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Senior Reflections— By: The Newspaper Seniors

Goodbye Seniors of 2021! It has been a hard year, but McDonald High School knows that you will continue to persevere and strive to be the best version of yourselves.



In This Issue	
Senior Reflections	1
Senior Reflections (con'd)	2
Our Last Days	
Seniors' Bucket List	3
Senior Advice	4
Teacher Farewells	5
McDonald, Briefly-- Student Poll	6
Senior Goals	7
Senior Selections	
Senior Spotlight	8
Graduation Top 5	9
Best Senior Memories	
Senior Recipes	10
Growth in High School	11
Backpage Pics	12

Bri-- I had a very nice time in high school and made a lot of memories. It was fun getting to hang out and talk to my friends everyday as well as be in classes with great teachers. I was so lucky to be able to play softball with my best friends and make it to districts. We had so much fun and I will miss practices with them everyday. I will miss everyone so much and wish them all the best!

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

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Article continues on page 2





Continued... Elise - My high school experience was filled with a lot of good memories and time spent with my friends. With being back in school full time I've got to spend more time with my friends after not seeing them in the past year with Covid. I'm also very lucky to play and spend time with my softball team and make more memories as the year ends. So it's a little sad to leave, but at least we have these memories and I hope the best for everybody.

Sage- While I am sad that my high school career is ending I am happy to look back at all of the fun memories I have made here at MHS. I'd like to thank all of the teachers and staff for making my experience so great. I am excited to see what the future holds for me. Congrats to everyone in the Class of 2021!



Our Last Days-- Ethan

I remember bits and pieces of my first day here at McDonald High School. I remember being so terrified and I felt so short. Everything was so new and such a challenge. I couldn't find my classes and I felt like such a rebel rigging my locker for the first time. I spent 12 years of my life finding just a fraction of who I am with every one of my classmates.

From every embarrassing crush to every fall down the stairs echoing in the halls and faces of every senior of 2021, I'm not gonna waste my time telling you everything we missed. We already know what this last year has cost us. It's easy to write off all of those things as trivial or pretend we can exist above the high-school drama of dances and who makes what sports teams.

Truth be told, I think I'll miss trivial. People reminisce about their time in high-school, not because their lives were better. They reminisce because they had options. They could be anything, anyone. There were no real decisions to be made. Only living in anticipation, and in



feeling free from the weight of our lives. Most spend their entire lives chasing that. Not wanting to be special, only the opportunity to be living in what-ifs, rather than what is.

I want to make a promise to myself that I will not live in what-ifs. I will not live to be special, for glory is a flame that is constantly running through our fingertips. I will simply live. Experience is important because that is what we were made to do. I will hurt in new ways, and I will etch every scar in gold. So that one day that is all I will see. A metallic reflection of a life lived, of a life in its entirety.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, McDonald in some weird disturbing way I think I'll miss you.

Seniors Check off their Bucket List

By: Riley Myers

It's almost the end of the school year and our Class of 2021 is finally graduating. So before they leave us so soon, we wanted to hear some of their goals they have accomplished in their final year.

Katie Gardner - "Keeping good grades even with the hybrid schedule, as I had a harder time all online last spring, so I knew it would be harder for me with the hybrid. I studied and reviewed my notes over again, using my planner every year, and being a little more organized in order to achieve my goal."



Seniors stand holding their academic excellence awards. Amongst these includes both Katie Gardner and Brooke Lewis, both had goals to maintain good grades this year.

goal was to keep my grades up. My other goal was to not stress out about getting an A or a B. Hard work paid off. Study and pay attention in class."

Brooke Lewis - "My goal for the beginning of senior year was to get off to a good start. By starting my senior year strongly, I had motivation to carry it throughout the rest of the school year. I got here by pushing myself to learn as well as giving myself extra time to work on assignments and study for my college level classes."

Greg Merdich - "My goal for senior year was to finish my high school career out on top academically and athletically. I wanted a state title for football and want to get above a 3.5 GPA for my senior year. To be successful, it was important to work hard everyday, not slacking on the books even when I was tired from football. Also going to football everyday and not giving up ,even with COVID."

