# The Mustang Messenger

January 23, 2026 Volume 23 Mill Creek News

## Coming Events

January
24 - John Philips Sousa/Lawrence
24/26 - BBB in Topeka
27 - BBB vs Trail Ridge
28 - DHS Freshman Night
29 - BBB vs Lansing
31 - BBB B Team Tournament
February
2 - 6 Counselor Apprec. Week!
2 - MVHS Freshman Night
3 - BBB vs LTMS

### 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!

## Parent Teacher Conferences

**MILL CREEK MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT / TEACHER CONFERENCES**

| | |
|---|---|
| February 11, 2026 | 3:30 PM TO 7:30 PM |
| February 12, 2026 | 4:00 PM TO 8:00 PM |

Conferences are held in the Gym and Commons
Gym: 6th & 7th grades
Commons: 8th gr. & Explo

Schedule for each day:

**Wednesday, February 11th**
3:30 to 7:30 pm Walk in conferences

**Thursday, February 12th**
9:30 am to 11:55 am - Teacher Scheduled Conferences
12:00 pm-12:40 pm - Lunch break for staff
12:45 pm-3:15 pm – Teacher Scheduled Conferences
3:15 pm – 4:00 pm - Dinner break for staff
4:00 pm-8:00 pm - Walk in Conferences

Parents are welcome to come during any of the "Walk in" times that work for your schedule. "Walk in" conferences require no appointments and parents may come anytime during the designated conference time frame. Thursday "Scheduled Conferences" are by appointment only.

**Friday, February 13th and Monday, February 16th**
NO SCHOOL

Thank you for partnering with us to make 2025-2026 a successful school year!

## Reminders

- **Always check the website if you have questions**
- **You must show your drivers license to enter the school**

# *Happenings...*

## Let Us Know When Your Child Is Gone

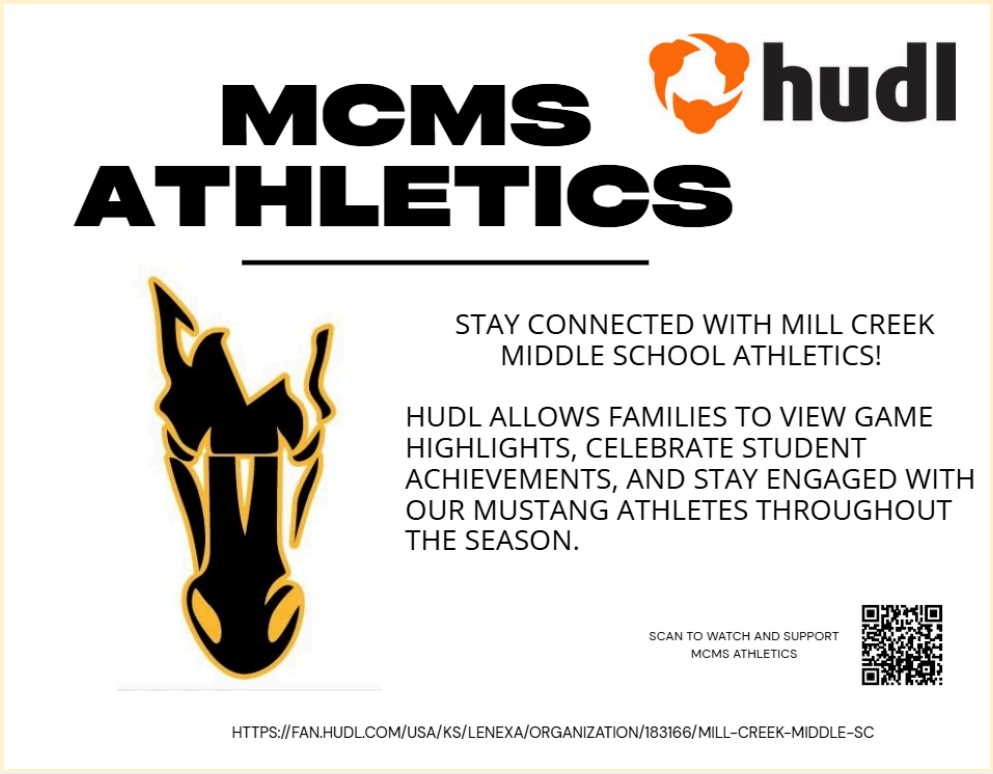



**There are now 3 ways you can notify us if your child will be gone!**
**1. Call the school and leave a message on our absence line.**
**2. Fill out the form found on our webpage**
**3. Enter the absence in Skyward yourself!**

# *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!
  BBB Games Saturday/Monday A Tournament, Tuesday & Thursday




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




**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***

## Voter Registration Deadline

If you are not registered to vote in the upcoming Bond 2026 mail ballot election, the last day to register is **February 10**. Learn more and register at ***jocoelection.org***









Click Here




***There is an informational letter for FastBridge reports attached to this email.***



# 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

# 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