

Tigertalk

Scoop
on new
teachers

**Homecoming Royalty
King Diego Molina
and Queen Rebecca Yox**

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Art students display their artwork that they competed with at the Titus County Fair. Many students came away with awards.

Tigertalk

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Yox, Molina crowned homecoming royalty

By TAYLOR DILLARD
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Students selected Rebecca Yox and Diego Molinsaas this year's homecoming queen and king.

Rebecca was escorted by her father, Andrew Yox homecoming night and is 17 years old. Her parents are Andrew and Christine Yox.

She is the head flute section leader, NHS vice president, FBLA reporter and editor of the Newspaper. She also competes in UIL Journalism and has received an academic blanket for Pre-AP Biology, Chemistry I and Chemistry II. Rebecca's favorite subject is Chemistry because it's fun and interesting.

Yox was excited and thankful to receive the honor.

"When they called out my name and I heard the band cheering, I immediately looked to my dad to see the expression on his face," Yox said. "Seeing the excitement in his eyes made me smile even more. When they put the flowers in my hands and the crown on my head, I felt extremely thankful to all the people who thought me worthy of the honor."

After high school Rebecca plans on attending Concordia University and majoring in Biology. Her hobbies include playing the pipe organ and her favorite place to eat is Nardello's. Yox's role model is Mrs. Russell and her favorite vacation spot is Buffalo, New York.

Other queen nominees include Kyeondria Ellison, Nikki Emory, Bailey Sisk and Leslie Villalva.



Yox is shown with her dad Andrew.

Ellison is 17 years old and was escorted by her parents, Keon and Katrina Ellison. She is a varsity cheerleader and her hobbies include cooking and spending time with her friends and family. Her future plans include attending Texas State University to major in Nursing. Ellison's favorite subject is English.

"I like to learn how past and present authors impacted the way we think and feel about literature," Ellison said.

She also wishes to one day travel to Bora Bora.

Emory is the daughter of Ashley Brown and Tyrus Emory and is currently 17 years old. She was escorted by her brother Tre Emory. Her future plans are to attend a junior college and then transfer to a 4 year university and get her degree to become a surgical technologist. Her favorite class is CNA because it helps prepare her for her future degree.

She is involved in HOSA, CNA and Tiger Dolls where she holds the position of Sr. Lieutenant. Her role model

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Homecoming from Page 3

is her 2nd mother and her “lovely sister Skylar Godfrey.”

Her favorite food is her Granny’s roast and greens and she wishes to visit Los Angeles. She would like to thank God and all the seniors that voted for her to be a homecoming nominee. “Y’all are the realest! I love each and every one of you guys,” Emory said.

Sisk is 17 years old and is the daughter of Keith and Karen Sisk. She was escorted by Keith Sisk who was a Mount Pleasant graduate in 1982. Her role model is her nana. Her hobbies include being head varsity cheerleader, yearbook editor, a member of FBLA and the newspaper staff.

Her future plans are to attend Oklahoma State University and major in Marketing. Sisk’s favorite class is Newspaper because she loves to write and Mr. Whitten has been her favorite teacher the past four years. Her favorite place to eat at is Nardello’s and she wants to travel to Greece one day.

Villalva is the daughter of Luis and Yedith Villalva and is 17 years old. She was escorted by her dad and her role model is her mother. She is involved in FBLA, STUCO, HOSA and has been a member of the varsity soccer team for four years. Her hobbies include playing soccer and shopping.

After Leslie graduates, she plans on attending UT Tyler and earning her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing. Her favorite class is Anatomy and Physiology because it will help her for her future occupation.

“I love you mom and dad,” Villalva said.

Molina, this year’s homecoming king, is 17 years old and is the son of Jorge and Barbarita Molina.

“I was very surprised and happy when they called my name...I feel like I have to keep the MPHS name high,” Molina said.



Nikki Emory

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Kyeondria Ellison



Bailey Sisk



Leslie Villalva

Homecoming from Page 4

His hobbies include hanging out with friends and his role model is Samie Poudel. Molina would like to become a veterinarian or a rapper. His favorite place to eat is Pizza Hut and he wishes to travel to Spain. Molina's favorite subject is English because he's good at writing.

Other king nominees were Jorge Banda, Dorian Glington, Jose Liera and Tyrese Milton.

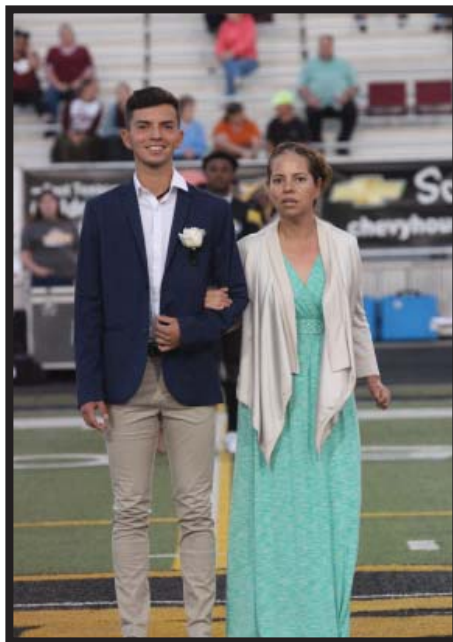
Glington, son of Deanna Williams, is 17 years old and a member of the Varsity Basketball and Football teams. He has been named first team all-district and region and first team all-district running back and receiver. His hobbies include playing Fornite and hanging out with friends and family.

Glington plans on continuing his football career after high school and his favorite class is athletics because there is no class work to do. His favorite food is street tacos and he one day wishes to travel to Dubai.

Banda is the son of Jorge B. Banda and Juany Banda, his role models. He is 18 years old and enjoys photography, dance, color guard, and spending time with his friends. He plans on attending Southern Methodist University in the fall and his favorite class is Yearbook.

He's been a member of color guard for four years, an officer for two of the four and has earned the title of most outstanding color guard member of the year. He's also a 1st place MA champion and a world class DCI performer. Jorge's favorite place to eat is Luigi's and he wishes to travel to Hawaii.

Liera is 17 years old and the son of Victor and Paula Liera. He enjoys listening to



Jorge Banda



Dorian Glington



Jose Liera

a genre referred to as art core and loves to eat anything with chicken in it

Liera is involved in UIL, where he qualified for state three times and FBLA where he qualified for the NLC. He is also serves as the historian for NHS. He plans to go to a university with a good computer science program.

His hobbies include playing video games, cryptography for fun, and spending time with his little sister. Liera's role models are Alan Turing and his peers and he wishes to one day travel to Orlando.



Tyrese Milton

Milton is 18 years old and an officer in FCCLA, a member of NTHS and a member of the football program for a year. His parents are Billy and Gloria Milton. Milton enjoys shopping, chilling, and his favorite subject is Anatomy and Physiology. He plans to go to college to major in nursing in hopes to become a nurse practitioner.

