

Tigertalk

Inside:
New staff
join MPHS

**Homecoming King Tre Emory
& Queen Mireya Villarruel**

Volume 47

Issue 1

October 2021

What's Inside

Stories & Photos

College Fair.....	Page 2
Homecoming.....	Pages 3-6
Band Royalty.....	Page 6
Football Sweethearts.....	Page 7
New Staff.....	Pages 8-13
All-Region Jazz Band....	Page 13
All-School Boy and Girl....	Page 14
Band/Color guard.....	Page 15
Football.....	Page 16
Cross Country.....	Page 17
Volleyball.....	Page 18
Academic Honors.....	Page 19
Senior Spotlight.....	Page 20
FFA.....	Page 20
20 Questions	Page 21
School Spirit.....	Pages 22-24
Connelly Cowan.....	Page 24
FFA Education Day.....	Page 25
AP Scholar Awards.....	Page 26
Foreign Exchange.....	Page 26
Tiger Roar.....	Page 28



Students recently got a chance to visit a variety of colleges and universities from around Texas and neighboring states at the annual MPHS College and Career Fair held in Willie Williams Gym.

Tigertalk NEWS STAFF

Staff Writers, Photographers, Designers: Odalys Adame, Michelle Calderon, Edgar Mayo, Miller McCumbry, Audrie Mendoza, Isaiah Rodarte, Nathali Rojas and Caleb Whitten.

Advisor: John Whitten

Special Contributor: Kelly Cowan, MPISD
Director of Communications

The Tigertalk is published five-six times a year by the newspaper and journalism classes of MPHS. Address is P.O. Box 1117, Mount Pleasant, Texas 75455. Letters to the editor are encouraged but must be signed and the staff reserved the right to edit because of space. Submit all letters to Mr. Whitten in Room 401 of the CATE Building.

Villarruel, Emory crowned homecoming queen, king

By NATHALI ROJAS
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Seniors selected Mireya Villarruel and Tre Emory as this year's homecoming queen and king prior to the Tigers game against Whitehouse.

The Tigers homecoming game was delayed two weeks after the game against Arkansas High was canceled. Arkansas High canceled due to COVID concerns.

Villarruel was escorted by her mother MaryAnn Flores. Villarruel is a Tiger Doll Sergeant and has been in Tiger Dolls for two years. She is also in TAFE and FCCLA. Her hobbies include dancing with her team and hanging out with her family and friends.

Villarruel's role model is her sister, Mayra Villarruel. She also plans on attending UT-Arlington for four years to major in Early Education and after college she wants to be an ESL elementary teacher. Villarruel would like to visit Italy.

Her favorite food is Italian food and her favorite place to eat is Texas Roadhouse. Villarruel's Favorite class is AP Biology because she loves the teacher, and the environment is super fun. She would also like to thank her fans and supporters for being nominated and elected queen.

Emory was escorted by his mother Ashley Brown. Emory has played football for four years and has been named 2020 Defensive MVP and to the 2021 All State 1st Team. His hobbies include playing video games, sleep-
See Homecoming, Pg. 4



Villarruel receives her tiara after being named queen.



Emory is fitted with his homecoming sash and crown.

Homecoming from Page 3

ing, and playing with his dog, Pee Wee.

Emory's role model is his first cousin Tywon Walker. Emory has committed to play football at Baylor University and his goal is to play on the professional level. He wants to visit Miami and his favorite food to eat are wings and favorite place to eat is Taco Bell.. His favorite class is athletics because he loves sports.

Other queen nominees were Elizabeth Lockett, Daisy Lozano and Katie Ochoa.

Lockett, the daughter of Sedrick and Shanta Lockett, was escorted by her dad. Lockett has been a varsity cheerleader for three years, a member of FBLA for four years where she currently is vice president and participated in powerlifting and track. She is also a member of NTHS and has been named 2021 All American Cheerleader.

Some of Lockett's hobbies include spending time with her friends, swimming, exploring new foods, and traveling. Her role models are her parents. She plans to attend Texas A&M to obtain her BSN to become a pediatric oncologist. Her favorite vacation spot is New Orleans and her favorite food is shrimp and steak.

Her favorite place to eat is any sea food place. Her favorite subject is History because she learns how to live life because history repeats itself. Her favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13.

Lozano, the daughter of Mayra Vazques, is in NTHS, HOSA, NHS, Upward Bound, and has been in color guard for two years. Lozano hobbies include hanging out with her friends. Her role model is her aunt.

She plans to attend NTCC to receive an associates in science, then attend UT-Arington for a bachelor's in science and then go to med school to become a pediatrician. Her dream vacation is Rome, Italy. Her favorite food is seafood and favorite restaurant is Texas Roadhouse. Her favorite subject is math because it's easy to understand and fun to solve.

Ochoa, the daughter of Raul and Shae Ochoa, was escorted by her dad. She is a varsity cheerleader, runs track and has received Health Science Theory Academic Blanket Award, National Hispanic Recognition Program and National Rural and Small-Town Recognition Program. Her hobby is painting.

Her mother, Shae Ochoa, is her role model. She also plans to attend college and pursue a career in architecture.

See Homecoming, Pg. 5



Elizabeth Lockett



Daisy Lozano

Homecoming from Page 4

Her favorite place to visit or somewhere she would like to travel to is Paris, France. Ochoa's favorite food is pizza and her favorite place to eat is Luigis. Ochoa's said her favorite subject is math.

Other nominees for king were Tommy Arredondo, Pablo Mata and Tyson Minter.

Arredondo, the son of Tomas and Eduarda Arredondo, was escorted by his mom. He is involved with Student Council as secretary, cross country, track, HOSA was junior class treasurer.

