# The Mustang Messenger

January 16, 2026 Volume 22 Mill Creek News

## Coming Events

January
17 - Home Sci Oly Tournament
19 - No School
20 - STUCO Mtg 7:20 am
BBB vs Warren
21 - Dodgeball Packets Available
KVL Spelling Bee
22 - HS Enrollment Presentations
BBB vs Wheatridge
24/26 - BBB in Topeka
27 - BBB vs Trail Ridge
28 - DHS Freshman Night
29 - BBB vs Lansing

### Reminders

Doors Open at 7:30 am.

School Hours 7:50 - 3:00 pm

If you need to get a message to your child, please call the office **913.667.3512**

### Important Links

Report An Absence
Mill Creek Website
Contact Us!
Lunch Menu

***Home Of The Mustangs***

**Check Us Out on Social Media!**

@TheCreekMCMS

@mcms_principal

If you need to pick up your child for an appointment, please be sure to plan ahead and arrive 5-10 minutes early.
Lockers take extra time!

## *This Is Your LAST CHANCE*




If you did not get the chance to purchase a **yearbook** through the Skyward Q portal, please visit https://yearbookordercenter.com today!! Search for Mill Creek Middle School, or use the school order number 12754. Time is running out!!

Orders should be placed now, so that you don't miss out on a 2026 Mustang Memories book!

## Reminders

- **Always check the website if you have questions**
- **You must show your drivers license to enter the school**
- **If your child is sick, please keep them home. We are seeing a large influx of respiratory illnesses and flu at this time.**

Jazz Band performs at home MCMS Boys Basketball game January 29!

# *Happenings...*

## Let Us Know When Your Child Is Gone

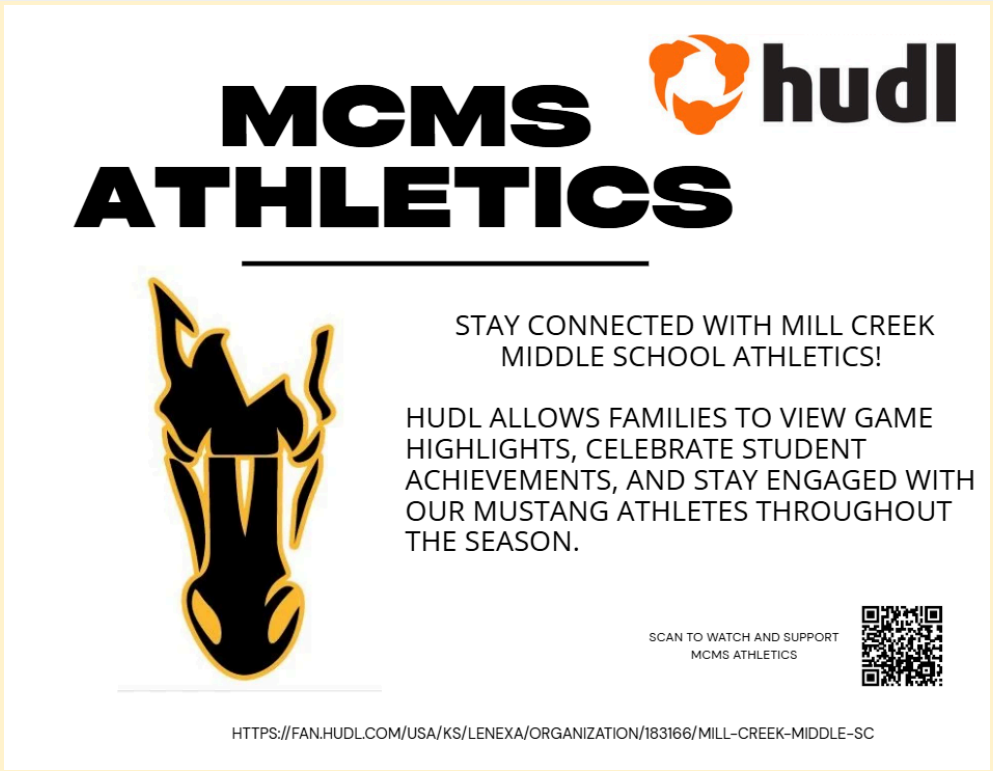



**There are now 3 ways you can notify us if your child will be gone!**
**1. Call the school and leave a message on our absence line.**
**2. Fill out the form found on our webpage**
**3. Enter the absence in Skyward yourself!**

# *Athletics/Activities*

Practice and competition calendars have been updated on the website for all fall sports.

