

Mountain Ridge High School
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News Nugget



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Attention seniors!

Attention seniors! Don't forget service learning should be turned into Mrs. Goodwin as soon as possible. At least seventy-five hours are required to graduate, but if you turn in an extra 132 hours for a total of 207 hours you will receive the service learning medallion at graduation. Four seniors have already qualified for this medallion so far this year. Last year, a total of 27 seniors qualified for the service learning medallion. Mrs. Goodwin recommends participating in activities like Storybook Holiday, envirothon events, Beautify the 'Burg, and church activities such as dinners or bake sales. Students at any grade level can turn in service learning hours as far back as sixth grade.

— Destiny Warnick

Band

The Mountain Ridge Marching Band achieved a major victory on Saturday, October 28 at their final competition, the Atlantic Coast Championship. With a total score of 92.555, the Band was the first in Allegany County to win ACC. Besides coming in first, they won Best Percussion, Best Auxiliary, Best Music, Best Visual, and were promoted to an Open Class Band. Another win for Mountain Ridge was senior Josh Crowe being awarded a \$2000 TOB scholarship. The Band worked incredibly hard all season to achieve these wins. Moving forward, the MRHS Marching Band is preparing for their upcoming Christmas Parades. — Shyanne Foutz



Dates to Know

- × December 5th—Opening Game of the Girls Basketball Season
- × December 6th— Opening Game of the Boys Basketball Season and First Wrestling Matches of the Season
- × December 7th— First Bowling Match of the Season
- × December 14th— Christmas Lunch
- × December 22nd— Three Hour Early Dismissal and First Indoor Track Meet
- × December 25th through January 2nd No School Christmas
- × January 18— Close of the Second Marking Period

Senior Section

**SAT Dates— March 10, 2018
Register by February 9, 2018**

**ACT Dates— February 10, 2018
Register by January 12, 2018**

Upcoming Scholarship Deadlines

Home Security List Smart Home Scholarship \$1,000—December 10, 2017

AXA Achievement Scholarship \$10,000—December 15, 2017

Study Pug Math Help Scholarship \$1,000—December 15, 2017

DAR Good Citizen Program and Scholarship Contest \$250—December 20, 2017

ACT Student Champion Award \$500—December 31, 2017

The National Wild Turkey Federation Academic Scholarship \$250— January 1, 2018

GE-Regan Foundation Scholarship Program \$10,000—January 4, 2018

Maryland JCI Senate Scholarship \$500—January 5, 2018

Ron Brown Scholar Program—January 9, 2018

NHS Induction

The National Honor Society is an organization that recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, and character. To get into NHS you have to have an average GPA of 3.5 or higher on the 4.0 scale. This year a total of sixty-six inductees were brought into NHS, which was started in the year 1921 and was founded by the National Association of Secondary School Principals. Morgan Edwards, who is president of NHS, said to become president of NHS, students have to give a speech in front of other NHS members. The members vote for the president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary. Edwards also said, "Some advice for future members of NHS is to get involved in your community. NHS provides a platform to participate in service to others." — Nikki Wade



Elf Jr.

"Elf Junior" was a musical held by Mountain Ridge on November 17-19. This production was directed by Mrs. Hale and Chloe Wildman, along with being choreographed by Laurel Plitnik. "Elf Junior" is the shortened version of the original movie *Elf* but still required a lot of practice to get it just right. The whole cast, including Braxton Cooper, who was in charge of the Tech Crew, and Michael McKenzie, who designed costumes, practiced two hours every day for one month. All of their hard work and dedication was evident in their performance as they put on an outstanding show filled with wholehearted laughs and Christmas spirit. Jacob Blank, who starred as Buddy the Elf, said, "I'm proud of everybody who was involved with this musical because, without every one of them, it wouldn't have been possible." — Kailia Pua'auli



Photos by:
Kailia Pua'auli



Student Achievements

This year's Mountain Ridge volleyball team was one for the record books, as two of the starting players reached the 1,000 Club. Alexie Arnold, the star outside hitter, reached 1,000 kills on Friday, September 29 in a match against Frankfort. This particular athlete led the team in aces, receiving, blocks, digs, and kills. As a result of all these attributes Arnold was chosen as Most Valuable Player for the third consecutive year in a row. Abbey Wilson, who reached the 1,000 Club with assists on Thursday, October 5 against Broadfording, was second in assists, digs, and service points, and third in passing and aces. Her contribution to the team was vital to the success because, after all, without a set, there is no kill. Both athletes' dedication in and out of the season helped lead the team to tie with Fort Hill as Co-Area Champions, along with being AMAC champions, which are both firsts in Mountain Ridge Varsity Volleyball history.

