



THE HURRICANE FORECAST

December 2023 Volume 13 • Issue 5

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:

Dave Carney

Contact Us

Telephone: 352-383-2177

Fax: 352-383-6466

700 N. Highland Street
Mount Dora, FL 32757

Cross Country

District Cross Country Results

The girls and boys competed in the 2A-3 District Championships and dominated! Girls are now 3-peat champions. Hannah Douglas is now a 3-peat individual district champ! To round out the top 7 scorers we had Noelle Vu, Bailey Roman, Isabella Orser, Cecilia Zagorini, Lilliana Vu, and Mina Fourari all placing in the top 15 to medal for districts. Boys are District Runner-up Champions! They were led by Marc Florexil, Donovan Spears, Jude Aoun, Gavin Douglas who all medaled for placing in the top 15. Gabriel Lewis, Ben Stone, and Tyler Hartney rounded out our top 7 to secure the W.



Regional Cross Country Results

The girls team edge out 6th ranked in the state Bishop Moore to become back to back regional champions! They were led by Hannah Douglas 2nd overall, Senior Noelle Vu 6th, Bailey Roman 10th who all medaled individually and were followed by teammates Cecilia Zagorini, Isabella Orser, Mina Fourari, and Lilliana Vu to round out the victory. This was a tough course and we threw time goals out the window for it. We were 100% focused on place goals and every girl executed the plan to perfection resulting in the win. Shout out to these lady canes! The boys team qualified two individuals. Sophomore Donovan Spears who placed 14th overall and took the 1st at large bid to run at states. He also ran the 4th fastest time ALL time for MDHS school history with a blazing fast 17:27. He was followed by senior Marc Florexil who ran the 6th fastest time in school history with a 17:33.



State Championship Results

The state championship meet is in the history books! The lady Canes finished their 3rd straight appearance as a team with a 14th place finish and they were led by Hannah Douglas who ran a blazing fast PR (18:46) and placed 12th overall. She was followed by teammates Bailey Roman, Noelle Vu, Cecilia Zagorini, Mina Fourari, Belle Orser, and Lilliana Vu. This group achieved so much this season and we will return all but two very amazing seniors Noelle Vu and Cecilia Zagorini. They have left their mark and instilled values in this younger group by setting the example that they will take with them and use to achieve their future goals.

The boys were represented well by Donovan Spears and Marc Florexil. Two absolute beasts that always give it their all. Donovan left his mark with his 1st debut at a state meet his sophomore year actually taking the lead early on in the race and going out in a blazing fast 1st mile of 4:57. He was unable to hold that unfortunately but he will learn from this experience and make a return looking to further cement his historic performances as an MDHS Cane.



WE ARE #ONETEAM!

LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS

2023-2024 Student Calendar

(180 Days)

Board Approved: 02.27.2023

School Month			Student Days
DECEMBER	December 20 December 21-29	End of Second Grading Period (Wednesday) Winter Break/Student Holiday (Thursday-Friday)	14 Total Days 43
JANUARY	January 1 January 2 January 3 January 4 January 15	New Years Day/ Student Holiday Non-Student Day (Monday) Non-Student Day/Professional Development Day (Tuesday) Non-Student Day/ Teacher Work Day (Wednesday) Classes Resume/Third Grading Period Begins (Thursday) Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday/Student Holiday (Monday)	19
FEBRUARY	February 19	Presidents' Day/Student Holiday (Monday)	20
MARCH	March 7 March 8 March 11-15 March 18 March 29	End of Third Grading Period (Thursday) Non-Student Day / Teacher Work Day (Friday) Spring Break/Student Holiday (Monday-Friday) Classes Resume/Fourth Grading Period Begins (Monday) Non-Student Day (Friday)	5 Total Days 44 9
APRIL			22
MAY	May 24	Last Day of Classes/End of Fourth Grading Period (Friday)	18 Total Days 49
Storm Make-up Days will be determined as needed			180

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MDHS Cheerleading Community News

In addition to squad cheering at various games, MDHS was part of the Mount Dora Holiday Parade on December 2nd. We joined the MDHS's Booster's in representing our high school along with ROTC and our band. They contributed to the food drive and gave candy to the children in attendance.

