Community Leadership

- **150 Community Members and Parents attended CAT Meeting**
  We were honored that so many people attended the first Community Assessment Team meeting in November to represent the Voice of the Panthers. Your support is much appreciated!

- **MHS Selected 10 News School of the Week Powered by Duke Energy**
  Mulberry High was selected in October to be a 10 News School of the Week. Principal Young accepted a $1,000 gift from Duke Energy and our students had the opportunity to showcase our school on TV.

- **Panthers Attend Teen Leadership Forum at Mulberry Civic Center**
  In October students joined City Manager Rick Johnson for a night of inspiration and leadership development. According to 11th grader Brenda Alvarez, “The best advice was to be a leader yourself, because younger students are already watching us.”

- **Congratulations to Science teacher, Mr. Lile!**
  Adam Lile has been selected to be a part of the innovative PCS SciPad program. Mr. Lile’s classroom will receive a set of 32 iPads.

The 2017 Panther Band had an amazing marching band season. This year’s season was full of incredible amounts of hard work and dedication from our students. The Mulberry High School Panther Band marched 105 strong this year and put in nearly 100 hours of rehearsal time outside of the regular school day. We attended both the Lake Region Thunder Showcase and the “Florida Bandmasters Association District 12 Marching Band Music Performance Assessment” often referred to as Marching MPA, where we received straight superior ratings across the board from all judges in all categories!

Superior ratings are the highest achievable rating on the FBA MPA rubric, and it is quite the accomplishment to have met that standard so consistently. While marching band is a big portion of what we do as a band program, we are just getting started with this school year. Before the year’s conclusion we will perform at our Winter Fine Arts Showcase alongside the chorus and orchestra programs at MHS, at the Florida Music Education Association’s Professional Development Conference as a demonstration ensemble in Tampa in January, Solo and Ensemble MPA, Concert MPA, Southern Star Music Festival in Atlanta, Georgia, our Spring Prism Concert and much more!

MHS Gains in Graduation and Acceleration Rate

The school district testing office forecasts that the MHS graduation rate will increase 9 points for the class of 2017, a second consecutive year gain. The Class of 2016 had 76% of the 13-14 cohort to graduate, while the Class of 2017 is projected to reach an 85%, the second highest increase in the district.

The rate could be attributed to more seniors meeting the reading graduation requirement earning a diploma, instead of receiving a Certificate of Completion. Several strategies were in place to assist students pass the test. Chris Thomas, a retired Mulberry educator, returned to work with students and senior reading teachers to improve our graduation rate. According to Principal Young, “The small group and individual testing preparation provided by Mrs. Thomas made a big difference. She was key in providing students testing skills and confidence to persist in testing.”

A few students were assisted by our Success Coach, Jane VanCamp, in transferring to other programs in order to help them graduate on time. The greatest gain, so far in our projected 2018 school grade, will be in the Acceleration rate.

In addition to the large number of devices, Mr. Nothdorf and his tech team have provided many professional development opportunities for our teachers.

In doing so, MHS has moved toward a more student-centered approach to learning where the technology has assisted our students in new ways to master the academic standards.

Schools earn points if the graduating seniors completed one of the following: successfully pass an Advanced Placement exam (AP), pass a dual enrollment course, or pass an industry certification test. The 2018 acceleration rate could be as much as 60 points, a 40 point increase over 20 points earned in the 2016 school year.

Dual enrollment programs made the biggest contribution to the rate. Last year marked the return of dual enrollment programs to MHS. Also, career technical teachers were encouraged to offer more industry certification tests for students. Barbara Rose, Beth Livingston, and Jeff Stockwell taught a variety of Polk State College classes for MHS students on campus.

“Our school has earned the grade of “D” for the last two years largely in part to the lack of acceleration cell opportunities for our students, not because of a lack of academic ability. With the return of dual enrollment with Polk State and Southeastern, and the development of more workforce academies leading to industry certifications, an improvement in MHS school grades will happen,” shared Principal Young.
Future Educators Academy off to a great start

12 Students enrolled in inaugural year of new academy!

The Future Educator Academy at Mulberry High School is currently in its first semester of educating future teachers of America. These are high school students, who are enrolled as Polk State College students in college courses. These courses are taught by experienced college instructors located on the MHS Campus.

As the Academy continues to build this future educator program, students will be able to transition from MHS to PSC, with the potential to graduate with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education within two years of graduating high school. The courses in this Academy include: Foundations of Education, Diversity in Education, Educational Technology and Creating and Differentiating Learning Environments. Students will observe certified teachers at the Primary and Secondary level.

Health Sciences Academy begins under guidance of RN Gwen Parish

The Health Sciences Academy is off to a great start this year! Susie, our simulation mannequin arrived a few weeks ago; you may have seen her in the hospital bed in our clinical area. We very much appreciate the hard work and support from our school administration, district staff and community business partner, Central Florida Health Care.

The Anatomy & Physiology or Health Science 1 classes have completed units on the cell, the Integumentary System and the Skeletal System. We are beginning our unit on the Muscular System. By the end of the year they will complete a unit on all the body systems and be ready to transition into Health Science 2 next year. The Medical Skills class has completed units on professional communication skills, blood borne diseases such as hepatitis and AIDS, health informatics, medical math and health care occupations. By the end of the year they will complete basic health care skills such as taking blood pressure, temperature, pulse and respiration along with CPR, and First Aid. Both classes have completed three units of medical terminology.

Another avenue for competition is our racing team. We are participating in the Electrathon of Tampa, part of Electrathon of America. Teams design, build, and race electric cars in various divisions and classes. We have the chance to compete in lead acid battery class, alternative battery class, or solar powered class. With the future of automated and electric hybrids automobiles, this competitive environment is the perfect experience for the budding engineer. We race once a month with the chance to race out of state in Georgia and Alabama.