



THE HURRICANE FORECAST

February 2024 Volume 14 • Issue 1

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 Pfflner 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**

Cindy Bellamy, Teacher of the Year

The Education Foundation of Lake County has named their 2025 Lake County School’s Teacher of the Year and it’s our very own Cindy Bellamy! Mrs. Bellamy has been a teacher for 26 years and has spent the last 13 years teaching Agriculture at Mount Dora High School. She also leads our Future Farmer’s of America (FFA) and has made profound impacts in many ways. Thanks to her efforts, she can proudly say she had 100% of her second-year students pass their Industry Certification Exam. This is huge not only for the future of our students, but for our school grade and success of our CTE programs. In addition, our FFA is a Florida Premier Chapter, Florida’s Finest Chapter, and has been recognized as National Chapter. Only 1% of all FFA chapters can claim this!

We are so PROUD of you!

Mrs. Bellamy is an amazing teacher and well deserving of the award. After being announced the winner, she was handed the keys to a brand new 2024 Honda Civic from Jenkins Auto Group! Congratulations Mrs. Bellamy. We are all so very proud of you! #oneteam



MDHS Induction Ceremony

MDHS had their Induction Ceremony on January 17th. The purpose of the event is to provide new members with a memorable first-glance into the chapter and the Society. The induction is to celebrate the academic achievements of new members and to educate them on the responsibilities ahead.

Our New Inductees are:

- | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| Brianna Berger | Addison Fortenberry | Savannah Roy |
| Walker Bland | Mina Fourari | Peyton Scott |
| Brayden Brown | Jenna Green | Lucero Torres-Martinez |
| Lillie Bruehl | Sydney Guthrie | Tanner Waring |
| Ryan Buehler | Jade Hylton | Payton Wise |
| Abbey Caster | Daniel Lozano | Mackenzie Zaffis |
| Nina Chadwick | Ella Makinson | |
| Luca Celis | Brooke Miller | |
| Meghan Connor | Kendall Phillips | |
| Maelis Cowdrey | Sadie Pruet | |
| Ryan Crow | Morgan Raczkowski | |
| Mackenzie Davis | Riley Raczkowski | |
| Alyssa Denmark | Joenn Repollo | |
| Kera Doggins | Preston Rhodes | |
| Hannah Douglas | Bailey- Roman | |
| Russell Fickett | Christina Romano | |



LAKE COUNTY SCHOOLS
2023-2024 Student Calendar

(180 Days)

Board Approved: 02.27.2023

School Month			Student Days
FEBRUARY	February 19	Presidents' Day/Student Holiday (Monday)	20
MARCH	March 7	End of Third Grading Period(Thursday)	5 Total Days 44 9
	March 8	Non-Student Day / Teacher Work Day (Friday)	
	March 11-15	Spring Break/Student Holiday (Monday-Friday)	
	March 18	Classes Resume/Fourth Grading Period Begins (Monday)	
	March 29	Non-Student Day (Friday)	
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



MDHS Science Fair Winners Announcement 2023-2024



The Mount Dora High School Science Fair took place on January 8 through Jan 11th. This year we had our largest number of competitors, and with a mix of both team and individual projects, we had 59 projects!

Students had to spend *months* planning, designing, and building their projects. Once they collected their projects, so of which had data collected in one day, and some over several weeks, they presented their findings. After the rigorous scoring and interview portion, we are ready to announce some winners.

This year we will be nominating six total projects to the Lake District Science and Engineering Fair. This year, with 17 team projects, three have been chosen to move on to the district fair.

TEAMS CATEGORY:

1st place: Brisana Rabadan and Jaylah Powers - Comparing Suture Techniques

This project won first place because of the depth of research that was necessary to make the models of different suture techniques, and how knowledgeable the presenters were in picking a particular model (chicken) to replicate human tissue. They also had rigorous standards for it's real world application as well as testing their success.

2nd place: Kate Guthrie, Channing Bland, Bailey Makinson - How Different Temperatures Affect the Amount of Mold

This investigation followed the development and growth of bread mold among different temperatures of types of breads. This project placed well because of the length of time, dedication of the project, and knowledge of the subject. They were even able to account for interesting trends in their data more so that others normally would.