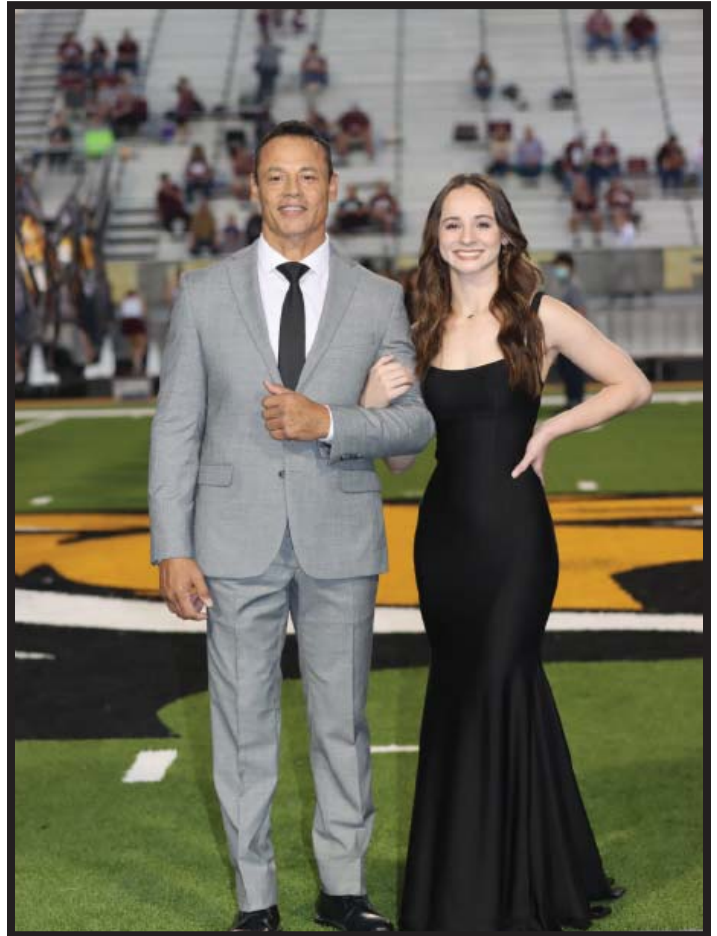
His hobbies are working out and watching crime documentaries.

His role model is his father. Arredondo plans to become a physical therapist and wants to travel the world. He wants to visit Paris, France. His favorite food is torta cubana and his favorite place to eat is La Fogata. His favorite subject is math because it challenges him.

Mata, the son of Pablo Mata Lopez and Marcela Macia Delgadillo, was escorted by his mom. Mata is a drum major in the band and a member of FBLA, HOSA and NHS. Some hobbies of Mata's include working out and playing basketball.

His role model is his dad and some of his future plans are to attend Texas A&M to receive his degree and then attend med school

See Homecoming, Pg. 6



Katie Ochoa



Tommy Arredondo



Pablo Mata

Pg. 5 Tigertalk

Tepetate, Plancarte named band beau, sweetheart

By EDGAR MAYO
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Jonathan Tepetate and Jessica Plancarte were selected band beau and sweetheart by members of the band and color guard. They were honored at the homecoming game.

Jonathan is the son of Felix Tepetate and Marcela Perez. He was escorted by Elisa Bello. He is the color guard captain and also has served as a squad leader. He is a member of NHS, NTHS, HOSA and FBLA.

His hobbies include hanging out with his friends and listening to music. He plans to attend the University of Houston and major in nursing to become a pediatric nurse.

His role model is his sister and his favorite vacation spot is Mexico. His favorite food is pozole and favorite restaurant is Chick-Fil-A. His favorite subject is math because he likes the new challenges it brings.

Jessica is the daughter of Jodge and Leticia Plancarte. She was escorted by Adlai Plancarte. She is a color guard social officer and cosmetology senior vice president. Her hobbies are doing makeup and reading.

Her role models are older sister Keyla Plancarte and her best friend Jayme.

Her future plans include attending Tyler Junior College and to major in business administration. She would like to open up her own salon one day. Her favorite place to visit is Florida. Her favorite food is shrimp alfredo and favorite place to eat is Panda Express. Her favorite subject is English because she gets to read good books.



Plancarte and Tepetate

Homecoming from Page 5

to become an orthopedic surgeon.

He would like to visit Italy. Mata's favorite food is wings and his favorite place to eat is Wingstop. His favorite subject is math because it is easy to him.

Minter is the son of Patrick Minter and Jennifer Morgan, both MPHS graduates. He was escorted by his mother.

Minter plays baseball and football. Some of Minter's hobbies include playing baseball, football and riding horses. His role model is Jeremy Johnson.

Minter's future plans are to go to college and continue playing sports and would like to get into business. He would one day like to travel to Hawaii.

His favorite food are burritos and his favorite place to eat is Chili's. His favorite subject because he is good with numbers.



Tyson Minter

Football sweethearts honored

By ISAIAH RODARTE
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The high school football teams recently chose sweethearts for the varsity, junior varsity and freshmen teams.

Haylee Martinez was named varsity sweetheart. The daughter of Ana Ibarra and Josman Martinez, Haylee plays on the girls soccer team where she serves as captain. She has been named First Team All District.

Haylee's hobbies include playing soccer, hanging out with her friends and family and doing math. Her role model is her mother.

Her plans after high school is to play college soccer and major in education at the University of Colorado in Boulder. She also wants to visit Hawaii after she graduates. She also joined the all American soccer.

Her favorite food is Mexican food and her favorite place to eat is Buffalo Wild Wings or Texas roadhouse. Her favorite class is Algebra because she said "I'm good at it and I'm always helping someone with math."

Johana Perales, the daughter of Reyna Caamal, is a sophomore and was named junior varsity sweetheart. She is a Tiger Doll and has been honored as Tiger Doll of the Week and New Member of the Day. She is also involved in Student Council, FBLA and HOSA.

Johana's hobbies are dancing and making beautiful memories with friends and family and her role model is her mom. She plans

Johana plans after high school is a to attend NTCC to get her BSN then transfer to UT Tyler to become a RN, and tryout for the Patriot dance team. She would also like to travel to Greece and Croatia.

Perales favorite food is Chinese and her favorite place to eat is Laura's Cheesecake. Her favorite class is History because it helps one understand



Haylee Martinez

how past societies, cultures, technologies etc... were built and operated

Sanaey Eaves was named the freshman football sweetheart. She is the daughter of Sharlen and Reco Hawkins. She was escorted by her mom.

She is in the band and also has plans to join HOSA. Her hobbies are to chill with her friends and playing the trumpet. Her role model is her grandmother Carlisa Johnson.

