

# Potter Pride Newspaper

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## Striking Down the Competition

By Addie Gosteli, 8th-grade reporter

Strike! This new club has taken off with much greatness yet to come. The bowling club practices every Tuesday at Potters Alley to prepare to compete against other players, with Sectionals right around the corner.

The Bowling Club's coaches are Mrs. Trilikis and Ms. Hasler. In an interview conducted with Mrs. Trilikis, she said, "MJHS just started the bowling club this year. The Morton community has a huge interest in bowling and there are many students involved in after-school leagues in town and compete at tournaments. Mr. Carter thought it would be a great opportunity to bring bowling to MJHS and give students a chance to compete for our school."

Mrs. Trilikis also said that the Bowling Club started in November and student tryouts for the Sectional team were in February. The bowling team will practice all of March and compete in Sectionals the first weekend in April. Then hopefully, they will compete at state on April 8th & 9th.

Although you may not think this club is

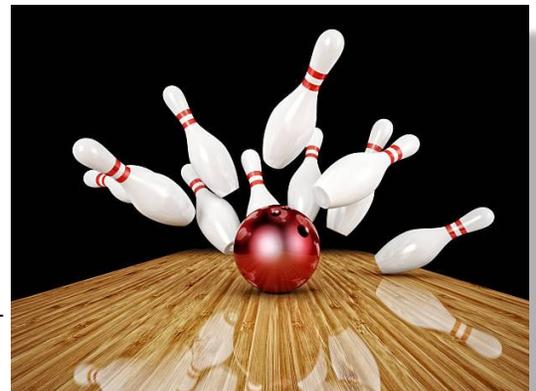
for you, you should give it a try. Morton High School (MHS) is even starting their first league next year to compete. Pretty awesome things come from where you didn't expect it. Mrs. Trilikis said, "It is giving students the opportunity to be involved in a school sport and meet new people. Bowling is a lifelong activity that anyone can participate in."

### Girls Team

- Brielle Hopkins
- Morgan Robinson
- Abby Porubcansky

### Boys Team

- Logan McCann
- Aaden LaMar
- Cooper Middleton
- Finn Happach
- Chase Hopper
- Max Carter



iStockphotos.com

## Writing Center Members

Clayton Blunier  
Rachel Clauson  
Ella Estes  
Addie Gosteli  
Bryce McMillan  
Sophie Speichinger  
Advisors: Mrs. Gorshe &  
Ms. Shore

## Upcoming Events

### APRIL

**April 6** - Early Dismissal  
at 11:00

**April 15-18** - Easter  
Break

### MAY

**May 4** - Early Dismissal  
at 11:00

**May 10** - Passion Project  
Symposium, 6-7 P.M.

### MAY CONT.

**May 23** - Awards Night,  
6-7 P.M.

**May 27** - Last Day of  
School

# Students and Staff

## Faculty Feature

*By Clayton Blunier, 7th-grade reporter*

Mr. David Getz, high school orchestra teacher and assistant teacher of the sixth grade and junior high orchestras, is the focus of this article.

When asked what it's like to work with students from sixth grade, junior high, and high school, Mr. Getz said, "It's fun to see the progression of critical thinking skills from sixth grade up to the high schoolers" and "... sometimes things that happen in sixth grade give me an idea for what, y'know, I can do in high school later that day or what happens in high school and I'll think that's actually a really good way to teach the sixth graders."

Mr. Getz said that he had been playing the piano since he was five. Later, when he was in fifth grade, his younger brother started playing the violin. Mr. Getz thought that playing a string instrument would be fun, so he chose the viola. One of his neighbors, a viola player in the high school orchestra, gave Mr. Getz a few lessons before he ultimately joined the sixth grade orchestra.

Mr. Getz said, "The nice thing about music is that it can be my job and my hobby. Not a lot of people can say that." He likes to write music when he's at home. His other hobbies include watching/reading about sports, running, and hiking.

Mr. Getz believes that everyone, at some point in their life, wishes that they were a good musician. He said that he's never met a person who quit playing an instrument who didn't regret it, nor a person who's never played an instrument who, at some point, didn't want to.

When asked what instrument was hardest for him to learn, Mr. Getz said that it was the cello because it's unique. Violin and viola are very similar, and the bow angle isn't as awkward on the bass because of the way you hold it. However, when asked what instrument is hardest on average for students to learn (based on what he's seen), he said it's the bass because, for young musicians, spreading your fingers wide enough and being able to hold down the heavy strings can be challenging. He did specify that that doesn't mean you shouldn't play the bass.

