



# THE HURRICANE FORECAST

April 2024 Volume 14 • Issue 2

Publication for the Parents, Students, Staff & Community of Mount Dora High School

*"It is going to be a great year in Cane Country as we strive to keep MDHS Empowered for Excellence!"*

## Who's Who at MDHS

**Principal:** Marlene Straughan

**Assistant Principals:** Mike Hay, Kimberly Walker, Dr. Catherine Slack and Stephanie Bence

**Counselors:** Debbie Ortega, Dr. Christie Wilson, Angela Harris

**Mental Health Liason:** Kim Capstraw

**ESE School Specialist:** Ted Dwyer

**ESE Clerk:** Kathy Relford

**Graduation Resource:** Anjanette Lannon

**Literacy Coach:** Lizz Schlotter

**Data Clerks:**

Misi Isbill and Judy Crast

**Guidance Secretaries:**

Kylee Gardner and Phyllis Comitz

**Attendance/ Discipline Clerks:**

Stacy Carver and Amy Mikler

**Main Office:**

Deb Pfiffner and Denise Long

**School Resource Officer:**

Officer Darla Oringderff, MDPD

**School Guardian:**

TBA

## Contact Us

Telephone: 352-383-2177

Fax: 352-383-6466

700 N. Highland Street  
Mount Dora, FL 32757

## Unified Basketball State Champs

The Mount Dora High School Unified Special Olympics Basketball team clinched the Division 3 FHSAA State Championship against New Smyrna in a competitive 47-30 game, providing memories that these students will cherish for a lifetime.

Mount Dora High School had been dominant throughout most of the season. They are coached by head coach Randy Craft and assistant coaches Josh Upson and Kevin Gifford. Also involved with the program were partners Jake Sepe, a member of the varsity football team, Blake Sepe, who also plays football and baseball, Preston Rhodes, and volleyball players Lillie Bruehl and Sydney Guthrie. "I am so proud of these kids and partners who participated with them in order to win the State Championship. This is a moment that these student-athletes will remember for the rest of their lives," said coach Craft.

What an amazing thrill it was for these young athletes to achieve the honor of becoming state champions. Special Olympics has been thriving in the Lake County area. This year, all Lake County programs have supported Unified athletes in one way or another.

Congratulations to the Unified Special Olympic State Championship Winning Mount Dora Hurricanes Basketball team!



# State Champs!

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS  
**2023-2024 Student Calendar**

(180 Days)

Board Approved: 02.27.2023

School Month			Student Days
APRIL			22
MAY	May 24	Last Day of Classes/End of Fourth Grading Period (Friday)	18 Total Days 49
<i>Storm Make-up Days will be determined as needed</i>			180



**Criminal Justice Early College Academy**

The Criminal Justice Early College Academy is a specialized program at Mount Dora High School that gives students an opportunity to achieve their Associate of Arts degree while still in high school. Students will take college credit courses while engaging in various experiential learning activities. Now enrolling for Fall 2023!



**JOB GROWTH**  
 Job openings are expected to grow 7.2% through 2029 statewide in Florida according to FLDEO.



**TRANSFER**  
 This plan offers students the opportunity to transfer to a designated Criminal Justice bachelor's degree programs at universities.



**CAREERS**  
 In addition to any certificates or degrees, students must complete a state-approved academy training program to become a sworn law enforcement or corrections officer in the state of Florida.

For more information, please contact the Early College Programs at (352) 435-6346, [EarlyCollege@lssc.edu](mailto:EarlyCollege@lssc.edu), or your high school counselor.

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# Congratulations!



## Congratulations to Brayan Sanchez Escobar

Congratulations to Brayan Sanchez Escobar! His artwork was selected by the Mount Dora Yacht Club Regatta for the 2024 Annual Regatta. His artwork can be found around town on post cards, the Regatta program, and the Regatta shirts. He was presented with a \$1000 scholarship this morning in art class. Thank you Mount Dora Yacht Club Regatta for your support of Mount Dora High and the arts program

## Congratulations to Desaray Asay

Congratulations to Desaray Asay, a volunteer for the Mount Dora High School Agriculture Department and Future Farmers of America for more than 12 years! She was named one three finalists for statewide recognition as Florida's Volunteer of the Year, bringing Mount Dora High its third major personnel recognition this school year.

