



MUSD NEWS

MUSD Override Proposal on November 2016 Ballot

The Maricopa Unified School District Governing Board recently approved a 10%, seven-year override to be placed on the November 8th, 2016 ballot. If approved, the additional annual tax amount is projected to be \$132 per \$100,000 of assessed property value (\$11 per month). If the override is approved, it will provide additional funding beginning in the 2017-18 school year and will fund two things only: 1) up to 47 additional K-12 teachers for class size reduction and expanded academic programs, and 2) additional instructional technology for K-12 students.

47 Additional Teachers

This is the tentative plan for how these 47 additional teachers will be allocated in 2017-18 (the first year that override funds will be available). The 32 teachers allocated to each school are proportionate to the school's enrollment.

Butterfield Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction.

Maricopa Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction

Pima Butte Elementary — 3 teachers for class size reduction

Saddleback Elementary — 4 teachers for class size reduction

Santa Cruz — 2 teachers for class size reduction

Santa Rosa — 2 teachers for class size reduction

DWMS — 1 teacher for class size reduction and 1 teacher for expanded academic programs

MWMS — 1 teacher for class size reduction and 1 teacher for expanded academic programs

MHS — 5 teachers for class size reduction and 4 teachers for expanded academic programs

2 Instructional Technology Integration Specialists — these positions are needed to make effective use of the additional instructional technology provided by the override.

2 Elementary Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSA) (1 at Santa Rosa, .5 at Pima Butte, .5 at Santa Cruz). Currently Butterfield, MES and Saddleback have a TOSA. Santa Rosa needs a full time TOSA because of a large elementary Special Education program located there. Pima Butte and Santa Cruz can share a TOSA because they are two of the smaller elementary schools.

3 Elementary Counselors — MUSD currently has no elementary school counseling except for Special Education students.

1 Elementary Librarian — MUSD currently only has one certified librarian and she is assigned to MHS.

7 Teachers for a New Alternative HS Program — (1 math, 1 English, 1 science, 1 social studies, 2 electives, 1 TOSA). The development of an alternative high school program has been a longtime goal of MUSD. Some students have difficulty being successful in a large comprehensive high school like MHS (1,850 students). A new alternative high school program will address this need.

Additional Instructional Technology

This is the tentative plan for how \$500,000 in instructional technology will be allocated in 2017-18:

490 student laptop computers (\$683 each)	.....	\$334,670
One additional tech staff member (salary and benefits)	.....	\$45,000
Computer Licensing	.....	\$38,000
Technology Equipment and Supplies	.....	\$30,910
Instructional Technology Professional Development	.....	\$30,000
14 computer carts (\$1,530 each)	.....	\$21,420

For additional information, visit www.MaricopaUSD.org or contact Superintendent Steve Chestnut at (520) 568-5100 ext. 1004 or schestnut@musd20.org.



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.



Butterfield Elementary School Partners with Central Arizona College

Three years ago Butterfield Elementary School began a partnership with Central Arizona College. The goal of the partnership is to encourage students to begin thinking about future college attendance, and to expose them to science, technology, engineering, arts and math (STEAM), which is the academic focus at Butterfield. On Jan. 13, Butterfield fifth grade students took a field trip to the CAC Maricopa Campus. The visit included sessions on: Food Safety & Donut Cakes, Math Fun with Magnets & L.E.D.s and Strawberry DNA Extraction. Thanks to teacher Liz Zimpelman for leading this annual field trip. She summarized the visit by saying: "We had an amazing time." ■

DWMS Future City Projects Showcased at Botanical Gardens

In January of this year, Desert Wind Middle School's Future Cities Teams, Gronn Vekkelse and Novos Comecos, won two of the five Walton Sustainable Community Awards at the Arizona Regional Future Cities Competition.

With this award came the opportunity to showcase their cities at the Desert Botanical Gardens. On Feb. 23, the two teams presented their projects as part of the Sustainability Solutions Festival that was celebrated state-wide throughout the month of February. The festival was sponsored by Arizona State University's Walton College of Sustainability.

The students presented to Rob Walton, the former CEO of Walmart, as well as CEOs and university professors from around the world.

Jennifer Szoltysik, Desert Wind Blended-Learning instructor stated, "They were impressed by our students' knowledge of sustainability, engineering and project management. Each student was also called up on stage and given a framed certificate. Mrs. [Shannon] Hull and I are extremely proud of these students for representing blended learning and Desert Wind Middle School so well." Team members included:

Team Gronn Vekkelse - Alysa Huffman, Henry McCloskey, Parker Hunsaker, Project Manager - Matt Whitley, Alternate - Kian Pack

Team Novos Comecos - Savannah Shelabarger, Jordan Levy, Rhiannon Reed, Project Manager - Jaden Pyle, Alternate - Landen Thomas ■



Team Gronn Vekkelse



Team Novos Comecos

Maricopa High School DECA Club delivers best performance

On March 1, the Maricopa High School DECA Club delivered their best performance to date at the State Career Development Conference.