- Look below for info on our new LIVESTREAM!!
- The musical cast and crew are busy at work preparing for their spring production!
  Sci Oly Home Tournament Saturday @ MCMS
  Robotics @ Belton HS on Saturday
  BBB Games Tuesday & Thursday

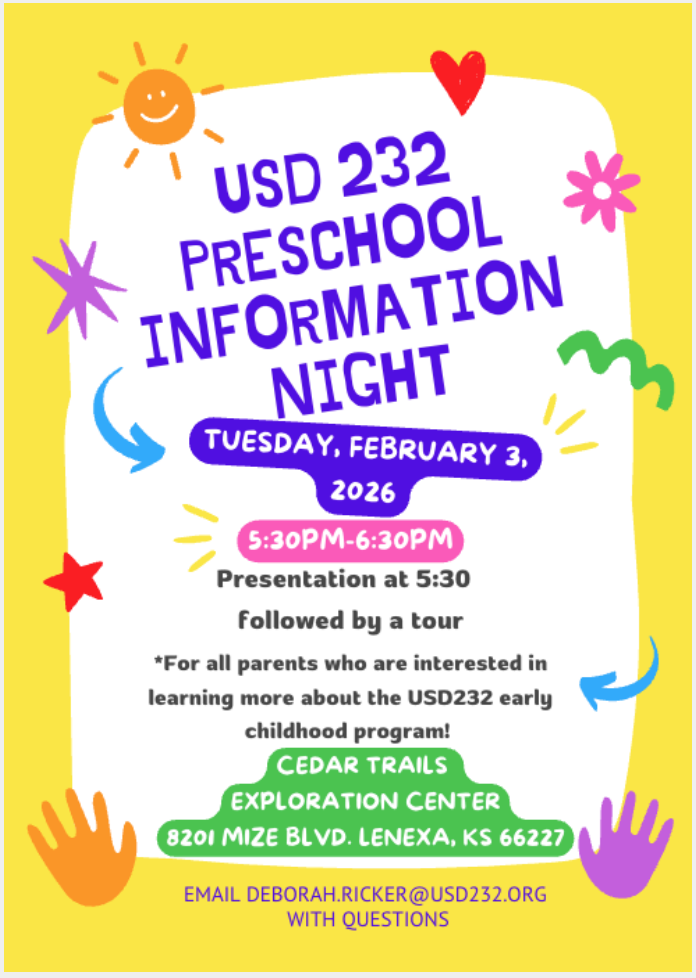





**Expanding Opportunity!**

As part of our long-range facilities planning to address the evolving needs of our students and community, registered voters residing within USD 232 will have the opportunity to consider a **no tax rate increase** bond proposal by mail ballot election on March 3, 2026. If approved, the 2026 bond will allow USD 232 to **enhance safety**, **expand opportunities**, and **improve facilities** across the entirety of the district.