3rd place: Hazel Prince and Ariella Rivera - Cookie Science

Students studied how resting cookie dough in the refrigerator for different lengths of time plays a role in how they spread and shape in the oven. This project placed well because of the attention of controlling as many variables as possible and dedication in their measuring of their data. It stood out as likely being the tastiest science fair project this year.

PLANT SCIENCES:

1st place: Siera Sharp - How Different Type of Water Affect Plant Growth

Is all water created equal? An answer was revealed after subjecting various plants to types of water sources. This simple but elegant experiment showed strong conclusions. This student project excelled at controlling as many variables as possible, accounting for their data in more than one creative way, and backing up their design with meticulous data recording, while still showing a deep understanding of what future projects might look like.

PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY:

1st place: Elise Foley - Was Einstein right? Proving Relativity with Household Items.

This was a big undertaking for a freshman, but she was able to show that muons and electrons could indeed be revealed using dry ice, an empty aquarium and a little knowledge. This project showed the most in depth background as well as most complicated procedure to witness (and confirm) Einstein's thoughts on relativity.

ENGINEERING:

1st place: Breyanna Sevileno - Building an RC Car

This project followed the design principles to the letter in trying to not only build an radio controlled car, but to make it designs so that weight distribution on the car itself allows for the transference of power throughout the vehicle to actually make it go the straightest in a small track.



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Literacy Cafe

Here are a few pictures from our Literacy Cafe' from Literacy Week. Ms. Moore and Coach Schlotter hosted at collaborative music, breakfast, hot chocolate, coffee, and book checkout prior to classes starting on Jan 25th.



Football Players Read to Triangle Elementary

Coach Hutchinson and some of our football players, celebrated Florida's Literacy Week by going to Triangle Elementary School to take part in their Literacy Mystery Readers Event. These young men read to several students to help reinforce the importance of reading and to create a little spark to help these young students want to not only read for learning, but to also read for fun!

Cheer & NHS Read to Sorrento Elementary

MDHS had 57 NHS and cheerleaders visit Sorrento Elementary. They went to each classroom to read to students. The event supported Florida's Literacy Week, which is designed to raise awareness about the importance of reading and to inspire Florida's students and families to make reading part of their daily routines. It was treat for all.

World Read Aloud Day

Ms. Romano's Class took part in World Read Aloud Day. Research has shown that reading aloud to students can increase vocabulary, listening skills, and ability to recognize words. World Read Aloud Day is recognized on the first Wednesday of February. Here are some of her students taking part in the festivities.



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AVID

MDHS's AVID Program participates in weekly Tutorials within this tutoring process, it features a scaffolded and supportive approach to help students exercise their "inquiry muscles." The process is divided into three parts: before, during, and after the session. Students work together to support learning in a collaborative environment to help learn rigorous content in all disciplines. We would love to have more students join us in the supportive and collaborative program, if you think you might be interested or have any questions please stop by and see Dee Dailey in room 4-212 or Coach Schlotter 3-221.

NHS

Mount Dora's National Honor Society is supporting our students by tutoring math during our Huddle Time. Here are some of them hard at work! This is helping our students give back to our school, while helping us build a community of learners. This is in line with our #ONETEAM philosophy.



FBLA

Congrats FBLA MEMBERS! You were amazing! We won 14 first-place awards and multiple second and third-place finishes. We must give a huge congratulations to Hunter Taylor & Kaitlyn Rains for their first-place finish in Broadcast journalism, Lexus Ottum & Savannah Roy for their first-place finish in Sales Presentation, and especially to Austin Lanktree & William Morgan for repeat first place finishes in Sports & Entertainment Management! These 6 young adults have earned their way to the state competition March 15-18, we cannot wait to see how they perform. As well as all our individual wins, we had the highly anticipated District 10 rivalry for Poster and Nametag Competition, and we successfully completed the 3-peat winning first in both categories, thanks to the creative mind of our Chapter President, William Morgan, who designed and created both entries with a little help from Chapter Vice President Kylie Clements and District Vice President Hunter Taylor. We are so happy how this year has turned out so far and proud of our Chapter.