Sanaey plans after high school are to be a nurse and to have her own business. Her favorite vacation spot is Florida. Her favorite class subject is English because she loves to read. She likes pizza and pasta and her favorite place to eat is Cici's. She also wants to thank her parents for pushing her to be this person she is today.



Johana Perales



Sanaey Eaves

High school welcomes new staff

By MICHELLE CALDERON
Tigertalk Staff Writer

More than 20 new people have joined the high school staff this year. The new staff includes, teachers, coaches, a counselor, Student Council sponsor and staff members.

Drew Barnard is a new PE teacher and coach. Barnard is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University with a bachelor's degree in History and a Masters in Education in Kinesiology, Sports and Recreation in 2013.

He and his wife Carol Ann have a daughter, Clara Ann. This is his ninth year in teaching and has previously coached at Merkel, Life-Waxahachie, Lubbock Estacado and Prairiland. "I like that MPHS has a laid back atmosphere despite being a larger school," Barnard said.

Brandi Batchelor is a new freshman English teacher along with being an assistant coach in volleyball and softball. Batchelor earned her degree from Texas A&M University-Texarkana and is certified to teach in Texas, Missouri and California.

Batchelor said she enjoys spending her days off with her husband and their two daughters. Her husband was in the Coast Guard for 11 years during which she said "we were blessed to live in some amazing places and meet life-long friends." Her daughter Jordan is a sophomore at MPHS and daughter Brinley is 7 and attends Annie Sims Elementary. They also have two dogs Edward and Princess Batchelor, a small rescue Chihuahua.

This is Batchelor's ninth year to teach, having previously taught at Clarksville,



Barnard

Pittsburg and Paris. She also taught at a private Christian school in San Diego.

Batchelor said what she likes best about MPHS is "I like how everyone helps each other. Team work make the dream work right? It feels like a family environment when everyone is down to earth and easy to talk to."

She added when her husband was in the Coast Guard, she learned to teach different cultures such as Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese. "Those children taught me a different way to view life through their work ethics and neat sacks they brought me each day," Batchelor said. "I taught them about English, but they taught me way more than a language. I will say I like my seaweed in the ocean though. LOL that was some of my Korean students' favorite snack."

Ashley Brown is the new clerical printer for the print shop. Brown, who attended NTCC, has three children Ty Brown (2017 graduate), Nikki Emory (2019 graduate) and senior Tre Emory. Tre has committed to play



Batchelor



Ashley Brown

football at Baylor after receiving more 20 scholarship offers.

Brown said she likes "building relationships with students and staff and working daily in the school that I received my own education in."

Camille Brown is the new Student Council sponsor and 504 coordinator. She has a degree in Computer Science with a double minor in ac-

See New Staff, Page 9

New Staff from Page 8

counting and general business from Ouachita Baptist University.

She has been married to 34 years to husband B.J., who also works in education and is a baseball coach. They have three children, Tiffany who is married and a senior graphic designer for the Dallas Stars; Daniel who has a degree in Kinesiology/Psychology and pursuing a career in baseball and Ashley, who will graduate in December with her doctorate in physical therapy and getting married in November.

Brown has been in education for 12 years. She has taught various subjects from 5th-12th grade and worked previous at New Diana, Mount Vernon, Marble Falls, Burnet and New Boston districts. Prior to education, she worked in business and in the music field.

"God has blessed me with a tremendous family whom I love and adore," Brown said. "Our children all worked hard, graduated from college, and all three had the opportunity to play sports on the college level which means I had the fun opportunity watching them."

Her favorite part being at MPHS is "I love the friendliness of everyone that I have been around and their desire to help me whatever I need. Everyone is encouraging and supportive."

Kaylene Dimon works in the Autism class. She has bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education. She and her husband Bobby have three children at home. Her husband has two older sons who live on their own.

She previously worked for 16 years in Special Education in Arizona and spent a



Camille Brown



Dimon



Ernest



Foster

year and a half on a church mission in Brazil. She said she and her family love it here after moving from Arizona.

Dalton Ernest is a new football/baseball coach and teaches Math Models. He has a business degree from Lyon College with an emphasis in finance and a minor in physical education.

This is his first year to teach and said "it truly feels like a family here." Ernest said he has been blessed to go on three mission trips --- two to

Guatemala and one to Uganda.

Samantha Foster is a new teacher in the CTE Department and teaches Principles of Engineering, Principles of Business, Business Information Management and Career and Academic Planning. A graduate of the University of North Texas, Foster has bachelor's degree in sociology and masters in Recreation and Leisure Services with an emphasis in program management.

See New Staff, Page 10

Pg. 9 Tigertalk

New Staff from Page 9

She recently had a baby daughter Sydney Jo and also has two puppies, Sofi Joe (a Malti-poo) and Pebbles (American Red Heeler). This is her first year to teach, but has prior experience working in city government for 15 years planning and promoting recreational activities and special events. She also worked for six years in HOA Management overseeing daily operations of 200 HOA communities.

“This is home. I grew up in Omaha, Texas so I was excited to accept this position to be back close to home,” Foster said. “Everyone at MPHS has been welcoming, and I am excited to be a Tiger.”

Kahyon Freeman is a new Agricultural Mechanics and Metal Technology and Livestock Production teacher. He has a bachelor's of science degree in Interdisciplinary Agriculture from Texas Tech University.

Freeman's wife Leigh Ann is a new Ag teacher also. They recently had a son born in July. This is 11th year of teaching and has previously taught at Harmony, Pittsburg and White Oak.

Freeman said something interesting about him is “I am a huge bug nerd. I have a collection of almost 150 different species of insects that I have used to help train some of my past FFA Entomology teams.”

He said what he likes best about MPHS is “everyone that I have met has been super friendly and willing to help with anything that I need, which is very refreshing.”

Leigh Ann Freeman is a new Agricultural Mechanics teacher. She teaches with her husband Kahyon also an Ag
Pg. 10 Tigertalk



Kahyon Freeman



Leigh Ann Freeman



Grubbs

teacher, and they have a son born in July.

She has a degree in Agriculture Education from Tarleton State University. Freeman has previously taught at White Oak and Troup.

She said “everyone is friendly and helpful!”

Cullen Grubbs is a new World Geography teacher along with coaching varsity football and baseball. He is a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University with a degree in Exercise Science.