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Mount Dora High School  
Marlene Straughan • [straughanm@lake.k12.fl.us](mailto:straughanm@lake.k12.fl.us)

## INCubatoredu Students Take the Stage

On Tuesday, April 2, seven teams of students presented products they had developed to a team of judges to decide who would advance to the District Pitch event. The students are enrolled in the INCubatoredu business class at Mount Dora High School.

INCubatoredu is a full-year course offering an authentic entrepreneurship experience as students develop their own product or service startup.

Student teams explore, pivot, iterate and develop resilience as they work to solve problems they care about. Entrepreneurs and industry experts serve as volunteer coaches and mentors guiding student teams through the process of idea validation. Ultimately, the student teams pitch to gain investment funds in a final shark-tank style pitch event.

The winning team consisted of senior Afrifa Amoah-Menseh, senior Matthew Bennett, junior Hannah Douglas, and sophomore Peyton Taylor. This team will represent our school at the district competition on April 23, where they will have the opportunity to gain funding for their product: The Chigloo, a unique watering device for chickens.

On the day of the district event, the other six MDHS teams will compete with the runner ups from three other schools (East Ridge, Tavares & Eustis) to attempt to earn a wildcard competition slot.



*INCubatoredu students prepare for product pitch events.*

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# Mt. Dora High School ATHLETICS

2023-2024



Mt. Dora High School

## Athletic Department Contacts

Athletic Department	Name	Email
Administrator of Athletics	Mike Hay	haym@lake.k12.fl.us
Athletic Director	Kevin Gifford	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us
Athletic Director	Ted Dwyer	dwyer@lake.k12.fl.us
Athletic Trainer	Wesley Arrington	arringtonw@lake.k12.fl.us

### Fall Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Bowling (B/G)	Teresa Lawson	lawson@lake.k12.fl.us
Cross Country (B)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Cross Country (G)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Football	Luke Hutchinson	hutchinsonl@lake.k12.fl.us
Golf (B/G)	Ted Dwyer	dwyer@lake.k12.fl.us
Spirit Cheer	Lizz Schlotter	schlottere@lake.k12.fl.us
Swimming (B/G)	Brittany Metz	metzb@lake.k12.fl.us
Volleyball	Kevin Gifford	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us

### Winter Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Weightlifting (G)	Kia Larkin	larkink@lake.k12.fl.us
Soccer (B)	Ryan Eshbaugh	eshbaughR@lake.k12.fl.us
Soccer (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us
Basketball (G)	Kevin Gifford	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us
Basketball (B)	John Liptak	liptakj@lake.k12.fl.us
Wrestling (B/G)	David Kemmy	Kemmyd@lake.k12.fl.us

### Spring Sports

Sport	Name	Email
Weightlifting (B)	Luke Hutchinson	Porchc@lake.k12.fl.us
Softball	Glover/Waters	watersi@lake.k12.fl.us
Track (B)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Track (G)	Susan Heggie	heggies@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (B)	Brennan Guido	guidob@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (G)	Jacqueline Holmes	holmesj@lake.k12.fl.us
Baseball	Mike Matulia	giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us
Flag Football (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us



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# Mt. Dora High School ATHLETICS

2023-2024

## Spring Football Schedule

April 29th to May 23rd - Practices: Monday to Friday  
Spring Game: at Ridge Community High School,  
May 23rd, 6pm Kickoff



