scohy(Kindergarten) pictured right and Grant Keever (4th grader) pictured left from Park Avenue Elementary were chosen as honored artists for the 44th Annual Youth Art Month and Young People's Art Exhibition sponsored by the Ohio Art Education Association.

There are eight regions in Ohio representing the OAEA, and this year's show includes 115 student artworks from all over the state. The YAM and Young Peoples Recognition ceremony took place March 2nd at the Kings Art Complex in Columbus.



Mount Gilead Athletic Boosters

We are proud to support all MGHS student athletes in all sports and we are excited for the positive momentum in our community!

Would YOU like to be our new TREASURER?

(Contact Jessica Trainer - athleticboosters@mgschools.org - for more information.)

Best wishes to our Baseball, Softball, and Track & Field athletes this spring - GO INDIANS!

www.facebook.com/mgindians
athleticboosters@mgschools.org



Mount Gilead High School Theatre
Department presents:

You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown (Revised)

*Based on The Comic Strip "Peanuts" by
Charles M. Schulz Book, Music and Lyrics
by Clark Gesner Additional Dialogue by
Michael Mayer Additional Music and
Lyrics by Andrew Lippa*

Watch as Charlie Brown and the entire *Peanuts* gang explore life's great questions as they play baseball, struggle with homework, sing songs, swoon over their crushes, fly kites, and celebrate the joy of friendship. Wonderfully funny, touching, and lighthearted these students bring the characters to life in a brilliantly hilarious way!

MGHS Theatre Department asks you to mark your calendars for their production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." The show dates, times, and pricing are available above. Tickets for this production will be available for general admission seating on a first come, first served basis. Please look for ticketing updates and further information on Facebook from the "MGHS Theatre Updates" page. Thank you to our Mount Gilead community for the continued support of the arts at MGHS!

Did you know? Mount Gilead High School first produced *You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown* in the year 1977, as the school's first EVER musical! Following the 1977 run, our school went on to produce this title two more times before we arrived at our current production.

To celebrate this amazing milestone, MGHS Theatre Department is hosting a reunion of the casts! During the 3/17show, we will be honored to host the Mount Gilead High School's first ever Alumni reunion production! Please come witness MGHS Theatre history as our current cast welcomes ALL of our previous casts of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown" to take the stage once more! During intermission, we will ask any and all previous members of this wonderful title to the stage to share a song from the show and a group picture before act two concludes!

Were you a part of this production at MGHS? Let Director Jeremy Barr (jbarr@mgschools.org) know if you are interested in attending the event, so that you can be included in the planning for our reunion!

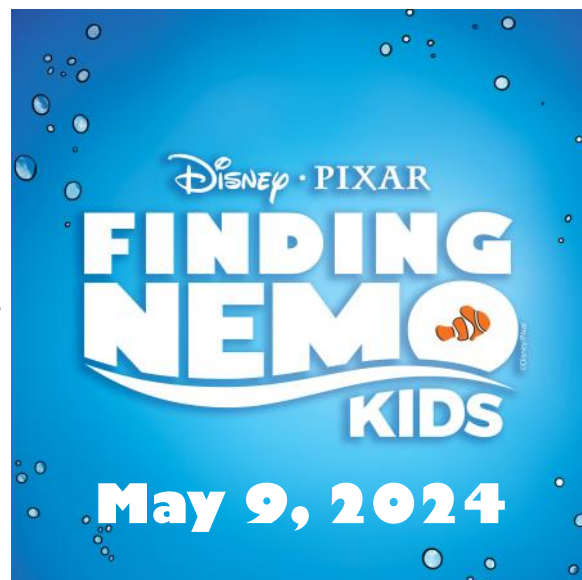
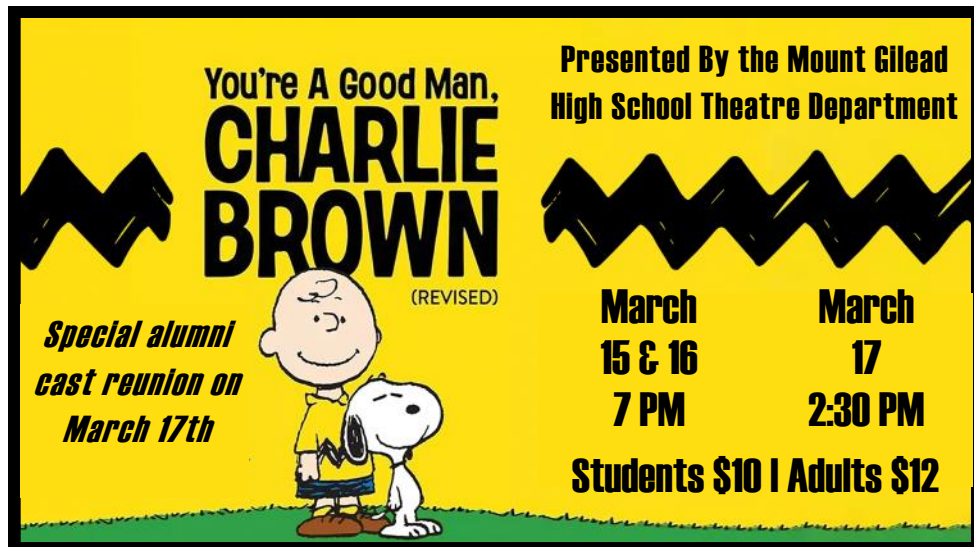
Park Ave Brings Back Theatre with Finding Nemo Kids Production