He is married to McKinsey



Hunt

and has taught for four years at the junior high before joining the high school staff. He once held the record for most touchdown passes in a single game in Texas. He said “he loves the atmosphere and building relationships with students and players.”

Emily Hunt is a new Biology, Algebra, and Employability Skills co-teacher, as well as a lifescills teacher. She previously she taught at Mount Vernon for five years and worked at a psy-

See New Staff, Page 11

New Staff from Page 10

chiatric hospital. Hunt graduated from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She said that her favorite part of working at MPHS is “how helpful everyone is.”

Amanda Hutchings is the new Practicum I and Anatomy and Physiology teacher. Hutchings received her associates degree of applied science in medical assisting from NTCC, her bachelor of science in healthcare management from Purdue Global University, and her masters of science from the University of North Texas.

She has been married to her husband, Kelly, for 20 years and has two children, Zannah who is currently at the UNT pursuing a teaching degree and Karson who is currently at NTCC but will transfer to Stephen F. Austin State University to pursue a degree in construction management. All of the Hutchings family has attended MPHS.

Hutchings also taught at NTCC in the Medical Assisting Program where she served as a Practicum Coordinator and Instructor, an Instruction Designer for NTCC and at Sulphur Springs.

“I have always loved the school, loved getting to come on campus for fundraisers, games, [and] dance recitals. There is a sense of nostalgia when entering the halls. I guess I would say the best thing about being at MPHS is that it feels like home,” Hutchings said.

She added that although she knew she would work in the medical field, she never thought she would be a teacher. She loved being able to see the “lightbulb” moments that happen when a student gets it.

“God knows our path and knows how to get us where we are at our best”.



Hutchings



Johnson



Jones



Lozano

Kavan Johnson is a new government and economics teacher and football coach. He graduated from Hardin-Simmons University with a bachelors of behavioral sciences and this is his first year teaching.

Johnson likes being here because he gets “to do what [he’s] always wanted.”

Mandy Jones is the new counselor for the junior class. She earned her bachelor’s from the University of Arkansas in Monticello and graduated from Texas A&M

in Texarkana. She got her masters degree from East Central University in Ada, Okla. and also has studied abroad.

She is married to Jarrad Jones, who also works as a football coach and teacher. She has a son named Tyler, who is 20, and a step-son named Dalton, who is 29.

This is her 20th year in education, having previously worked at Simms, Malta, DeKalb, Soper Public Schools, Pewitt and MPISD.

See New Staff, Page 12
Pg. 11 Tigertalk

New Staff from Page 11

Jones said “I love my students and the people I work with. The students I have this year are the students I taught here at Mount Pleasant when they were in the 7th grade. I enjoyed them then just as much as I do now”.

Brenda Lozano is a new paraprofessional for the life skills students. She worked at the junior high for three years before joining MPHS. She attended NTCC and is married with a newborn son named Abram.

Her favorite part about the high school is the staff and the new buildings.

Enrique Martinez is the new AP Government and Economics teacher and debate coach. He graduated from the University of North Texas at the age of 19, receiving his bachelor's degree in political science. He is the son of Odelina Sanchez and Enrique Martinez, two working class immigrants that have worked for over 20 years to help provide for their family.

Although Martinez taught math models last year, this will be his first full year teaching here. He enjoys working “with a very supportive group of people” and is excited about UIL and debate season.

Olivia Muñoz is one of the new World Geography and U.S. History teachers. She received her bachelors in sciences of history at Texas A&M at Texarkana.

Before Muñoz came to MPHS she spent five years working and two months teaching. She has one child and says that everyone is nice at the high school.

Ben Ramirez is a new freshman skills teacher and assistant football and baseball coach. He was the first



Martinez



Munoz



Ramirez



Stewart

generation graduate student of his family and attended East Texas State, now Texas A&M University in Commerce to receive his bachelors in science of education and his masters in health physical education at Lamar University.

He recently got married to Fran Ramirez. He has three sons, Ryan, Brett, and Jayley and a stepson named Bryce. Before coming here he taught for 23 years at Richardson, Rowlett, Dallas Christian, Bells and Daingerfield. His favorite part about being at the high school is the administration and staff.

Tommy Stewart is the new head baseball coach. He graduated from the University of Texas in Tyler and Southern Arkansas. Before coming to MPHS he spent nine years teaching and 14 in administration.

He is married to Kera and they have two daughters, Calli and Briley, and a son named Brogan. His daughters scored a 33 and 30 on their ACT tests and his son's travel team won eight out of nine tourneys in their championship this past spring.

Stewart enjoys coaching baseball and how friendly
See New Staff, Page 13

New Staff from Page 12

everyone is on campus.

Marqueshia Thompson is a new freshman Environmental System teacher and also coaches volleyball and basketball.

This is her first year to teach. What she likes best about MPHS is the kids and the staff.

Hugo Uribe is a new bilingual, bilingual honors, and monolingual honors Spanish I teacher, and football and soccer coach. He has been teaching for eight years, seven of those being at MPJH.

He received his bachelors of art from Howard Payne University and double majored in Spanish and criminal justice. He received his masters in criminology from Tarleton State University.

Uribe is the eldest of three siblings. His favorite part about MPHS is being able to teach his students and the new facilities.

Brian Williams is the new digital art and video teacher, as well as one of the new basketball and tennis coaches.



Thompson

Last year he taught eighth grade Pre-AP history. He graduated from Oklahoma Christian University with a degree in graphic design and marketing.

He has two dogs, Motley and Arizona. In the span of a year and a half, he had three surgeries done.

Williams says he likes “knowing I’m teaching good kids and get to teach with great teachers, makes it feel like home.”



Uribe



Williams

Two named to All-Region Jazz Band

Two members of the MPHS Jazz Band were named to the All-Region Jazz Band after auditions at Pine Tree High School.

In order to audition, students had to prepare three short technical pieces in the jazz style, and improvise with a rhythm section. Having only a few short weeks to prepare, each piece required a high level of skill, as well as a mastery of the jazz style.

Those named to the All-Region Jazz Band include junior Manoa Bagsic (3rd chair Trumpet) and junior Madison Carpenter (3rd chair Alto Saxophone).

