Good News Bulletin
MAY 2024

MAY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

We are proud to announce The Students of the Month have been selected for May 2024. They are:

Freshman – Divya Das
Sophomore – Sumer Snyder
Junior – Sophia Melnick
Senior – Shuvee Khanal

The above students have met the following Criteria:
1. Must meet high academic standards in class.
2. Exhibit positive character and influence on class/school, dignity, respect, trustworthiness, responsibility, caring, and citizenship.
3. No unexcused lates of any kind for the month.
4. No discipline referrals in the last month.

Congratulations to all of you!

SOUTH ASIAN STUDENTASSOC.

On May 3rd, the South Asian Student Association hosted their first ever Reputasian showcase, featuring a skit based off of the hit Bollywood movie "Zindagi Na Milegi Dobara", emcees, along with several dance styles performed by SASA dance teams. The 7 dance teams were South Indian, Classical (Bharatnatyam&Kathak), Contemporary, Hip Hop, Bollywood, Garba/Raas, and Bhangra. It was a very successful show, with almost 800 people in attendance! A huge thank you to the advisors, board, choreographers, cast, and audience. We'll be back next year!

BAND ENSEMBLE

Congratulations to MTHS Percussionist Michael Preuster (Senior) who was awarded a scholarship from CJMEA (Central Jersey Music Educators Association). To be eligible for this scholarship, students must have auditioned successfully for a CJMEA Region Ensemble all of their years in High School. Michael was one of three recipients of this scholarship from all of Central NJ. Congratulations to Michael on his great accomplishment.

EntreX Lab Team PestPulse competed in the 2024 NASA Spring Innovation Sprint.

This water-themed innovation sprint called for students to develop a solution to a pressing problem using two NASA technologies. Team PestPulse developed an innovative pesticide-free solution to a serious problem of locust infestations using NASA's microwave technology originally developed to sanitize water in space. A single locust swarm can consume crops equivalent in size to a food supply for 35,000 people in one day, causing starvation and famine in developing regions. The conventional methods for addressing this problem are highly inefficient, lead to water pollution, and increase the presence of pesticides in our food supply.

Aditya Jain, Sarah Levy, Sapna Padmanabhan, and Sameer Batra of Team PestPulse wowed judges with the depth of their understanding of this grave but little-known problem and the comprehensive solution they developed.

Aditya, Sarah, Sapna, and Sameer are students in the EntreX Lab, an MTHS-University of Delaware dual-enrollment entrepreneurship class.



Photo left to right: Sarah Levy, Sapna Padmanabhan, Aditya Jain, and Sameer Patel

Guest Speaker: Philip Toussaint, founder of Ecopreneur

Philip Toussaint, the founder of Ecopreneur, met with entrepreneurship and marketing students. Mr. Toussaint discussed his entrepreneurial journey and shared his advice on building a personal brand.



Philip Toussaint speaking with MTHS entrepreneurship students

AP Macroeconomics Guest Speaker: Faizaan Ayub

Faizaan Ayub, MTHS Alumnus and Economics major at Boston University, visited Ms. Marina Vitalin's AP Macroeconomics classes. Faizaan presented his research on current topics in economics: **food deserts** (including one in Monroe Township!), **economic inequity in the cannabis industry**, and more. Faizaan was joined by MTHS alumna Ria Kakar who shared about her experience as a college freshman at NYU.



Photo: Faizaar Ayub, MTHS alum, presenting his research to Ms. Vitalin's AP Macroeconomics class

AP Macroeconomics Guest Speaker: Dr. Kyle Montanio

Dr. Kyle Montanio - Instructor at UC Denver and International College Beijing virtually met with Marina Vitalin's AP Macroeconomics classes and presented a lecture entitled **Viewing China Through an Economic Lens: How Power, Markets, and Policy Combine to Influence the World.** Dr. Montanio discussed China's political-economic evolution, China's Bridge and Road Initiative, debt-trap diplomacy, and more.