His favorite place to eat at is Sushi Guy and wishes to one day travel to Bora Bora.

"Love your family and friends. Do it for the culture," Milton said.

Football teams pick sweethearts

By KAYLA CUELLAR
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The 2018-2019 sweethearts chosen by the football players include: Kayla Brown for varsity, Lucy Benalonzo for junior varsity and Monica Martinez for freshman football.

Brown, a senior, is the daughter of Tony and Calendra Brown. She plans to attend NTCC for 2 years and transfer to Texas A&M-Commerce and major to become a dental hygienist. Her favorite class is English because she enjoys the poems and plays. Her role model is Ms. Nance

Brown's favorite food is tacos and her favorite place to eat is Taqueria Daisy's.

Her hobbies include shopping, playing basketball and getting on her mother's nerves.

Belenzo, a sophomore is the daughter of Edith Benalonzo. She plans to get her BSN degree, work for one year and finish her studies to become a cardiologist. Her favorite class is health science because she wants a career in the medical field. Her role model is Mrs. Cabell.



Varsity Football Sweetheart Kayla Brown

Belenzo's favorite food is lasagna, her hobbies include playing baseball and taking care of kids, and is a member of Student Council

Martinez is the daughter of Martha Martinez, she plans to go to Baylor University.

Her favorite class is dance

because she loves to dance and her role model is her sister.

Martinez's favorite food are tacos and her favorite place to eat is Two Senioritas.

Her hobbies include spending time with her friends and she is part of the soccer team.



JV Football Sweetheart Lucy Benalonzo



Freshman Football Sweetheart Monica Martinez



High school welcomes new staff

By **REBECCA YOX**
Tigertalk Co-Editor

A number of new teachers and staff members joined the high school this year. Also some of the staff either returned to MPHS or accepted new positions on campus.

Below is a description of the new staff.

Amy Adams teaches English III and has a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies from Texas A&M University. She is married to her high school sweetheart Jason Adams, who she met at MPHS, and they have been married for 22 years. She has taught at Chapel Hill for the past nine years.

"I am extremely happy to be back at MPHS as a teacher," she said. "It is amazing that my oldest daughter, Jamie graduated from here and now my twins, Meg and Maddy will too. My husband and I are extremely blessed by having them at the same school we attended."

Jason Adams is a new assistant principal. He is the husband of Amy Adams. He began teaching Algebra and Geometry at Pittsburg High School 7 years ago. He taught at Pittsburg for two years before moving to MPHS to teach Algebra and eventually began working at the ALC and DAEP.

"I have had a lot of interesting things happen in my life, but by far the most interesting has been watching my daughters grow up and become young ladies," he said.

August Berend is the football defensive coordinator and a study hall supervisor. He is married to Candice and has three kids. This is his 12th year teaching and has previously taught in



A. Adams



J. Adams



A. Berend



C. Berend

Daingerfield, Paris and Prairiland. He graduated from Sothern Arkansas.

Candice Berend has her Bachelor of Science from Texas A&M Texarkana and teaches Algebra II to juniors and seniors. Her husband August is the defense Coordinator of the football team and they have three children.

"My family and I are super excited to be a part of the Mount Pleasant Tiger Family," she said. "GO TIGERS!!!"

Bobby Betts teaches 11th grade US History and 9th grade Pre-Ap World Geogra-



Betts
See New Staff, Pg. 9

New Staff from Page 8

phy. Betts has “three fun and wild children.”

He has taught for eight years at three different schools. He is “happy and blessed to be a part of MPISD as well as looking forward to becoming more a part of the community in years to come.”

Hayley Campbell, sister of senior cheerleader Mallo-ry Campbell, teaches Geom-etry, Algebra 2 and is one of the cheer coaches. She has her Bachelor of Science in Applied Mathematics from Texas A&M University and this is her first year teaching.

Spencer Clark teaches 9th grade World Geography and graduated from Texas A&M Commerce. He has had one year of teaching experience at Princeton ISD as a voca-tional agriculture teacher. Clark grew up on a family farm south of Mount Vernon and has two sisters.

Meagan Coberley is a new ag teacher. She teaches Live-stock Production, Practicum in Animal Science and Prin-ciples of Agriculture. She is the middle child with two older brothers, one serving in the Army and another who just recently had a child.

This is her first year to teach after spending some time student teaching at Saltillo. When she was in high school, Coberley was selected to be Texas FFA Foundation Ambassador for three straight years.

“I got to work with major sponsors such as Priefert and Justin Boots,” Coberley said. “It was a wonderful experience and I really enjoyed it.”

Scott Crouch has had 22 years of teaching experience as a drill instructor in the United States Marine Corps. This is the first school he has taught at.



Campbell



Clark



Coberley

“I am realizing a 25 year old dream of wanting to be a teacher” he said.

He has his Bachelor of Sci-ence in Government from Campbell University. He is teaching 9th grade World Geography and 10th grade World History. He has been happily married to Jana Crouch for over 21 years and has two sons (Britton and Trace) and two granddaugh-ters (Kenzie and Chloe).

Alexander Fellows is the new head Athletic Trainer. Born and raised in St. Lou-is, Mo., he moved to Texas four years ago. He was the



Crouch



Fellows

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New Staff from Page 9

Graduate Assistant Athletic Trainer at Abilene Christian University working with football and baseball for three years.

Kristi Flanagan teaches 10th Grade/Biology and has previously at North Heights Middle School, Pleasant Grove Junior High, Texas High School and Mount Pleasant Junior High. She is married and has three children. She and her late husband Billy Wayne Flanagan have three children --- Patrick, Andrew and Sarah Grace.

She also had a bachelor of science degree in Health and Physical Education

Kelli Glenn is a new assistant principal. She majored in History with a minor in Political Science from Texas A&M University and has her Masters in Educational Administration from Texas State University. She and her husband, an MPHS graduate, have two children and a dog. She was an administrator at the junior high for the past six years.

She has traveled to many places including Iceland, Peru, the Mediterranean, Switzerland, France and Spain.

Macy Griner, recently engaged to James Evans, teaches World Geography and is the coach for JV basketball and JV Softball. She taught last year at the Junior High and has her Bachelor of Science-Kinesiology.

Although she originally went to college to become a physical therapy assistant, she took a coaching basketball course her last semester of college and "fell in love with the game all over again." She decided to be a teacher and a coach.

Osias Hernandez is a new
Pg. 10 Tigertalk



Flanagan



Glenn



Griner



Hernandez

Geometry teacher. A graduate of the University of North Texas and a major in Electrical Engineering. Hernandez has four brothers and one sister. This is his first year to teach. He is also the sponsor of the UIL Mathematics, Calculator Applications and Computer Science teams.

Echo Johnson is a new assistant principal. She has her Bachelors of Science-Kinesiology and a Masters of Education-Special Education and a Principal certification. This is Johnson's fifth year at MPHS. She has three brothers and a sister and has been



Johnson
See New Staff, Pg. 11

New Staff from Page 10

married for 10 years.