## Baseball Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	JV Time	Varsity Time
Thursday	4/11	South Lake	South Lake	4:30pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	4/16	Umatilla	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	6:30pm
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>4/18</b>	<b>Leesburg</b>	<b>Mt. Dora</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>4/19</b>	<b>Umatilla</b>	<b>Umatilla</b>	<b>4:00pm</b>	<b>6:30pm</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>4/22</b>	<b>Apopka</b>	<b>Mt. Dora</b>		<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>4/23</b>	<b>Bellevue</b>	<b>Mt. Dora</b>		<b>6:00pm</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>4/26</b>	<b>Windermere Prep</b>	<b>Mt. Dora</b>		<b>4:30pm</b>

February 19 – First Week Regular Season

April 22– Last Week Regular Season

Head Coach: Mike Matulia (matuliam@icloud.com)

Athletic Director: Ted Dwyer (DwyerT@lake.k12.fl.us) & Kevin Gifford (giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us)

\*Bold Denotes Home Game

## Softball Schedule

Date	V / JV	Day	Opponent	Location	Bus pickup
11-Apr-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Thursday	Umatilla (FL) *	Home	
15-Apr-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Monday	Foundation Academy (Winter Garden, FL)	Away	3pm
18-Apr-24	V 6pm	Thursday	Lake Buena Vista (Orlando, FL)	Away	4pm
19-Apr-24	V 7pm	Friday	Mount Dora Christian Academy (Mount Dora, FL)	Away	
22-Apr-24	V 7pm	Monday	Eustis (FL)	Home	
25-Apr-24	V 6pm	Thursday	Windermere Prep (Windermere, FL) *	Home	
26-Apr-24	V 7pm	Friday	Crescent City (FL)	Home (Senior Night)	

Post Season Schedule Starts Apr 29th

Coaches

Banquet May 15, 6pm

(JV Only Games)

Head Coach Mike Ganus

JV Coach Torin Glover

Assistants Isha Waters

Matt McDaniel



# GO CANES!

## Boys/Girls Tennis Schedule

Date	Opponent / Location	Time	Team	Place
4/11	Boone High	3:30	Boys / Girls	Away
4/13	Last Regular Season Date of Play			
4/15	District Tournament- 8a.m start time			

## Track & Field Schedule

Date	Name	Location
4/12 Friday	Lake Sumter County Championship	South Sumter HS
4/19 Friday	Falcon Last Chance	East River High School
4/25 Thursday	DISTRICT CHAMPIONSHIPS	Trinity Prep
5/7 Tuesday	REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS	MDCA
5/16 Thursday	GRADUATION	Mount Dora
5/16 Thursday	STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS	UNF Hodges Stadium

## Boys Weightlifting Schedule

2/21	vs Umatilla (H)
2/28	vs Tavares (A)
3/21	Lake Sumter Invitational at South Sumter
3/27-3/30	Districts at Belleview High (exact date/time TBD)
4/4-4/6	Regionals (date/time/location TBD)
4/19-4/20	States at RP Funding Center (time TBD)

## Girls Flag Football

Date	Game	Time
2/20/2024	Eustis at Mount Dora	6pm
2/22/2024	Mount Dora at Lake Minneola	6pm
2/27/2024	East Ridge at Mount Dora	6pm
2/29/2024	Mount Dora at Tavares	6pm
3/19/2024	Eustis at Mount Dora	6pm
3/21/2024	Lake Minneola at Mount Dora	6pm
3/26/2024	Mount Dora at East Ridge	6pm
3/28/2024	Tavares at Mount Dora	6pm

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April - May  
2024

### Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program

- Submit a complete and error-free Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA), also known as the state application (no later than August 31, 2024);
- Complete the required coursework (by high school graduation);
- Achieve the required grade point average in the required coursework;
- Complete the required number of volunteer/paid hours (by established deadline); and
- Achieve the required college entrance exam score for tests taken no later than August 31, 2024. Refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook for complete program requirements: [www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPBFMAIN/SAPBFMAIN).
- Although ACT®, CLT®, and SAT® may offer test dates beyond August 2024, final evaluations for 2024 graduating seniors will only consider test dates for exams taken **no later than August 31, 2024**, for the Bright Futures Scholarship Programs authorized by rule 6A-20.028, Florida Administrative Code.

