MUNSTER HIGH SCHOOL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Volume 2, Issue 4 August 2024

8088 Columbia Ave. | Munster, Indiana 46321 | http://alumni.munster.us/

ALUMNI & FACULTY HALL OF FAME Recognition Ceremony

Friday, August 30, 2024

3:30 Meet and Greet at 313 Taproom, 313 Ridge Road, Munster

5:30 p.m. Head to Booster Club Tailgate at North End Parking Lot of MHS

6:45 p.m. Tailgate Hurrah - start heading to the John Friend Athletic Complex to cheer on your Munster Mustangs take on the Griffith Panthers

Recently Munster High School announced the Class of 2024 Alumni/Faculty and Staff Hall of Fame. The Munster High School Alumni Association recognizes notable Alumni and Staff members who once walked the halls of Munster High School. We hope you will be able to make this year's induction ceremony on August 30, 2024 at MHS.

MHSAA HALL OF FAME CLASS OF 2024

Kevin Brent Smith 1982

Michael Mellon 1988

Aleksandra (Desancic) Dimitrijevic 1991

Ryan McMahen 2001

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Alumni Association Presents Scholarship to Two Seniors in 2024

The Munster High School Alumni Association is gearing back up! I was honored this past May 16 to present our two MHSAA scholarships at the MHS Academic Awards Night to graduating seniors, Ava Rozmanich (father David Rozmanich MHS '85); and Addison Dzurovcik (father Paul Dzurovcik MHS '81). Ava will be studying at Indiana University-Blooomington while Addison will be studying atPurdue University - West Lafayette.

This week August 30, 2024, will be the sixth MHS Hall of Fame honoring outstanding alumni and retired faculty/staff members.

I'm personally excited about this year's Hall of Fame since it will include one of my classmates, class of 1988 alumnus Michael Mellon, who headed up the Crier during his Senior Year. I invite you to join us at the annual Booster Club Tailgate outside of the cafeteria parking lot
(new Door Q) to honor the MHSAA inductees and their families and guests before the Munster Mustangs take on the Griffith Panthers at 7:00 p.m. across the street.

All of the inductees are listed in this newsletter and the MHS website under Alumni Association.

I encourage you to visit the alumni web page to stay up-to-date on MHS and alumni association activities. Please consider purchasing a personalized brick on the MHS Pathway to Excellence for yourself or to honor a friend or loved one.

Let's Roll Mustangs!
Amanda Hamilton Ponce de Leon
(MHS '88)
Munster High School Alumni Association

Academic Awards Night, May 16, 2024
MHS Alumni Association scholarship winners:
Ava Rozmanich and Addison Dzurovcik

MHSAA Board of Directors

Officers/Directors
Lisa Hurubean Wilson MHS '86
Amy Lennertz Van Pelt MHS '84
Kristen Hatton Reed MHS '93
Amanda Hamilton Ponce de Leon MHS '88
Lisa Hodges MHS '83
Hal Lusk MHS '83
Athena Svolos MHS '87

Superintendent Bret Heller
Assistant Superintendent: Steve Tripenfeldas

Editor Amanda Hamilton Ponce de Leon

MHS 1988 - ashamiltonlinke@gmail.com

Click here for alumni website
http://alumni.munster.us/

MHSAA is Seeking
Additional
Alumni Board Members
If you would like to serve, please contact us
webmaster@munster.us or
ashamiltonlinke@gmail.com

School Updates
Superintendent Heller keeps us informed about all the building updates with the **Monthly Mustang Express** and his **Superchat Podcast.**
Both can be accessed at

2024 MHS Alumni & Faculty Hall of Fame Inductees

Alumni

Ryan McMahen **2001** Drafted in 2nd round of MLS draft for KC Wizards

Aleksandra (Desancic) Dmitrijevic **1991** Appointed to Superior Court Bench in 2019 by Gov. Holcomb

Michael Mellon **1988** President and CEO American Community Bank; and AMB Financial; Vice Chairman of CFNI, holding group of Powers Health

Kevin Brent Smith **1982** Started Company Distilling in 2021

Mustang Boys Varsity Basketball 2023-24

Boys Basketball Graduated Seniors.

David Cundiff….Playing basketball at NAIA Spring Arbof University.

Nolan Kinsella…..Playing Soccer at Indiana University.

Jermaine Coney….Playing basketball Indiana University Northwest.

Ryan Giba….. Attending Purdue University.

Daniel Queroz…..Attending Purdue University.

Caden Atkins….Attending Purdue University.

Ethan Walker…..Attending Purdue University.

Carter Gates…..Attending Purdue Northwest.

Season record last year: 18-9.

Sectional Runner-up

Northwest Crossroads Conference Champions (6-0), 7 years in a row being undefeated NCC Champions.

MHS Tops in Speech and Debate

Munster High School's Speech and Debate team has achieved remarkable success, marking its 14th consecutive state championship win. With over 150 members, Munster continues to be one of the largest and most distinguished teams in the nation. The team was also honored with the National School of Excellence award, recognizing the top 20 teams across the United States, and has now secured its 10th national team title in the past twelve years. This season saw nine individual semi-finalists and a national champion at the national tournaments, underscoring their exceptional talent and dedication. Jordan Mayer, who has led the program as Director since 2010 and has been involved since his competitive days, continues to inspire the team. The invaluable contributions of volunteer coaches Helen Engstrom and Don Fortner, along with the ongoing involvement of Mary Yorke, have been crucial to the program's success. Helen Engstrom, Don Fortner, Jordan Mayer, and Mary Yorke all are members of the hall of fame. The Munster Speech and Debate team thrives due to strong alumni support, with former members Kathleen Boyle, Charlie Connell, Jessica Hilbrich, Jordan Mayer, and Andrew Phifer serving as dedicated coaches. Alums Kenneth O'Drobinak and Helena Jancosek had coached the team for several years. This tradition of multi-generational coaching strengthens the team's legacy and ensures its continued success. The team is planning the 56th annual chicken barbecue dinner set for **September 20 from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM.**

MUNSTER DANCE ENTERTAINS AND ENDS WITH SPECTACULAR SEASON IN 2023-24

The Munster Dance Team had an awesome 2023-2024 season! The Varsity team ended with a 3rd place finish in IHSDTA AAA Pom division and a 2nd place finish in AAA Jazz division. Our JV team finished with a 2nd place in Pom and a 3rd place in Jazz.

After State, the Varsity team took their annual trip to NDA Nationals in Orlando, FL, where they finaled in all three routines (Medium Pom, Medium Jazz and Medium Gameday), the highlight of their Nationals trip was placing 5th in the Pom category out of 36 teams and earning a "Pom Perfection award"

Another amazing accomplishment from our 2023-2024 season was Senior, Captain, Gaby Kajmaskoski placing 2nd in IHSDTA State for her Senior Solo and Junior Captain, Sam Bleza took home the State Champion Title in the Senior Solo category. Gaby and Sam soared over the competition by over 3 points ahead of the 3rd place dancers.

We are proud to share that Gaby Kajmakoski was recruited to dance at The University of Cincinnati on the competition team!

Elyse Skalka (MHS Class of 2006 - maiden name Van Camp), is the Head Coach for the Munster Dance Team and Katie Wiening (MHS Class of 2016) is the Assistant / JV Coach for the team.

Pathway to Excellence

Recently, our brick walkway, Pathway to Excellence, was installed at the front entrance to Munster High School.
We look forward to more individuals and organizations joining the pathway.

Click the link below to place an order for your brick on the Pathway to Excellence.

http://www.munster.us/mhs/Alumni/Pathway-to-Excellence