Chloe Wildman has also had many accomplishments during her years at Mountain Ridge. From releasing music to competing and winning pageants, she has achieved a great amount for someone who is only seventeen. She started making covers of songs on YouTube in 2013 and ended up releasing an EP titled "Unbroken" in 2016. Besides music, she has also had many accomplishments in pageants. Wildman was Miss Allegany County's Outstanding Teen in 2016, Miss Maryland's Outstanding Teen in 2017, second runner up in Miss America's Outstanding Teen, and also received the Outstanding Achievement in Academic Life Scholarship. Along with these achievements, she also found some free time to help direct a recent musical here at Ridge, called "Elf Jr." — Shyanne Foutz

Club Announcements!

PBIS

PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention Support) has been around for a total of three years. All Allegany County high schools have been required to participate. Mrs. Beth Ternent, one of the guidance counselors here at Ridge, is in charge of our school's progress with this program. One of the activities PBIS has started is positive referrals. A student receives a positive referral when displaying exceptional behavior or acts of kindness. This positive referral gives the student a free ice cream from the school cafeteria and a note home to let the parents know about the students positive behavior. Mrs. Ternent said, "This year the state department has required us to participate in events like Gold Rush, and Positive Referrals, in hope to better our attendance." — Kailia Pua'auli



Spanish Club

Mountain Ridge High School's Spanish Club, facilitated by Ms. Heather Malec, is a great way for students to come together and share their love for the language. In Spanish Club, students get to experience the culture of many Spanish speaking countries. Malec would like to acknowledge Audrey Jones and Hana Chitsaz for presenting on the country that they visited. Audrey Jones gave a presentation about her experience in Spain. The club also ate Spanish snacks called tapas, and played a children's game from Spain called "Chapas." Hana Chitsaz presented about her experience in Chile. The club was introduced to Chillan musical chairs, and popular Chillan snacks. The next Spanish Club meeting will be in January or February. The dates will be posted at a later date. Esperamos verte ahí!— We hope to see you there! —Marissa Kady



Wellness

Wellness, run by Heather Malec, is a group that was made to help ensure the health and satisfaction of teachers. The Wellness group did a walk in October called the "Witches Walk" where they placed third for most steps in Allegany County. The teachers were also given a presentation by Theresa Stahl from the Western Maryland Health System where they were taught some tips and tricks for mindful eating throughout the holidays. Wellness offers teachers many opportunities. For example, December 4th, 11th and 18th there will be free yoga secessions offered to teachers that will be taught by Samantha Shank. Malec does her best to follow through with the wants of her fellow teachers. She says, "I ask what they want first." — Marissa Kady



Diamonds

Mrs. Amy Dunn, also known as Mrs. Kenny, is the Diamonds dance coach and an AP psychology teacher at Mountain Ridge. She has been a cheer/dance coach since 2004. The experience has taught her many valuable lessons such as the girls can work very well together despite differences and that it is a very time consuming position. Constant practicing and accommodating routines to fit the gym after football season is a major key in great performances. When someone misses a practice it can be challenging to catch up, since some of them play another sport as well. When it comes to the captain and co-captain positions, Mrs. Dunn looks for leadership and dedication. Overall, the team has been exceedingly successful and has received letters of recognition for their accomplishments. — Emily Jones



Yearbook

Dr. Stephanie Marchbank is the adviser for the Mountain Ridge High School yearbook. Each yearbook that is published incorporates all students. The staff makes a valiant effort to include each student at least three times throughout the yearbook. There are four essential staff members to the yearbook; Sidney Winner is the writer, Claire Hoffman is in charge of photos, Hailey Miller designs the layout, and Kaleigh Walker is the business manager. This position is perfect for Dr. Marchbank. She gets to watch all of the students grow tremendously, and her experience has been both awesome and inspiring. There are stressful moments, such as dealing with the outside company Josten's because the staff must work around their schedule and deadlines. Being in constant contact with the company is very important. Overall, her position as yearbook adviser has been a great ride so far. The staff grow and succeed as they work together. Sharing their unique ideas has created amazing memories. We look forward to viewing this year's yearbook! —Emily Jones

