



# Good News Bulletin

## MARCH 2025

### MARCH STUDENTS OF THE MONTH:

We are proud to announce The Students of the Month have been selected for March 2025. They are:

**Freshman – Liana Sanchez**  
**Sophomore – Emma Profaci**  
**Junior – Rachel Fedak**  
**Senior – Luke Heizer**

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!

### **MARCHING BAND**

The MTHS Symphonic Band received a “Silver” rating, and the Wind Ensemble received a “Gold” rating at the CJMEA Concert Band Festival held on Thursday evening, March 20<sup>th</sup>. In addition, the Wind Ensemble has been selected for a third consecutive year to perform at the New Jersey State Band Gala to be held at the College of New Jersey in April.

The MTHS Honors Percussion Ensemble placed first in both prelims and finals at the WGI Power East Regional held at Toms River High School North on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>. This is the third consecutive East Regional Championship for Monroe Township HS.

## ART

It is with much pride that Mrs. Naumik, Mr. Virelles, Mrs. Hawxhurst, and Miss Casella exhibited 40 student works of Art at the 2025 Middlesex County Teen Arts Festival , March 12<sup>th</sup> on the Middlesex County College Campus. Student works from 19 districts were all adjudicated in Seven Categories both verbally and in writing.

The two pieces of MTHS student work that were selected to go on to represent us at the State Level in June are:



LICHEN CREEK - an 18" tall Glazed Vessel by  
10<sup>th</sup> grader Avani Gambhirwala  
from Mrs. Naumik's Ceramics & Sculpture I Class.



DRIPPING IN DOTS - an 18 X 24" Black pen  
Stippled Self Portrait by 12<sup>th</sup> grader Charvika Gopi  
from Mrs. Naumik's AP Studio Class

We are proud of all our students' efforts in their expressive and personalized approaches to ideas and subject matter. All their works exhibited were unique in interpretations and demonstrated their abilities to make thoughtful and informed decisions.

## GIRL UP

On March 18th, Girl Up Monroe executive board along with their advisor, Ms. Beachum, traveled to NJ RISE in Hightstown N.J. to deliver products collected during their 4th Annual Feminine Hygiene Drive. GIRL UP also hosted a bake sale at MTHS and allocated 100% of the proceeds to purchase additional hygiene products. During the visit to RISE, two hours were spent sorting and packaging over 100 bags scheduled for distribution to families within the community. In May, GIRL UP will host their 4th Annual WAVS (Women Against Violence Seminar) event.



## ONE BOOK READ

The MTHS Media Center held their annual One Book Read Event on March 13. After polling the students, this year's selection was *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Approximately 100 students and staff gathered after school to participate in activities based on the novel. Students rotated through four different stations: Fan Art, Discussion Questions, Parallel Life, and Grub & Gab. Special thanks to Ms. DeMarco and the National English Honor Society for volunteering to lead the stations. And thank you to dining services for providing the after-school treats.



## MTHS MUSIC

Congratulations to **Edward Tsistinas (11)**, **Manvith Thavutam (10)**, and **Jaskaran Kaler (9)** for their acceptance and performance in the NJAJE Region II Jazz Ensembles!

Congratulations to the MTHS Band and Choir programs on a successful trip to Honolulu, Hawaii at the end of March! Students performed in the National Vietnam Veterans Day Parade on March 29<sup>th</sup> to honor the sacrifice and service of our veterans. In addition, the students learned about the history of Hawaii on an island tour, learned about many cultures at the Polynesian Cultural Center, and visited the USS Missouri and USS Arizona Memorial at Pearl Harbor.



### Lockheed Martin Code Quest Competition



Students participated in Lockheed Martin's Code Quest Competition which took place at Moosetown, NJ on March 1<sup>st</sup>. This challenge involved 2 ½ hours for competitors to race to rack up as many points as possible. We were privileged to be able to take 4 teams to the competition from Mrs. Vanitha Gaurishanker's AP Computer Science Principles Classes .



About twenty schools competed, and the two teams from Monroe finished in second and third place.

The second-place team was **Quantum Queens** which consisted of Jia Shibi, Adithri Manda, and Vyahriti Vootla.

The third-place team was **Binary Bros**, consisting of Nitish Sunku, Gokul Krishnaswamy, and Vivek Suryanarayanan.



The competition problems were Lockheed Martin professionals to After the competition time opportunity to hear about by the professionals there while overall opened the students to a engineering & computer science.



questions drafted by real simulate their daily challenges. finished, students had an different career choices presented eating lunch. The experience new opportunity in the realm of

**Names of Students (Lto R):** Skanda Bharath Kumar, Sai Abhiram Pulluri, Vivek Suryanarayanan, Nitish Sunku, Gokul Krishnaswamy (not in picture), Vyahriti Vootla, Adithri Manda, Jia Shibi, Sudiksha Prassanna Kumar, Charmi Patel, Shruthi Byrapu

**At the event, Mrs. Gaurishanker was able to invite 2 Lockheed Martin employees to visit our high school to be a panelist at the Work Based Learning (WBL) Career event on March 26, 2025**

### Lockheed Martin Cyber Quest Competition



Students participated in Lockheed Martin's CYBER Quest Competition on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

This challenge involved 3 hours for competitors to race and rack up as many points as possible. They participated in a variety of questions having to do with cyber security.