During the weekend of December 16th and 17th, we will be working with the 5K and ½ Marathon that is put on by Mount Dora. They volunteer all weekend by helping pass out race packets, distributing t-shirts, tending to water stations, and cheering on the runners.

We want to wish you a Happy Holiday!




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FBLA 2023-2024

The Mount Dora High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) students are getting ready for an awesome year in FBLA. Chapter officers and their adviser, Mrs. Kozlowski, attended the District Officers and Advisers meeting at Lake Sumter State College on October 15th. The officers participated in team building activities including mock job interviews and officer training activities with students from Lake and Sumter counties. The MDHS FBLA Chapter officers are; Russell Fickett, Jaylen Roberts, Hunter Taylor, Hunter Straughan-Clay, President, William Morgan, Jon Ingersoll, Matthew Bennett, Kiley Clements, Morgan Raczowski, Peyton Taylor and Raeghan Fickett. The MDHS FBLA Chapter is the largest in the district, with 60 members. Competitions are in January and we are looking forward to a successful and exciting year in FBLA!

Coach Matulia

Mount Dora High School proudly introduces Mike Matulia as our new Head Varsity Baseball Coach. With an impressive 34-year coaching career at the collegiate level, Coach Matulia brings a wealth of baseball knowledge and expertise to our program.

Coach Matulia is an alumnus of The Citadel, where he earned a degree in Physical Education and also demonstrated his skills as a catcher on the baseball team for four years. Additionally, he holds a Master's Degree in Education from Georgia College and State University.

During his 26 years at Lake Sumter State College, Coach Matulia served as the Executive Athletic Director, while coaching the baseball team for nine of those years. He significantly expanded LSSC's athletic department, adding new sports, enhancing facilities, and achieving notable student success with high retention and graduation rates. Following Matulia's contributions he was inducted into the FCSAA Hall of Fame in 2019 and the LSSC Athletics Hall of Fame in 2020.

Coach Matulia's contributions extend beyond the field, as he has held prestigious roles such as the Florida College System Activities Association Men's Athletic Commissioner and a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association Board of Regents. He has shared his wisdom as a guest speaker at the American Baseball Coaches Association and Florida Athletic Coaches Association Conventions. Furthermore, he is the co-author of "Developing a Winning Pitcher - Catcher Combination" and currently serves on the Lake County Parks, Recreation and Trails Advisory Board and the North Lake County Fellowship of Christian Athletes Leadership Board. He is the former Owner/Director of the All-Star Baseball School and has served as an MLB Associate Scout for the Kansas City Royals, Pittsburgh Pirates, and Arizona Diamondbacks.

It is with great Hurricane pride that we welcome Coach Mike Matulia to the Hurricane FAMILY.



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MDHS National Honor Society News

We are proud to announce our new officers for the 2023-24 school year.

- President: Sophia Vo
 - Vice President: Niya Patel
 - Secretary: Ella Morris
 - Treasurer: Noelle Vu
 - Sergeant of Arms: Kylie Clements
- In other news, our new inductees will be announced shortly.

Our after school tutoring sessions are in full force.

We hope you have a wonderful holiday!



Fall Production of "The Man Who Came to Dinner" was Big Hit!

The weekend of November 10th brought a lot of joy and laughter to Mt. Dora community as The Mt. Dora Theatre Department showcased their theatrical talents by performing Moss Hart's "The Man who Came to Dinner". Between a heart-stopping set designed by Mrs. Cindy Brisson's drafting courses and the hilarious team of actors from Madame Perreault's Acting 3 & Technical Theater students, this show was bound to be a success!

Look out for our next upcoming production "Almost Maine," set to be performed this upcoming February.



FFA Wins Again!

Please congratulate the Mount Dora FFA Vegetable Judging Team. They qualified for and earned a spot at the State Championships yesterday in Haines City. They competed well, finishing 7th Place overall in the State.

We are excited to also announce that our very own, **Afrifa Amoah Mensah** placed **1st in the state** taking home the top individual honor, beating out 100 other FFA members for the State Championship!!! Congratulations to Afrifa as he will be honored on stage at the Florida FFA Convention and Expo in June. We are so proud of him!

Our team members were:

- Afrifa Amoah Mensah
- Morgan Mancil
- Wade Drugge
- Elian Balderas



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Marc Florexil

A huge congrats goes out to Senior Marc Florexil who last weekend with his 18:11 performance became Mount Dora High School's 10th fastest XC runner of all time! He is now tied for the number 9 spot held by alumni (2021) Dylan Rivera.