Diana Jones works in the Business Office. She has a daughter named Avery who is 10 years old. She has been a substitute for the last three years and is enjoying the high school level.

Sierra Kruse is a first year teacher. She has her Bachelor of Science in Animal Science and is teaching Floral Design and Principles of Engineering.

"I am extremely excited to share my passion with my students," she said.

Her family consists of sheep and four dogs named Hank, Diesel, Bandit, and Sonny. She also has a younger brother who is still in high school. Floral Design has been her hobby for several years and she frequently helps out friends, family and community members with weddings and other events.

Donna Lanham, mother of four, is a Co-Teacher of Special Education, English III and IV. She currently has her associates of science teaching and is working on her Bachelors for Secondary Special Education.

The most significant thing that has happened in her life is living and working through a near fatal accident involving her son when he was 13 year old.

"My son was my inspiration to go back to school and get a degree in Secondary Special Education," she said. "We lived, and still live with the effects of having a child with an acquired Traumatic Brain Injury, and the life we once knew, will never be the same."

"We face challenges every day and I want to take those same challenges and help students with and without disabilities that have learning deficits and turn them



Jones



Kruse



Lanham



Little

in to positive achievements. I strongly believe that any student can learn," Lanham said. "They can learn how to cope with their learning issues and become a more successful student that can set and achieve any goal in life if they choose."

Douglas Little has his Bachelor of Business Administration and teaches Algebra 1, Geometry, and Math Models. He is the announcer for the Tigers football, track and soccer. "I love it," he said. "I'm learning a lot and I hope to make Tiger fans



Lizaso

See New Staff, Pg. 12

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New Staff from Page 11

proud.”

Ingrid Lizaso teaches 11th grade Chemistry and has his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry for teachers. Her parents live in the Philippines and siblings live in Canada and Dubai, UAE. She has had 13 years of teaching experience.

Misty McCrumby, graduate of MPHS class of 1995, teaches 9th grade English and has a degree in Business Operations from DeVry. She is a breast cancer survivor and has 4 kids. Previously, she was a substitute teacher for 10 years in Northwest ISD.

Jessie McDowell, who has been in the military for 8 years, and currently in the AF Reserves, teaches Freshman Skills and has a MBA in Executive Leadership from Liberty University, a BA in Communication from Kaplan University and an AS-instructor of Technical Science (2 of these) from community college of the Air Force.

She has previously taught Radar Surveillance at the 966 Airborne Air Control Squadron in Oklahoma.

She has created her own non-profit organization that helped raise over \$30,000 for the local food pantry while she was still on high school.

“If you are passionate about something, you CAN make a difference,” she said.

Kathleen Miller-Hays has four boys and two dogs and has previously taught five years at NTCC. She teaches culinary and has been in this industry for 22 years. She once made a \$10,000 wedding cake. “I love teaching people about food and cooking,” she said.

Alyson Nichols is in her first year of education and is “loving it!” She is a Library



McCrumby



McDowell



Miller-Hays

Aide and has her Associates of Science from NTCC. She also has a 4 year old son named Kason. Nichols loves traveling and the outdoors. She hopes to visit every US state and various countries at least once.

Sarah Nickerson has her Bachelor of Arts in Historical Studies from UT Dallas. She teaches English II and this will be her 19th year of teaching after teaching 18 years in Carrollton-Farmers Branch ISD (a Dallas suburb). Nickerson is married and has a daughter, 2 dogs and a cat.



Nichols



Nickerson

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Amanda Pinckard is an Instructional Coach as well as an AP Testing Coordinator. She graduated from SFA with a major in interdisciplinary studies with a specialization in Reading and has 16 years of teaching experience. She has been married to Ritchie who is a football coach for 19 years and has three boys: Reid, Layne and Landon.

"I love the relationships I have built with other coaches' wives and parents of athletes, but the relationship I get to build with student-athletes compares to no other," Pinckard said.

Ritchie Pinckard is the new Athletic Director and head football coach. Prior to taking over the Tigers football program, he held the same positions at Callisburg, DeKalb and Garrison. Pinckard, who previously coached here, and his wife Amanda have three sons Reid, Layne and Landon.

"I have a blessed life, make no bones about it!!!" Pinckard said. "(There are) so many interesting things I have experienced...mainly the journey with my family through the world of coaching.

"The influences I have experienced have given me so many memories and lessons in life that I can only hope I have returned it back to those around me 10 fold."

Blake Rice teaches Ag Science and has a major in Agriculture Business with a minor in Management from Sam Houston University. This is his first year teaching but he has previously worked in a private sector with a fertilizer industry in Houston.

Amber Strong has her Bachelors in Sociology with an emphasis on Criminology and social work from Texas



A. Pinckard



R. Pinckard



Rice



Strong

Tech and also has a Masters in Athletic training.

This is her second year out of school and her first year to teach.

She has interned with Texas Women's University's gymnastic team. Strong teaches Sports Medicine 1&2 and works with the Athletic Trainers.

James Tatum has traveled to seven different countries and is a study hall supervisor.

He has his Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Texas A&M Commerce. He has two younger sisters and has previously taught P.E. and Social Studies.



Tatum

See New Staff, Pg. 14

New Staff from Page 13

Lisa Trimm has a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies from Texas A&M University in Texarkana and is currently teaching Chemistry as well as Scientific Research and Design.

She has had 17 years of teaching experience at 4 different schools. She says her life revolves around God and show cows.

Nancy Vines is the new Choir, Piano and AP Theory teacher. A graduate of both East Texas Baptist University and Sam Houston State University, Vines has taught for 29 years at Marshall and three at Avinger before joining MPHS.

Courtney M. Williams teaches English I and has her Bachelors in Human Development and Family Studies from Stephen F. Austin. This is her first year teaching.

"I am extremely blessed to begin my teaching career at MPISD," she said.



Trimm

She married her high school sweetheart and they have two children.

Other new staff members include Alexis De La Riva with LPAC, Randall Stuard in the science department, Rene Gonzalez in the math department, Diagnostician Tracy Kruse and Coach Jabara Williams.

Students, staff members and administration are all happy to have the new additions to the high school.



Vines



Williams

Macedo, Orona named band royalty

By **MADIA ARREDONDO**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Odalys Macedo and Marco Orona were crowned band sweetheart and band beau at the homecoming game.

Macedo is the daughter of Helena Hipolito and Justino Macedo. She is a member of the MPHS colorguard, TAFE, FCCLA, and newspaper. Odalys enjoys sleeping, eating, hanging out with friends, and listening to music. Her role models are The Rock and Barack Obama. Her favorite subject is US History because Ms. Blalock made it so much fun and she learned a lot and got smarter.

In the future, Odalys plans to go to college and get a degree to become a teacher for two years and then become a counselor. She also wants to travel the world.