Park Avenue Elementary students return to the stage this Spring with "Finding Nemo Kids" on Thursday, May 9, 2024 at 6 PM in the Park Avenue Elementary gym.

The 45 member cast, featuring kids in kindergarten through 5th grade, auditioned and started practicing for the hour-long production in February.

Featuring the songs "Just Keep Swimming," "Fish Are Friends Not Food," and "Go With the Flow," "Finding Nemo Kids" brings a vibrant, underwater world to life on the stage. It is a story full of family, friendship and adventure.

The show is under the direction of Briana McCaffrey, with assistance from Abby Stepp.



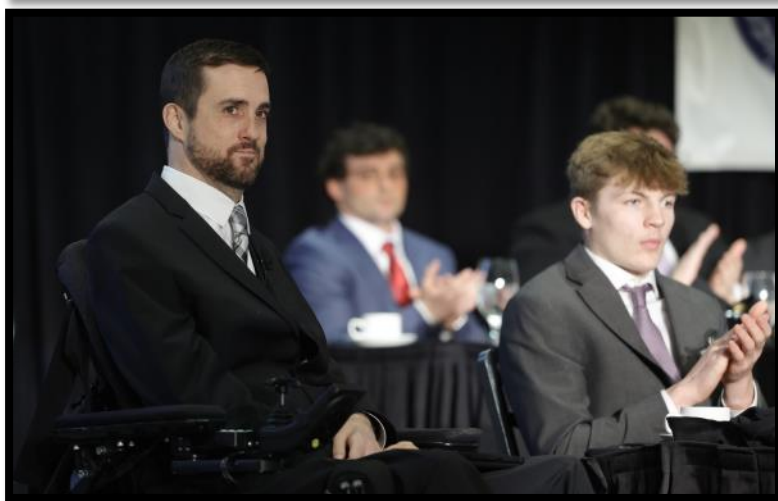
MG Senior Receives National Football Foundation HOF Award

Mt. Gilead Senior football player, Gabe Simpson, was recently named a Scholar Athlete/Community Service Award winner by the Columbus Chapter of The National Football Foundation Hall of Fame.

Gabe received a plaque and a \$1,000 grant at a banquet held on the campus of The Ohio State University. He was selected as the KMACs nomination for this award after being named to the Conference All-Academic team. Gabe's selection was based on his academic achievement, leadership, and his involvement in community service.

The banquet was attended by several current Ohio State coaches, other central Ohio college coaches and players, and many other former Buckeye Football greats. Gabe was a two-time captain for the football team and took the lead in each one of the team's community service projects.

The Mt. Gilead football team performed more than 1,500 community service hours collectively over the course of 2023.



Pictured above, top: Gabe Simpson is shown with the other grant recipients (back row, far right). Pictured above, bottom Gabe is shown seated by the President of the Columbus Chapter and former Buckeye, Tyson Gentry.

