



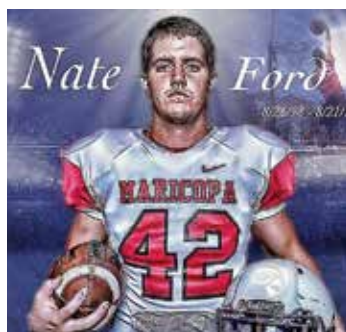
# MUSD NEWS

## MHS football player Nate Ford honored at first game

On Aug. 21, MHS football player Nate Ford, age 16, was killed in an auto accident on State Route 347.

Nate was a home school student and was a member of the Maricopa High School football and baseball teams, where he was a linebacker on the football team and a catcher on the baseball team. Nate was highly respected by staff and students at Maricopa High School.

The MHS Rams had their first football game at home on Aug. 28 and the coaching staff and players did several things to honor Nate's memory. The team ran onto the field through a banner that read "State for



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*Nate Ford, who played football and baseball at Maricopa High School, was just days away from his 17th birthday when he died Aug. 21.*

Nate," carrying a red and black flag with the number 42, which was Nate's football jersey number.

Nate was named the team's

fourth co-captain for the game. Doug Ford, his father, wore Nate's jersey and stood with other Ram co-captains during the pre-game ceremonies. Prior to the game, the crowd was asked to recognize a moment of silence for Nate.

Prior to the opening kickoff, Head Coach Chris McDonald decided the Rams would line up with one less player in memory of Nate. Agua Fria returned the opening kickoff back for a touchdown.

"It didn't quite turn out the way I wanted with giving up a touchdown," stated McDonald, "but I'd do it again." The Rams went on to win the game 53-46 in honor of their friend and teammate Nate Ford. ■

## MHS Homecoming Week – October 19-24

Maricopa High School will be celebrating its 60th anniversary during this year's Homecoming festivities. A freshman class started MHS in 1955 and graduated as the first class in 1959. Members of the 2015 Homecoming Committee plan to make this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary part of this year's Homecoming celebration.

The committee has asked Mayor Christian Price to proclaim "Paint the Town Red Week" during the week of Oct. 19-24 in honor of Homecoming. Other activities will include spirit week at all nine MUSD schools, asking local businesses to decorate their stores in red and black to celebrate Homecoming, and a Homecoming Festival in place of a parade.



The tentative plan is for the Homecoming Festival to include an alumni football game and a bonfire. The tentative time and date for the festival is Oct. 21, around 5 p.m. The location of the festival is yet to be determined.

The homecoming football game will be on Oct. 23 against Vista Grande High School, beginning at 7 p.m. at Ram Stadium. ■



The mission of the Maricopa Unified School District is to ensure all students achieve excellence by preparing them to be lifelong learners and responsible citizens who value innovation and global diversity.



CREDIT

## MUSD Governing Board Recognized at D-Backs Game

The Sept. 11 baseball game between the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Los Angeles Dodgers was also Arizona School Board Appreciation Night. Prior to the start of the game, the Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board was recognized as the recipient of the Arizona School

Board Association 2015 Lou Ella Kleinz Award of Excellence (Governing Board of the Year). 2014-15 Governing Board members are pictured left to right: Torri Anderson, Leslie Carlyle-Burnett, Scott Bartle, Patti Coutre', and AnnaMarie Knorr. Congratulations to the Governing Board! ■

# Central Arizona College offers free early college program

The Central Arizona College (CAC) Early College program provides an opportunity for Pinal County high school students who have completed their sophomore year, to take up to 5 college credit hours during CAC's fall and spring sessions for free.

The program provides high school students an opportunity to get an early start into college by taking courses while still enrolled in high school. Students accepted into the Early College program receive a tuition waiver from CAC. The tuition waiver covers regular in-state tuition and fees. Students are responsible for the purchase of textbooks and class materials and are responsible for their own transportation to and from campus.

