

MANDARIN MUSTANG UPDATE

Parents, Community, & School in Partnership

"Galloping towards Excellence!"

Principal's Message

To My Mandarin Family,

It is hard to believe that the first 9 weeks of the 2009-10 school year has already come and gone – but it has. We have had a very eventful start to this academic year, filled with new hires, parent nights, athletic games, Homecoming activities, senior week, and classroom instruction every single day. We have met many parents and had countless conferences with students and teachers alike. It has been very busy and very taxing at times – trying to get the additional teachers on board to satisfy the CSR (Class Size Reduction) Legislative requirements. We did not like upsetting your children's schedules once they had been created and the students had grown accustomed to their classrooms. But we had to make changes. We had to follow District and State mandates to ensure our class sizes were not more than 25 students per class in the core curricula overall. We reduced many large classes, and never intended to upset our students and parents. We lost three beloved elective teachers, and had no choice but to let this happen in order to meet State expectations. We made some very difficult decisions, but feel like all of them were made with the children's best interest at heart. And now as we enter the second 9 weeks of school we have all re-acclimated nicely. We hope your children have found new security in their current teachers and situations and can direct their attentions on the business at hand – and that is getting a high school education. We appreciate your patience throughout all of our changes and promise to always keep your children's needs at the forefront of our actions.

We now eagerly launch into the second half of our first semester and anticipate many exciting learning experiences for our students. The next two months will have many Holidays in them and we encourage you to have your children read books during their absences from school. We want to keep their brains active and their minds receptive to information so upon their return to us they will be able to jump right back into their academics without missing a step. Please come visit us and know that you are always WELCOME on our campus!

Dr. Donna A. Richardson

M&M's-Mentoring Made Easy

Mandarin's Motivating Mentors Program has already enjoyed two productive meetings. We have eight mentors signed up so far to mentor our students and would welcome any of you who would like to dedicate one morning a month to make a difference in a child's life. Terry Darby, Assistant Principal, is coordinating the meetings and can be reached at darbyt2@duvalschools.org or 260-3911x1079. We thank the following community members who have already committed to working with our young people on a monthly basis: **Susan Anthony, Debra Burns, David Cohen, Kristina Hendrix, Christine Kennedy, Ken Vensel, Angela Walker, and George Walker.**

Our next three meetings will be November 16th, December 14th, and January 25th at 8:00 a.m. in the Mandarin Media Center. Please join us and make a positive difference in the life of a child!

MANDARIN POLICIES IN PLACE

We need our parents to help us enforce the school's policies by making sure your children are squared away before they leave home each morning. Please check to see that students are wearing their Mandarin I.D.'s and following our simple Dress Code of Appearance. It would really help if you could check and see if the young men do not have hats on, and that their Jeans are pulled up to their waistlines with belts intact. Our young ladies should not wear tank tops or skirts or shorts that are shorter than our Code requires (See Below). Ragged clothes should not be worn, as we expect our young people to be presentable each day and prepared to focus on their academics. Following our Dress Code and I.D. Policies are very simple things for all to do, and we appreciate our parents supporting the school and just reminding the children of these responsibilities. We appreciate all our parents!!

MAYPORT NAVAL BASE COMMANDING OFFICER VISITS MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL

Admiral Victory Gillory visited Mandarin High School students October 27th. He oversees the U.S. Navy's 4th Fleet covering Central and South America countries. Information was shared regarding geography, social studies, and international relationships. The students were intrigued and asked thought-provoking questions for Admiral Gillory to answer. What an opportunity for Mandarin High School to entertain such important dignitaries in our community!

NEW TEACHERS TO MANDARIN

We are pleased to welcome the following new teachers to Mandarin High School, many of which were added due to the Class Size Reduction Legislative Amendment. Thanks to this Legislation, Mandarin was given additional teachers to reduce our class sizes. We welcome the following highly qualified instructors to the best school ever!

- **Rebekkah Susa**— Language Arts
- **Lillian Rivera**--- Spanish
- **Nancy Moss**-- French
- **Michelle Wolrich**-- Spanish
- **Cory Waxman**-- Math
- **Steve Joyner**-- Social Studies
- **Melanie Burnett**-- Science

MAJOR AREAS OF INTEREST (MAI'S) REQUIRED OF ALL STUDENTS

In accordance with the State of Florida House Bill 7089, four elective credits in a MAI are required for graduation for those students who started 9th grade in school year 2007-2008 and later. The MAI courses are a set of related electives; for example, fine arts classes, technical classes, academic classes, or even physical education classes. This selection process is designed to prod students into thinking about career choices now, instead of waiting until college. We want them setting goals for their lives.