District Celebrates 23rd Athletic Hall of Fame Induction

The Twenty-Third Mount Gilead Athletic Hall of Fame took place on Saturday, February 10, 2024. There was a reception at 6 p.m. in the High School Community Room and the ceremony took place in between the JV and Varsity basketball game against Cardington. The following were inducted into the Class of 2024: Xavier Harris (2015 Graduate) and Kolby Snyder (2012 Graduate). The 1977-1978 Girls' Basketball Team was honored as well.



Pictured above are Scott and Tammy Snyder (parents of Kolby Snyder, Inductee), Xavier Harris, Inductee, Team Members: Sherry (Dix) Jenkins, Alice (Willeke) Chapman, Kathy (Chapman) Leffler, and Sally Sayers (accepting award for Patty (Ward) Sayers). Photo submitted by Melissa Cassidy

**COLLEGE &
MILITARY
SIGNING DAY**

On Monday, May 13th, members of the Class of 2024 who have committed to the military or collegiate athletics after graduation will have their "signing day". The ceremony will be held in front of the Middle and High School student body after a district-wide Pep Rally.

2023-2024 Winter Sports Awards

Boys Basketball

- Rowan Fitzpatrick- 2nd Team KMAC and 2nd Team Central District
- Gage Baker- Honorable Mention KMAC and Honorable Mention Central District

Girls Basketball

- Faith White- 1st Team KMAC and 1st Team Central District
- Aubrey Thomas- 2nd Team KMAC, All-Academic KMAC, and 2nd Team Central District
- Greer Simpson- Honorable Mention KMAC and Honorable Mention Central District

Boys Bowling

- Wyatt Irwin-1st Team KMAC, All Academic KMAC, and KMAC Bowler of the Tournament
- Abram Newsom- 2nd Team KMAC
- CJ Kneipp- Honorable Mention KMAC
- Aiden Moore- Honorable Mention KMAC

Girls Bowling

- Shay Irwin- 1st Team KMAC and District Qualifier
- Jacey Snelling- 2nd Team KMAC
- Larissa Coleman- 2nd Team KMAC
- Audrey Ramsey- Honorable Mention KMAC

Wrestling

- Cody Meimer- 2nd Team KMAC and District Qualifier (Alternate)
- Gabe Simpson- Honorable Mention KMAC, All Academic KMAC, and District Qualifier
- Rocco Castricone- District Qualifier

Swim

- Hayden McClelland- District Qualifier: 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay
- Luke Fraizer- District Qualifier: 100 Breast Stroke, 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay
- Niles Bush- District Qualifier: 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay
- Jaxon Tinch- District Qualifier: 200 Medley Relay and 200 Free Relay
- Abigail Griffith- District Qualifier: 500 Freestyle and 100 Back Stroke

Indoor Track State Participants

- 4x200 Relay- Jon Miller, Quade Harris, Collin Gabriel, and Logan High
- 3200 Kimberly Staley

Winter Sports Recap

Compiled by Jack Bault, Athletic Director

As we bid farewell to another exciting winter sports season, it's time to reflect on the achievements and growth of our student-athletes. From buzzer-beaters to championship victories, our athletes demonstrated resilience, teamwork, and sportsmanship throughout their respective seasons.

Middle School Athletics

In 7th grade Girls Basketball, our team finished with an impressive record of 14-3, securing a runner-up finish in the KMAC. The 8th grade Girls Basketball team also exhibited commendable performance, finishing in 3rd place with an overall record of 10-7.

The 7th Grade Boys Basketball team, despite facing tough competition, competed in every game, finishing the season around .500. While the 8th grade Boys Basketball team encountered challenges, but they were able to secure a victory this season.

Our Middle School Wrestlers displayed exceptional skill and dedication, with standout performances from Colten Fenner, who clinched the 110 lb. KMAC Championship. Additionally, four other wrestlers earned Runner-Up finishes, highlighting the upcoming talent within our program.