Orona is the son of Rosa and Francisco Orona. He is a member of the band and is a student athletic trainer. Marco enjoys playing basketball and jamming to Mexican music with his cousin Alan. His role model is JB Mauney. His favorite subject is lunch be-



Macedo and Orona were honored prior to game. cause his lunch table makes it fun.

In the future, Marco plans to attend the University of Arizona and become an athletic trainer. He also wants to travel to Dubai.

Band preparing for competition

By ODALYS MACEDO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Earlier in the summer, the Goin' Gold Band starting working on this year's show. This year's theme for the show is titled "*Exodus: The Prince of Egypt*."

This year's drum majors are Madia Arredondo, Omar Ramirez, and Jose Mata. October is the start of competition season for the band which can bring on stress along with many challenges.

"Not having our costumes in time has set us back a little, but we are working hard to get back on track" Arredondo said.

While Ramirez said "keeping the band together and to be quiet followed by my nerve-wracking solo I have to play in the beginning" is a challenge for him.

With the stress and challenges they face, it has given the drum majors a chance to show their leadership skills.

"It's an honor to be leading the GGB because it is what is making my senior year so great so far," Arredondo said.

And luckily there is so much coming up in this year,



David Perez, above, plays the cymbals at halftime of one of the football games.



At left, Drum Major Madia Arredondo leads the band.

"We're planning to enjoy our position as drum majors and lead the band the best we can" says Ramirez. "We'll be attending a few competi-

tions and are hoping to bring home A FEW trophies" says Arredondo.





From left are Colorguard officers Hailey Benyshek, Jenifer Deciga, Jorge Banda, Katherine Lopez, Eileen Martinez, Azucena Salinas and Taryn Thurman.

Colorguard display their skills during 'Exodus' halftime show

By MARIA MENDEZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Goin' Gold Band's half time show this year is titled "*Exodus: The Prince of Egypt*" based on the story of Moses and its going rather great.

The colorguard team is portraying the Israelites and they are constantly practicing to become the best.

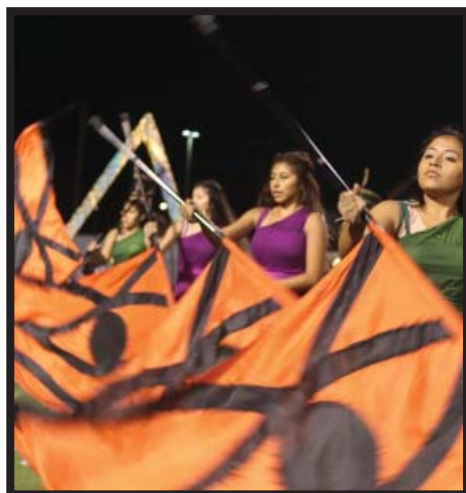
Captain Katherine Lopez said, "practice can be tough but we push through and try to be the best we can be."

The halftime show has always been a great experience to the members and also have a fun time performing their stand dances to cheer on the football team.

Lopez said what she likes best about the new halftime show is, "the visual effect the whole band & guard portray throughout the show."

The shows unique theme and composition is exceptional said Lieutenant Eileen Martinez.

"I really enjoy the color schemes of the colorguard's costumes," Martinez said "I think it adds a great effect



Members perform a routine.

to the show. Also this year's choreography is more challenging than previous years, and I enjoyed it because it allows me to push myself."

The colorguard team is continuing to be one of the biggest teams in MPHS with 46 members this year.

Lieutenant Jorge Banda said, "I feel like the team is the perfect size this year."

While Lopez said, "the guard tends to grow each year, yet this year we pushed back how many girls/guys we could accept. Above all we're a team and we try to

help each other out the most we can."

Once the sensational marching season performances are over, a lot of planning will be made for a new season of winterguard.

Themes will be chosen and auditions will be held among the colorguard members for an exciting season.

Lopez said for winterguard "we plan to have two teams, a junior varsity and a varsity. Also, we are going to more competitions during winter guard season."

The guard has many goals in mind this year.

Martinez said, "my own goals for colorguard are to improve my skills and performance. For my team, I hope to push and encourage them to become better performers."

"I hope to bring positivity to the team that'll hopefully spread throughout and help us all become united."

Make sure to come out and support the Goin' Gold Band and colorguard's thrilling performance at the varsity football games.

Cheerleaders under guidance of new coaches this season

By BAILEY SISK
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The varsity cheerleaders have started the season strong under the leadership of their two new coaches, Heather Wood and Hayley Campbell.

"I have witnessed the team go through several changes through the past years with different coaches, it's amazing to see how everyone sticks together and manages to work through everything," Head Manager Hannah Gage said.

While the cheerleaders have been working hard throughout the school year, their preparation really began in June when they attended cheer camp in Grapevine.

"Our girls walked away from camp with not only several different awards, but with a bunch of material that will not only be useful for football games, but for competition as well," Campbell said. "Their game day performance resembles the layout of the finals performance at competition, so it gave all of our new members a look on what we will expect in January."

One of the most important roles the cheerleaders hold is spreading school spirit throughout the student body.

"Cheer helps the community and the students get involved. We have spirit dress every week, pep rallies, and we participate in numerous things in the community," Wood said.

"We try to get everyone excited and pepped up for all things MPHS. We want all of Mount Pleasant and the surrounding areas to be excited for the Tigers."

Just like any other organi-



Cheerleaders lead the crowd at one of the recent games.



Varsity Cheer Managers

zation, the team has a few different struggles they have to face when practicing or performing.

"The biggest challenge when it comes to cheer is trying many new stunts with no fear, you have to have a lot of trust in each other," Varsity Captain Shelby Shaw said.

Despite the challenges of learning new skills, the team still gets excited to cheer on their Tigers.

"I look forward to Friday Night Lights and basketball season. The energy from the fans and athletes make it all such a fun experience," senior varsity cheerleader Ali Grace Merritt said.

While cheering on the Tigers every Friday Night is the cheerleader's main priority right now, the squad still



Wood and Campbell

has plenty in store for the rest of the year.

"After football season it seems like the year gets even busier. Our plan is to start prepping for our UIL State Competition, which causes us to practice even more than usual," Gage said. "We also will still be cheering on our boy's and girl's soccer and basketball teams."

The cheerleaders work all year in order to support our Tigers and perform well in competition, so it important that they work together and stay unified.

"We all work out our differences and stay together as one," Merritt said. "We also do bonding games and team dinners to build our relationship. We all have become a big family through the years."

Student Spotlight: Amanda Andersson

Swedish exchange student adjusts to life in America

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Editor

With packed bags and high hopes Amanda Andersson took on America.

"My home country is Sweden, Europe and I live right outside the second biggest city Gothenburg," Andersson said. "I have always been fascinated with the world and all it has to offer. I love to travel and because I have lived in the same place my whole life, I craved something different and bigger."

Amanda made her way here this past summer, leaving her family and all familiarity to see if America was everything it was painted out to be.