We were able to take 4 teams to the competition from Mrs. Vanitha Gaurishanker's AP CSP Classes.

The questions ranged from trivia questions to real applications of cyber security. An intriguing part is they had a section dedicated to AI and determined which picture was AI

generated. This goes to show the modern day application of cybersecurity even as AI emerges. While we didn't have anyone place in the competition, it educated us on how cybersecurity works.

## MTHS Honors STEM and Business Academy Workshops

On Tuesday, March 25, 2025, the MTHS Honors STEM and Business Academy teachers hosted their second Honors Academy Workshop of the 2024-2025 school year.

Honors Academy students from the Biomedical, Business Management, IT/Computer Science, Engineering, and Economics/Finance strands engaged in team-building activities, conflict resolution simulations, and mentorship discussions.

As of March 2025, the Honors Academy, which officially started in 2019 with 11 students, is comprised of over one hundred members, including 39 Biomedical, 5 Business Management, 9 Economics/Finance, 14 Engineering, and 50 IT/Computer Science students.

The first Honors Academy Workshop was held on Thursday, November 21, 2024, and was designed to create Mentor Squads of heterogeneous students. Activities included how to craft professional digital portfolios, set SMART goals, and build industry connections. Honors Academy juniors and seniors paired with underclassmen to showcase curated artifacts from a variety of home and school endeavors such as lab reports, research projects, resumes, career research, and extracurricular involvement.

At both spring and fall workshops, the Honors Academy Leadership Council, including MTHS Class of 2025 seniors Kavya Barathy, Shawn D'mello, Davina Gerald Raj, Sriram Kaluri, Anurag Kolla, Iniya Natarajan, Aya Phadnis, Safwan Sain, Nishmitha Thambi, and Shania Tiwari, honed their own leadership skills by facilitating some of the workshop events, such as SMART goal check-ins, networking icebreakers, and digital portfolio presentation modeling.

Together, these workshops aim to prepare Honors Academy students in Grades 9-12 for academic and career success by developing essential partnerships and professional skills.

For more information about the MTHS Honors Academy and other programs, please visit the Program of Studies at <https://sites.google.com/monroe.k12.nj.us/mths-2024-2025-pos/home>



Charmi Patel, Iniya Natarajan, Nisarg Parekh, Ajay Gnanaraj, and Shikhar Sharma



Akilan Prabhu, Ayan Phadnis, Sahana Phadnis, Abhishek Anand, and Rishaan Trivedi

## MTHS NEHS Visits Monroe Twp. Elementary Schools for Read Across America Week



Pictured above: Aanya Rana, Anurag Kolla, Param Ghetia, Rithika Penumada, Dhruvi Desai, Aarya Raval, Janaat Zanoun, Kathrine Natesan, Pooja Shukla, Aarya Bandekar, Zayn Jaber, Shaily Patel, Aria Shah, and Radhika Sharma



On Monday, March 3, 2025, the MTHS National English Honor Society visited Barclay Brook and Brookside Elementary Schools to participate in the national Read Across America program in celebration of the literary impact of Dr. Seuss.

Fifteen NEHS seniors from the MTHS Class of 2025 shared their love of literature by reading to students in over 40 classrooms ranging from kindergarten to fifth grade.

MTHS NEHS is pleased to maintain this joyful tradition, and this year the enthusiasm was no different. Elementary students were thrilled to welcome the visiting high schoolers, and the colorful classrooms and festive hallways decked out in red, white, and turquoise created a warm, inviting atmosphere.

## **NATIONAL ENGLISH HONOR SOCIETY CONT'D**

MTHS NEHS is truly grateful for the chance to share their passion for literature with such an eager and excited audience who were also well behaved.

Centered around the legacy of Dr. Seuss, whose whimsical stories have inspired generations of readers, the Read Across America program encourages a love for literature through fun, imaginative storytelling. The reading initiative received very positive feedback from librarians, teachers, and volunteers, all of whom cited the enthusiasm and engagement of the high school readers as the biggest contributing factor of their classes' enjoyment.

Connecting elementary and high school students in this cooperative literary tradition fosters lasting benefits for the Monroe Township School District, such as literacy and community connection. Younger students gain positive role models and develop a deeper love for reading through engaging, peer-led experiences, while high schoolers build confidence, leadership skills, and a sense of purpose. This cross-age/school collaboration will hopefully continue to strengthen the bond between schools and cultivate lifelong readers and learners at every level.

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