High School Athletics

Our High School Boys and Girls Bowling team had many new faces join the team this year, thus, they had an up and down season to finish with a record of 2-8 in conference play. Their overall record does not reflect the improvement and growth of many of the first year bowlers.

In High School Boys Basketball, our team wrapped up the season with a 6-17 record, securing 5th place in the KMAC. The Boys lost a thrilling Sectional game vs North Union to finish their season. On the other hand, the High School Girls Basketball team earned their second consecutive Sectional Title, finishing with a 13-12 overall record.

High School Swim had a successful season with five swimmers qualifying for the Districts, and showcasing their dedication in the pool.

Likewise, the High School Wrestling team had three qualifiers for Districts, showcasing their talent commitment on the mat despite having a small team.

As Athletic Director, I want to extend my congratulations to all our student-athletes, coaches, and supporters for their dedication and commitment throughout the Winter Sports season. Your hard work and sportsmanship continue to make Mount Gilead proud.

Let's continue to support and cheer on our athletes as many of our student-athletes will be participating in Spring Sports.

Mount Gilead MS/HS Spring Sports Schedules - 2024

Varsity Baseball			
3/15 5:00 PM	Colonel Crawford (Scrimmage)	4/12 5:00 PM	@ Wynford
3/18 5:00 PM	@ Northridge (Scrimmage)	4/13 11:00 AM	@ Triad (DH)
3/20 5:00 PM	@ North Union (Scrimmage)	4/15 5:15 PM	@ Fredericktown *
3/21 5:00 PM	Elgin (Scrimmage)	4/17 5:15 PM	Fredericktown*
3/23 11:00 AM	Madison Plains (DH)	4/19 5:15 PM	@ East Knox*
3/26 5:15 PM	@ Danville*	4/22 5:15 PM	East Knox*
3/28 5:15 PM	Danville*	4/24 5:15 PM	Cardington*
3/29 5:15 PM	Crestline	4/25 5:15 PM	@ Cardington*
3/30 11:00 AM	Utica (DH)	4/27 11:00 AM	@ Ridgemont (DH)
4/1 5:15 PM	@ Northmor*	4/30 5:15 PM	Shekinah Christian
4/3 5:15 PM	Northmor*	5/1 5:15 PM	@ Loudonville
4/4 5:15 PM	Lucas	5/3 5:00 PM	@ Plymouth
4/5 5:15 PM	Centerburg*	5/6 5:00 PM	@ Harding
4/9 5:15 PM	@ Centerburg*	5/7 5:15 PM	Granville Christian
4/11 5:00 PM	@ Ridgedale	5/10 5:00 PM	Northridge

Varsity Softball			
3/16 5:15 PM	@ Clear Fork (Scrimmage)	4/9 5:15 PM	@ Danville*
3/18 5:15 PM	Mansfield Christian (Scrimmage)	4/11 5:00 PM	@ Ridgedale
3/20 5:00 PM	@ Harding (Scrimmage)	4/12 5:30 PM	@ Shekinah Christian
3/25 5:00 PM	Northridge	4/13 11:00 AM	@ Triad (DH)
3/26 5:00 PM	Delaware Christian	4/15 5:15 PM	@ Fredericktown*
3/28 5:00 PM	@ Wynford	4/17 5:15 PM	Fredericktown*
3/29 5:15 PM	Crestline	4/24 5:15 PM	Cardington*
3/30 11:00 AM	Utica (DH)	4/25 5:15 PM	@ Cardington*
4/1 5:15 PM	@ Northmor*	4/27 11:00 AM	@ Ridgemont (DH)
4/3 5:15 PM	Northmor*	4/29 5:15 PM	Danville*
4/4 5:15 PM	Lucas	4/30 5:15 PM	Shekinah Christian
4/5 5:15 PM	Centerburg*	5/1 5:15 PM	@ Centerburg*
4/6 11:00 AM	@ Berne Union (DH)	5/3 5:00 PM	@ Plymouth

* Indicates League Play

In most instances, the JV team will play opposite of Varsity.
If Varsity is home, JV would be away and vice versa.