## Who can participate in the Early College Program?

To be eligible for Early College, students must be:

- A Pinal County resident
- A current Pinal County student who has completed their sophomore or junior year of high school
- Students must receive authorization from their high school guidance counselor

- Students must receive authorization from their parent or legal guardian

## What are the requirements to be in the Early College program?

- Meet all eligibility criteria listed above
- Maintain a college grade point average of 2.5
- Enroll and complete the CPD101 class in their first semester
- Meet each semester with an Academic Advisor
- Register for and attend a CAC Orientation

## When are classes offered?

CAC offers classes throughout the fall and spring semesters. The Fall 2015 Semester is now closed, but the Spring 2016 Semester begins Jan. 19, 2016.

## How do I get started?

- Complete an Early College Application Form (available from a MHS counselor)
- Complete the college placement test in reading, writing, and math.
- Meet with an Academic Advisor to review scores and select courses.
- Enroll in CPD101
- Students must submit an Early College Application to the Records and Registration Office
- Register for and attend a CAC Orientation

## What else should students know about the Early College program?

Early College students are members of the CAC student body and are expected to adhere to the college rules, regulations, and the Student Code of Conduct. For more information about the Early College Program please contact Luis Sanchez at [earlycollege@centralaz.edu](mailto:earlycollege@centralaz.edu) ■

# Progress continues on MUSD Strategic Plan

In September 2013, the MUSD Governing Board approved a new Strategic Plan, which included a revised vision statement, revised belief statements, and ambitious goals to be accomplished over the next three years.

The purpose of the plan is to provide a "road map" for the school district, particularly in the area of improving student achievement.

The four goals for the district are:

1. Improve student learning and become an "A" rated school district;
2. Increase and expand innovative learning opportunities for students;



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*MUSD completed 54 action plans during the last school year to meet the goals of the Strategic Plan.*

3. Recruit, train and retain a high quality staff; and
4. Improve instructional technology.

Fifty-four action plans were completed during the 2014-15 school year to make progress

on these four goals. A complete copy of the plan can be found on the MUSD homepage at [www.maricopausd.org](http://www.maricopausd.org) under the "District" tab at the top of the page.

# 2015 ACT scores for Maricopa High School college-bound students

Students who are considering enrollment in higher education after high school take the ACT test as it is required by many colleges and universities as part of the admissions process. The ACT includes sub-tests in English, math, reading and science.

The ACT is designed to measure the skills needed for success in first year college courses.

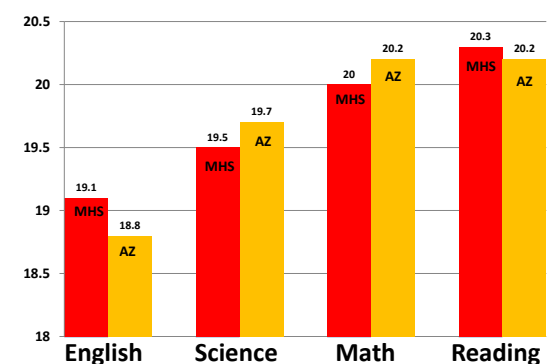
Recently the 2015 scores for Maricopa High School were released. Eighty-eight MHS juniors and seniors took the ACT test, which was the second largest number of MHS students taking this test (107 MHS juniors and seniors took the 2014 test). In 2010 only 27 MHS students took the ACT test.

MHS students scored above the state average in English and reading, and slightly below the state average in math and science.

"We are pleased that our students outperform Arizona students in English and reading," stated MHS principal Renita Myers, "Our goal is have our students perform above the state average in all four subjects in the near future as we pursue our goal of becoming an "A-rated" school"

The staff at MHS is working hard to help students

## 2015 MHS ACT Scores



plan for their future as part of the college and career preparatory focus of the school. All ninth grade students take a "Freshman Seminar" class where they develop a four-year plan for high school, and a post-high school plan. The official name of this plan is the "Education Career Action Plan" (ECAP) and it is a requirement for graduation. It is exciting to see that more MHS students are considering college as shown in the increase in the number of students taking the test. ■



## National Honor Society Hosts Red Cross Blood Drive

The Maricopa High School National Honor Society (NHS) hosted a Red Cross blood drive on Thursday, Sept. 3, where 29 units of blood were donated. Since 2013 the MHS NHS has hosted eight blood drives collecting 316 units of blood. NHS advisor Katherine Persitz stated: "I am so proud of our students for having such wonderful and giving hearts. I hope this trend continues for many years to come!" ■



MERRY GRACE



Aaron Owens (left) and Isaiah Pedro have been key players for the Rams.

