



Volume 04, Issue 08 Date February 05, 2021

Preparing for the Future

By: Hannah Werle

The idea of higher education became prevalent in the sixties, just as Gen-Xers were being born. Before that point, it was common for high school graduates to work at their parents' businesses or go into a more laborious trade job somewhere in the city. Those who were seeking college educations tended to be wealthy or upper middle class. As the civil rights movement came to the forefront of society, the idea of "higher education for all" was emerging. Now, we are seeing the consequences of generation after generation pushing each other into attending college. In truth, student debt is higher than it ever was when college education became so important. There is also a lack of workers willing to participate in skilled trade jobs, so the pay for those positions is ever increasing. As these conditions are being noticed, students today are wondering which path is truly the best.



Bryanna Hagerty takes a selfie with Mikki Williams, both of which are McDonald students attending TCTC

Students are asked from a young age to make life changing decisions,

In This Issue	
Preparing for the future	1
Preparing for the Future(continued) Portolese Scores 1,000 Points	2
Hoops, I Did It Again McDonald, Briefly--	3
Where Has Valentine's Day Gone?	
Top 10 Dad Jokes	5
Student Poll TV Show Review	6
January- February Calendar	7
Backpage Pics	8

and thus need to take in all of their options. The issue is, there is an inherent lack of information presented to students about which option is best. Should everyone go to college? Is a skilled trade education a smarter career choice than attending college? Are there other programs out there than the ones being presented to us?

McDonald is fortunate enough to have a variety of programs for students to consider before they make their final decision. Sophomores are given the chance to go to several trade fairs and attend a tour of Trumbull Career and Technical Center (TCTC). There, they can get a chance to look into the different career opportunities beyond what the traditional college routes offer and decide if they want to finish out their junior and senior years learning a trade.

Staff Writer:
Riley Myers

Editor Staff:
Theresa Greathouse
Hannah Werle
Elle Airhart

Broadcast Staff:
Bri Callow
Ethan O'Connell
Elise McMaster
Sage Mason

Editor in Chief:
Mr. Backur

Follow on Social Media
@MHS_Villager 
The Villager Vlogs 



Article continues on page 2

Bryanna Hagerty is a junior who currently attends TCTC for PROGRAM, and spoke about her plans after high school and how her decision to go to TCTC affected them, "I do plan on going to a secondary school after I graduate. I made this decision based on a plan for my future that I've been making since freshman year." Bryanna plans to continue her trade education after high school at Choffin Career and Technical Center in hopes to earn a surgical technician certification. She continued, "I think a trade job is a good idea for everyone. That way if the job you have now is a bust, you always have a backup." Trade jobs can be very reliable sources of work, so having a certification for a skilled trade right out of high school can give students a lot of options for after graduation.

Skilled trade jobs aren't for everyone, however. More and more career paths nowadays require an associates or bachelor degree at minimum. Options like College Credit Plus and advanced classes do help make a dent in the affordability of college, while also helping to give students a headstart on their general education requirements. Sophomore Mackenzie Regelman is currently participating in online CCP through Youngstown State. When asked about her decision she said, "I chose to take CCP classes because I thought it would be a good way to get first year classes for college out of the way. I decided that it would be easier to take them now while I have extra time rather than my first year of college, which is already stressful." CCP can be a cost effective and efficient way to prep for college if students feel it is a feasible option for them.

Participating in extracurriculars and contests also increases your chances of getting scholarships. If you find that money is an issue, try researching different essay contests, academic scholarships, and athletic opportunities that might be applicable to the college you want to go to.

Senior Sophia Costantino gave some marvelous advice regarding the future, "I would recommend that students of any level put their best effort into their education right now because it will only help you and prepare you for whatever path you will take in the future. I would also encourage [students] to get involved in activities both inside and outside of school so that they can explore their interests and passions. I know it feels like there's a lot of pressure to figure out what you'll do in the next stages of your life, but as long as you try new things and work your hardest everything will work itself out." Graduating high school is one of the most uncertain times in a young person's life. Doing proper research and planning ahead can be beyond helpful in easing the stress of one's senior year. Just remember, you have opportunities all around you, don't be afraid to go out and grab hold of them.



I wear a YSU mask while holding up a YSU bag, both of which were gifts to me as a CCP YSU student.

Senior Jake Portolese Scores One Thousandth Point

This week's student spot light is Jacob Portolese. Jacob is a member of the basketball team and has been playing for many year with lots of practice. Practice paid off a few weeks ago in the game against Jackson-Milton when he scored his 1,000 point.