High School Track & Field			
3/23 10:00 AM	@ Col Crawford Invite	4/19 5:00 PM	@ Marysville Invite
3/30 9:30 AM	@ Bucyrus Invite	4/23 4:30 PM	MG Mix Gender Relay Senior Night
4/2 4:30 PM	@ Northmor & 3 others		
4/6 10:00 AM	@ Lexington Invite	4/26 3:30 PM	@ Mapleton
4/9 4:30 PM	@ Highland & 2 others	4/30 4:30 PM	@ Clear Fork & Galion
4/13 10:00 AM	@ Heath Invite	5/4 10:00 AM	MG Invite
4/16 4:30 PM	@ Fredericktown & 2 others	5/7 5:00 PM	KMAC Meet*



Middle School Track & Field			
3/27 - 4:30 PM	@ Northmor & 4 others	4/19 - 4:30 PM	@ Loudonville Invite
4/3 - 4:30 PM	MG Quad Meet	4/23 - 4:30 PM	MG Mix Gender Relay
4/6 - 10:00 AM	@ Triad Invite	4/25 - 4:30 PM	@ Fredericktown Relays
4/10 - 4:30 PM	@ Fredericktown & 3 others	4/27 - 9:30 AM	MG Invite
4/12 - 4:30 PM	@ Clear Fork Invite	5/3 - 5:00 PM	KMAC Meet*
4/17 - 4:30 PM	@ Northmor & 3 others		

MT GILEAD EV SCHOOLS

Park Avenue Elementary School

Ally Schleichert, Principal

335 Park Avenue | Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

Phone: (419) 946-5736

Mount Gilead Middle School

Clay Grube, Principal

Faye Ruhl, Athletic Director

324 Park Avenue | Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

Phone: (419) 947-9517

Mount Gilead High School

Debra Clauss, Principal

Jack Bault, Athletic Director

338 Park Avenue | Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

Phone: (419) 947-6065

Administration

Dr. Zack Howard, Superintendent

Tina Gabler, Treasurer

145 N. Cherry Street | Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

Phone: (419) 946-1646

Fax: (419) 946-3651

www.MGSchools.org

The Communicator

Mount Gilead Exempted Village Schools

145 N. Cherry Street

Mt. Gilead, Ohio 43338

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QUESTIONS? FEEDBACK?

Contact us at:

MGEV Schools

Attn: Communicator Editor

145 N. Cherry Street

Mt. Gilead, OH 43338

- or email -

info@mgschools.org

Important Upcoming Dates

MARCH

- 15 You're A Good Man Charlie Brown - 7 PM
- 16 You're A Good Man Charlie Brown - 7 PM
- 17 You're A Good Man Charlie Brown - 2:30 PM
- 19 American Red Cross Blood Drive
Jazz Band & Show Choir Concerts - 7 PM
- 22 End of 3rd Quarter
2-Hour Early Release (Teacher In-Service)
- 25-29 No School - Spring Break

APRIL

- 1 No School: Conference Compensation
- 8 No School: Eclipse/Teacher Work Day
- 12-17 Artapalooza @ MOESC
- 19 **2-Hour Early Release (Teacher In-Service)**
- 20 Prom

MAY

- 9 Finding Nemo Kids - 6 PM
- 14 American Red Cross Blood Drive
- 19 Middle School Band & Choir Concerts - 2PM
- 19 High School Band & Choir Concerts - 3:30 PM
- 22 Kindergarten Spring Concert - 6 PM
5th Grade Spring Concert - 7 PM
- 24 **2-Hour Early Release (Teacher In-Service)**
- 27 **No School: Memorial Day**
Mount Gilead Memorial Day Parade - 1PM
- 31 End of 4th Quarter/2nd Semester
- 31 **Last Day of Classes: 1-Hour Early Release**

JUNE

- 1 **Class of 2024 Graduation Ceremony - 4:30**

Do you think you received this newsletter by mistake? *The Communicator* is designed for all taxpayers who reside within the Mount Gilead (Ohio) Exempted Village Schools district. However, there are postal routes that wander outside of our district. Since bulk mail is the most cost effective way to send this newsletter, and since the entire postal route has to be included, we have chosen to include those outlying routes. We hope that you will enjoy *The Communicator* anyway. If not, please pass it on to someone who may enjoy it or place in a recycling bin.