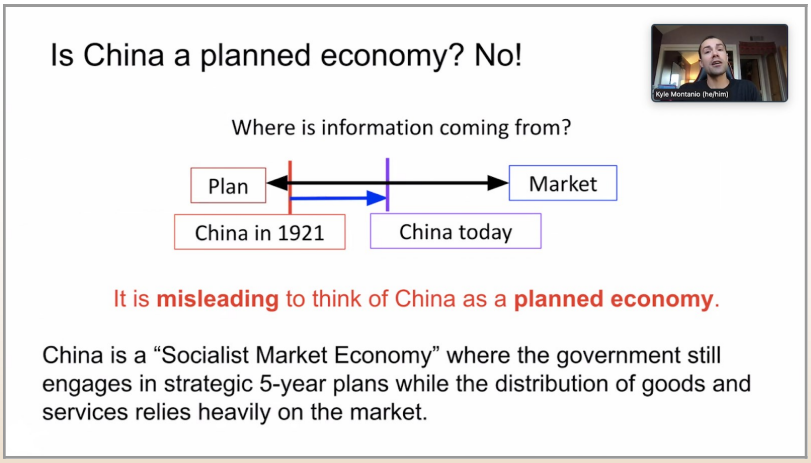


Image: Dr. Kyle Montanio presenting a lecture on China to Marina Vitalin's AP Macroeconomics students.

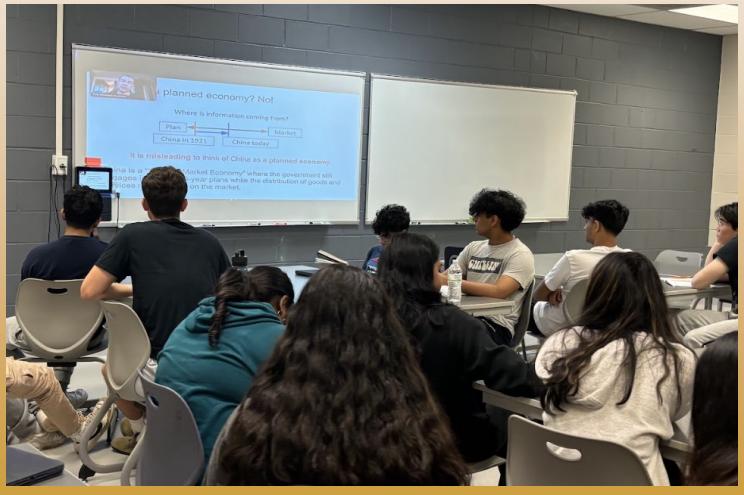


Photo: AP Macroeconomics students listening to Dr. Kyle Montanio's lecture on China.

The Entrepreneurship and Innovation Association held the Emerging Leader Award ceremony. **Aveeka Agrawal**, **Anna Citron**, **Ian Fernandes**, and **Simone Mehta** were honored for their outstanding leadership and service to the community and received scholarships generously provided by Adam Elias of **Eliaspresso**.



STEAM Tank Challenge Finalists - Team DeerDeter
May 31, 2024



Entrepreneurship & Innovation Association Team DeerDeter competed in the Final of the STEAM Tank Challenge. **Ishika Gandhi**, **Jiya Soni**, **Meghana Vellampalli**, and **Jannat Zaanoun** earned judges' praises for their innovative concept and great presentation. DeerDeter is a device designed to alert motorists to the presence of deer near the road and to deter deer from entering the roadway with oncoming vehicles.

YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

Academic Competition and Club Advisor Positions:

Youth and Government – Advisor, twentieth year in position

Club Highlights and Awards:

Youth and Government – Coached legislative delegates on writing bills they wished would become NJ state law and the proper parli-pro debate procedure, judicial delegates on writing and arguing legal briefs, coordinated Emergency Response Committee, Crisis Co-Op, press, and lobby corps, and cultivated writing, speaking, debate and leadership skills.