"I've been interested in the American culture since I was little because of the fact that it is so different from where I come from," Andersson said. "Just like everybody else I've seen the high-school movies and I've had this picture of what it's like to live here. I decided to come here to find out for myself, and I felt it was the best country to come to develop my English."

So far Amanda's time here has been very successful.

"For the moment, I love it here," Andersson said. "Life as an exchange student is filled with ups and downs and every day looks different. Everything still feels kind of new and exciting and I learn new things daily."

"There's a lot of things that are different, the food, the school system, the people and it is a lot to get used to, so it takes time."

As if moving to an entire-



ly new country was not big enough, Amanda decided to try out for Tiger Dolls and made the team!

"As I got to know more about the drill team thing I realized that this was going to be a big commitment, but also a great way of experiencing more of the American culture," Andersson said. "I've gained friends through Tiger Dolls which I am so thankful for and I am super happy that I decided to join the team."

The social aspect of American life seems to have enticed Amanda the most.

"The best part of living here has been meeting all these new people," Andersson said. "I have made new friends on the other side of

the world and I am looking forward to getting to know more people as this year goes on."

As with any life change there have been a few setbacks.

"The most challenging part of living here has basically just been the fact that I'm starting a new life," Andersson said.

"I live in a different country on the other side of the world, I'm speaking a different language, I'm living in a family that I had never met before I came here, I'm going to a new school, eating different food and making new friends. Every day is a lot to take in and sometimes it gets tough to handle it all."

See Andersson, Pg. 19

Tiger Dolls have been busy since July preparing for year

By HARPER DAVIS
Tigertalk Editor

The Dolls of Northeast Texas started the year off July 25th and have been successful thus far.

"The year has started off great," director Jatón Broach said. "We began this summer with summer practice and haven't stopped since. Not only have we performed at football games and pep rallies, but we have also performed and volunteered at community events."

The school year is jam packed for Tiger Dolls.

"Our Tiger Doll year is filled with many events," Broach said. "Football games and pep rallies in the fall, competition season in the winter, and Spring Show and tryouts in the spring."

Keeping past victories and setbacks in mind the Dolls hope to continue the legacy.

"My hope for Tiger Dolls is to build every year upon the year before," Broach said. "Myself and the Dolls are constantly learning from one another and then making necessary improvements from there. If you are always staying the same, you aren't learning and becoming bet-



ter. So my goal is improvement in all areas every year."

With the loss of Suzanna Grigsby last school year, the Dolls have grown closer, sticking with and being there for each other through everything.

"Losing someone so important to you and on your team really makes you take a step back and realize you should take nothing or anyone for granted," Broach said.

"All of the drama that tends to surround teams seems so silly in the grand scheme of

things. Every single one of us can learn something from Suzanna...to start each day with a smile on your face, to not sweat the small stuff, to be a little bit kinder to each other, to support your team and have their backs, to talk through and work out disagreements, and to have a purpose in everything you do."

The Dolls started football season off with a routine dedicated to Suzanna to Purple Rain.

"The significance of the routine really hits me," Broach said.

I can remember being in the press box during halftime when the Dolls performed. I got chills and tears and I know Suzanna was with us all."

The Dolls adore Mrs. Broach and all she does for their team.

"I push them, have high expectations for them, and hold them to a high standard," Broach said. "I do it because I love them and want them to be the best they can be."

Andersson from Page 18

Although she is loving life here there are still things about Sweden Amanda misses.

"There's not a lot of things that I have started to miss but that'll probably change the more I get used to my life here. I miss the chocolate and the public transportation that can take me anywhere, but other than that I like it pretty good here."

Amanda's American life has been great thus far and she is looking forward to more experiences and adventures.

"I wanted to do something myself and see what I was capable of, and this seemed like a good alternative," Andersson said. "I have always been the type of person who's interested in learning about other cultures and I knew even before I came here that this was going to be an experience of a lifetime that I wouldn't be able to do late in life."

Tigers start new era with Pinckard taking over as head football coach

By TAYLOR DILLARD
Tigertalk Staff Writer

“No matter what”, the new mindset to describe this year’s 2018-2019 football team. The Tigers are currently 2-3 to what seems to be a promising season.

When asked how this year’s coaching staff has changed the team’s perspective of the game Cesar Ramirez said “they’ve taught us to stay focused” and the importance of “play[ing] hard every play.

Coach Ritchie Pinckard hopes to instill and teach the players that “effort is the foundation for success” and the team is responding well. Teaching this valuable lesson however, comes with a strenuous price.

Assisting in coaching the players are J.R. Tatum, August Berend, Harris Brownlee, Ryan Stanage, Bobby Betts, Mart Graham Jr., Van Bowen, Cody Russell, Don Woods, Jabara Williams, Drew Conley, Jarred Jones, Ramon Hernandez, Jesse Morris, Steve Ferguson, Hugo Uribe, Phillip Sweeden, Keitric Washington, Tarran Wooden and Cullen Grubbs. Trainers Alex Fellowes and Amber Strong also take part in the player’s recovery and health.

According to Josh Morris, the practices are “fun”, upbeat, and the team “comes ready to work” every day no matter what. Practices are typically 2-3 hours long and without the proper preparation, a player is not allowed to play which comes for the “no practice, no play policy.”

Although, the past seasons haven’t gone as expected,



The Tigers line up to run a play.



Coach Pinckard gives the play to quarterback Josh Morris.

the Tigers hope to restore people’s faith and support in their program and are “trying to make a statement.” Because of this hope, the team has dedicated each and every practice to becoming the “key to winning each game.”

The Tigers have five regular season games remaining with Marshall being the next upcoming game. Still

needing to improve on not letting the negative things affect them as a team, the hope is to “fulfill the promise of making a change” and proving that they are the beginning of a new era in Tiger football.

The Tigers will end their regular season on Nov. 9 against the Nacogdoches Dragons.

Cross country girls win district

Boys get second

By OMAR RAMIREZ
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The cross country team successfully showed their ability to achieve their very best, at the District 15-5A meet being held here.

The varsity girls came in first, while the boys finished second. In JV action, the boys were first and the girls second.

Led by their coaches, the team has seen all their hard work through their summer practices pay off with some outstanding times.

At the district meet, the varsity girls won by 10 points over Royse City. Individually, Estela Dorantes was second overall in 18 minutes, 57.24 seconds. Martina Ramirez was third at 19:44.10 and Christina Gordon sixth at 20:55.47.

Rounding out the varsity, Katie Ochoa was 11th at 21:21.34, Paula Flores 14th at 21:41.94, Maritza Gonzalez 21st at 22:46.50 and Jordan Neal 34th at 27:13.22.

The boys varsity finished just four points behind Sulphur Springs.

Brian Ramirez led the Tigers as he was fourth overall at 16:00.28, while Daniel Robles came in eighth at 16:54.47 and Gil Landaverde ninth at 17:04.42.