He started playing basketball when he was 5 years old and really started to take it seriously when he was in 5th grade. Jacobs says he only plays basketball so he gets to practice all year round, including grueling summer workouts and going to the gym to keep in shape for the upcoming season.

Jacob said, "I appreciate my family and friends and many others that have helped me along the way and I'm very grateful."



Hoops, I did it Again!

By: Riley Myers

We're currently in the middle of winter sports including Cheerleading, Bowling, and Basketball. Even with everything the pandemic has put us through, we've always seemed to find our way back on top. Both the girls and boys basketball teams have been finding tremendous success and includes Molly Howard and Jake Portolese both earning their thousandth points of their respective careers.

During this time where only families can go to the games, it's been difficult to get the spirit high, but the cheerleaders have been working hard to keep the momentum for the boys. 8th grade cheerleader Iris Murray said, "So far we have only cheered two games. The last game we cheered at was supposed to be our last game, but from what I have heard we are going to be having a makeup game in early February."

When asked about her goals for the remainder of the season, Iris continued, "My goal for the end of this season is to have many improvements. Even with all the practice, nobody is ever going to be perfect. But, if you work hard you can be a lot better. I want to get better during this season because it is very good practice for tryouts. Tryouts for next year are pretty soon and I want to be at my best for them!" That is a wonderful goal to set for yourself. Like Iris said, the rest of this year is looking up and the plans for next year are bigger than ever. With the help of a new head coach, Coach Megan, and a new Junior High coach, Coach Fabian, the cheerleaders are looking forward to improving even more and fire up the crowd!

The boys basketball team has had a really good season as well despite the challenges of keeping up with guidelines. They currently stand at an impressive 13 - 0 record and are planning to continue that streak for as long as they can.

In other news, at MHS we have a superstar that roams our halls. Senior Molly Howard, just earned her one thousandth points for basketball. Molly said, "I'm super excited about committing and having that opportunity to continue to do what I love. This season, words don't even describe how excited I am for the tournaments and so much more with this team! 100% I could not have asked for a better team."

Along with Molly's great achievement, the team has put up good competition in their games and are always challenging themselves to do better. The girls currently hold a 13 - 2 record and have earned a number one seat in the playoffs. Congratulations to Molly and the team!

The bowling teams have also had a good run so far. The boys team have a 3 - 4 record and are working to keep those 3 losses as the only ones. The girls team have also worked hard this season too so far.

It's amazing how far we've come as a school. MHS is doing a great job and keeping up the great work that we've done. Good luck Molly and have a wonderful year MHS.

McDonald, Briefly-- By: Theresa Greathouse



While Mrs. Ronghi is on leave for eight weeks, substitute Mr. O will be here taking on her job. He is a graduate from Penn State and has been substituting for many years. When asked by students how his day is it's always, "I'm living the dream". I think it's safe to say he loves it here at McDonald High School, so let's show our gratitude.



Editorial: Where Has Valentine's Day Gone?

By: Elle Airhart

January will be gone in the blink of an eye and February is right around the corner. Can you believe that?! I can't. With February coming up, everyone is getting ready for the holiday it's known for: Valentine's Day. Yay! Well, maybe yay depending on if you're single. Though, does it really matter what your relationship status is nowadays? Not when it's mostly just a commercial holiday anyway.

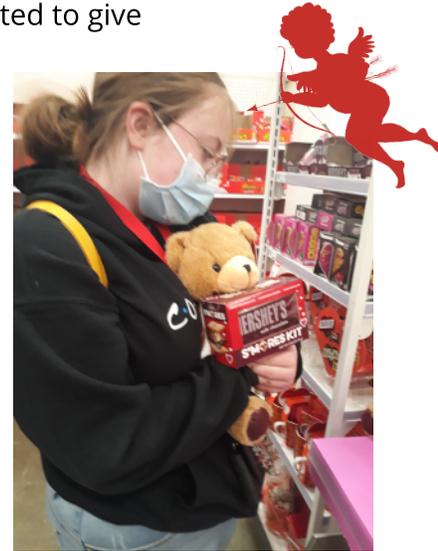
Pretty bold, I know, but think about it. When was the last time you were excited to give someone a Valentine's Day gift or card outside of the elementary school parties? Have you ever done it out of the goodness of your heart and actual feelings of care and love towards a person or is it because you feel like it's an obligation? If the answer is you have done it out of care...well, just hear me out anyway. And if you feel the peer pressure, you might empathize a little with where I'm coming from.