Youth and Government – Outstanding Delegation 2024

Youth and Government – State Program Officers 2024:

Lieutenant Governor – Anokhi Patel

Chief Justice – Raaghav Gupta

Governor's Cabinet: Health and Human Services – Aashika Chinthaparthi

Livingston Senate Chair – Zayn Jaber

Wilson Assembly Chair – Aishwarya Seshadri

Youth and Government – State Program Officers 2025:

Governor – Zayn Jaber

Livingston Assembly Chair – Samantha Mossa

Wilson Assembly Chair – Aryan Mathur

Youth and Government – Outstanding Lobbyist – Aishwarya Billakurthi

Youth and Government – Outstanding Courts Advocate – Saanvi Veerapaneni

Youth and Government – Outstanding Press Delegate – Tharika Madireddy

Youth and Government – Outstanding Written Legislation – Clara Koranteng, Shruthi Iyer, Siyona Patel

Youth and Government – Successful Legislation – Samantha Mossa

Youth and Government – Best Courts Brief – Ananya Haram, Saanvi Veerapaneni, Sai Saanvi Prathap

Youth and Government – Council on National Affairs Delegates, CONA (prestigious selection for the national conference) – Zayn Jaber, Aashika Chinthaparthi, Anokhi Patel, Aishwarya Seshadri, Raaghav Gupta; CONA Alternate – Aishwarya Billakurthi

Youth and Government – Crisis Co-Op – Team Finalist – Matthew Bassily

Youth and Government – Council on National Affairs Committee Member

The **Unified Track Team** participated in the NJSIAA Unified State Championship Track Meet in Franklin High School. The following students received medals in the following events.
Small School Division

Silver medal - 4X100 relay: **Matthew Attidore, Viktor Angelovski, Devin Makardajh,** and **Aarav Modi**

Silver medal – 100m: **Viktor Angelovski**

6th place – 100m: **Adrian Koubek**

6th place – shotput: **Akshay Nally**

Our Spring Sport honorees

Boys Volleyball – **Joel Abraham** – All-Division/All-Conference, **Guantham Kotha** – All-Division.

Boys Tennis – **Anish Korrapati** – All-Division, Team GMC Sportsmanship Award.

Softball – **Brielle Zarasky and Ava Kwitkowski** – All-Division.

Boys Lacrosse – **Jordan Lacerte, Sal Marchione and Joseph Conoscenti** – All-Conference. **Jake Evanchik, Aarav Monappa Nanaiah, and Nicholas Cicchetti** – All-Division.

Girls Lacrosse – **Julia Giaquinto, Rhya Saloom, and Nicole Turco** – All-Conference/All-Division. **Juliana Dowd** – All-Division.

Girls Track – **Keisha Gandhi, Kayla Intorcia, Denise Pena, and Ananya Raja** – All-Division

Boys Track – **Stephen Barbera, Matthew Lucas, Maan Patel, and Ayomikun Sagoe** – All-Division/All-Conference.

Golf – **Jack Manfre** – All-Conference/All-Division. **Krish Anand** – All-Conference.

Flag Football – **Evangelica Francisco, Avery Labaska, Isabella Sigman, and Nicole Turco** – All-Conference. **Esmarelda Castellanos-Jimenez** – Honorable Mention.

Baseball – **Zack Wallace** – All-Conference/Pitcher of the Year. **Harrison Lollin** – All-Division

AVID

On May 20th, most of the AVID 11 students of Mrs. MacKenzie, Mrs. Holmes, and Mr. Romano's classes visited Rutgers University and specifically toured both the College Ave. and Livingston campuses. It was a great opportunity for them to get a sense of a college that many of them will be applying to in the fall. As an added bonus, they were able to take a group photo outside of Jersey Mike's Arena, where their graduation will be held in June 2025!



CHORAL PROGRAM

- We had 11 students accepted into NJMEA All State choirs for next school year:
- **Treble Chorus:** Brinda Bhupatiraju, Ivanna Samuel, Saanvi Shringare, Gabrielle Siochi
- **Mixed Chorus:** Sehaj Chadha, Emily Cugini, Jacob Jarusiewicz, Saanvi Tatti, Shania Tiwari, Sarina Valentine, Vincent Wilson

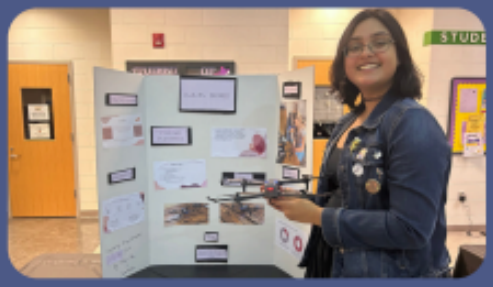
We had a terrific Spring Concert on May 22nd following by a wonderful showing by the MTHS Concert Choir and Treble Chorus at the NJ ACDA Choral Festival on May 23rd, where both groups earned OUTSTANDING rankings!