Also for the Tigers, Israel Hernandez was 13th at 17:17.17, Martin Ponce 14th at 17:23.10, Antonio Landaverde 16th at 17:27.62 and Hector Escobar 17th at 17:32.11.

In JV girls, the Lady Tigers were second just 12 points behind Royse City. Haylee Martinez was the fourth at 15:19.21, Natalia Moreno fifth at 15:28.5, Arlette Dejesus eighth at 16:00.03, Jaquelin Lomeli ninth at 16:01.70, Katia Lopez 13th at 16:20.71, Andrea Flores 14th at 16:21.30 and Lizbeth Moreno 16th at 16:58.55. Other runners were Hailey Dixon at 17:59.45, Yessenia Serna 18:36.57, Noemi Rios 19:18.10 and Lesete Cruz 20:58.99.

JV boys finished first by points over Sulphur Springs. Osbal-



The Lady Tigers district winning team.



The Tigers took second in district.

do Benitez was the first place runner at 17:57, while Fernando Ramirez was second at 18:04.38, Juan Gonzalez third at 18:32.54 and Christian Flores fifth at 19:02.49.

Javier Ponce came in ninth at 19:42.54, Tommy Arredondo 11th at 20:01.83 and Didier Serrano 12th at 20:10.82.

At the Titus County Invitational, the varsity boys got first place. Ramirez had a time of 16:16.99 placing 4th, Gill Landaverde sixth at 16:41.43, Robles seventh at 16:45.6, Hernandez eighth at 16:49.8, Antonio Landaverde 15th 17:34.49, Escobar 19th at 17:34.49 and Ponce 22nd at 17:44.59.

The varsity girls were second overall. Dorantes had a time of 19:39.67 placing 3rd, Ramirez was seventh at 20:41.27, Gordon ninth at 20:56.27, Flores 17th at 21:59.24 and Gonzalez

27th at 24:03.66.

For the JV boys, the Tigers came in second. Benitez was first at 17:48.52, Gonzalez second at 17:53.04, Flores ninth at 18:48.32, Juan Retana 19th at 19:31.06, Ponce 20th at 19:33.98, Arredondo 22nd at 19:37.79 and Christian Cabrera 23rd at 19:40.14.

JV Girls were second overall team with Neal leading the way. She ran a 15:33.9 and placed 7th, Lizbeth Moreno was 8th at 15:37.32, Serna 12th at 15:55.79, Flores 16th at 16:04.31, Moreno 20th at 16:20.18, Lomeli 25th at 16:45.18 and Dixon 33rd at 17:28.23. Rios had a time of 18:44.86.

As you can tell, their hard work and dedication, had led to some magnificent times. Their sweat from their brow had led to a glorious sign of relief from the start to the end of the finish line.



Four inducted into Hall of Fame

Four Mount Pleasant High School athletic standouts, Kristi Hill Flanagan, Chris Campbell, Chaun Thompson, and Coach Marc McDaniel were honored as the newest members of the MPHS Athletic Hall of Fame. Honored in a private ceremony prior to the football game, they also served as honorary captains and participated in the pre-game coin toss.

In recognition of their selections, each inductee wore a commemorative gold jacket. Portraits of each inductee will later be displayed in the hallway of the Willie Williams Gymnasium alongside other honorees selected since 2014.

Kristi Hill Flanagan

The daughter of the late Art and Bettie Hill, Kristi graduated from Mount Pleasant High School in 1983. As a member of the varsity volleyball and basketball teams for three years, she was selected to the All-District Volleyball Team as a setter and to the All-District Basketball Team as a point guard. During her senior year, she led the team in steals and assists and was named to the All-Region Basketball Team. The team went undefeated that year and won the district and bi-district titles and fell just short of capturing the area title.

After graduating from Mount Pleasant, Kristi played basketball on an athletic scholarship at Centenary College in Shreveport, LA during her freshman year. Later, she also played volleyball and softball at Centenary as each program was established.

She is currently in her first year of teaching biology at Mount Pleasant High School. Kristi and her late husband Billy Wayne Fla-

nagan, the couple have three children: Patrick, a 2010 MPHS graduate and Southern Methodist University alumnus; Andrew, a 2014 MPHS graduate who is attending Texas Tech University; and Sarah Grace, a 2015 MPHS graduate who is attending Stephen F. Austin State University.

Chris Campbell

Listed among the Top 100 players in Texas and selected as the Most Valuable Player in East Texas as a senior, Chris Campbell became a standout player for the University of Miami Hurricanes after graduating from Mount Pleasant High School in 1998. A true freshman, #48 dominated the college football field as an outstanding Hurricane line-backer.

During his days as a Mount Pleasant Tiger, Campbell earned All-State recognition all three years on varsity, was named first-team All-District all three seasons on varsity, assisted his team in winning the district championship in 1997 and was named the state's Top Sophomore Prospect in 1996. Regarded as one of Texas' Blue-Chip prospects during the 1998 recruiting season, Campbell played running back and defensive end, rushed for 1,250 yards on 200 carries and scored 13 touchdowns during his senior year.

Campbell also had 146 total tackles including 15 quarterback sacks, 4 forced fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries his senior year. In addition to excelling on the gridiron, Campbell also qualified for the state regional tournament as a powerlifter and lettered in football, basketball, track and field, powerlifting and tennis. Campbell, who is being honored

See Hall of Fame, Pg. 23

Lady Tigers volleyball seeks to build with young players

By **JORDAN DICKERSON**
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The Lady Tigers volleyball team has struggled some this season, but the young team doesn't have any quit in them.

"The season is going really good; we haven't been winning but we still fight," Tanesha Wilkerson said.

The Lady Tigers are focused on their goal for this year.

"Our team's motto is "We are one", Averie Ayers said. "To me, that is our main goal. We strive to play as one and not as individuals. We plan to do well in district. We do not want other teams underestimating us."

With such a young team, the Lady Tigers are preparing for the future and are working on having an even stronger team next year.

"We have five sophomores, five juniors, and 2 seniors," Ayers said. "Other teams may not expect much from us, but we have to learn to rise to the occasion."

To be able to play as one you have to have a good relationship with each other.

"Our team has good chemistry because there is no drama. We all just get along," said Ayers.

With a new head coach the Lady Tigers have made some adjustments. Coach Erin Bowers has been working the girls hard.

"Coach Bowers is not a yeller," said Ayers. "She expects a lot from us and our team has definitely had positive energy during the season so far. Coach Bowers believes that we need to have a short term memory to be successful. We have to forget our mistakes and move on to the next point. This mindset has made a difference in our program."



Averie Ayers serves.

Hall of Fame from Page 22

posthumously, died tragically in a car accident in 2002 just months before being drafted to the NFL.

Chaun Thompson

Born May 22, 1980 to Margaret King and Choice "Slim" Thompson, Chaun Thompson would take an early interest in sports playing soccer through junior high. He remained active in sports through high school participating in basketball, track and later football while also playing the tuba in Mount Pleasant's Goin' Gold Band.