WILLIAM LANGE/INAMRICO.COM

## Directory Information

Like almost every school district in the State of Arizona, the Maricopa Unified School District designates the following personally identifiable information contained in a student's education records as "directory information" and may disclose that information without prior written consent for a non-commercial purpose:

- 1) student's name;
- 2) student's address;
- 3) student's telephone;
- 4) student's date and place of birth;
- 5) student's electronic mail address;
- 6) student's photograph;
- 7) student's grade level;
- 8) student's dates of attendance;
- 9) student's enrollment status (full or part time);
- 10) student's participation in officially recognized activities and sports;
- 11) student's weight and height if a member of an athletic team;
- 12) student's honors and awards received;
- 13) student's most recently attended school.

If parents/guardians do not agree to permit MUSD to release any or all of these items notice must be sent in writing to the MUSD superintendent's office. If parents/guardians wish to send an email, that should be sent to the superintendent's secretary, Michelle Garcia, at [mgarcia@musd20.org](mailto:mgarcia@musd20.org).

If parents/guardians prefer to send a letter, it can be sent to: Michelle Garcia, Maricopa Unified School District, 44150 W. Maricopa-Casa Grande Highway, Maricopa, AZ 85138. This annual written notice must be received by Nov. 2, 2015. ■

# MHS Football Team Ranked Ninth in State

The The Maricopa High School Rams football team, led by Head Coach Chris McDonald, opened the season against Agua Fria High School on August 28th, resulting in a 53-46 victory for the Rams. Senior quarterback Aaron Owens completed 18 of 26 passes for 136 yards and one touchdown. Senior wide receiver Johnny Johnson finished with 287 receiving yards and three touchdowns while junior receiver David Owens finished with 202 receiving yards and two touchdowns. Owens received national recognition from MaxPreps.com for being second in the entire nation that week in passing yardage by a high school quarterback. The next week Owens was recognized by the National Football League's Arizona Cardinals, and Wells Fargo Bank as "Arizona Player of the Week" for his performance against Agua Fria.

In the Ram's second game

against Shadow Mountain High School, Owens completed 18 of 26 passes for 136 yards and one touchdown in the 45-14 victory for the Rams, while Cameron Sanders and D'Angelo Edgerton each had 58 yards in rushing.

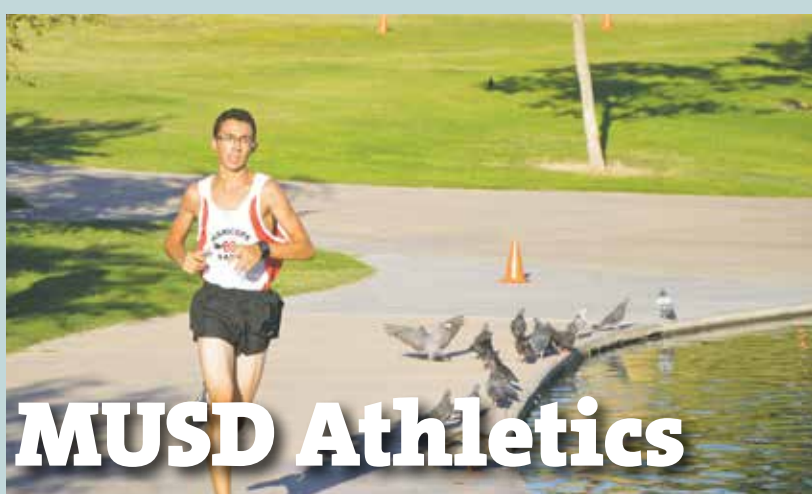
The Rams won their third game of the season by defeating Rincon University High School by a score of 56 to 0. Standout players included senior quarterback Isaiah Pedro (Aaron Owens did not play) who completed 13 of 15 pass attempts for 336 yards and four touchdowns in the Rams' victory. Team captain Johnny Johnson Jr. caught four passes for 101 yards and two touchdowns and he also carried the ball for 67 yards and an additional touchdown. Junior wide receiver David Owens caught four passes for 99 yards and two touchdowns.