Science Quiz Bowl

The Science Quiz Bowl was started by Mrs. Rebecca Byzon, and is assisted by Mrs. Carol Deihl. This club focuses on building students' knowledge on science and science related subjects. There are two teams in the Science Bowl, who quiz and debate against each other in order to prepare for the State Science Bowl Competition, which is held in January. — Kailia Pua'auli

Mock Trial



Mock Trial has their first match in January, but they have already been prepping. This club challenges students and makes them step out of their comfort zone and into the world of law. In this club, students pick the role in which they would like to participate on the court and act as if they're actually discussing an actual case. It serves as a great way for students to learn about both criminal justice and law. Dr. Marchbank promises, "Students will develop better speaking skills, and it might increase their confidence when it comes to standing in front of people and speaking." — Olivia Schroeder

Ecology Club



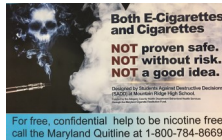
The Ecology Club focuses on sustainability and making good choices that will benefit the community. This club also makes members more aware of real world problems and how to help, or even overcome, them. The Ecology Club is taking small steps towards bettering our community by participating in activities such as collecting paper and plastic every Friday to recycle and planting trees around Frostburg in the Spring. — Olivia Schroeder

French



The next French Club meeting will be held December 19th in Mrs. Gray's room. The Secret Santa gift exchange and karaoke will be the main activities. Everyone is welcome to attend the French Club meetings. Don't worry if you don't speak French because French Club focuses more on the French culture. This particular group typically meets about once a month on a Tuesday after school to participate in fun, educational activities that reflect the French culture and, most of the time, the French cuisine. So far this year, the club has watched *The Petit Prince* and brainstormed some ideas for upcoming meetings, including cheese tasting and crepe making events. — Destiny Warnick

SADD



SAAD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) has an anti-tobacco event coming up in early Spring. They plan on putting up signs, doing announcements, and setting up a stand in the cafeteria for students to see during lunch. The students involved in SAAD are advocating for their peers to avoid tobacco products. Throughout the year, they are involved in many community based activities. The students who make up SAAD work together by facilitating different events to benefit their classmates to help them make better decisions, along with helping the community. —Shyanne Foutz

Cheerleading



To become a cheerleader, you have to practice hard and learn fast. Captain Page Petenbrink claims, "I've been cheering since I was in the 3rd grade, and it's been nothing but constant learning." The tryouts are usually in May, and the season ends in March. Beware, Cheerleading is an activity that requires the ability to work with others and communicate because, without those two factors, the performances, cheers, and stunts would be off and dangerous. These qualities that you acquire as a cheerleader transfer over into your life as you continue after cheering. The leadership skills and responsibility that you learn while on the cheer squad can be life changing and can help prepare you for your future, where you will have to show these particular skills. — Nikki Wade

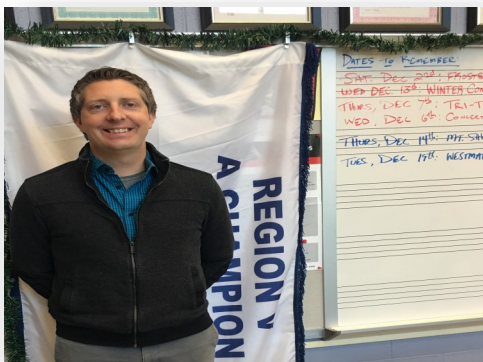
Student Council

The Student Council is an important part of Mountain Ridge High School. As a member of Student Council you are expected to brainstorm possible ideas that improve your peers education, and, educational environment. There are always new activities that the student council would like to see brought into our school that will benefit us, including more clubs throughout the school to and make sure every student has an interest in which they will thrive on. The students on this council work towards bettering our school, and our learning process at the same time. Katye DeHaven says, "Something that I would improve on in our school is the bullying issue. I believe that everybody should be treated equal, making sure that everybody knows that they are important and their worth is very sentimental and uplifting."— Annabelle Wilhelm

Chorus



Chorus is a great way for someone to express him or herself. Along with all the great activities in which Chorus participates in, they have also had many outstanding accomplishments. For example, this year, Michael Quach was in the Maryland All-State Chorus, Laurel Plitnik participated in Maryland Senior All-State mixed chorus, and, both Jessica Farrell and Audrey Jones were selected to participate in the Maryland Treble Chorus. Most of the Chorus members agree that All-County Chorus is their favorite part about participating because they get to travel and sing along with other schools and meet new people. — Annabelle Wilhelm



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