“I’m extremely proud of each student that audi-



From left are Bagsic, Carpenter and Sterrett.

tioned,” said MPHS Jazz Band Director, Jamey Sterrett. “Their hard work, and dedication to excellence con-

tinues to set them apart from all others. I’m truly honored to assist them on their musical journey.”



Thompson, right, and Cowan were named All-School Boy and Girl by the high school staff.

MPHS staff picks Thompson, Cowan for All-School honors

The faculty recently selected seniors Keller Thompson and Connelly Cowan as the 2021-2022 All-School Boy and Girl. Each year the high school staff selects a senior boy and senior girl who represent the ideals and standards of MPHS. This honor is considered the highest a senior can receive because it is voted on by the staff.

Thompson is a member of the National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Health Occupations Students of America and is on the varsity football and baseball teams.

His hobbies include baseball, football, hunting and fishing. He was chosen as Rotary Student of the Month for September.

He is undecided on where he will attend college, but he is planning to major in Biochemistry with a minor in Business. He hopes to one day be a Pediatric Dentist. Thompson said, "Being selected as All School Boy is a great honor. It means

so much to be chosen by MPHS teachers and staff. It is only through their help and guidance that I am able to receive this great award."

He is the son of Kenny and Delann Thompson. His role model is his grandfather and his dad.

"They have shown me what it means to be a man and how to respect others," Thompson said.

His favorite food is steak and baked potato and favorite class is Health Science.

Cowan has been an active member of MP Speech and Debate for six years where she has served as Captain for the past two.

She is a six-time UIL State medalist in Speech and Debate events including two State Championships. She is also Vice President of the MPHS chapter of the National Honor Society.

She has been awarded Academic Blankets in Pre-AP English I, Pre-AP Chemistry I, AP Chem-

istry II and Dual Credit Physics I. She is undecided on where she will attend college, but she is planning to major in Government or Political Science with plans to attend Law School.

"I am truly honored to be chosen as All School Girl," said Cowan. "It means so much to be recognized for the hard work I have put in over the past four years. Thank you to all the teachers and faculty who voted for me and have supported me over my high school career."

Cowan is the daughter of Collin and Kelly Cowan.

Cowan's hobbies are playing piano, drinking coffee and collecting records. Her role model is her mom.

"She's the strongest person I know," Connelly said. "She keeps me grounded and reminds me to always stay positive even during hardships."

Connelly said her favorite food is popcorn, and her favorite class is Physics because it challenges her.

Students share about their band, color guard experience

By CALEB WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

We questioned six band and color guard students about their experiences in the organizations.

Abby Phelan, Tiffany Rangel, Yasenia Paloblanco, Luis Garcia, Estefanie Torres, and Ilse Ojendis shared what band and color guard is like and what they like most about performing with the two organizations.

How does band/color guard effect your everyday life, does it take up much of your time in the day?

Abby – It takes up a lot of time. You practice a lot, but when your doing it with the people you love you don't mind.

Ilse – It does take time up in my day, but it is all worth it.

Yasenia – I see it as a job. We have practice every day and since I am an officer I even stay longer.

Have you enjoyed your time so far in band/color guard?

Yasenia – Yes, there is never a day that I don't want to be there.

Ilse – Yes, I have enjoyed my time in band.

Estefanie - I've enjoyed every time that I have with the guard members.

Tiffany - Yes, it's been great meeting and just having fun. Some of the best memories come from guard.

Do you enjoy performing during football games; do you get nervous?

Estefanie – Performing half-time is one of the best things I enjoy at football games.

Luis – I enjoy performing during football games. In my freshman year I got a bit nervous, but not as much now.

Ilse - The nerves get to me



about when we are about to perform, but after we do I sense relief.

Abby - Yes, performing is always a blast. Being nervous just pushes you.

What do you enjoy most about band/color guard?

Tiffany – Being able to be with my close friends, and having fun wherever I go

since they usually come as well (since they're in color guard).

Yasenia – What I enjoy most about color guard is all the trips and memories that come with it.

Luis - I enjoy spending time with who I consider my closest friends and go to different places to perform in band.



Tigers win two straight games, hope to turn their season around

By MILLER MCCRUMBY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

The 2021-2022 year so far has not been to the likings all Tiger fans would hope to see, but they may be turning it around after wins over Whitehouse and Nacogdoches.

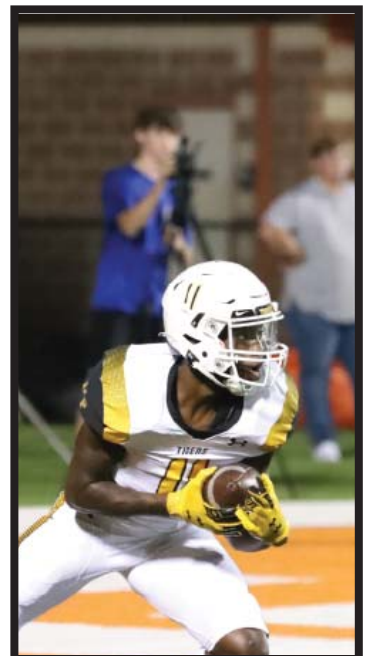
. Only losing a handful of seniors and possessing a team of great experience within their senior class along with help from underclassmen, the team's potential seemed to be really high. Injuries and lucky breaks ultimately have been the downfall for the Tigers.

The first two non-district games were lost, one on a last minute interception that sealed the game versus Wylie East and then the other one against Sherman in which the Tigers lost on a last second Hail Mary. The following week resulted in a forfeit by Arkansas High.

Then the Tigers headed to Texarkana to face off against the #9 team in the state, but fell behind in the scoreboard after battling hard for the first half.

Homecoming was the very next week and the Tigers were not shy by impressing their city with a win against a Whitehouse team the Tigers have not beat in years... beating the Wildcats 23-7. The Tigers look to use this win to create momentum and spark to ignite a playoff run.

They take on Hallsville this Friday and go for their third straight win.



Cross country teams win their meet

By AUDRIE MENDOZA
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Both boys and girls cross country team took first place in the Titus County Fair Invitational meet, which was recently held.