STEM NIGHT

2023-2024

PRESENTED BY THE MTHS ROBOTICS CLUB

STEM Night is an interactive event, in which event-goers get to experience various engineering and technical projects/presentations done by MTHS students. This year, PLTW engineering students, VEX Competition members, APCSP students, Code-Zero teachers, and various STEM-related clubs participated. This event has allowed a wide range of students to get involved with STEM, and other aspects of innovation.



MTHS Robotics Member and Engineering student Manvi Sinha presenting her D.A.M Drone.



A type of VEX robot that was demonstrated at STEM Night

During the event, students were permitted to roam the MTHS commons, and interact with students and their presentations. Many of these exhibits included demonstrations + fun ways for event attendees to engage themselves. These demonstrations were "hands on" and allowed for younger children and interested indiviuals to particpate in the STEM environemnt that is promoted at MTHS. The Monroe Township Robotics Team also demonstrated their various robots and experiences.

Throughout the evening, over 75+ attendees visted and interacted with the presentations and demonstrations hosted by the MTHS Robotics Club. This particular event provided a fun and informative way for students to get involved in the STEM landscape. As such, the overall event was recievied with an overwhelmingly positive response!



The HIGHLY popular presentation by the MTHS 3D Design Club

LIGHTS, CAMERA ACTION CLUB

Students in the Monroe Township High School Lights, Camera, Action Club won first place in the 24th Annual Middlesex County "Don't Drive Dangerously" PSA Contest. The contest was open to teens in all public and non-public Middlesex County High Schools and was created to highlight the dangers and consequences of driving while impaired or distracted. The students in the club produced a 60 second Public Service Announcement addressing the dangers of distracted driving. The animated PSA, titled "Mira Manny," was truly a team effort and featured a wide variety of student talents, including writing, animating, acting, and editing. The key message of the PSA is that something like distracted driving might be harmless for cartoon characters, but not for the rest of us – there is nothing more frightening than the reality of dangerous driving.



The winners were announced at Middlesex College at the May 23rd screening event and workshops, and the prize winnings will go toward Senior scholarship awards. The club, co-advised by Mr. Boris Hladek and Ms. Larissa Miller, also submitted an audio PSA and another video PSA. The event is co-sponsored by the Middlesex County Board of County Commissioners; the Middlesex County Superintendent of Schools; NJ Division of Highway Traffic Safety; Wellspring Center for Prevention; Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital; and MADD-NJ.

LIGHTS, CAMERA ACTION CLUB CONT'D

The following students worked on the winning production:

Iman Adam

Jason Albino

Jordy Castaneda-Dilone

Samuel Cordero-Arboleda

Celeste Cruz

Joshua Hernandez (12th Grade)

Alyson Simon

Sophia Verrios

The following students also submitted entries to the contest:

Rudra Alladi

Emily Cugini

Shuvee Khanal

Gavin Leung

Dennis Lewis

Olivia Lisi

Aidin Nikezi

Marcus Pena



Interesting fact:

MTHS video students have placed (1st, 2nd, or 3rd in audio and/or video) in 12 of the 14 years we've entered/ participated in this contest.

VIDEO PRODUCTION

We are proud to announce that a team of Video Production 3 students placed 2nd in the category Comedy at this year's New Jersey High School Film Challenge. We attended a day of media production workshops, followed by the awards ceremony at Jackson Liberty High School on Friday, May 17th. The students were thrilled of course, as were we, and the event as a whole was a great experience for everyone.

Team roster:

Jinan Bawa
Caleb Benjamin
Jackie Ceras
Louis Gumbs
Joshua Hernandez
Nico Iannacone
Daniel LoSacco
Jack Rooney
Nikita Yandapalli

We are very proud of all of our students and their accomplishments!