



## The Principal's Message

We have had a terrific start to the school year. Our students and staff are settling in to their schedules and our athletics/extracurricular activities are up and running. It has been great to see our students engaged instructionally in the classroom as well as being active in other aspects of our school. As we navigate the intricacies of the school year we will maintain a focused effort on positively impacting our students' academic achievement and preparation for college/career readiness. With the first interim completed here are a few reminders focused on safety/security and student academic achievement:

- Student attendance and being on time to school/class directly impact student achievement. Please support our efforts to increase attendance while working to eliminate tardiness to school and/or class.
- Support your student(s) by actively checking FOCUS.
- No student checkouts over the phone.
- Campus gates will not open until 8:15AM. If your student arrives on campus prior to 8:15AM he/she will must enter through the front office.
- When students arrive on campus they should remain on campus unless checked out by a parent/guardian or the school day has come to an end.
- Our success is dependent on community and parent/guardian support. Inquire with our front office on ways in which you can support the school along with how the school can support our community.

### Merritt Island High School Student Focus Points:

- Attend school everyday
- Be on time
- Strive for EXCELLENCE
- Be respectful and responsible on campus and in the community

### School Spirit:

Each Friday is designated as Black and Gold Friday. All students are encouraged to wear our school colors in an effort to promote our school and increase school spirit. We also have morning pep rallies each Friday from 8:15-8:35. All students are invited to join the band and cheerleaders in the commons to show off their school spirit.

We appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you on campus throughout the year. **GO MUSTANGS!**

James Rehmer  
Principal





## In the Know with the MPO!

Welcome back to an awesome new year! The Merritt Island High School Mustang Parent Organization (MPO) has started the year off with some great events that we could not have made possible without all of our generous volunteers!!

- > Registration Day went smoothly with the help of our booth volunteers. Thank you for your generous donations and purchasing our MPO Mustang merchandise. Our MPO merchandise is sold throughout the year in the front office. This money will all be carefully used to support the students, teachers, and the school with events and needed materials.
- > The 9th grade Mustang Round -Up was a blast with a great turn out! Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time at the picnic and those who donated picnic items for the new Mustangs to enjoy.
- > The staff was welcomed back with a delicious luncheon cookout. The burgers and dogs were even grilled on site! A HUGE thank you to all of those who volunteered and donated for this special meal for the staff.
- > Please join the MPO Facebook page (MIHS MPO) to stay "in the know" with school activities and volunteer opportunities. We also have an email account: MIHSMPO@gmail.com. Please feel free to contact us via FB or email in reference to volunteer opportunities. We will also post volunteer opportunities, as they come up, in the Mustang Newsletter emailed out weekly.
- > A Plus Thrift Shop, located on South Plumosa Street, is a non-profit organization that financially supports all Merritt Island public schools. They appreciate donations of quality items and volunteer assistance in the store. Adults and students are welcome! Students can earn community service hours. Contact Pam Pack with questions/interest at 453-4338.
- > It takes an island to raise a Mustang! The MPO is very appreciative of all your support!!



## Merritt Island Blood Drive

The Mustang's OneBlood Club organized our first blood drive on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. Sixty-two percent (62%) of our blood donors were first time donors of the eight-two (82) students who signed up to donate blood. Each donation saves the lives of three people in our community. Donating Blood is giving the "Gift of Life" to a newborn, cancer, or trauma patient needing blood.

Students can donate if they are 16 years old or older, weigh over 110 pounds, are healthy, and have not been tattooed or had a body piercing with the last two weeks before a blood drive. Our next four blood drives will be Monday, October 28; Thursday, January 16; Thursday, March 12; and Thursday, May 7 honoring our senior blood drive participants.

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## Parent Meeting

- Who:** Parents of 9th and 10th Grade Students
- What:** Important Informational Meeting
- When:** Thursday, October 3rd at 5:00 p.m.
- Where:** MIHS Auditorium
- Why:** School Counselors will discuss information about Graduation Requirements, Bright Futures Scholarships, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement, College Admissions Requirements, Testing, and More.

## Testing at MIHS

**October 16th** - All grade 10 students will take the PSAT/NMSQT here at MIHS. Grade 10 students are automatically signed up for it at no cost. Students should receive a Student Guide from their English teacher. You can also visit

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psat-nmsqt-psat-10> to download a copy of the student guide, see what kinds of questions will be on the test, and/or take additional practice tests. Once students take the PSAT they will have access to Khan Academy, a great online resource for reading and math, and SAT practice, and scholarship information.

