

MMS Times

The History of MMS (Part 1 of 4)

By: Allen Garitson

I have written notes about the history of Middletown Middle School. I want to save the school from being torn down. To me, this school has something for all generations to come. I want to provide you with some history of this wonderful school. This is the first part of four that I will be sharing with you.

In the late 1790's, Daniel and Betsy Doty settled in Middletown, Ohio and he was the founder of Middletown. Betsy was the first teacher in the area; she tutored her son, Joel. Mr. Stephen Vail established the first school in Middletown. In 1805, Thomas Jefferson was President at this time and Master Beers started the school in a room of his woolen mill. In 1806, a log cabin was built at the corner of Yankee Road and South Main Street to house the growing number of students through grade eight. It was known as the "Smoothing Iron School".

Ten years later, in 1815 when James Madison was President, the first public school was built in Middletown located on what is now the corner of North Main Street and Manchester Avenue. It was a brick building 20X30 feet with a pot-bellied stove for heat. There were wooden seats and benches. Parents paid tuition for students to attend. Jeremiah Marston was the first teacher in this school. Students through grade eight attended the school but a need for advanced education is why Daniel Furman established Middletown High School in 1833 when Andrew Jackson was President.

In 1821 a law was passed to provide public education to everyone and taxes could be levied to get the money needed. The law was not really enforced until Samuel Lewis became the Superintendent for the State of Ohio. Now, let us move a little more to the future. In 1919, the citizens of Middletown voted on a 20-year bond issue for construction of more schools. Middletown High School, currently Middletown Middle School, was the first new school to be built. Did you know this school had a greenhouse when it was first built? This was the first school in the public school system to have its own gym with permanent benches and a running track. The fireplace that is in the guidance office was the room where the school board would conduct their meetings. It cost over one million dollars, in 1923, to build this school. It was one of the finest and most expensive schools in the State of Ohio.

On a personal note, my great-grandmother was a graduate of the class of 1927, which means her entire high school years were spent in this very building that we are in now. In 1952, Middletown had an amazing basketball team, led by Coach Paul Walker. The citizens of Middletown knew school spirit and so many people wanted to attend the basketball games that the school had to expand to accommodate the fans and this is when the Wade E. Miller Gym as added on. During that addition, more classrooms, offices, locker rooms, and other rooms were added.

My great uncle was part of that winning basketball team in 1952. He went on to play for Florida State on a basketball and football scholarship. He had an offer to play basketball professionally but turned it down to marry and start a family. In the late 1960's, a plan was developed to build a new high school on the east end called "East High" and the building we're currently in was "West High" but the plan didn't meet State regulations so it was back to the drawing board. A plan was finally reached in 1969 that all ninth grade or freshmen students from the whole district would be placed here at MMS. The Freshman School lasted 12 years. The Freshman Building was closed at the end of the 1980-1981 school year. In 1982, Vail Middle School was opened which later became MMS. This ends part one of four.

Addition to the History of MMS

By: Emily Goers

When the school opened, it had 55 classrooms, an auditorium, two study halls, and fully equipped science rooms. The school had the latest heating system, which explains the air machines in every classroom. Did you know the main doors and auditorium doors were made of solid brass? In 1949, the school was given money to add a new wing. In 1952, the Wade E. Miller Gym was added as well as ten classrooms, the library, audiovisual area, locker rooms, five offices, storage rooms and an equipment room.

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Seventh Annual Halloween Dance



Middletown Middle School held its seventh annual Halloween Dance on Thursday, October 26, 2017. There were more than 30 parent and staff volunteers. The old Vail gym and hallways were packed with plenty of spirited decorations, great music, dancing, eating and activities. A set up team of 26 students as well as three teachers and a volunteer put a lot of energy and creativity into all the table moving and decorating to set the atmosphere for the dance. Work & Family Life/Careers classes sponsored sales of drinks, snacks, and candy with Mrs. Vohland and Mrs. Schlaubaugh on hand to serve up treats.

The costume contest winners were: Best costume went to Martha Echegoy. Funniest costume went to Gerarde Chevas. Scariest costume went to Hayden Huntsberger. Halloween Spirit winner was Kat Edwards. All winners received a \$5.00 cash prize and took a group picture together.

The winner of the "Candy Guess" contest was a four-way tie with Jamel Gay, Barry Bekemeier, Tiarra Davis and Charles Hollandsworth who guessed one below the count of 201!

The winner of the "Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin" contest was Bradley Dokas with a guess of 40 pounds! He won a \$5.00 cash prize. Thank you to Mr. Valenti for donating the pumpkin.

