

# MPS NEWS ONLINE



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November 1, 2013

## IMPORTANT DATES:

Nov. 5th - Election Day  
Nov. 11th—Veterans Day  
Nov. 12th-13th—Gr.7-12  
Conferences  
Nov. 13th—BOE Mtg.  
Nov. 27th—Half  
Day  
Nov. 28-29—  
Thanksgiving Holiday



## MHS Marching Band State and New England Champs

The MHS topped a highly competitive field of bands in Division 1A at JFK Stadium in Bridgeport, CT on Saturday in the US Bands New England States Championship competition. This caps off a highly successful season that began with a 3rd place finish in Norwich, 2nd Place in Rockville, 1st Place in Southington, culminating in both the Connecticut and New England Championship award in Bridgeport.



Drum Majors Grant Eagleson, Nathan Edwards, and color guard captain Hannah Hokanson represented the Manchester band in the awards ceremony to accept not only the 1st place trophy, but also the award for "Best Music" in front of thousands of enthusiastic marching band fans. Band Parents Association President Craig Johnson witnessed the students' reaction when the "Manchester High School 1st Place" announcement was made. "They were excited beyond belief," Senior drum major Nathan Edwards said "the feeling was unlike any other competition ever experienced...we worked on at practice and it showed in the performance."

## MHS Musicians To Sponsor Concert to Support Main St Fire Victims

The MHS Music Department is teaming up with MACC to assist victims of the recent Main Street fire and to help re-stock the empty food pantry shelves for the holidays with a benefit concert. The concert will feature students from the orchestra, chorus, percussion ensemble, jazz ensemble, and jazz combo. The concert is free, but all guests are asked to bring non perishable food items and donate what dollars they can. The concert may even feature some special musical guests.



**November 20, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. Baily Auditorium**

## Superintendent Outlines District Improvement Plan for 2013-14

At the October 16th Board of Education meeting, Dr. Kisiel outlined the district improvement plan for the current year. He identified three goals aligned to the district's strategic planning goals. These goals included:

- Students demonstrated an increase in the competencies and skills necessary to achieve mastery in literacy and numeracy as articulated in the Common Core.
- Students will value and demonstrate personal responsibility, character, cultural understanding, and ethical behavior.
- Schools will focus on the implementation of best practices and efficiency resulting in higher student success rates.

Dr. Kisiel highlighted the results of state standardized tests, data regarding student absenteeism and suspensions, and the new guidelines for teacher and administrator evaluations in support of these goals. The plan identifies specific action steps for this year to achieve goals. These action steps include:

- Creation of a District Improvement Team to monitor the implementation of this plan;
- Create curricular units aligned to the Common Core;
- Prepare the Alliance Grant for year three in the grant cycle;
- Implement additional programming to reduce exclusionary discipline, chronic absenteeism, and improve family-school connections;

## Superintendent Outlines District Improvement Plan for 2013-14 (continued)

- Make available model curriculum units, resources, and exemplar student work; and
- Establish forum for professional conversations regarding student performance data and application to lesson and curriculum implementation.

The Board of Education will receive a progress report in early February on the status of the improvement plan.

## BOE Reviews Proposed New and Revised Policies

The Board's Policy Committee and Dr. Kisiel will request Board action on several new policies at their next regular meeting November 13. The Board initiated a review of all its policies to be certain that each is consistent with current statute or state regulations.

New policies include policies on Non-Discrimination for employees and students. The proposed revised policies include Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace #4013; Reports of Suspected Abuse and Neglect #4114.1; Transfer and Non-Student Residents #5119; Visitors #1300; Evaluation, Termination and Non-Renewal of Athletic Coaches #4150; and School Wellness Policy #5141.4. Copies of these proposed policies are available on the Board's meeting packet for October 28, 2013 available on the district website.



## LIVE UNITED

The district's 2014 United Way campaign begins next week, pledge forms will be sent to employees on Friday, November 1, 2013.

Donations can be made by cash, check, credit card, or through payroll deductions. Payroll deductions will begin the first payroll in January, 2014, and continue through December, 2014, for a total of twenty deductions. United Way will also for a one-time, monthly or quarterly dona-

Please return all pledge forms or unused forms to Mrs. Patricia Brooks at the Central Office, United Way has asked that any unused forms returned to them.

Last year, employees of **Manchester Public Schools** donated **\$5,600....let's make it \$10,000 this year.**

Please contact Mrs Brooks for any questions.