When asked about some funny stories from his time teaching, Mr. Getz said, "I almost electrocuted myself; I was actually trying to play a prank on my students by pretending to be my own substitute teacher. So I dressed up in costume and- it was the first year coming back from COVID pandemic, everything was like on Zoom and a lot of people that weren't in class- I made a fake video of myself at my house so that when the students walked into the classroom it looked like I was at home since there was a video on the screen with my, y'know, I was sitting at my desk at my house and I was talking to the camera. The students thought I was talking to them but it was actually just a recording. And then I walked in, in disguise, pretending to be like the substitute teacher in the room. And long story short, what I didn't plan on was not having enough time in between classes to get- I would obviously have to get out of the room so students wouldn't see me at the beginning because then they would know the joke was up. I was in such a haste to not be seen but I tripped over a power strip in my office and when I went to try to put it back, I accidentally had gotten my hand in the outlet and it had shocked my arm. That's now a running joke in class, is that I almost killed myself while in disguise."



# Students and Staff

## Counseling Corner

*By Danielle VanMeenen and Beth Spaniol, MJHS counselors  
Adopted from Middle Years, Resources for Educators, a division of CCH Incorporated, 2019*

**Q:** My teen spends a lot of time on social media. When they see classmates' posts, they think they have perfect lives which makes them feel inferior, lonely, and anxious. What can I do to help?

**A:** Suggest that your teen compare scrolling through social media posts to watching a movie trailer. The trailer doesn't tell the whole story—it just shows scenes that will attract viewers' interest. On social media, children (and adults!) tend to share happy moments, not ones that are boring or embarrassing. If your teen feels jealous of a classmate's vacation pictures, for instance, have them think back to a trip they took, perhaps when you went camping last summer. Ask which moments from the trip they would and would not want to be made public. Also, set limits on your child's social media use. Maybe they can check their accounts once after they finish homework and then log off for the evening. Though that may not initially be a popular idea, kids need time away from social media to experience real life—not the lives their friends are "creating" online. Overuse can lead to one getting caught up living in comparison to others, negative self-image and jealousy, all of which are unhealthy for one's mental health. Their outlook will be more positive if they work to limit use so that they can live in the present and build authentic relationships.

## Test Taking Tips

*By Rachel Clauson, 8th-grade reporter  
Tips from educationcorner.com*

- When you arrive, take a minute to relax. It will increase your confidence and it will be easier to focus on the test.
- Listen to any last minute instructions or information that your teacher tells you.
- Right as the test begins, write down information you may forget.
- Read the directions carefully and maybe more than once.
- Plan out how to use the time you are given.
- If you finish early, go back and review and/or add more to your writing.
- Be prepared!
- Don't overthink or doubt yourself.
- Maintain a positive attitude.
- Look for clues:
  - If two answers are similar, they're usually not the correct answer.
  - Pay attention to grammatical matching between the question being asked and answers.
  - If an answer seems right but doesn't match grammatically with the question, it probably isn't the correct answer. Look for cues from other questions.

# Book Love

## Book Recs

By Ella Estes, 8th-grade reporter

### Percy Jackson Graphic Novels (Rick Riordan)

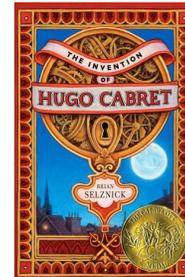
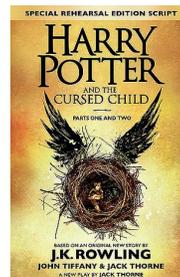
If you enjoyed the *Percy Jackson* series, and like graphic novels, you should try reading the *Percy Jackson & The Olympians* graphic novels. They are modeled after the books and are action packed, exciting, and adventurous. They really bring the books to life. Although they don't cover everything that happens in the books, it is still a great series that many people love and enjoy.

### The Invention of Hugo Cabret (Brian Selznick)

Also a popular Netflix movie, *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* is an amazing adventure about a young boy who has a huge talent for fixing things. Written and illustrated by Brian Selznick, the book is action-packed and has amazing full-page sketches of scenes in the book. The book has mysterious plot twists and exciting chases. An unexpected friend will lead him to solving a lifelong mystery that may be connected to his father. The journey eventually could lead him to who and where he belongs.