The varsity boys finished with 29 points, led by Pedro Daniel Robles with a time of 16:17 who took first place. He was followed by teammate Gilberth Landaverde in 2nd at 16:20, Geovanni Calderon was 3rd at 16:26, and Christopher Escobar got 6th at 16:58, and next was Jacob Botello who places 17th at 18:11.

The JV girls with 32 points got first place as a team, led by the overall finisher, Abigail Retana who placed 3rd at 13:59. Followed by Isabel Gonzales in 4th place at 14:10, Araceli Landaverde in 6th at 14:28, Haylee Martinez in 9th at 14:39, Briana Gonzales in 10th at 14:44, Arlette de Jesus in 14th at 15:04, Karen Hernandez in 15th at 15:11, 1 second behind from Arlette, and Landaverde Virginia in 16th at 15:11.

Other runners for the Lady Tigers were Noemi Rios, Kylie Humber, Ramirez Cynthia, Giselle Delgado, Yesenia Benitez, Audrie Mendoza, and Monserrat Rivero.

The JV boys placed first in team competition. Leading the team was Johnathan Sandate who was first in 17:37. Aiden Botella placed 3rd at 18:11, Juan Retana placed 6th at 18:43, and David Buendia placed 8th at 18:54. Other runners were Jesus Santiago, Skylar Guereca, Edgar Morales, Gabriel Garza, and Noah Trimm.





Volleyball in middle of district

The high school volleyball team is in the midst of district play as they continue their season.

The Lady Tigers have just

four games left in district, including games at Longview, Marshall and Pine Tree.

Their final home game of the season is Oct. 19 against

Texas High when they will honor seniors Mariana Gonzalez, Trinitee Brannon, Ladi Guereca, Hadleigh Mays and Genesis Roberson.





Front row from left are Rossy Banegas, Abril Ramirez and Michelle Calderon. Second row from left are Luiz Olvera, Odalys Adame and Katie Ochoa. Back row from left are Devin Castaneda, Kyle Cates, Connelly Cowan and Perla Guzman.

Ten students get academic honors

Ten students have earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs.

These National Recognition Programs grant underrepresented students with academic honors that can be included on college and scholarship applications and connect students with universities across the country, helping them meaningfully connect to colleges and stand out during the admissions process.

Colleges and scholarship programs identify students awarded National African American, Hispanic, Indigenous and/or Rural & Small Town Recognition through College Board's Student Search Service.

Receiving awards from the College Board Nation-

al Recognition programs are Odalys Adame, Rossy Banegas, Michelle Calderon, Devin Castaneda, Kyle Cates, Connelly Cowan, Perla Guzman, Katie Ochoa, Luiz Olvera, and Abril Ramirez.

All 10 were named National Rural & Small Town Scholars. Adame, Banegas, Calderon, Castaneda, Guzman, Ochoa, Olvera, and Ramirez also earned the National Hispanic Scholar designation with Guzman earning an Indigenous Scholar award as well.

Students who may be eligible have a GPA of 3.5 or higher and have excelled on the PSAT/NMSQT or PSAT 10, or earned a score of 3 or higher on two or more AP Exams; and are African American or Black, Hispanic American or Latinx,

Indigenous, and/or attend school in a rural area or small town.

Eligible students will be invited to apply during their sophomore or junior year and will be awarded at the beginning of the next school year. Students will receive their awards in time to include them on their college and scholarship applications.

"By awarding students who excel academically with honors from the College Board National Recognition Programs, our aim is to create pathways to college for underrepresented students," said Steve Bumbaugh, College Board senior vice president of College & Career Access. "We hope this inspires many more students to work toward this recognition."

Senior Spotlight-Taylor Hubbs

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Editor

At MPHS, students strive to perform to the best of their abilities. One of these hardworking students is senior Taylor Hubbs.

Hubbs has participated in various organizations and has held leadership positions throughout high school. She currently serves as FBLA president and district vice-president and formerly served as vice president for her sophomore and junior year.

She has competed in Broadcast Journalism and qualified for Nationals in 2019. Hubbs has also been in Student Council for 4 years serving as Co-Chairman 10th grade, Secretary 11th grade and Vice President 12th grade.

She has won various awards in UIL and Debate and currently serves as president in debate.

In NHS, she serves as Historian and has volunteered in SAFE-T for 2 years, which helps with victims of domestic violence.

Hubbs does not have a specific college chosen yet and plans to apply to various



Hubbs serves as FBLA President and Student Council Vice President.

colleges. She intends to earn a bachelor degree in biology before transferring to med school or dentistry school. She notes that the English department has positively affected her school life.

"Mrs. Priefert, Mrs. Merriam and Mrs. Crouch always make me smile and are some of my favorite people. They have pushed me to work harder than before. [Mr. McCarley] isn't here

anymore but his impact on me is one that I will never forget," Hubbs said.

"He was one of the most randomly intellectual people that I knew and made me want to genuinely learn more about engineering."

Her favorite part of senior year so far has been hanging out with her friends. Hubbs motivation to stay diligent in school has been her parents and dreams for the future.

Two FFA students win blue ribbons

Seniors Hope Vaught and Sam Brown show off the ribbons they won at the Four States Fair in Texarkana. Vaught took first in class with her Limousin heifers and Brown won 3rd in class with his Hereford.



20 questions with Mr. Hansen

By CALEB WHITTEN
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Each issue of the Tigertalk, the newspaper staff features a different teacher. This issue puts the spotlight on Bruce Hansen, who teaches Aircraft Maintenance. The following questions give more insight on Hansen.

1. How long have you worked at MPHS and what do you teach?

This is my second year and I teach Aircraft Maintenance

2. What do you enjoy most about teaching at MPHS?

I enjoy working with a diverse student population and with great teachers and staff that have helped me fit in here.

3. What is your dream job as a kid?

I wanted to be a pilot, especially flying into rugged areas

4. What are you most proud of?

I am proud of my 4 grown children and my wife for adapting to so many places around the world where we have lived.

5. What is your favorite genre of music?

I guess it depends on my mood. From classical to classic rock

6. Who is your favorite musical artist?

I don't really have a favorite. I give them all a chance. I like female vocalists, even country ones. ;)

7. What is your favorite movie?

Umm, Apocalypse Now? Ever After?