Left to right: Afrifa Amoah-Mensah, Kaleb Olson, Jessica Husbye, Austin Lanktree, William Morgan, Ryan Buehler, Jake Brough, Kaitlyn Rains, Hunter Taylor, Savannah Roy, Lexus Ottum

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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)	Brennan Guido	brennang@lake.k12.fl.us
Tennis (G)	Jaqueline Holmes	holmesj@lake.k12.fl.us
Baseball	Mike Matulia	matuliam@icloud.com
Flag Football (G)	Brian Farwell	farwellb@lake.k12.fl.us



YNA Peer Mentoring

We would like to congratulate our newest You're Not Alone peer mentors! The You're Not Alone peer mentors are leaders on campus whose goal is to promote mental wellness at MDHS. The YNA peer mentors support fellow students through coordinating fun activities throughout the year and providing lunch buddies for students in need. They also raise awareness on issues through constructing bulletin boards as well as being a positive support to a classmate in need. We are so excited to welcome our newest members to the program.



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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
Tuesday	2/20	Horizon	Horizon	4:00pm	7:00pm
Wednesday	2/21	Lake Minneola	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	
Thursday	2/22	Horizon	Mt. Dora		6:00pm
Friday	2/23	West Orange	West Orange	4:30pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	2/27	Horizon	Mt. Dora	4:30pm	
Friday	3/1	Pine Ridge	Pine Ridge		4:00pm
Wednesday	3/6	Eustis	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	6:30pm
Thursday	3/7	Pine Ridge	Mt. Dora	4:30pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	3/19	Tavares	Tavares	4:30pm	7:00pm
Thursday	3/21	Tavares	Mt. Dora	4:30pm	7:00pm
Saturday	3/23	Lake Minneola	Lake Minneola	10:00am	12:30pm
Monday	3/25	Windermere Prep	Windermere Prep	4:00pm	
Tuesday	3/26	Wekiva	Wekiva	4:00pm	6:30pm
Wednesday	3/27	Eustis	Eustis	4:00pm	7:00pm
Thursday	3/28	Leesburg	Leesburg	4:00pm	7:00pm
Monday	4/1	Wekiva	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	6:30pm
Thursday	4/4	Bellevue	Bellevue	4:00pm	6:00pm
Tuesday	4/9	East ridge	East Ridge	4:00pm	7:00pm
Wednesday	4/10	Apopka	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	
Thursday	4/11	South Lake	South Lake	4:30pm	7:00pm
Tuesday	4/16	Umatilla	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	6:30pm
Thursday	4/18	Leesburg	Mt. Dora	4:00pm	6:30pm
Friday	4/19	Umatilla	Umatilla	4:00pm	6:30pm
Monday	4/22	Apopka	Mt. Dora		6:00pm
Tuesday	4/23	Bellevue	Mt. Dora		6:00pm
Friday	4/26	Windermere Prep	Mt. Dora		4:30pm

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**

Boys/Girls Tennis Schedule

Date	Opponent / Location	Time	Team	Place
2/20	Leesburg	3:30	Boys / Girls	Away
2/27	Foundation Academy	3:30	Boys / Girls	Away
2/29	Tavares ****	3:30	Boys / Girls	Home
3/1	Eustis High ***		Boys	Away
3/5	Eustis High ****	4:30	Girls	Home
3/7	STAFF MATCH	2:40	Challenge a Teacher	Away
3/19	Father Lopez	3:30	Boys / Girls	Home
3/21	South Lake	3:30	Girls	Away
3/22	East Ridge	3:30	Girls	Home
3/26	FAL	4:00	Boys / Girls	Away
3/28	Tavares ****	3:30	Boys / Girls	Away
4/2	MDCA	3:30	Boys / Girls	Home
4/9	Lake Minneola	3:30	Boys / Girls	Away
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
2/23 Friday	Carl Friedland Memorial 2023	Bishop Moore Catholic High School
3/2 Saturday	Harmony Invitational	Harmony High School
3/6 Wednesday	Larry Kelly Invitational 2024	Bishop Moore Catholic High School
3/21	Villages Meet	
3/22-3/23	FSU Relays	FSU
3/28 Thursday	Frostproof The Bulldogs Field Invitational 2024	Frostproof HS
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