### Harry Potter and the Cursed Child (J.K. Rowling)

*Harry Potter* is the most popular series worldwide. Many readers were heartbroken when the series came to an end. If you have read *Harry Potter* and want to know what happens to all the characters in their future, this is the perfect book for you. The book is also interestingly written in play format, giving the reader a new and different reading experience. Join Harry Potter and his son as they travel through time to stop He-Who-Must-Not-Be-Named from returning. This book is exciting and really has some unexpected plot twists that will make you want to keep reading.



## Reading Nook

By Melissa Kruse, MJHS instructional coach

How often does your child read for pleasure outside of school? Helping junior high students develop and maintain a love for reading is just as important as it is for elementary students. Children who read the most read the best.

Some people ask whether it matters *what* students are reading. To some degree, yes. The more pressing question, though, is understanding *why* they are reading. More than *what* students read, we want to encourage them to read because they enjoy it...because they are expanding their background knowledge, vocabulary, writing skills, and creative thinking.

There is one nonnegotiable: We have to give teenagers choice. It's a powerful factor in human motivation. Providing teens with options in what they read fosters engagement and increases reading motivation, interest, and effort.

Parents and guardians, you can help to support your child's appreciation for reading and skill development by taking them to the library or bookstore for a larger selection, by talking to them about what they are reading, and by prioritizing reading time at home. Encouraging your child to read for at least 15-20 minutes at home each day can make a big difference in their reading mindset.

# Clubs and Activities

## Chess Team Learning Important Skills

*By Bryce McMillan, 7th-grade reporter*

Since the year is almost at an end, you might want to consider joining the MJHS Chess Club next year. There are a lot of different opportunities, even if you've never played before and you can certainly learn. We interviewed the chess team's coach, Mrs. Serrurier, who has been coaching chess at MJHS for 11 years, and at MHS for 10, and asked some different questions about chess and the chess team.

If you want to get into chess, Mrs. Serrurier says, "Don't give up, and learn from your mistakes! There are a lot of rules and every game is so different. It takes time to learn and be confident in strategizing."

We then asked for the most common mistake, so people can try to avoid it. She said it was "playing too fast, because chess is a strategy game that requires a lot of thinking."

After you learn to play, or you already know how, you can always improve, and here is how Mrs. Serrurier said you can: "The best way to improve is to play as many games as possible against as many different players as possible. I try to provide opportunities to allow this to happen. The MJHS chess club participates in 3 tournaments as well as the IESA State Tournament. The club also competes against the faculty." These tournaments are amazingly fun, and you can meet new people easily at them. Those are just a few of the reasons why and how to start playing and improving at chess, and that's why the chess team is a great group to be a part of.



*Students vs. Faculty Chess Tournament*

# Reading Bingo

For those of you who have never played Bingo before, or simply just don't remember how to play, these are the simple and easy rules that you follow.

- In order to win, you have to get five boxes crossed off in a row. The ways you can go are up and down, left to right, and diagonal.
- In order to cross off a box, you have to do the activity required and take a selfie of yourself doing the activity. For example, if the box says to read a book outside, you have to do that in order to cross off that box and take a selfie.
- NO CHEATING :)
- If you finish the Bingo card, you will earn a prize. Go and see Ms. Shore or Mrs. Gorshe!

\*Pick up a BINGO CARD in your ELA classroom.

**PREVIEW OF  
THE CARD!**

<p>Read a book in nature</p> 	<p>ENJOY A NEW GENRE</p>	<p><b>Start a new series</b></p>	<p>Try a recommendation by someone you know</p>	<p>Try a mystery</p> 
<p><b>READ REALISTIC FICTION OR HISTORICAL FICTION</b></p>	<p>Re-read a book you've read before</p>	<p>Check out some books from our school library</p> 	<p>Read the same book as your parent</p>	<p>Take a selfie with your favorite book</p>
<p>Peruse some poems like in a book of poetry</p>	<p><b>NAVIGATE THROUGH A FANTASY</b></p>	<p><b>READ OFTEN!</b></p>	<p>Read a book to a child</p>	<p>Read a book in a waiting room</p>
<p>Ditch the device for an hour of reading before bed</p>	<p>Read a book that's been made into a movie &amp; compare</p>	<p>Pick up the same book as a pal!</p> 	<p>Pick up a auto/biography</p>	<p><b>FINISH A SERIES</b></p>
<p><b>Give a book recommendation to someone</b></p> 	<p>Explore a graphic novel</p>	<p>Go explore Barnes &amp; Nobles</p>	<p>Read in a moving vehicle</p>	<p>Check out some books from our local library</p> 