Learn more about the no tax rate increase bond: ***usd232.org/bond2026***









**De Soto Unified School District 232**
**Mill Creek Middle School**
**8001 Mize Blvd.**
**Lenexa, Kansas 66227**

**Phone: (913) 667-3512**
**Fax: (913) 422-9229**
**Web: www.usd232.org/mcms**

Mrs. Denise Legore Seawood
Principal

Mr. Kerry Wixon
Associate Principal

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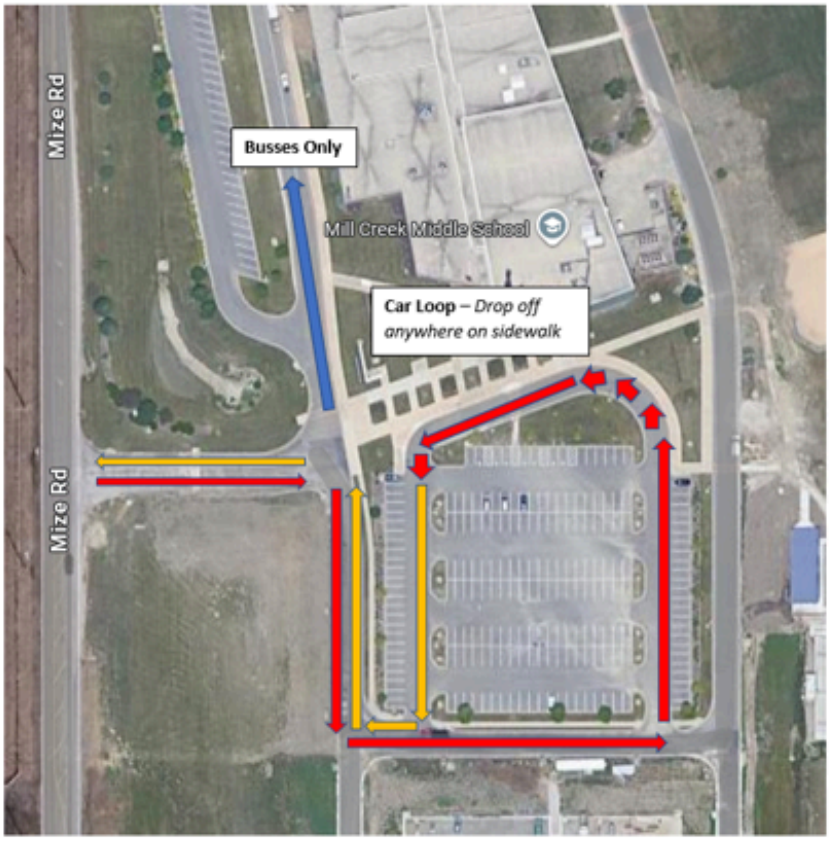
**Dear Parents of Car Riders,**

**For the safety of all students, we are asking that you follow the procedures when dropping off and picking up your student/s from Mill Creek Middle School.**

**Dropping Off: Please follow the route on the map. If you are in front, please pull up as far as you can to drop off. Once your student has exited your vehicle, please exit the loop as shown on the map. If you plan to park and come in with your child, please park in the parking lot and walk across the painted crosswalk.**

**Picking Up: Please follow the route on the map. If you are in front, please pull up as far as you can to. Please continue to pull forward and your child will walk to your car. This helps to keep the line moving.**

**To protect our students from an accident occurring, we will require students and parents to follow the parking lot procedures. We would also ask that you not use your cell phone while in our car loop.**







*Enter to Learn. Go Forth to Serve.*

# Kansas Horizon Nominations

**It is the time of year to honor and recognize exemplary first-year teachers who perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. These teachers will finish their first year of teaching in May of 2026.**

This fall the Kansas State Department of Education will allow the De Soto School District to nominate one Elementary and one Secondary teacher for the **Horizon Award**. The **Horizon Award** honors and recognizes exemplary teachers who will **complete their first year this May.** These spectacular teachers perform in a way that distinguishes them as outstanding. All of our 2025-2026 certified teachers who were new last August to the profession are eligible for this honor. Below you will find the guidelines from KSDE for nominating a teacher:

Novice teachers who will have successfully completed their first year of teaching are eligible to be recognized. A teacher (Pre-K through grade 12) who successfully completes his/her first year of teaching by May 2026 is eligible. The **Kansas Horizon Award Program** is a regional competition. The regions correspond to the state's four U.S. congressional districts.