Competing against more than 2,600 student competitors and 90 Arizona high schools, MHS DECA brought 27 student competitors to the state conference and returned with 30 medals. MHS DECA dominated in team role plays in the areas of Marketing Communications, Travel and Tourism, Hospitality, Buying & Merchandising, and Sports & Entertainment Marketing as well in individual role plays of Business Service Management, Apparel & Accessories Marketing, Quick Serve Restaurant Management and Hotel & Lodging Management.

MHS earned 21 first place rankings in these competitions. Eight students went on to finals,

with four students qualifying for the International Career Development Conference April 22-27 in Nashville, Tennessee.

Juan Carrillo, MHS junior and MHS DECA chief marketing officer, was elected Arizona DECA state officer for the 2016-2017 school year. He will represent all rural schools and serve on the Arizona DECA Executive board. Chosen from more than 80 applicants, Juan ran along with 15 other candidates for one of the coveted eight state officer positions. Additionally, MHS alumna Valeria Ortiz took third place in Collegiate DECA's state conference representing Northern Arizona University.

DECA is an organization dedicated to emerging young leaders and entrepreneurs in the fields of finance, hospitality, management and marketing in high schools and colleges around the world. ■

Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Teams Place at State Competition

We are proud to announce the 2016 winners from Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools at the Arizona State Regional Future City Competition held on Jan. 23 at Arizona State University.

Sixteen teams represented Maricopa Unified School District at the competition and eight different teams won 17 different awards. Many of these awards also came with a monetary prize and a plaque that will be proudly hung in the respective school site's blended learning classroom.

From Maricopa Wells, Team Ba Shoileir placed second in state. Team members included - Megan Hahn, Erin Hildick, and Anabelle Dayley. Team Novos Comecos from Desert Wind, placed fourth in state. Team members included - Savannah Shelabarger, Jordan Levy, and Rhiannon Reed.

All Future City teams were from the Blended Learning classrooms at Maricopa Wells and Desert Wind Middle Schools. MWMS teachers are Robyn Rice and Joe Szoltysik and DWMS teachers are Jen Szoltysik and Shannon Hull. Both schools also had help from parent volunteers/engineers Gerry Hahn, Damon Hahn, Robb Witte and Christian Schrader.

Jennifer Szoltysik explained: "The success at this competition is the product of the blended learning environment at Desert Wind and Maricopa Wells. We utilize project-based learning that enhances the student's intellectual creativity. We are lucky to have such amazing students and the support of all of the parents in our program. We are thankful that the District supports the Blended Learning program at all of our schools." ■



MHS Music Groups Earn High Marks at ABODA Area Festival

On March 2, the Maricopa High School (MHS) Symphonic Band and Chamber Orchestra performed at the ABODA Area Concert Festival held at Desert Mountain High School in Scottsdale. Both groups excelled in their performances.

The Symphonic Band earned the second-highest rating of Excellent and the Chamber Orchestra achieved a superior rating, which is the highest possible. Both groups will advance to the State Concert Festival held April 26-28 at Chandler Center for the Arts.

Following their performance each group participated in an educational clinic. Both groups earned praise for being well-prepared and striving to realize the composer's intent in the music. The band earned praise for good tone, articulation, dynamics and balance and the orchestra earned praise for balance, blend, overall sound and use of dynamics.

Ivan Pour, MHS instrumental director commented, "This marks the first time ever two groups from MHS will perform at the State festival. The orchestra's Superior is the highest rating ever for any MHS group in the area festival. We are really proud of these students!" ■

MHS Theater Company Competes at Central Arizona Festival of Theatre

On January 30, students from the MHS Theatre Company competed at the Central Arizona Festival of Theater at Mesa Community College, led by Cynthia Calhoun, Fine Arts & Theater Teacher. Students competed in solo, duet, and group musical events as well as technical theatre.

Ashley Riecken (senior) competed in solo musical performance, earning a Superior rating from one of her judges. Ashley also competed in costume design, and earned an overall Excellent designation for her work on *The Philadelphia Story*.



Carlos Venegas (junior) earned Excellent ratings for his solo musical performance.

Nikolas Mase (junior) earned Superior and Excellent ratings for his solo musical selection (which included an operatic aria).

Shelby Hanks (senior) earned straight Superior scores for her solo musical performance.

Senior Patrick Decker and freshman Aleya Call earned Excellent scores for their musical duet.

The students also performed "With Cat-Like

MHS Band, Orchestra and Winter Guard Win Awards in Anaheim



March 3-6, the Maricopa High School Band, Orchestra and Winter Guard took their fifth biannual trip to Anaheim, California, to participate in a national festival sponsored by Worldstrides On Stage Programs.

Students performed at the Rose Center Theater in Westminster, California. The orchestra, band and Winter Guard all participated in instructional clinics as part of the trip. The students enjoyed visiting Disneyland, Universal City Walk and an awards ceremony held in Disney's Fantasyland Theater.