First off, a little history lesson. Valentine's Day was started back around 200 to 270 A.D. and the real story behind why the saint (and/or saints depending on which legend you believe) are seen as a symbol for love and romance even when their stories are pretty unclear. According to *History.com*, all of the legends "empathize with the saint's appeal as a sympathetic, heroic--and most-importantly--romantic figure". One legend even details the start of valentines; "an imprisoned [Saint] Valentine actually sent out the first 'valentine' greeting himself after he fell in love with a young girl...he wrote a letter signed 'From your Valentine'". Everything is mostly under speculation but reading up on the history shows that the saint(s) mostly wanted to protect everyone's freedom to love and display that love at their own discretion.

Even with accounting for a different story behind Valentine's Day, why is it always about giving something you've bought from the stores? It doesn't make sense. You do the lightest of research into the holiday and you find out that it didn't start out that way. People back in that time weren't giving out boxes of chocolate and big stuffed animals with hearts for eyes. They gave their loved ones handwritten letters and valentines and some even celebrated the holiday with actual festivals that people made a show of attending. They made actual memories. All we do nowadays seems to be thrown out a week later after all of the sweets are gone.

You could argue that it happened because our society's ideals have changed over time due to any number of things. And that the commercial view of the holiday has only spread more because of the technological advancements that make such products easier to access and you might be right, but I answer with another question. Why have our ideas of love and care gone to materialistic items in the first place? What is so special about a loved one giving something bought in a store when there are so many other more heart-felt and bigger things to give such as your time or a gift you actually put personal consideration and effort into?

See what I mean? The principle of Valentine's Day has twisted into something completely different and an answer isn't that easy to find. So, the take-away here is that Valentine's Day has changed and it's a little weird and kind of frustrating. If any of my points made you think, "Wow, she's kind of right!", then thank you and maybe try giving out hand-made valentines this year or something original/unique. If you think that having another commercial holiday is okay, then you do you. Keep buying those chocolates. Either way, happy Valentine's Day and enjoy your Dollar General chocolates!



Top 10 Dad Jokes

By: Riley Myers



Here are some of the worst dad jokes to some of the best!

1. Q: What do you call the fear of being trapped in a chimney?

A: CLAUStrophobia

2. Q: What does a zombie vegetarian eat?

A: "GRRRRRRRAAAAAIIINNNSSS!"

3. Q: Dad: I don't trust those trees over there.

Son: Why dad?

Dad: They look a little shady!

4. Q: Did you hear about the restaurant on the moon?

A: Great food, but no atmosphere.

5. Q: What do you call a fat psychic?

A: A-Four-Chin-Teller

6. Q: What do you call a fake noodle?

A: Impasta

7. I don't trust stairs, they're always up to something."

8. Q: What do you call cheese that isn't yours?

A: Nacho Cheese

9. You know how people say they pick their nose... well I was born with mine.

10. My wife told me to take out the spider instead of killing him...

Went out. Had a few sodas. Nice guy. He's a web designer.



Source adapted from: <https://www.countryliving.com/life/a27452412/best-dad-jokes/>

Student Poll-Favorite Type of Valentine's Day Candy

By: Bri Callow

Chocolate	15
Sour Patch Hearts	7
Chocolate Strawberries	3
Conversation Hearts	2

Valentine's Day is quickly approaching, which means there is no better time than now to ask students what their favorite Valentine's Day candy is. Out of the 27 students who took the poll the lead was held by chocolate with 15 votes. Coming in second was Sour Patch Hearts with a total of 7 votes. To round out the list, our final two finishers were chocolate strawberries in third with 3 and conversation hearts in fourth with 2. Thanks to everyone who voted and have a happy Valentines Day MHS!



TV Show Review:

The Chilling Adventures of Sabrina

By: Riley Myers



I highly recommend this TV Show for teens. This is perfect for a thrill, romance, and adventure added to it. It's about a young girl named Sabrina who lost her parents at a young age and grew up with her aunts, who are witches. When she turned 16 years old she had to make a hard decision. Throughout, the TV show has intriguing plots and it's amazing how you feel like you're right in the episodes. It is currently on Netflix, where it sits on their Top 10 list.