Mr. Hansen likes to restore antique cars.

8. What is your favorite book?

I actually like reading technical manuals.

9. What is your favorite TV show?

Monk

10. What is your favorite color?

Sky Blue

11. What would be your dream vacation?

Sitting on a secluded beach anywhere with a private bungalow.

12. How do you start your day?

Coffee and the Bible

13. What are you looking forward to in the future?

I am looking forward to getting to know Mt Pleasant better and watching my grandchildren grow up.

14. If you could have a superpower what would it be?

Flying

15. What is something unique you have done in

life?

Spent time living in a remote, undeveloped village in Colombia and Papua New Guinea.

16. Do you own any pets?

A dog and a cat, and they get along very well.

17. What is your favorite memory growing up?

Riding my motorcycle in the mountains of British Columbia in the summer and snow skiing in the winter.

18. What was your favorite subject growing up? Why?

Anything hands-on. I loved taking raw materials and making something that had a purpose.

19. What do you enjoy most about aviation?

I like the technology side of it, and that it demands excellence in order to make it safe.

20. Do you have a hobby?

Restoring antique cars.



Seniors show their school spirit at a pep rally earlier this year.

Student offer suggestions to help boost school spirit

By ODALYS ADAME
Tigertalk Editor

High school is always portrayed as the social peak of life with football games and school spirit as its focal point.

From movies like *“Mean Girls”* to *“High School Musical”*, each one has school spirit in some way because it is essential to high school. Without it, is it even a high school experience?

At Mount Pleasant High School, students were asked to take a survey about their thoughts on school spirit. Out of the students surveyed only 6% said the school has school spirit, 71% said that only organizations such as Tiger Dolls and Cheerleaders have it and 21% flat out said there is no school spirit.

Students were also asked to give comments and suggestions on school spirit. While there were obvious jokes in the replies, many students gave interesting ideas.

“Coming from a student who transferred, I think there should be awards,” an anonymous student said.

Awards could potentially boost some spirit dress participation. For example, students with the most elaborate dress could get a

gift card to a local business. This would be a fun competition for students to participate in and might encourage other students to be a part of school spirit.

“[School spirit is] a great form of unity with the students, staff & teacher as a community. Should definitely be encouraged more and not seen as cringe,” a student says.

Unfortunately, many students view spirit dress as outdated. 75% of the students surveyed claimed that school spirit is no longer trendy. When over half of students feel this way, there is definitely something in the modern social culture that has changed.

Whether it be the rise of social media or simply being outdated, school spirit participation has seen a steep decline over the year. From responses gathered, students mentioned that it’s not that spirit dress is outdated but rather the themes themselves are.

“It’s disappointing that we’re losing school spirit but oftentimes our spirit dress days are extremely repetitive and it becomes boring,” a student comments.

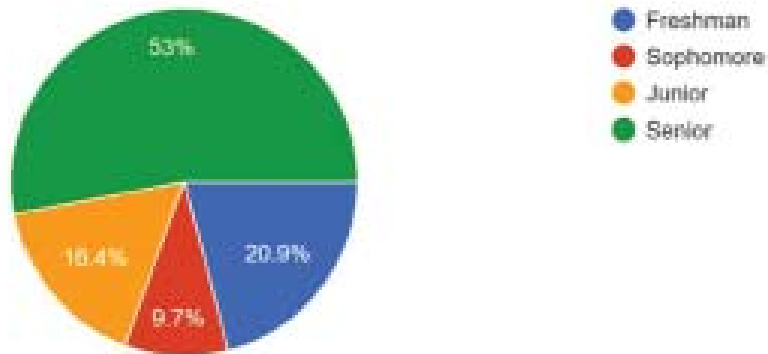
The root of the problem lies within the theme chosen and incentives behind participating in school spirit. Some students feel

See School Spirit, Pg 24

Survey Says.....

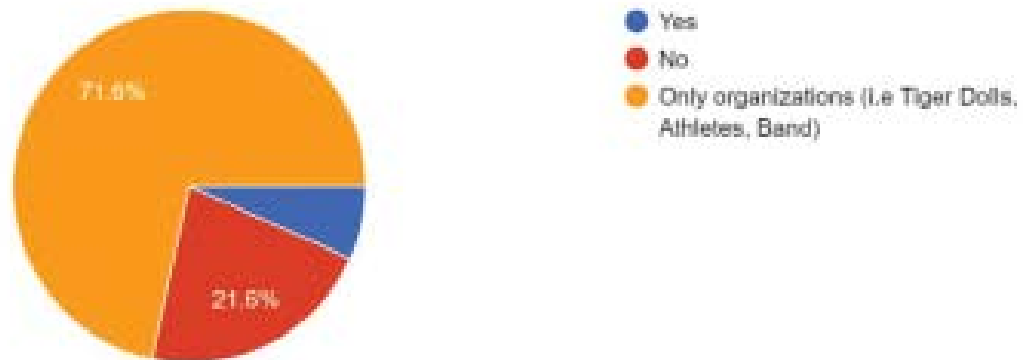
What grade are you in?

134 responses



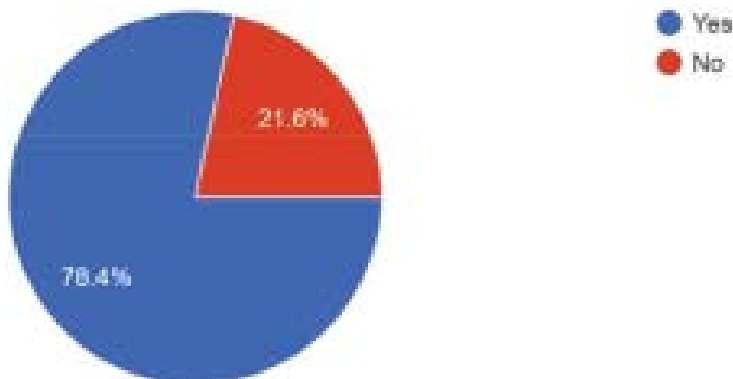
Do you think our school has a lot of school spirit?

