



By The Numbers

25 different middle schools were represented in the Honor Band. According to Music Director Kristen Hurd, these students are working with Dr. Thornton from Michigan State and Dr. Klena from Oakland University. The students are: Declan Lee – saxophone, Joshua Day - saxophone, and Roshan Desai - trumpet

14 MSB students participated in Solo and Ensemble Festival at Oakview Middle School. Music Director Kristen Hurd said, “they did a fantastic job and we are very proud of them!” The students were: Junu Ahn, Matthew Sanders, Derek Forsberg, Zubin Namei, Jonathan Yang, Charles Stamell, Atharva Modi, Josif Basha, Conner Chabie, Douglas Craig, Sopham Parthej, Michael Wu, Jaiden Swami, and Declan Lee

5 students were recognized during the Performing Arts Concert. The Director’s Award for Band was given to Roshan Desai [27], Declan Lee [27], and Hannah Lee [27]. The Scholar Instrumentalist Award - Yitong Li [27] and Andy Yu [27]

1949 was the first year that the United States began raising awareness of those living with mental or behavioral health issues and to help reduce the stigma so many experiences. Since then, the month of May has been established at Mental Health Awareness Month.

742 pounds of plastic and film were collected during the first annual plastic challenge. “That’s an incredible amount that we were able to divert to a recycling center to be turned into Trex Decking. I’m still waiting on the final schools total but our 742 lbs was enough for us to finish 5th in the middle school category in the nation,” Michael Toth said. “Thank you to [Mrs. Campbell] for her help and support with this. I am hoping to do it again next year and collect even more. I am going to leave a bin near the office for plastic film collection. This is for plastic that you generate while at school but if something is brought in from home then I’m happy to take that in for recycling too. Several people have asked where to continue recycling now that the challenge has ended. Kroger and Meijer have contracts with Trex to collect plastic film. That’s where I was dropping off the plastic that we collected and I encourage you to continue collecting and recycling. Thanks again for your help and support.”

Survey Provides Important Data

By: Haoming Guo

This survey is an important one.

“Surveys are important because they are an opportunity to hear directly and anonymously from the students that are currently at the MSB,” MSB Division Head Leslie Rodriguez said of the Authentic Connections survey distributed to students during their study halls on May 2 and May 3. “Hopefully, as students take the survey, they will realize that they have a voice too. We tell students that they are important and to share daily, but this is evidence that we truly want to know what it feels like to attend MSB and that we determined, dedicated and will work to make it the best place to be educated.”

According to Karen Gomez, Cranbrook Kingswood’s Director of Wellness, this survey’s objective was to help the staff in their number one goal. “As you know, at our school, we

care very much about students’ overall well-being. And [this survey] helps us in our efforts on that front. The results will help us to determine the strengths of our school and areas on which we can improve. What we’re interested in is the collective responses from our school – not responses of individual students; this aggregated data will be used to help determine how best we can improve student well-being. The survey is a series of science-based questionnaires about experiences as a student.” Rodriguez added, “the information gives us a look into the life of a student. We look for trends over time and over grade levels. We also look for similarities and differences between the subgroups – such as gender. surveys like this also allow for us to discuss some of these topics opening in school in ways that we might normally not do. The survey raises questions about various topics that might not come to light without it first.

Looking at the results from 2022’s survey, MSB counselor Peggy Ewick said that one piece of data stood out for here. She said that students were having “a lot of anxiety around getting things done and trying figure out what to do. We hope that they can be less anxious about these things this year.”

Rodriguez said that she wasn’t surprised seeing the 2022 data because it was given as restrictions from the Pandemic were lessening.

“The pandemic happened in between the two surveys. I am interested in seeing the results from the survey we just took in 2023,” she said. “Data is just data, so it opens the opportunity to discuss topics with faculty about students’ general experiences without identifying specific student nor teachers. The goal is to improve, not offend. But if we don’t have accurate infor-

mation and just make assumptions, we cannot truly serve students and families. There are always more questions for me when looking at survey results. I want to dig in further and wonder what we could do differently to impact the results in a positive way.”

To ensure that students felt safe providing authentic answers, Gomez explained that the survey was done in the incognito mode on the student’s computers. She believes it is important that students know that they are counting on honest responses “to guide us regarding the best possible ways in which we can make improvements. No identifying information – including IP addresses – will be sent to the research team or your school. All of survey responses are completely anonymous. There is no way for anyone to trace your particular responses back to you. Responses to multiple questions will never be presented together. We will not be able to use your answers to questions about your grade, gender, race / ethnicity, etc. to identify any of your responses to other questions. We look at data by groups of students (i.e., by grade, gender, race / ethnicity), and we only look at groups with at least 10 students (i.e., if there are fewer than 10 Latinx / Hispanic students at this school, we would not show data for a “Latinx / Hispanic” group to protect student privacy).” The data informs our instruction and plans of improvement.”

For Ewick, she wants students to know that they don’t need to wait for an anonymous survey to share how they feel. “We want students to know the school is an open place, and they can come talk to us if they are feeling troubled,” she said.

“We want to build a strong relationship and community by openly expressing our thoughts and not holding back.”



Illustration
by David Yang

Field Day Traditions Return to Play

By: Ethan Minster

Field Day is coming.

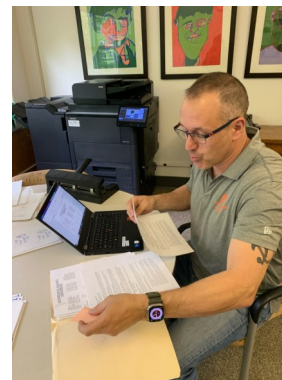
On June 7th, the traditional Field Day will once again end the year.

“It is simply a great day to celebrate school/team spirit and exhibit good sportsmanship, leadership and comradery,” Mike Auth, the official Field Day Coordinator said. Weeks prior to the event, Auth and gym teacher Chris Hughes work behind the scenes. “Planning starts two to three weeks before the first meeting. We go over notes from last year and tweak events accordingly, perhaps removing some, adding others, and adjusting locations and rules. Prior to the first meeting, teams, events, and schedule need to be in place,” Auth said. “[There is] tons of paperwork involved along every step of the way. Coordinating with other teachers and making sure everything fits into the school-wide schedule.”

Tuesday, May 23, during an all-school assembly, students and staff gathered in the gymnasiums to learn about what to expect in the weeks before Field Day. Auth explained that because of Covid, many students never got the opportunity to participate in many of the traditional aspects of Field Day. Even though there was a Field Day at the end of the 2021-2022 school year, not all

of the prior activities were included.

“As we return to a pre-COVID version of Field Day, we added back into the schedule the canned food drive for charity, the team cheer/mascot and team logo design. These allow more opportunities for participation in different ways (not just athletic) and team spirit,” he said.



Michael Auth prepares for Field Day. Photo by staff

Two weeks prior to the day, students and staff were afforded time to plan their strategy during a special schedule every Tuesday and Thursday. Meeting with their Field teams during an extended advisory, teams were able to create their cheers, design team shirts and prepare for the various activities which ranged from a trivia contest to outdoor athletic events such as a three-legged race.

Working with Auth and Hughes, members of the CLC provided ideas for all the activities. “We have planned a lot of organized events and a big tug-of-war game,” Stirling Victor[28] said. “I’m extremely giddy because it will be a great and fun event and it will be very fun.” Adding to Victor’s thoughts, Sheila Cohen, one of the CLC advisors, said, “We are very excited.”