Students new to Mandarin High School will be required to update an MAI within the first two weeks of November.

Please visit

<http://www.fl DOE.org/APlusPlus/Default.asp> for more information.

TECHNOLOGY-KEEPING US INFORMED

Duval County recently adopted the OnCourse grading and attendance system whereby parents can access the attendance and grades of students at any point in time through the Internet. Parents are encouraged to pick up passwords in the Main Office if not accomplished already. We will soon be setting up a parent computer center where parents can use a school computer to access this information if needed. Please contact Cyndi Ashley at ashleyc@duvalschools.org for more information.

Parentlink is our new automated telephone communication system which enables us to do personal callouts to parents about important happenings at our school. We want you to be informed about your child's school. Please contact Virginia Crump at crumpv@duvalschools.org to ensure accurate phone numbers in our school records.

UPCOMING DRAMA PRODUCTION

The fall production of the Mandarin Players will present "The Curious Savage" by John Patrick on November 19th, 20th, 21st at 7 p.m. in our newly painted auditorium. The cost is \$5 at the door (doors open at 6:30 p.m.). Ms. Jordan McVeigh, our Drama Instructor, will direct a full ensemble cast of 11 outrageous characters who will entertain and dazzle the audience with their dramatic presentation.

Ms. McVeigh is pleased to announce that the Drama Club has grown and added many new and talented young people to the cast. Please mark your calendar and come out and support these Mandarin students. *Lights, Camera, Action!*



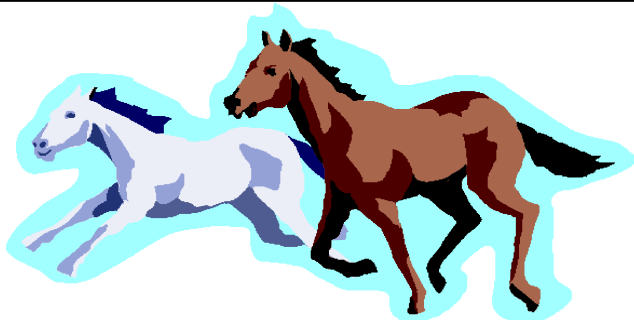
MUSTANG PRIDE RULES!

GRADE LEVEL PARENT NIGHTS BRING OUT THE BEST

The Mandarin Guidance Department has sponsored parent nights each year for every grade level in our school. The Freshmen Parent Night, held October 22nd, was a huge success with an auditorium full of parents interested in learning about the graduation requirements for their students. Our guidance counselors exceeded the program and provided parents with the most up-to-date information available. Administrators also attend these informative sessions and are available for any questions. There will be three more grade-level parent nights. The junior parent Night will be held Nov. 5th at 6:00 in the auditorium, and the Sophomore and Senior Parent Nights soon thereafter, with times and dates yet to be announced. Please do not miss these golden opportunities to learn more about what is expect of your children to ensure their graduation.

HAPPY 20th ANNIVERSARY MANDARIN HIGH SCHOOL!

Mandarin High School is proud to announce that this year marks the school's 20th year. It was built in 1991 as a flagship high school in Duval County and is still a beautiful campus with over 73 acres of surrounding grounds. Five principals have led this institution, including Mr. Dalton Epting, Dr. Milton Threadcraft, Mr. Larry Roziars, Dr. Crystal Sisler, and now Dr. Donna Richardson. It is one of the finest schools in Northeast Florida and earned an "A" on the 2009 FCAT. Three thousand students attend Mandarin today, and 160 teachers and 40 staff members support them every single day. It is with great honor and pride that we look forward to many more years serving the Mandarin community with Excellence!



TRAFFIC PATTERNS A REAL ISSUE AT TIMES HERE AT MANDARIN

Parents dropping students off for school in the morning and picking them up in the afternoons can become a real issue with over 3000 students entering and leaving the campus each day. Our SRO's (School Resource Officers), and school security personnel are tasked with making sure everyone has a safe experience when at Mandarin High School. This requires a bit of planning and then implementing those traffic plans with fidelity. And we need our parents to help us out. So,

Parents – please drop your students off in the areas that are designated for drop off and do not drive into the front area of the school during high peak traffic times. Thanks!