This wasn't always a TV show, either. *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* was a television series and cartoon. "Sabrina the Teenage Witch" started in 1996 and was a light-hearted comedy while there was a cartoon series in the 1970s. Even with these varieties of the character, if I had to choose my favorite series, I

would still choose *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina* because it has more action and is certainly more thrilling than the other two.

I feel like if you're in the mood to watch a good TV series, go pop some popcorn and watch *Chilling Adventures of Sabrina*, which is in its final season.

January 29th - February 28th Calendar

By: Elle Airhart



Holidays:

Feb 2: Groundhog Day - Not the movie; just the mayor scaring the daylight out of a wild animal until it determines a pseudo-science factor in our winter length.

Feb 7: Super Bowl Sunday - I really don't think I need to put this here but just in case you aren't a football person, there you go.

Feb 14: Valentine's Day - It's okay if you're single too, at least you know your gifts will be appreciated because you got them for yourself.

Feb 15: President's Day - An opportunity to celebrate our nation's heritage.

Weird Ones:

Jan 30: National Croissant Day - You almost made me drop my croissant!

Jan 31: National Hot Chocolate Day - You don't have to tell me twice

Feb 1: National Eat Ice Cream For Breakfast Day - Every child has started crying tears of joy.

Feb 3: Doggy Date Night - Time to pamper your pet even more for a night

Feb 10: National Umbrella Day - Rihanna?! Where are you?

Feb 11: National Make A New Friend Day - Every introvert just cringed

Feb 23: National Dog Biscuit Day - I'll happily give my puppies more treats if I must.

Feb 25: National Chili Day - I don't have anything witty; I just like chili.

Feb 27: International Polar Bear Day - Now I can truly justify scrolling through polar bear pictures



Birthdays:

Jan 29: Oprah Winfrey's Birthday - Does she get a car too?

Feb 4: Rosa Parks's Birthday - An amazing Civil Rights leader who deserves to be celebrated.

Feb 6: Bob Marley's Birthday

Feb 12: Abraham Lincoln's Birthday

Feb 16: Ice T's Birthday - Time for a *Law and Order SVU* marathon!

Feb 20: Rihanna's Birthday - Hey! It can't be a coincidence that Umbrella Day is 10 days before.

Feb 21: Elliot Page's Birthday - Umbrella Academy...What is it with this issue and umbrellas?!



Back Page Pics By: Hannah Werle

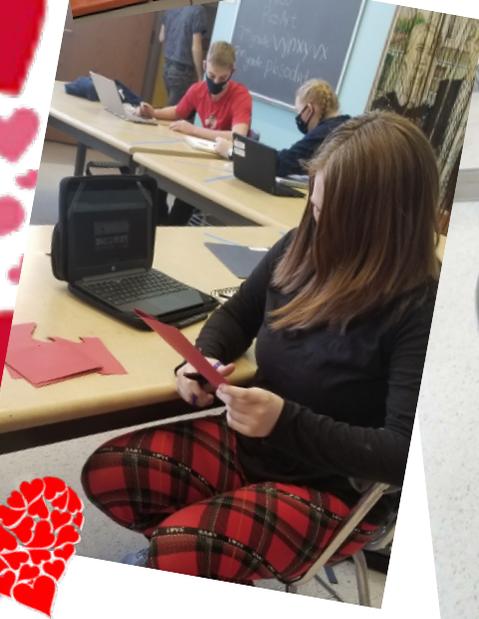
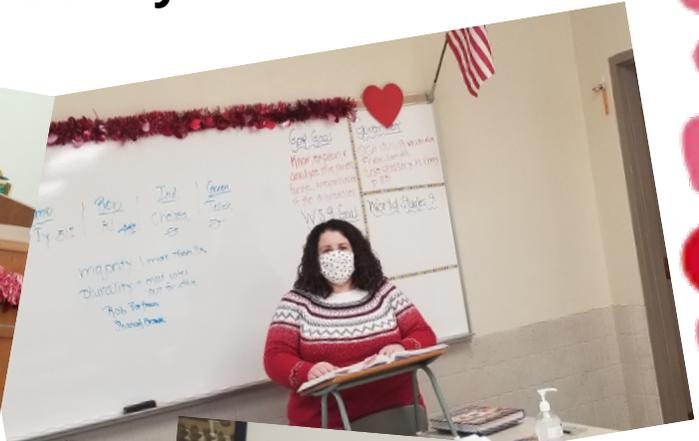


Photo Credit: Elle Airhart