Graduating in 1998, Thompson attended West Texas A&M University on a football scholarship. After enduring adversity, Thompson finished his last college season with over 100 tackles. In 2002, he was named the Lone Star Conference Linebacker of the Year and was the First Team Associated Press Little American selection in 2002. His college career stats include 358 tackles with 40 for loss, 8 sacks, 3 forced fumbles, 2

fumble recoveries and 3 interceptions.

His successes on the field as a college athlete led to a second-round draft to the Cleveland Browns in 2003 where he played through 2007. While in the NFL, Thompson also fulfilled a promise to his late grandmother, Earlene Rivers, when he received his college degree in 2005.

Thompson played his final two years in the NFL as a Houston Texan. Professionally, Thompson played in 98 games with 30 starts recording 11.5 sacks, 161 tackles, 2 forced fumbles and 2 fumble recoveries.

Since 2009, Thompson and his wife, Faith, have partnered with the Texas Department of Families and Protective Services (DFPS) to open their own residential treatment center. The facility houses over 30 young men from all over the state who have emotional and psychological disorders. Chaun is the father of three children ages 16, 11 and 8.

See Hall of Fame, Pg. 24

Student Spotlight: Ryan Sharp

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

As a stellar student and star athlete, Ryan Sharp has worked diligently to leave his mark throughout his short time in high school. Sharp is a sophomore, and has already set the bar high for his next two years of high school.

Much of his time is spent with the various groups he is involved in, those include: Student Council, MP Swim, UIL, Debate, Interact, Lifeteen, Cosmo Scholars, League of Dreams, and Metroplex Aquatics.

Sharp is a member of the swim team, and has been swimming for roughly 11 years, six of those have been year round. He is drawn to the sport, because as a competitor you do not have to rely on anyone but yourself.

This year, the swim team has a new coach, Kristi Houchin, and nine new members to join those already on the team. There is a strong performance record for each swimmer including Sharp.

Last year, he placed third at district in both the 100 Fly and 100 Backstroke clinching him a spot at regionals.

"I made it to 'A Finals' after getting fourth in both events," Sharp said. "I also was one of the top 10 high point individual swimmers at regionals."

Many goals have been set both academically and athletically for Sharp and the swim team. The expectations are high for the upcoming season, and many are expected to go very far in competition.

"My expectations for myself are to get first at district," Sharp said. "I hope to go to state



Ryan Sharp

as well."

Sharp has already learned many lessons since starting high school, many of those have been influenced by his time in debate. By joining debate, it has expanded his knowledge regarding world topics, and pushed him to engage in conversation.

"I know a lot more about the world outside of America," Ryan Sharp said. "Honestly, debate has me open [up] to different people [through] discussion."

As an avid learner, he has found how to handle the stress that comes with school.

When asked what he had learned he responded "Don't procrastinate, friends are free therapy, and crying is...healthy." He goes on to say, "Teachers are not the enemy, and keeping an optimistic outlook is key."

Hall of Fame from Page 23

Marc McDaniel

Born and raised in Daingerfield, Marc McDaniel served as head football coach at Mount Pleasant from 1993-2003. During his tenure, Coach McDaniel had the distinction of leading the Tigers to the post season for 10 straight years garnering a total of 11 playoff wins.

For two years, teams advanced five games deep in the playoffs to the semifinals.

One season, under Coach McDaniel's leadership, the

Mount Pleasant Tigers advanced three games deep in the playoffs losing to the eventual state champions in the quarterfinals.

Among his teams' other notable accomplishments, beating rival Sulphur Springs twice in the same year was a highlight for Coach McDaniel.

No stranger to success on the field as an athlete himself, McDaniel played quarterback for the Daingerfield Tigers when the team won their first of six state championships in 1968.

After graduating, McDaniel signed a football scholarship to Rice University.

He graduated in 1974 and began a successful coaching career which spanned 30 years. For a total of 21 of those years, he served as head coach and carried teams to the playoffs 15 times earning 20 post-season wins.

Married to wife Lisa for almost 42 years, the couple has one son, Matthew.

Coach McDaniel has the distinction of coaching both Chris Campbell and Chaun Thompson.

20 Questions with Mrs. Bell

By BAILEY SISK
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher. This issue puts the spotlight on Katy Bell, who teaches English IV. The following questions give more insight on Bell.

1. What was your dream job when you were a kid?

I wanted to be famous.

2. What is the most valuable thing that you own?

My Mom's anniversary ring.

3. If you could have one super power, which would you choose?

To be invisible

4. How long have you worked at MPHS?

This is my 4th year

5. What's your favorite part of working at MPHS?

Developing relationships with my kiddos each year

6. What are you most proud of?

My teaching certificate and my nieces and nephews.

7. What songs have you completely memorized?

Ice Ice Baby, Shoop, by Salt N Pepa, anything by Celine Dion because shes amazing, Without Me by Eminem, etc...

8. What pets did you have while you were growing up?

4 dogs, Ginger, Kody, Shiffer & Frank

9. What shows are you into?

American Horror Story, The Purge, Yellowstone, Dateline, Criminal Minds, 90 day Fiance. Yes I'm a complete Reality TV junky!

10. What TV channel doesn't exist but really should?

Bellevison obviously

11. What would be your ideal way to spend the weekend?

On a weekend getaway anywhere with my husband.

12. What could you give a 40-minute presentation on with absolutely no preparation?



Kati Bel has been teaching at MPHS for four years.

Beowulf. After 4 years of teaching it, it's burned in my mind.

13. What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

See Celine Dion in Vegas. I've been twice.

14. What's the best way to start the day?

In prayer

15. What movie title best describes your life?

Before I was married, it would have been "50 First Dates." Now, it'd probably be "Cliffhanger" or "Something's Gotta Give."

16. Where is the most relaxing place you've ever been?

Alaska

17. What are you looking forward to in the coming months?

My husband and I are taking a trip to Eureka Springs, Arkansas for Thanksgiving.

18. What's your favorite genre of book or movie?

I like true crime and biographies when it comes to books. As far as movies go, I like everything except SciFi.

19. What's your dream vacation?

I'd love to go to Ireland. But, I'd settle for a trip to "Kellerman's" which is the resort where Dirty Dancing was filmed in Virginia. Bucket list.

20. If someone would've told you where you would be today in high school, would you have believed it?

Probably not. I never intended to move back home. But I'm sure glad I did. MPHS class of '95!!



FFA EDUCATION DAY



Students select favorites in a variety of categories

By MATTHEW ARMSTRONG
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Students were recently surveyed over a variety of trending topics. Topics included: favorite Netflix show, favorite movie genre, most used social media platform, favorite sport offered at MPHS, and their favorite fast food restaurant in town. They selected the following for each category.