Mt. Dora High School ATHLETICS

2023-2024

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	lawsont@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)	Jeffrey Service	leahservice@yahoo.com
Swimming (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	hutchinsonl@lake.k12.fl.us
Softball	Mike Ganus	sk8ccpm@gmail.com
Track (B)	Cody Adkinson	adkinsonc@lake.k12.fl.us
Track (G)	Susan Heggie	heggies@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (B)	Jaqueline Holmes	holmesj@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (G)	Rodney Torrance	torrancer@lake.k12.fl.us
Baseball	Mike Matulia	matuliam@icloud.com
Flag Football (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us



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MDHS Class of '94

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Mt. Dora High School ATHLETICS

2023-2024

Boys Soccer Schedule

Date	Day	Opponent	Time	Bus Departure
1/4/2024	Thursday	HOME - Mater Brighton Academy	5:30 V Only	HOME
1/5/2024	Friday	AWAY - Eustis 4	5:30pm JV & 7 V	NO BUS
1/8/2024	Monday	HOME - Lake Minneola - 6	5:30 JV & 7 V	HOME
1/12/2024	Friday	HOME - (Rivalry) Tavares 4	1pm V only	HOME
1/16/2024	Tuesday	AWAY - MD Christian 2 (T)	7pm V only	NO BUS
1/18/2024	Thursday	HOME - Leesburg 5 (Senior Night)	5:30pm V Only	HOME
1/19/2024	Friday	AWAY - Masters Academy 3 (T)	5 VG & 7 VB	
1/19/2024	Friday	HOME - ORL Science High	5:30pm JV ONLY	HOME

Head Coach: Ryan Eshbaugh (eshbaughr@lake.k12.fl.us)

Athletic Directors: Kevin Gifford (giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us), Ted Dwyer (dwyert@lake.k12.fl.us)

Girls Weightlifting Schedule

Date	Event	Time
Wed, Jan 10th	Vs. Tavares & wildwood	(3:00pm)
Wed, Jan 17th	@ Umatilla	(3:00pm)
Fri, Jan 20th	Last day of Regular season	
Sat, Jan 27th	DISTRICTS	*tentative
Fri, February 2nd	REGIONALS	*tentative

GO CANES!



Wrestling Schedule

Tentative as of 9.12.2023

Day	Date	Event/Location	Weigh-in	Meet time	Bus time
TBA	TBA	DISTRICT DUAL MEET CHAMP AT MDHS	TBA	TBA	TBA
Friday	5-Jan	Ron Peters TOC at Lake Mary HS	TBA	TBA	TBA
Sat	6-Jan	Ron Peters TOC at Lake Mary HS	TBA	TBA	N/A
Thur	11-Jan	FHSAA Regional Duals at TBA*	5:00PM	6:00PM	TBA
Sat.	13-Jan	Ed Kilpatrick Invite at Citrus High School	8:00AM	9:30AM	6:15AM
Sat	20-Jan	Lyman Invitational (JV)	8:00AM	9:30AM	N/A
Wed	24-Jan	Lake County Founders Cup at TBA	4:00PM	5:00PM	TBA
Sat.	27-Jan	Wolfpack Invite at Timber Creek HS	7:30AM	9:30AM	5:30AM
Wed	31-Jan	Wekiva High School	5:30PM	6:00PM	N/A
Fri	2-Feb	Diamondback Duals at Belleview High School	1:30PM	2:30PM	11:30AM
Sat	3-Feb	Diamondback Duals at Belleview High School	8:00AM	9:00AM	N/A
TBA	TBA	District Championships at TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA
Fri/Sat	Feb 23-24	Region Championships*	TBA	TBA	N/A
Th/Fr/Sat	Feb 29 - March 2	Class 1A State Champ at Silver Spurs Arena*	TBA	TBA	N/A