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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

Softball Schedule

Date	V / JV	Day	Opponent	Location	Bus pickup
15-Feb-24	V 5pm	Thursday	Tavares (FL)	Away (Preseason Classic @ UHS	
15-Feb-24	V 7pm	Thursday	First Academy (Leesburg, FL)	Away (Pre-Season Classic @ UHS	
20-Feb-24	V 6pm	Tuesday	Lake Buena Vista (Orlando, FL)	Home	
21-Feb-24	V 7pm	Wednesday	Mount Dora Christian Academy (Mount Dora, FL)	Home	
22-Feb-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Thursday	Crescent City (FL)	Away	230pm
27-Feb-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Tuesday	Foundation Academy (Winter Garden, FL)	Home	
29-Feb-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Thursday	The Villages Charter (The Villages, FL)	Away (Turf Shoes)	3pm
4-Mar-24	V 6pm	Monday	First Academy (Leesburg, FL)	Home	
5-Mar-24	V 6pm	Tuesday	Tavares (FL)	Home	
6-Mar-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Wednesday	Umatilla (FL) *	Away	
19-Mar-24	V 6pm	Tuesday	Tavares (FL)	Away	
20-Mar-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Wednesday	The Villages Charter (The Villages, FL)	Home	
21-Mar-24	JV 5pm	Thursday	Belleview	Home	
21-Mar-24	V 7pm	Thursday	South Lake (Groveland, FL)	Home	
22-Mar-24	JV5, V 7pm	Friday	Taylor HS	Home	
25-Mar-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Monday	Eustis (FL)	Away	
26-Mar-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Tuesday	Lake Minneola (Minneola, FL)	Home	
28-Mar-24	JV 6pm	Thursday	Crescent City (FL)	Home	
1-Apr-24	V 7pm	Monday	South Lake (Groveland, FL)	Away	3pm
2-Apr-24	V 430pm	Tuesday	Windermere Prep (Windermere, FL) *	Away	230pm
4-Apr-24	V 6pm	Thursday	First Academy (Leesburg, FL)	Away (At Sleepy Hollow)	330pm
9-Apr-24	JV 5, V 7pm	Tuesday	Lake Minneola (Minneola, FL)	Away	3pm
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 Iesha Waters		
			Matt McDaniel		

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IMPORTANT DATES

- **Prom:** April 5, 2024 (see Ms. Griffith or Ms. Walker for more information)
- **Senior Breakfast:** May 3rd, 7am in Cane Cafe - you will receive your cap and gown 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

2 0 2 4

FFA

FFA Winners

Please congratulate our FFA members! This weekend we had 3 teams compete and qualify for the FFA State Championships...FFA teams had a great weekend... on Friday, our Livestock team was successful in securing their place to compete at the Florida State FFA Livestock Championships. Please congratulate the following students:

- Brandon Asay
- Cheyenne Bragg (Placed 13 highest out of all competitors in the state)
- Kaylee Kline
- Taylor Holton
- Morgan Mancil

On Saturday, our Horse Evaluation team earned their place and qualified for the state championships. Our amazing team was: Please congratulate:

- Kaylee Kline
- Kayleigh Casey
- Addison Ganus
- Allyannah Frazier

Finally, our Meats judging team competed placing the highest Mount Dora has ever performed in this contest. Please congratulate:

- Kaylee Kline
- Kayleigh Casey
- Addison Ganus
- Allyannah Frazier

Congratulations to the following individuals who competed in the FFA Sub-District Leadership Development Events on Tuesday:

- Extemporaneous Public Speaking: Afrifa Amoah Mensah - 2nd Place
- Prepared Public Speaking: Morgan Mancil - 3rd Place
- Creed Public Speaking: Alondra Gutierrez - 3rd Place
- Tractor Driving: Brandon Asay - 4th Place

A big Congratulations goes to Addison Ganus who is our newly elected Chairman for all of Lake County FFA and Area 3, District 5, Sub-District 3! Way to make us proud.

All of these students performed well and represented Mount Dora FFA once again at the top of the competition.