The winners of the "Halloween Trivia Contest" hosted by Mrs. Cottle were Loyal Moole, Black McIntosh, and Elliot Schmid. All three answered ten questions correctly and each won a \$5.00 cash prize.

There were 458 students in attendance, 31 staff members which set new records!



Did you go to the Halloween dance? Did you like the dance? If you want more information about what happened continue reading please.

Several of the students 7th grade and 8th grade thought the food was great. According to Mrs. Vohland, the work and family life teacher that provides all the food and drinks for every Halloween dance stated during the dance, "The candy was all sold out within around 30 minutes." In my opinion, I thought the pop choices were amazing, and the Chicago style popcorn was great. I liked it because I got to be silly with my friends and spend time with them. It was very sad because if you want candy get it before it runs all the way out, I know because I learned from experience.

Thank you for reading my article!
Written and Edited by: Nira Jouett

Stop Vandalizing the School!

Hailey Adelsperger

Vandalizing the school is not a good thing to do. People worked hard on building the school and put a lot of effort into the building. Those people that built the school do not deserve the disrespect of people vandalizing their hard work. I despise people that vandalize things that are not theirs. People should not vandalize. It can make the people who built the building feel bad and feel like they did all the work for nothing.

People are always vandalizing the bathrooms. This is not okay. Over the summer, before school started, teachers painted those bathrooms and made them look so nice and colorful. However, now it looks bad. People have vandalized it. People have written bad words on the walls. There is marker all over the walls and bathroom doors. That is just sad.

When you vandalize it looks bad. People painted the walls and doors pretty colors then you drew all over it. What is the point? Also, people write their names on the wall. If you seriously have to write something on the wall, do not write your name. You should not be writing anything on the wall.

Do you care?
Makenna Tindal

Middletown Middle school has been around for 95 years, can you tell? Students find it okay to vandalize the school and the things in it. When you walk into the freshly painted bathrooms all your eyes can focus on is the hurtful things people are scratching into the pink and purple paint. However, it does not stop there, students are lucky enough to get a brand new school but the way they are treating this middle school, I am worried.

Students complain that the school is nasty but they are 95% of the problem. They say they want nice things but then they go and write on desks, walls, chairs, lockers, restrooms, anything a pen or pencil will show up on. Not only is it rude and disrespectful but if you say something it can very well be counted as bullying, and if you get caught you won't think it was worth it in the end.

I am not saying everyone does it but it does affect everyone. The school is old; there is nothing anyone can do about it. However, students can help by not writing or trashing the historical school. The school is going to be brand new and if kids vandalize it, the new MMS is going to look just like the middle school now and that would be a shame for the kids that are coming after you. If you ever think of writing on walls just think of not only what the consequences are but the who and what you are hurting.

Top Ten Words of the Month

1. Inclement: severe, of weather
2. Peruse: examine or consider with attention and in detail
3. Promotion: an early warning about a future event
4. Desist: chose not to consume
5. Recoil: drawback, as with fear or pain
6. Pertinent: being of striking appropriateness
7. Obsess: being preoccupied with something
8. agog: highly excited
9. Prudent: cautious; discreet
10. Consort: keep company with



**August
Students
of the
Month**



**September
Students of
the Month**



**October
Students of
the Month**

Spelling Bee 2017-18

Congratulations to the Spelling Bee First Round Winners! Students advanced to round two which was held on Monday, November 20, 2017. A special congratulations goes out to Shyann Plowman who will complete a qualifying test in January to determine whether or not she will compete in the WCPO Regional Spelling Bee. **Good luck Shyann!**

Team 8-1

Matt Alfrey, Marquis Allen, Elizabeth Andrews, Bryan Chaney, Ava Forbes, Jade Hymer, Nira Jouett, Ashton Pritchard, Emma Reynolds, Haylee Vice

Team 8-1

Ashley Harp, Christopher McDonough, Khylie Kilburn, Brian Kyer, Cayden Leis, Madison Linz, Danica McIntosh, Aisha Nahshal, Gabe Pratt, Elvin Ramos, Rhiannon Snodderly, Liz Staples, Ronnie Trent, Ethan Warmuth

Team 8-3

Jeremy Alvarez, Haleigh Cook-Hayes, Jaiden Cox, Andrew Hazelwood, Azellilah Jones, Madison Merrick, Claudia Phillips, Shyann Plowman, Malissa Rendell, Khamar Sowell, Zyaria Sparrow, Ashley Sweet

Book Fair Info!

By: Ciarra Withrow

Welcome to the first book fair of the 2017-18 school year. There were some great books in different genres such as non-fiction, romance, mystery, horror, and so on. I am going to tell you some of the books that I think might be interesting to read.