134 responses



Have you ever shown school spirit? (Spirit Dress, Attend Games, Homecoming Dance)

134 responses



State Board recognizes Cowan

Senior Connelly Cowan, has been recognized by the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) as a 2021 Student Hero, one of only 12 awarded in the entire state. The honor comes for her longtime community service project, Connelly's Classroom, which has collected and distributed school supplies to children in Guatemala since 2012.

Dr. Keven Ellis, SBOE Chair, presented her awards at the MPISD Administration Building.

Begun in 2015, the Student Heroes Award recognizes public school students who voluntarily perform acts of kindness. This year's recipients range from fourth-grade students to high school seniors.

"The Student Heroes Award is always a challenge to award because of all the great stories we receive of those who have made a difference in the lives of their fellow classmates," said Ellis. "When I hear of all these acts of kindness, I am so encouraged about the future of Texas and I know we will be in good hands. I commend each and every student who performs acts of kindness towards others. It is an honor to recognize them with this award."

The students were presented with a plaque and a medallion during events at their lo-



From left are MPHS Principal Craig Bailey, SBOE Chair Dr. Keven Ellis, Connelly Cowan, and MPISD Superintendent Judd Marshall

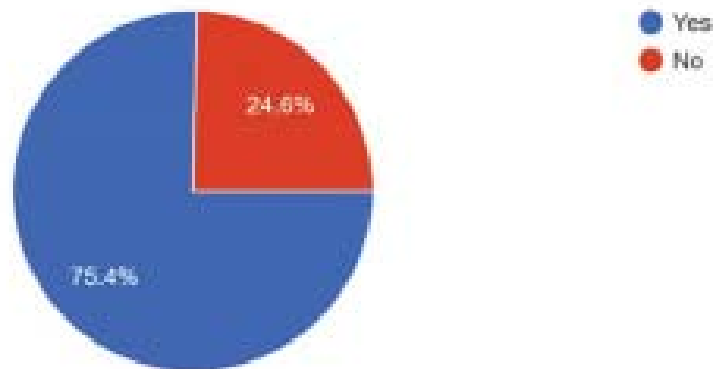
cal school districts. The board approved a resolution in their honor during the general meeting of the SBOE in Austin on June 25, 2021.

Cowan, a senior, is the daughter of Colin and Kelly Cowan. To learn more about Connelly's Classroom, visit her website at <https://connellys-classroom.ucraft.site>.

School Spirit from Page 22

Do you believe times have changed and school spirit is no longer considered "trendy"?

134 responses



embarrassed to dress up when no one participates and those who do dress up are usually part of organizations.

When a large chunk of the student body is not part of social groups, there is a feeling of being left out. Having incentives like a prize or even changing the themes to fit more

modern trends would increase the amount of school spirit.

As the years go by and social media develops, things like spirit dress and homecoming should change to match their audience. Students today will not always enjoy or partake in the activities of the former generation.



FFA Education Day





From left are Cowan, Ramirez, Banegas and Hubbs.

Four seniors earn AP Scholar awards

Four seniors have earned AP Scholar awards from the College Board for demonstrating outstanding college-level achievement through their performance on multiple Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.

Three were named AP Scholars for taking three exams and achieving scores of 3 or higher. Those included Connelly Cowan, Taylor Hubbs and Abril Ramirez.

Rossy Banegas was named an AP Scholar with Honors, granted to students who take at least four exams and receive an average score of at least 3.25 on all exams taken.

"These students are to be commended for their hard work and dedication to education," said MPHS AP Coordinator Amanda Pinckard. "We look forward to seeing the things they will achieve in the future."

Foreign exchange student joins MPHS

By MILLER MCCRUMBY
Tigertalk Staff Writer

Filippo Zunino is a new foreign exchange student from Italy who joined the student body earlier this semester.

Below are a few questions to get to know Filippo better.

1. How do you like Texas?

"It's pretty different than Italy, but I love it."

2. What has been the biggest difference between the two places?

"The weather, food, school, social interactions... basically everything."

3. Who is your host family?

Host family is Kenny and Delann Thompson. Their family includes senior Keller and freshman Kit.

4. Where are you from and what are is your primary language?

"I'm from Rome, Italy and my primary language is Italian."

5. Is there anything you find weird about the USA?

"The fact that there is no time



Filippo is one of the members of the Spirit Corps.

for a shower between soccer practice and the next class."

6. What is your favorite place to eat here so far?

Wingstop

7. What new food do you not like? And why?

"Hot sauces because I can't stand spicy food."

8. What is your favorite part

of Texas?

My house

9. What/Who do you miss the most from your home country?

Friends/Family and food

10. Where do you see yourself in 5 years?

In college studying business and finance.

WHAT WILL YOU BE AT NTCC?



You've got big goals for your future and NTCC is here to help you achieve them! Whether you want to launch a career or prepare for your dream university - you can start here and go anywhere!

N **NORTHEAST TEXAS**
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

NTCC is an AA, ADA, Equal Opportunity Institution

903-434-8100
www.ntcc.edu



Tiger Roar

**If you could go back to any time period,
who would you want to meet?**

Page by Tigertalk Staff Writers Nathali Rojas, Isaiah Rodarte and Edgar Mayo



"Abraham Lincoln"
-- Alexander Van Rijn



"My grandfather"
-- Noemy Dorantes



"Eazy E"
-- Natty Moreno



"My grandma"
--- Alondra Garcia

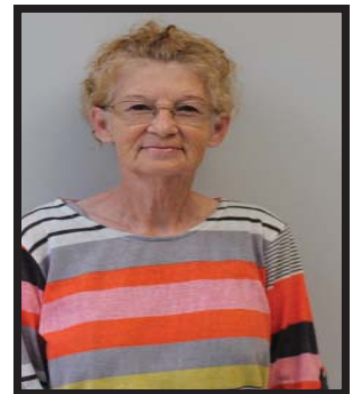


"My papa"
-- Paris Beard

"Michael Jackson"
-- Morgan Brooks



"Selena Quintanilla"
-- Neida Garcia



"Ronald Reagan"
-- Jovanna Young



"Kobe Bryant" "Chalino Sanchez" "Selena Quintanilla" "Jenni Rivera"
--- Trini Hernandez --- Jazmin Garcia -- Daisy Banda --- Damaris Martinez



"Michael Jackson"
--- Chris Williams