### Bright Futures Summer Funding:

- Funding is available during the summer term for Bright Futures Florida Academic Scholars (FAS) and Bright Futures Florida Medallion Scholars (FMS). Funding is only available if the postsecondary institution allows an FAS/FMS student to enroll as a degree-seeking student during the summer term. Refer to the Bright Futures Student Handbook, Chapter 2 for more information.

For those of you attending a postsecondary institution for the first time this summer or fall semester, your head must be filled with questions and thoughts about what to expect. College is an exciting place, but it can be complete chaos if you are not prepared. Don't worry, we have your back! Complete this checklist and get a jump start on the right path.

- Open a savings account and start saving.
- Research your college. Find out more about different activities and clubs they are known for and student organizations offered on campus.
- Register for classes. Between orientation or just an appointment with an advisor, make sure you register for classes by the deadline.
- Handle all financial aid matters before the start of your first

class. It's easy to forget about or simply avoid, but this is one way that you can really get messed up.

- Go shopping! Get all of the things you'll need for your classes, your dorm room, or your new wardrobe. Look into your upcoming booklist and research affordable options.
- Research college majors. Whether you're pretty sure what your path is or you have no idea, do some research. Look up course list, graduation rate, job expectancy, income level, etc. Narrow it down to a few that interest you and be ready to talk to an advisor.

### DID YOU KNOW?

You may also research these websites for scholarship opportunities: [Finaid.org](http://Finaid.org) [Fastweb.com](http://Fastweb.com) [Gmsp.org](http://Gmsp.org)

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## Information for Seniors, CLASS of 2024!

### Senior Breakfast

May 3rd, 7am in Cane Cafe - you will receive your cap and gown, graduation regalia, 10 tickets for graduation, and be treated to a wonderful breakfast, courtesy of our Boosters! (This event is for students only)

### Grad Nite

May 3, 2024 Busch Gardens - leaving at approximately 4pm; returning May 4th, approximately 2am. Annual passes are not accepted at ANY park for these special events. No outside guests are allowed.

### Last Day of Classes for Seniors

5/9

### Senior Awards

5/10 @ 9am, Auditorium - - parents are invited to attend

### Baccalaureate

5/13 @ 6pm, First Baptist Church of Mt. Dora. Seniors wear cap/gown, and parents are invited/encouraged to attend. See Coach Torrance with any questions.

### Senior Picnic

5/14 - 10am - 2pm, practice field

### Graduation Practice

5/15 - 8am - meet in auditorium

### Graduation

May 16, 2024, 8pm on the field \*Graduates report to auditorium at 6:30pm

#### Graduation – What to Wear

You MUST wear a cap, gown, and tassel purchased from Herff Jones. If you have not yet ordered, you may purchase a package at the Senior Breakfast. Call Herff Jones for the current price. **You MAY NOT wear anything that the school did not issue.** Under your gown, wear clothing appropriate for pictures with your family and comfortable shoes that move easily on the field. If you are considering heels, bring them for practice to see how you walk in them. **NO CASUAL SANDALS OR SPIKE HEELS.**

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### Senior Spotlight: Noelle Vu

Mount Dora High Senior Noelle Vu has a 4.7 GPA. She also holds 6 school records as a runner! Noelle is Intent on pursuing pre-med after high school. She's proud to have built up the Mount Dora running programs. "I want young runners to know that you don't need an accomplished program to be successful in track and field or cross country. A lot of it is up to the individual to train and treat their bodies appropriately to have success." Learn more about her in the link: <https://lakeandsummerstyle.com/mount-dora-high-senior.../>

### SENIORS! Cap & Gown Sales

Caps and gowns are on sale through Herff Jones. Go to [www.HerffOrlando.com](http://www.HerffOrlando.com) to place your order. The only requirement is the cap, gown, and tassel for \$65. If you need help, contact Ms. Lannon at extension 1231 or 1320.