When asked what their favorite show on Netflix was, the most popular was “*Grey’s Anatomy*” (23.3%) followed by “*Riverdale*” (14%). Coming in third was both “*Gossip Girl*” and “*Friends*” (11.6%). “*Grey’s Anatomy*” is a medical thriller which entices much of America with their weekly drama that fascinates all ages.

Students were asked what their favorite movie genre was. Comedy came in first at 53.5% followed by horror at 23.3%. Romance came in third with 11.6%.

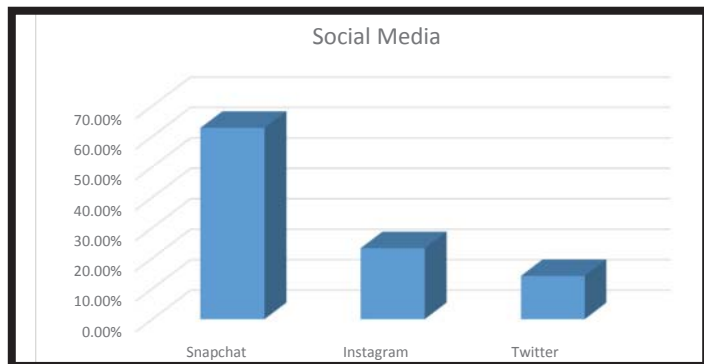
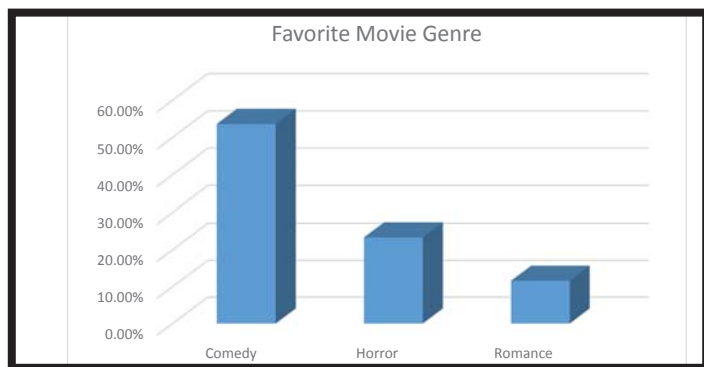
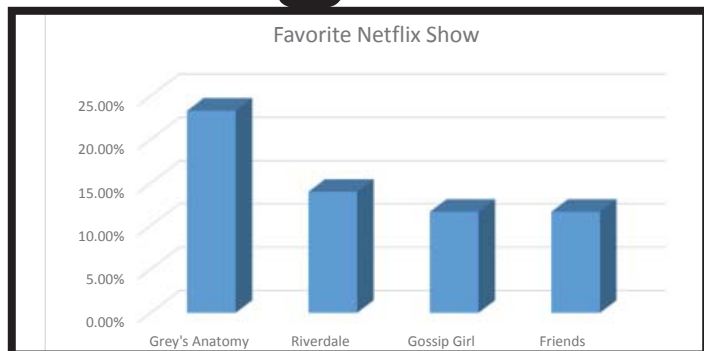
Millennials utilize technology to its fullest extent, and social media is a major contribution to their communication. When asked what platform they used the most, Snapchat came in at number one at 62.8%.

Snapchat was followed by Instagram at 23.3%. One platform that is popular by adults was absent in the results. Facebook failed to make it to the leaderboard.

Each year, MPHS excels in numerous sports. Students were asked what their favorite sport was and soccer came in first at 39.5% followed by basketball at 18.6%.

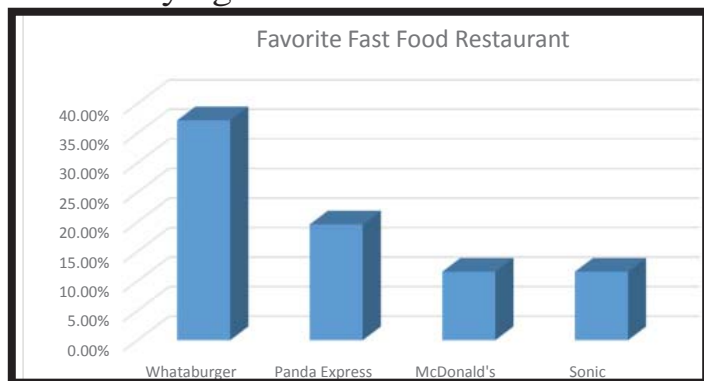
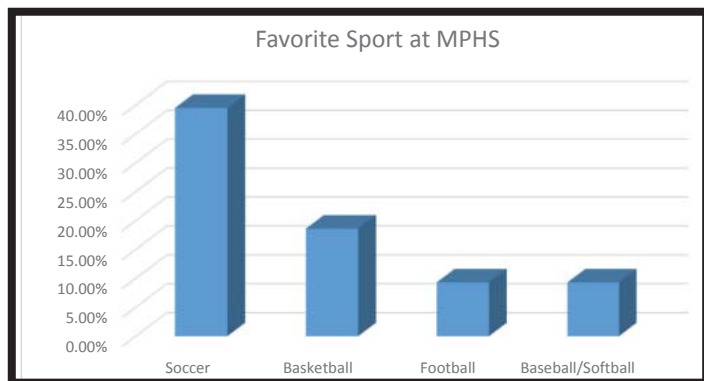
However, football, the staple sport of Texas, only got 9.3% of the students votes making it tied for third with baseball/softball.

As students are always on the go, fast food is often their choice when it comes to eating. Whataburger took the lead with 37.2%,



after all it is the place to be on Friday nights after our Tigers play.

With their tasty food, and 24 hour service students can get their fix at any time. Panda Express took second, with Sonic and McDonalds tying for third.



Tiger Roar

What is your favorite Disney movie?

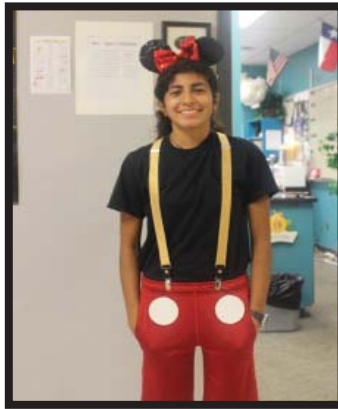
Tiger Roar page by Tigertalk Staff Writer Maria Mendez and Odalys Macedo



"The Princess and The Frog"
-- Shantyce Neal, 9



"Mulan"
-- Jonathan Tepetate, 9



"Coco"
-- Maira Rocha, 10



"Frozen"
--- Peyton Hein, 10



"Tangled/Coco"
-- Karen Ortiz &
Jaquelyn Torres, 11



"Dumbo"
-- Anna Elliott, 11



"Frozen"
-- JaQuacy Minter, 12



"Star Force; The Force
Awakens"
-- Odalys Macedo, 12



"Parent Trap"
--- Mrs. Crouch



"A Goofy Movie"
--- Mr. Bailey



"Star Wars"
--- Mrs. Whitten



"Finding Nemo"
--- Mr. Chamness