MANDARIN HOMECOMING 2009-2010

We are proud to congratulate our Homecoming Queen and King, and their Senior Court for 2009-10. These young people were elected by their peers and represent the best and brightest of the 21st Century.

- Homecoming Queen: **Erica Altman**
- Homecoming King: **Michael Chase**
- Court: **Kelly Connelly, Bethany Charles, Lindsay Kelly, Alex Wayman, Delano Martins, Tony Mollica, Ryan Bass, and Blake Berger**

TEACHER OF THE YEAR 2009-2010

Congratulations to **Mrs. Katherine Nesselrode**, Mandarin's Teacher of the Year for 2010. Mrs. Nesselrode has been teaching Advanced Placement Language Arts for the past several years and has earned the respect and admiration of her peers and students alike. She is an enthusiastic, exciting instructor, who genuinely cares about her students, and is the perfect choice to represent Mandarin at the District and State levels. **Mrs. Nesselrode** will now advance to the next step of competition with fellow Duval County teachers of the year. We wish her great Luck and hope to see her as the Duval County Teacher of the Year.

MANDARIN VISION/MISSION STATEMENT:

Vision: MHS will orient, educate, and graduate every student fully prepared for successful entry to and completion of college.

Mission: Mandarin High School is dedicated to providing high quality educational opportunities for all students through professional and small learning communities. Students are engaged in learning across the curriculum and every child is expected to graduate on time -- with a career choice in mind. We are preparing a well-rounded, literate, character-filled cohort of American citizens who have the knowledge and skills needed to succeed in a global economy and diverse population.

MANDARIN DRESS CODE

PLEASE READ!

THE FOLLOWING ARE NOT ALLOWED ON OUR CAMPUS.

- Shorts or skirts shorter than 4" above the knee
- Revealing clothing or Torn Clothing
- Pants hanging down and/or underwear showing
- Inappropriate wording or graphics on clothes
- Students without I.D.'s (All students MUST wear an Identification Tag every day. Students who do not have I.D.'s must get a Temporary I.D. for the day and then purchase a new one for \$5.00.
- Electronic devices (iPods, Gameboys, etc.)
- Cell Phones that are turned ON (They must remain unseen and unused during the school day)
- HATS of any kind - Bandanas, head coverings
- Tank Tops or Muscle Man Shirts

We expect our students to dress appropriately for school and to follow our school policies. The Duval County *Student Code of Conduct* guides student behaviors and should be read at home by parents and students alike. Every student receives a copy of this booklet and should be familiar with its contents. Thanks for supporting our school!

HAPPY VETERANS' DAY TO ALL OUR AMERICAN HEROES

MANDARIN SENIOR 2010 SUPERLATIVES

Please join us in Congratulating:

- Most School Spirit- **Phillip Heliman , Stephanie Holt**
- Best Dressed- **Zach Houston, Jackie Oboikovitz**
- Best Personality- **Colt Powell, Katrinna Anderson**
- Most Academic- **Delano Martins, Jangai Jap**
- Most Attractive- **Zach Malcomb, Erica Altman**
- Most Spontaneous- **Dean Nimock, Sarah Abramson**
- Best Eyes- **Jack Turner, Rachael Riley**
- Most Athletic- **Kevin Bell, Ally Lee**
- Best Smile- **Michael Chase, Hannah Corely**
- Most Talented- **Matt Olsavsky, Tierney Suggs**
- Most Likely to Succeed- **Ryan Bass, Amanda Cornell**
- Wittiest- **Travis Williamson, Brooke Kardohley**
- Most Original- **C.J. Couch, Grace Beck**
- Best All Around- **Jarrell Stewart, Kaylah Halstead**

PTSA GARAGE SALE - November 21st

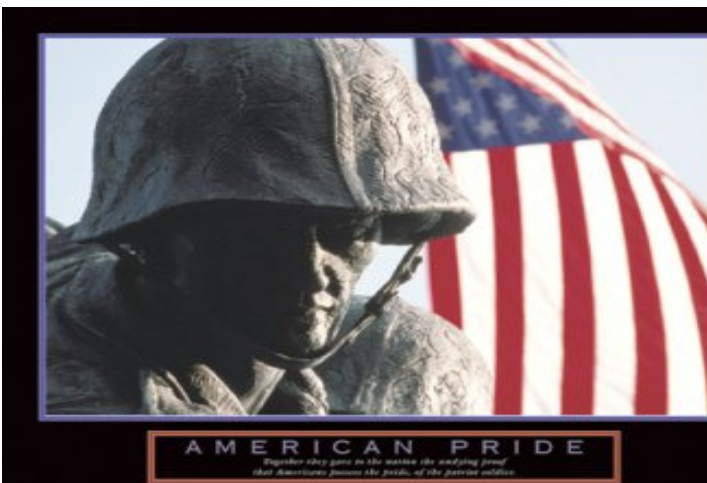
We will be having a garage sale on November 21st from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm @ Mandarin High School!