**November 19th** - all grade 10 students will participate

in the FSA Grade 10 Writing Field Test. The ELA Writing is a standalone field-test administration, which is periodically required to gather essential data and establish scoring guidelines for future field-tested prompts. The information collected in this field test is vital to the future development of statewide assessments.

## Out of Field Teachers

- Andrea Brown is out of field 17% in Intro to Hospitality.
- Charles Parker is out of field 20% in ESOL.
- Terry Riley is out of field 67% in ESOL.
- Dan Wydner is out of field 50% in ESOL.

"Mustang Hoofnotes"

September 2019

Published Four Times Per Year

Merritt Island High School

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Issue #3



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Please feel free to reach out to your student's guidance counselor with any questions or concerns at 454-1005.

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## From the Choral Department

- **Fall Chorus Concert:**  
October 9, 2019 @ 7:00pm  
MIHS auditorium
- **JMS/MIHS Holiday Chorus Concert:**  
December 11, 2019 @  
6:30pm MIHS auditorium

- **Pre-MPA Chorus Concert:**  
February 19, 2020 @ 7:00pm MIHS auditorium
- **Spring Chorus Concert:**  
April 29, 2020 @ 7:00pm MIHS auditorium

## Band News

- **October 5, 3:00 – 9:00 P.M.:**  
Space Coast Island Classic Marching Band  
Competition @ MIHS Football Stadium, Admission: \$15.00
- **October 8, 7:00 P.M.:**  
Fall Band Concert @ MIHS Auditorium, Free Admission
- **October 26, 3:30 – 9:00 P.M.:**  
Florida Bandmasters Association District Marching MPA  
@ MIHS Football Stadium; Admission: \$10.00
- **December 12, 7:00 P.M.:**  
Winter Band Concert @ MIHS Auditorium, Free Admission

## Weekly E-mail Newsletter:

If you would like to have the Weekly Newsletter sent to you via email, please sign-up!

1. Go to Merritt Island High School webpage: <https://www.brevardschools.org/MerrittIslandHS>
2. Click on: Parents and Students - Mustang Newsletter. You will be prompted to add your Name and Email Address.

Email Newsletters are sent out on Friday and contain information on current happenings and lots of info for Seniors.

Daily Announcements and the Weekly Newsletter are also posted on the MIHS Webpage under Featured Stories.

# 5



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Wed\*: 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Thur: 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Fri: 8:30am - 5:30pm  
Wed= closed @ lunch 12-1:30!!

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## Class of 2022

### Sophomore Parents and Guardians

Welcome to the 10th grade year! The following is pertinent information to the Sophomore year of High School:

- A student is classified a 10th grader (promoted from 9th grade) after earning a minimum of 5 credits. If your student has failed a course in 9th grade and did not attend Summer School, please see Ms. Tournade immediately to discuss a plan for getting back on track for graduation in 2022.
- All 10th graders will be taking the PSAT (Preliminary SAT) on October 16th, 2019. If your student is classified a 10th grader, they will be taking PSAT at NO CHARGE and DO NOT HAVE TO SIGN UP. Performance on the PSAT will indicate the skill level of each student, in preparation for the SAT College Admissions test recommended during the Spring of Junior Year.
- All 10th grade students will be taking The FSA/ELA (Florida Standardized Assessment for English Language) in the Spring of 10th grade. This is a 3 day test that includes 1 day of writing and 2 days of Reading and is the test that is required to pass in order to earn a standard High School diploma.
- The Brevard County Graduation credit requirements are as follows:
  - 4 English credits
  - 4 Math credits- must include Algebra and Geometry
  - 4/ 3 Science- must include Biology and a Physical Science
  - 4/ 3 Social Studies – must include World History, American History, Economics .5 and American Government .5
  - HOPE- or 2 years of ROTC and /or 2 seasons of a JV or Varsity Sport
  - 1 credit of a Performing / Fine or Practical Art
  - 1 on-line course through Florida Virtual School (FLVS)/ Brevard Virtual School (BVS)
  - RIGOROUS COURSEWORK REQUIREMENT- In order to graduate from Brevard County Schools with a standard diploma a student must complete a MINIMUM of 3 credits in HONORS or ACCELERATED Coursework **OR/and** **Complete a sequence of 3 courses in a CTE (Career and Technical Education)**
  - 8.5 Elective Credits-
- **At 5pm on October 3rd in the Auditorium - There will be an important informational meeting for all 10th grade parents. Among the topics to be discussed are PSAT, Updated Bright Futures Scholarship requirements, Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement courses, the High School Transcripts, updated College Admission requirements, TESTING!!! Requirements for graduation, grade calculation and GPA, Attendance requirements, [FloridaShines.org](http://FloridaShines.org), etc.**



It is my sincere pleasure to have the opportunity to work with and assist you and your child toward Academic success and an overall positive high school experience!