The team earned its fourth win with 60-34 victory over Apache Junction. Quarterback Aaron Owens completed 12 of

24 passes for 235 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed for 76 yards and a touchdown. Isaiah Pedro made five catches for 125 yards and two touchdowns and junior running back Maverick Agram rushed for 146 yards and four touchdowns.

On September 25th the Rams beat Tempe High School in a 33-7 victory. The Ram's defensive team dominated this game making three interceptions, picking up one fumble recovery, forcing two turnovers on downs, and holding Tempe to just 7 points.

As a result of five wins and no losses so far this season, and by outscoring opponents 247 to 104 in those games, the Rams are the ninth ranked Division III team in the state according to the *Arizona Republic*. "It's nice for the program and kids to be recognized," stated head coach Chris McDonald, "however, we focus on what we can control, which is how we practice daily and how we can get better." ■



**Cross Country**

- 10/2 Desert Twilight Meet @ Grande Sports Complex
- 10/10 Coolidge Invite Kenilworth Sports Complex @ 10:00
- 10/14 Meet @ Combs @ 4:00
- 10/20 East Valley Championships @ Queen Creek

**Boys Golf**

- 10/15 @ Las Colinas Golf Course @ 3:00

**Girls Golf**

- 10/21 @ Superstition Springs Golf Course @ 3:00

**Volleyball**

- 10/1 @ Poston Butte @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00
- 10/6 @ Veritas Prep @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00
- 10/14 Freshman @ Combs @ 4:00
- 10/15 vs Chandler Prep @ Home @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00
- 10/20 @ Fountain Hills- JV @ 5:00, Varsity @ 6:00
- 10/22 @ Gila Ridge @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00
- 10/23 10/24- Florence Tournament @ Florence
- 10/27 @ Tempe Prep @ 5:00, Varsity @ 6:00
- 10/29 vs Apache Junction @ 4:00, 5:00, 6:00

**Freshman Football**

- 10/7 vs Arcadia @ 6:00
- 10/14 @ Seton @ 6:00
- 10/21 vs Vista Grande @ 6:00
- 10/28 vs Bradshaw Mountain @ 6:00

**JV Football**

- 10/1 vs McClintock @ 6:00
- 10/8 @ Arcadia @ 6:00
- 10/15 vs Seton @ 6:00
- 10/22 @ Vista Grande @ 6:00
- 10/29 @ Bradshaw Mountain @ 6:00

**Varsity Football**

- 10/2 @ McClintock @ 7:00
- 10/9 vs Arcadia @ 7:00
- 10/16 @ Seton @ 7:00
- 10/23 vs Vista Grande @ 7:00- Homecoming
- 10/30 vs Bradshaw Mountain @ 7:00



State Rep. Vince Leach (center) visited Maricopa Elementary School and Maricopa Wells Middle School.

MUSD

## State Rep. Vince Leach Visits MUSD

State Rep. Vince Leach shadowed two MUSD teachers on Sept. 16, attending Maricopa Elementary School from 9 to 11:30 a.m. with second grade teacher Angelia Ebner. From 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Leach shadowed Treva Jenkins who is a teacher at Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools.

The "Take Your Legislator to School Day" initiative is a partnership between the Arizona

Educational Foundation, the Arizona K-12 Center, the Arizona Education Association and the Rodel Foundation.

The initiative is an effort to expose Arizona legislators to highly-effective teachers working within an authentic classroom experience and also to establish on-going sustainable relationship between lawmakers and Arizona school districts. ■

## MHS Volleyball Team Off to a Great Start



Senior Middle-Hitter Elizabeth Gallon

WILLIAM LANGE/INAMRICO.COM

The Maricopa High School Rams volleyball team is off to a great start. They are currently ranked 15th in the Division III Maxpreps.com rankings and hold an overall record of 7 wins and 6 losses. The team is led by senior middle-hitter Elizabeth Gallon who was named to the 2013 All-Section Team and received All-Conference Honorable Mention in 2014. The Rams are coached by Lashieka Holley. ■



Maricopa UNIFIED:  
A community dedicated to student success.

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