"This year marked some of our best performances in this program since we began these trips back in 2009," Director Ivan Pour stated. "Our band and

orchestra earned a silver award (the second-highest award), and our Winter Guard earned a gold award (the highest rating available). The MHS orchestra concert master, junior Joseph "Kyle" Ferland, was recognized with a Maestro Award for outstanding musicianship. For the third time, the entire MHS group was awarded the Spirit of Anaheim award for outstanding teamwork and outstanding representation of our school and community."

Mr. Pour went on to say: "These are truly wonderful students that Maricopa can be proud of and it is a joy and privilege to be able to work with these students learning about making music each day in class and a joy to see their hard work pay off on stage!" ■

Tread" from *Pirates of Penzance* (the MHS fall musical) for the group musical performance. Actors included: freshmen Brandon Korritky and Aidyn Curtis; juniors Carlos Venegas, Nik Mase, Tyler Curtis, Dylan Stradling, Sarah Ledbetter, and Mahkai Ball; and seniors Seth Hendrickson, Ashley Riecken, Ashley Lynn, Shelby Hanks, and Maria Santillan.

In addition to these amazing performances, Shelby Hanks was selected to compete at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, NE this summer. ■

MUSD Staff Honored by Chamber of Commerce

On Jan. 23, the ninth annual Maricopa Chamber of Commerce Community Awards Banquet was held at the Elements Event Center at the Ak-Chin Multi-tainment Center. Several MUSD employees were recognized.

MHS teacher Bernadette Russoniello was named “The 2016 Teacher of the Year” for the City of Maricopa. Bernadette teaches Journalism, Yearbook, and CTE Marketing and serves as the advisor of the DECA Club.

According to the MHS student who nominated Bernadette: “She is greatly involved in all aspects of student development, especially in teaching life-skills through DECA and CTE classes. Mrs. Russoniello has given me so many opportunities to develop early career opportunities, to become involved in the community, and has taught me leadership skills. She does so much that she is never rewarded for and gladly puts in time to help any student.”

Chris McDonald was also nominated for Teacher of the Year. He teaches at Maricopa High School, where he teaches Algebra and is head varsity football coach. The nominator stated: “His vision for MHS is to establish a culture of expectation and success in academics and sports.”



Bernadette Russoniello



Chris McDonald

Jim Shoaf, MUSD Transportation Department, was named the 2016 Volunteer of the Year. Jim was nominated for his work with the Mountain View Community Church’s food bank. This organization reaches over fifty families weekly by providing food and other items. In addition, Jim assists the FOR Maricopa Food Bank by getting turkeys for the community Thanksgiving dinner. Jim also recently completed a coat drive with the Cub Scouts.

Jim Irving was also nominated for the Volunteer of the Year award. For years, Jim has volunteered at MHS assisting students with career choices and college considerations. He is a fierce advocate for student development and faculty cooperation to ensure each student’s education is maximized. In past years Jim served as a member of the MUSD Governing Board. He is also a member of the City of Maricopa Planning Commission. ■



MARICOPA HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS SCHEDULE

April 11th

Girls Tennis @ Poston Butte @ 3:30
Boys Tennis vs Poston Butte @ Home @ 3:30

April 12th

JV Softball @ Cortez @ 4:00

April 13th

Track @ Apache Junction @ 3:30
Boys Tennis vs AZ College Prep @ Anderson Jr. High @ 4:00
Varsity Softball vs Veritas Prep @ Papago SB Complex @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball vs Scottsdale Christian @ Home @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Scottsdale Christian @ 3:45

April 14th

Girls Tennis @ Casa Grande @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Casteel @ Home @ 3:45

April 15th

Track Invite @ Westwood @ 10:00
Girls Tennis vs Mountain View Marana @ Home @ 3:30
Boys Tennis @ Buckeye Union @ 3:30
Varsity Baseball vs Casa Grande @ Salt River Fields @ 6:00
Freshman Baseball @ Casa Grande @ 4:00
JV Baseball @ Casa Grande @ 4:00

April 19th

Varsity Softball vs Apache Junction @ Home @ 4:00
JV Softball @ Apache Junction @ 4:00

April 20th

Varsity Softball @ Vista Grande @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Vista Grande @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball @ Sierra Linda @ 3:45
Freshman Baseball vs Sierra Linda @ Home @ 3:45
JV Baseball vs Sierra Linda @ Home @ 3:45

April 22nd

Track- Southeast Valley Championships @ Queen Creek
Varsity Softball @ Tempe @ 4:00
JV Softball vs Tempe @ Home @ 3:45
Varsity Baseball vs Tempe @ Home @ 6:00 — Senior Night
Freshman Baseball @ Tempe @ 3:45
JV Freshman Baseball @ Tempe @ 3:45



Maricopa UNIFIED:
A community dedicated to student success.

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