



# *Scoop from the Supt*

by Bryan Girbach

## Students

- Prior to Spring Break, we had numerous band members earn district and state recognition.
  - The MHS Wind Ensemble earned an excellent or superior rating from all four judges and an overall rating of excellent at district band festival.
  - State Solo and Ensemble was also held recently for those students earning a superior rating at the district competition.
    - Earning a division II state medal were:
      - Peter Pena and Zachary Fink, woodwind duet
      - Skyler Shank, Andrew Ostrom, Eowyn Johnson, Warren Pietryka, and Peter Pena, brass quintet
    - Earning a division I rating at state were:
      - Emma Overbeek and Jessica Lubke, saxophone duet
      - Emma Overbeek, Jessica Lubke, Justin Yarger, and Jacen Waugh, saxophone quartet
      - Mackenzie McDaniel, Cameron Satterley, Angelina Pena, Gabriella Dryden, Owen Burdette, Carter Somerville, Ben Orlando, and Wesley Murphy, percussion octet
  - Congratulations to all of the band students and Mrs. Upton for her wonderful instruction and support behind the students' accomplishments.
- Prior to Spring Break, our high school choirs celebrated some major accomplishments.
  - The MHS Concert Choir received an Excellent (top score) overall rating at the Choral Festival.
  - The MHS Chamber Choir raised their overall score significantly this year, scoring 115/120 for their Excellent rating.
- We hope that everyone had a safe and relaxing Spring Break and Easter weekend. Students returned to state testing this week. We encourage all staff and students to finish strong through the last 8.5 weeks of school.
- The calendar for the 2023-2024 school year was shared with every Milan Area Schools household via email. The calendar is also now available on the district website.
- For daily athletic updates and all athletic schedules, please visit [milanbigreds.org](http://milanbigreds.org).
- Answering a question asked at a Board meeting, the 2023-2024 Milan High School switch from a seven period day to a six period day will make scheduling easier for students involved in the South and West Washtenaw Consortium.
- In response to a public comment, when reviewing test score data, it is important to review the data in comparison to state data.

## **Staff**

- Sarah O'Neill (District Social Worker) had a baby girl Eloise Ann O'Neill

## **Board**

- President Cislo and I look forward to conducting a New Board Member orientation with Mrs. Gutierrez next week. I know that she has already registered for some MASB courses and training sessions.

## **General**

- Based on safety recommendations from our safety consultant, the district recently upgraded our handheld radio system. Every building now has an increased number of handheld radios, all of which are new. The district also now owns 16 private channels maintained on two separate repeaters (all approved by the FCC). Each building or department has their own channel and there are two channels specifically designated for emergency use. The separate channels allow each building or department to use the radios throughout the regular school day to help with safety and security. During an emergency, all of the handheld radios and the radios on all of the buses can be switched to the emergency channels, allowing everyone to work together during the emergency.
- Upcoming Dates
  - April 19            6:00 PM            Big Red Chat with Board (at Paddock)
  - April 26            7:00 PM            Board Meeting
  - May 16             7:00 PM            Spring Band Concert
  - May 23             7:00 PM            Board Meeting
  - May 24             6:30 PM            WIHI Graduation (Hill Auditorium)
  - 6:30 PM            MHS Honors Night
  - May 25             7:00 PM            Adult Education Graduation
  - 7:00 PM            Spring Choir Concert
  - June 4              2:00 PM            MHS Graduation
  - June 7              6:45 PM            Budget Hearing
  - June 7              7:00 PM            Board Meeting
  - June 8              6:15 PM            8th Grade Recognition Night
  - June 28             7:00 PM            Board Meeting
- Superintendent Girbach has another planning meeting with Secure Educational Consultants (SEC) on April 13th. At the meeting, the team will continue to develop the implementation plan for safety recommendations made by SEC during a recent security review. For each recommendation, the plan includes: who is responsible, district timeline, district action steps, SEC supports, and progress monitoring.
- The district will be contracting with an outside company to create Critical Incident Maps that can be used by law enforcement agencies during a safety incident. These maps will be housed and shared by 911 dispatchers during an incident. This will allow all responding police agencies to have an accurate map of the affected school building.

## **Legislative**

- The Washtenaw County Intermediate School District hosted a legislative meeting on Monday, April 3rd. Several topics were discussed at that meeting. I personally spoke to our local legislators about the upcoming school aid budget, the statewide teacher shortage, the statewide decline in student enrollment, and the future of Career and Technical Education.