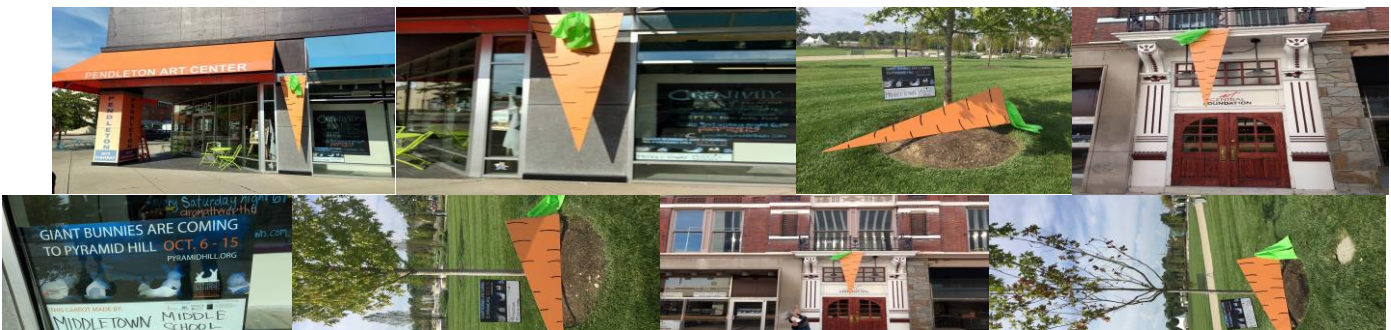
Refugee by Alan Gratz (Historical Fiction)

JOSEF is a Jewish boy living in the 1930s in Nazi, Germany. With the threat of concentration camps looming, he and his family board a ship bound for the other side of the world. Next, we meet ISABEL, a Cuban girl in 1994. With riots and unrest plaguing her country, she and her family set out on a raft, hoping to find safety in America. Next, we meet MAHMOUD, a Syrian boy in 2015. With his homeland torn apart by violence and destruction, he and his family begin a long trek toward Europe. All three kids go on harrowing journeys in search of refuge. All will face unimaginable dangers -- from drownings to bombings to betrayals. But there is always the hope of *tomorrow*. And although continents and decades separate Josef, Isabel, and Mahmoud, shocking connections will tie their stories together in the end.

TBH by Hunter March (Autobiography)

51 stories from YouTube stars such as Alex Aiono, Jenn McAllister, Meg DeAngelis, Lauren Elizabeth, The Merrell Twins, Claudia Sulewski, Andrew Lowe, Aspyn Ovard, Cimorelli, Rebecca Black, Ryan Abe, Alexis G. Zall, Rickey Thompson, Meghan Tonjes, Maddy Whitby, Monica Sherer, Lex Lee, and Aija Mayrock.

To advertise the "Intrude" exhibit at Pyramid Hill in October, area schools created giant carrots. The carrots were placed in Hamilton and Middletown.



Are you into football? Yes? No? What if I told you that you could get an inside look on one of our fellow football players at MMS? I have asked this player a series of questions, here are his responses. Please take a look below:

Q: How is your relationship with some of your fellow athletes?

A: My relationship is good with them. I mean as Middies we are all on the same team, which creates a Brotherhood. So I think of them as my brothers.

Q: How would you describe your fellow teammates?

A: They are definitely athletic. They are funny; when someone is knocked down, they are definitely the ones who will you pick you right back up.

Q: What are some accidents that had occurred during your season?

A: Some people have gotten hurt, some people have quit, and some people have even gotten kicked off the team.

Q: Who are your sports heroes?

A: I don't really have sport "heroes" but I do like special athletes such as Aj Green, Jaylen Marshall, and Stephen Curry.

Q: Do you plan on focusing your life career on football?

A: Possibly, I am definitely considering, I love sports so football and basketball are my first options.

Q: What is your exercise and eating routine?

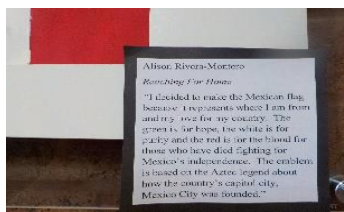
A: My dad is a powerlifter and he played football so, I do all sorts of training such as speed, agility, lower body strength and things like that. I try to maintain a healthy eating routine.

These answers were submitted by Gavin Thigpen #20 on the 7th grade MMS football team.

This article was written by Shealynn Dayton and edited by Nira Jouett.

Art News

Students had artwork on display for the Middletown Arts Festival. It was displayed on the second floor of the Pendleton Art Center.



APP classes held a contest to see which team could bring in the most items to send to the Hurricane Harvey victims. Way to go MMS! Congrats to Team 7-1 for winning the contest!