Sincerely,  
Karen E. Tournade, School Counselor  
Class of 2022



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# Merritt Island Mustang Mall is Open. Business is booming!

By Dr. Wendy Jesser

The MIHS Mustang Mall was open the 2nd day of school August 13 for students and parents to shop for school supplies for free! Thanks to all who donated! We started out the year with 50 plus new backpacks, TI 30 xlls calculators as well as binders, paper and everything students would need to start school! Special thanks to Liz Hahn and Nu Alpha- a chapter of Epsilon Sigma Alpha, a philanthropic organization who gave over 22 new backpacks stuffed with school supplies and calculators! I was fortunate to attend their chapter lunch the Saturday before school started to receive their generous donation. Thanks also to Pastor Corky Calhoun and Ms. Chris Rodriguez and Georgianna UMC church for generously giving over \$400 in donations for school supplies to help our Mustang Mall be stocked for the start of school. These donations continue to positively impact our MIHS families! Thank you to volunteer Ms. Janie Hall who organizes and keeps our Mustang mall beautiful! Thank you also to Ms. Jeanne Betar who volunteered in the Mustang Mall last year. Thank you to Ms. Liz Heddleston and Ms. Darleen Barfield from Georgianna who came in to help organize the school supplies for the opening of the new year!

The Mustang Mall is a place where any MI students and parents can walk in and shop for school supplies, backpacks, clothes, shampoos, toiletries, jackets, sweatshirts, prom dresses and suits, and even nonperishable food all for free! Open every Tuesday and Friday mornings from 8:00-8:45 a.m. in room N-130A at Merritt Island High School. Any student or family member may walk in and shop! Parents please check in through the front office. We have a great selection of homecoming dresses, suits and accessories. I think we rival Macy's selection! Come on in and see!

Anyone who has a group or organization who would like to donate to the MIHS Mustang Mall please contact me at email below.

We are also in need of parent volunteers. Please contact Dr. Wendy Jesser at [Jesser.wendy@brevardschools.org](mailto:Jesser.wendy@brevardschools.org) if you can help. Thanks! And Goooo Mustangs!





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## Dual Enrollment, Collegiate High School and Early Admissions

Dual Enrollment provides free college credits through Eastern Florida State College for upcoming 10th, 11th and 12th graders. Students planning on participating in Dual Enrollment at EFSC next year or during the summer will start this process in January for the 2020 -2021 school year. Your school counselor can check eligibility and provide directions and necessary paperwork. To qualify, students must have the following completed by May 2020;

- A minimum high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 for all AA degree and AS degree options
- Passing scores on the PERT or SAT/ACT
- Attendance at an EFSC Orientation (*dates available throughout the school year*)
- EFSC application online (provide official high school transcripts at EFSC Orientation)

Once the application process is completed, the student will need an appointment with their high school counselor to select the appropriate EFSC courses and an additional meeting with an EFSC Advisor to register for classes at the college.

**Collegiate High School:** Students presently in 9th or 10th grade who meet eligibility for Dual Enrollment and know they want to pursue a 2 year AA degree, will receive an invitation to attend the "Collegiate High School" Informational meeting in January 2020. The program provides transportation to 10th graders taking college classes and committed to completing the AA degree.

**Present DE:** For students currently in Dual Enrollment, the appointments for EFSC Spring 2020 classes will start in mid- September 2019. It is imperative that students meet with their MIHS school counselor to complete the DE registration form required and return three (3) EFSC schedules to the MIHS Media Center along with a booklist. **NOTE:** Once school lets out for Winter Break, students will miss the opportunity to register for EFSC courses and the ability to receive books or vouchers. **EFSC classes may start on or prior to BPS.**

**Early Admissions/Upcoming Seniors:** Students planning to attend EFSC full time during their senior year are considered Early Admissions. The Early Admissions packets will arrive sometime in mid-February 2020. There will be announcements to attend the mandatory "Early Admissions meeting(s)" where the packets and information will be distributed. Qualifications for Early Admissions are the same criteria as Dual Enrollment (GPA, test scores, etc.). HOWEVER, students ALSO need to have ALL high school graduation requirements completed with the acceptance of; 1 credit HS English, 1 credit HS Science Elective; 1 credit HS Social Studies Elective, 1 HS credit in Math, ½ credit in Performing Arts. The packet deadline to EFSC is @April 2020 (TBA) and will require your counselor signature/form before submitting to EFSC.

More questions? Contact MIHS guidance office (321) 454-1005 or EFSC (321) 632-1111.