Come support your PTSA fundraiser!! Clean out your garage, closet, and attic - bring it to us!! Donations for the garage sale will be accepted on: Saturday, November 7th & 14th from 10am-2pm, Monday, November 16th from 1:45-5:00 p.m. and Friday, November 20th, from 2:30-7:00 in the bus loading area. Please no broken items, non-working items and no clothing unless nearly new. For questions, donations, or to volunteer, contact; Christy Loberger @ 470-3988 or coloberger@comcast.net SEE YOU THERE!

DUAL ENROLLMENT OPPORTUNITIES INCREASE AT MANDARIN

Mandarin offers dual enrollment at the school campus for the first time this year. We have a Dual Enrollment Spanish class and a Dual Enrollment College Readiness class. We hope to add a Medical Academy Dual Enrollment class in second semester. Students who successfully complete these classes will earn a college credit at Florida State College at Jacksonville (the new name for FCCJ). We are very excited to have these new college opportunities for our young people, as we stress to them the importance of taking rigorous courses to prepare for the university work that awaits them. Students interested in these new course offerings need to contact their appropriate guidance counselors. Mandarin aspires for all its students to graduate from high school with college credits already earned on their transcripts. Dual Enrollment is here to stay at Mandarin!

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AICE RECRUITMENT

Applications for the Mandarin AICE Program are due in January 2010. Mandarin AICE Lead Teacher Jim Hicken has been visiting middle schools recruiting students for our academic magnet program that leads to an International Certificate of Education certified by Cambridge University. The program will accept 150 students into the new cohort starting in August 2010.. The current enrollment is over 400 students. Please contact Mr. Hicken for more information at hickenj@duvalschools.org.

PTSA - OFF TO A GREAT START!

The Mandarin PTSA is pleased to announce it is off to a great start! Several events have already taken place including Open House, Open House Café, Volunteer Orientation, MHS PTSA General meeting, and Homecoming Ticket sales. I want to thank everyone for their time, donations, and participation in these and many other events. Our school is a success thanks to all of the support and volunteer hours that our families give to Mandarin High School.

There are still several board positions available on MHS PTSA. If you are interested please contact Doug Stovall.

Doug Stovall – MH PTSA President
608-2243

everychild.onevoice
deltagolf@comcast.net

This year our PTSA membership drive is off to a strong start. Parents, students, guardians, grandparents, aunts, uncles, neighbors, community members all can join to show their support for the work of others. \$5 per member is the best deal in town.

Your membership also helps your student – the battle of the classes is off and running! Help your favorite teacher win the faculty challenge by assigning your membership to a teacher on the envelope in the membership teacher box! **Being a member does not obligate you to volunteer. Join PTSA Today!**

Questions? Susan Bass, V.P. Membership 268-1424 or Angela Walker, Volunteers @ 465-3845.

MANDARIN LOSES TWO RETIRING TEACHERS

Two of Mandarin High's veteran teachers retired on Planning Day, October 26, 2009. Mrs. Linda Griffith and Ms. Lynn Brown, both part of our World Languages Department, entered the domain of retirement after many years of dedication and service to Mandarin High School and the Duval County Public School System. Their expertise and love of children will be sorely missed, but we wish them great success in the next chapters of their lives. Mrs. Griffith retired out of Spanish, and Ms. Brown retired out of French. Adios and Au Revoir to these two precious teachers.



M.H.S. CALENDAR

- ** November 9th-PTSA General Meeting –
5:30 p.m. auditorium
- ** November 11th- Veteran's Day
Holiday
- ** November 21st- PTSA Garage Sale
- ** November 25th-27th-Thanksgiving
Holidays
- ** December 2nd- Progress Reports
- ** December 7th-16th-Benchmark
Testing Days
- ** December 17th- Winter Holidays
January 3rd