*Have to qualify to compete in this event

Meets in Bold are at Mount Dora High School

Girls Soccer Schedule

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	JV Time	Varsity Time
Tuesday	1/9	Eustis	Mount Dora	5:30	7:00
Thursday	1/11	Davenport	Mount Dora		7:00
Friday	1/12	Leesburg	Mount Dora	5:30	7:00
Tuesday	1/16	MDCA	MDCA		5:00
Tuesday	1/16	Umatilla	Umatilla	4:00	
Wednesday (Senior Night)	1/17	Lake Buena Vista	Mount Dora	5:00	7:00
Friday	1/19	Masters Academy	Masters Academy		5:00

Head Coach: Brian Farwell (farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us)

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Girls Basketball Schedule

Date	Opponent	Time	Location
1/4/2024	Bellevue	6:00 PM	Home
1/5/2024	Legacy Charter	6:00 PM	Away
1/9/2024	Leesburg	6:00 PM	Away
1/11/2024	Winter Park	6:00 PM	Home
1/15/2024	Umatilla	6:00 PM	Home
1/16/2024	Taylor	6:00 PM	Away
1/18/2024	South Sumter	6:00 PM	Home
1/19/2024	Jordan Christian Prep	5:30 PM	Home
1/22/2024	Taylor	6:00 PM	Home
1/23/2024	Eustis	6:00 PM	Away
1/25/2024	Tavares	6:00 PM	Away
1/26/2024	South Sumter	6:00 PM	Away
1/30/2024	Bellevue	6:00 PM	Away
2/1/2024	Legacy Charter	6:00 PM	Home
2/2/2024	Crooms Academy	6:00 PM	Home

Head Coach: Kevin Gifford (giffordk@lake.k12.fl.us)

Boys Basketball Schedule

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
1/5/2024 Friday	OCALA FOREST (HOME)	5:30/7:00
1/8/2024 Monday	OVIEDO (HOME)	5:30/7:00
1/9/2024 Tuesday	TRINITY CATHOLIC (HOME)	5:30/7:00
1/12/2024 Friday	EUSTIS (AWAY)	V 12:00 / JV 1:30
1/16/2024 Tuesday	UMATILLA (HOME)	5:30/7:00
1/19/2024 Friday	JORDAN CHRISTIAN PREP (HOME)	7:00
1/23/2024 Tuesday	SOUTH LAKE (HOME)	5:30/7:00
1/26/2024 Friday	TRINITY CATHOLIC (AWAY)	6:00/7:30
1/27/2024 Saturday	VINCE MURRAY SHOOTOUT (OCALA)	TBA
1/29/2024 Monday	TAVARES (AWAY)	5:30/7:00
1/30/2024 Tuesday	LAKE MARY (AWAY)	6:00/7:30
1/31/2024 Wednesday	HAGERTY (HOME)	5:30/7:00

HOME 11 - AWAY 8 - TOURNAMENT 5

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Perfect Scores on State Testing!

The following students scored a PERFECT score on their respective Florida Standards Assessment last spring:

1. Ryan Buehler, Grade 10 Reading Assessment
2. Andres Thompson, Grade 10 Reading Assessment
3. Lawrence DeJongh, U.S. History EOC Assessment
4. Joran Fournier, U.S. History EOC Assessment
5. Brielle Ginther, U.S. History EOC Assessment
6. Charles Haynes, U.S. History EOC Assessment
7. Nathan Nache, U.S. History EOC Assessment
8. Christina Vukel, U.S. History EOC Assessment



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THE HURRICANE FORECAST

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Meet the Storm Chasers Pep Band!

Storm Chasers is a new student founded and student facilitated band. The pep band consists of 10 members which include Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors and can be seen playing at the Boys Varsity basketball games and other school events. Come join the fun while cheering on your Hurricanes.

AFJROTC

It is our distinct honor to share that your Mount Dora Air Force JROTC program (FL-951) has once again been recognized as being in the Top 5% AFJROTC programs in the entire WORLD!!!

There are 870 AFJROTC programs worldwide. We operate in all 50 states, US Territories and within Department of Defense School Systems in Europe and Asia. FL-951 was recognized for our service to the school, community and nation by performing over **6,800 service hours** during the annual reporting period! In doing so, our cadets once again earned the Silver Star Community Service With Excellence Award! Only three programs in the state of Florida, and only 44 units worldwide earned this honor! This is our program's SIXTH time earning the honor in the seven years the award has existed!

Please congratulate the JROTC cadets and Major Scott and Senior Master Sergeant Crum when you see them! HooRah Air Force and Go Canes!