The Kansas State Department of Education will appoint regional selection committees responsible for reviewing the nomination forms and selecting four elementary classroom teachers and four secondary classroom teachers per region for a total of 32 teachers.

**The criteria for this award are:**

-Nominee will have successfully completed his or her first year of teaching in a pre-kindergarten through grade 12 Kansas school accredited by the State Board of Education.

-Nominee will be a full-time teacher.

-Nominee will be responsible for the assessment of students, assignment of grades, preparation of lesson plans, parent-teacher conferences, discipline, attendance, and other daily educational tasks.

-Nominee will have performed in a way that distinguishes him or her from other novice teachers. Nominee is considered to be exceptionally skilled, dedicated and able to inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities.

Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher who will complete their first year this year. If you would like to nominate a first year teacher, go to https://www.usd232.org/departments/academics/kansas-horizon-award and fill out the Horizon Award nomination form.

**The deadline for nominating a first year teacher is noon on Wednesday, February 18.**

**Remember: eligible nominees must be NEW FULL-TIME TEACHERS THIS YEAR.**

HORIZON

KANSAS HORIZON AWARD PROGRAM

Looking Ahead:

# MCMS TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

## January

**16-** Voluntary transfer application window closes
**22-**HS counselors will visit MC to review general high school information and provide next steps in the course selection process
**28-DHS Incoming Freshmen Night @ DHS**

## February

**2- MVHS Incoming Freshmen Night @ MV**
**18- Course Selection Forms DUE!**
These will be submitted electronically

## August

Back-to-school nights to walk through student schedules/visit locker.

**More Information**

**MVHS** **DHS**

# Future Wildcat Night

**Wednesday January 28**

6:30-7:45 P.M.

**De Soto High School**

35000 W. 91st Street
De Soto, KS 66018

**We will begin in the DHS main gym. Please enter through the activities, attendance, or main entrances.**

**Learn About:**

- Graduation Requirements
- Academic Programming
- The DHS Experience
- Athletic & Activity Involvement

## Welcome Class Of 2030!

This event is designed to help students feel informed, prepared, and excited as they plan for their high school experience.

913-667-6250

https://dhs.usd232.org/

## Mill Valley High School

# Incoming Freshman Night

**Monday,**
**February 2, 2026**
**5:30 -7:30**

### Mill Valley High School

5900 Monticello Rd
Shawnee, KS 66226
*Come in main entrance at the back of the school.

### 5:30 PM-6:15PM

**Elective Open House**

- Come see the elective classes that are available to your students and meet the teachers.

### 6:15 PM -7: 15 PM

**MVHS Presentation**

- Including information on:
- Honors/AP classes
- Course Selection
- Day in the Life of a Jaguar
- High School 101

### Questions?

Contact Megan Mixon at mmixon@usd232.org

January 2026

# Nursing News: NATALIE, ERIKA, & ANNA

## Health is your best defense – guard it!

## GI ILLNESS IS ON THE RISE

**Wash hands!**
**If vomiting or diarrhea, stay home until 24 hrs symptom free**

## Wellness First, Worry less!

🧼 1. **Wash Your Hands** – A Lot!
🤧 2. **Keep Hands Away from Your Face**
💧 3. **Stay Hydrated & Eat Healthy**
😴 4. **Get Plenty of Sleep-**Aim for 8–10 hours of sleep each night. Your body needs rest to stay strong and fight off illness.
🤒 5. **Stay Home If You're Sick**-If you're feeling sick, tell an adult and stay home to rest and keep others from getting sick too.



## REASONS TO STAY HOME

**Fevers 100.0 or Higher, Diarrhea, Vomiting**

Please keep your child home if they have **NOT been fever-free for a full 24 hours total without the aide of fever-reducing medication.**

**NO OTC ALLEY OR COLD MEDS AVAILABLE AT SCHOOL**

**Flu/Covid Return to school when <u>BOTH</u> are true: 24 hrs fever free without medication <u>AND</u> generally feeling better.**

To reach both nurses use email

**MCMSNurses@usd232.org**