Nikolina Drobnjak - "My goal at the beginning of the school year was to get good grades while adjusting to my new circumstances. A concept that I struggled to understand at the beginning of the year is that it takes a lot of self-discipline to succeed in an environment as time-flexible as 'online school'. So to explain "how I got there", I can only say that achieving the goal in mind required trial and error. I had to accept the idea that I was inevitably going to make some mistakes and work hard to better myself afterward. It was only after realizing this that I became closer to achieving my goal."

Leanna Batchelder - "To become a smarter student and figure out what I want to do with my life. I studied long and hard for tests in class and paid attention during notes."

Chelsea Sanson - "Do well in college credit classes and try to make the most out of the year with the circumstances we had to deal with. Regarding college classes, I had to learn how to manage time for everything and I just tried to have fun with my friends wherever I had the chance to."

Dominic Carkido - "I am in CCP classes, so my main goal was to keep my grades up. My other goal was to not stress out about getting an A or a B. Hard work paid off. Study and pay attention in class."



Mrs. Evans and her French II seniors.

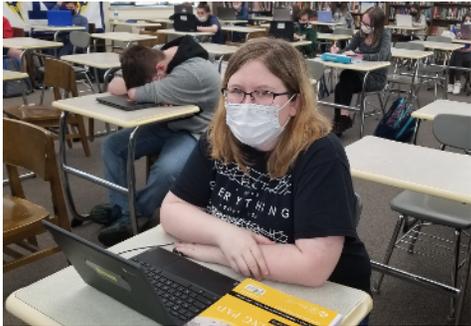
"Back When I Was Your Age..."

--Seniors Pass the Gauntlet

By: Hannah Werle



No one can deny, this school year has been unlike any other. The seniors throughout this pandemic have faced endless trials and disappointments to get to where they are today. Despite the chaos of 2020, McDonald's administrators and seniors have worked together to make the end of their year memorable. Amongst the "Wow, this is the last time we'll ever..." or "Can you believe this is our last...", the seniors have looked back on their lives and been struck with all the things they wished they'd known.



Rylie Mays smiles for the camera during her study hall.

Many students are used to adults or teachers trying to give them advice for their futures, but sometimes having older kids connect with them is a much easier way to get a message across. In an attempt to help prepare the upcoming generation of high schoolers, this year's seniors have given their advice on what they wish they'd known and what they want to say.

Greg Merdich said that he wishes he'd known, "Not to stress so hard about everything." He wishes someone had told him to "Just live and enjoy life." His sentiments include some sage advice.

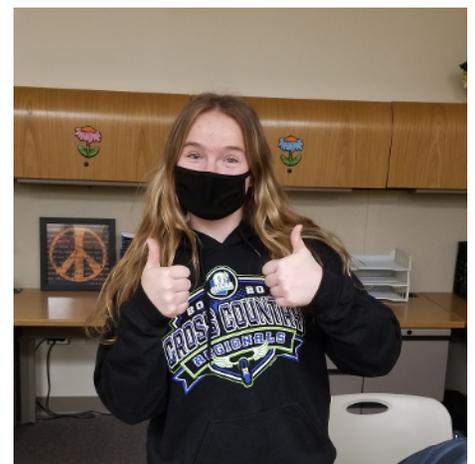
Sarah Lorello gave similar advice to the underclassmen. She said, "Don't spend the entire time you're in high school trying to maintain a 4.0 [GPA]. You should care about your grades, but don't make them the only thing you focus on."

The overall theme that many seniors wanted to portray was about finding a balance between school and life. Although school can be stressful at times, the best remedy is to take moments to do the things you enjoy.

The seniors don't only want the underclassmen to succeed, however. As the year is coming to an end, the juniors are preparing to take up the mantle as influencers and leaders. One sound that rung throughout every senior's message was to cherish the time left. Rylie Mays gave her advice to the upcoming seniors saying, "Make your last year the best. Do what you can for yourself and your future."

Katie Merdich also gave advice along those lines, encouraging the upcoming seniors to enjoy their last year. She said, "Don't waste time on the little things; keep an open mind to everything." Every May things feel like they are one step closer to an end, but never is that more true than in one's junior or senior year. The good thing about endings, however, is that they bring about new beginnings.

Con"grad"ulations and good luck to all of the 2021 graduates. May you have a wonderful future ahead of you!



Katie Merdich Celebrates her last few days of school.

Teacher Farewells to the Seniors

By: Riley Myers



I hope you will continue to do great things in your life and make yourself, and all of the people who care about you, proud. Do your best to always tell the truth, especially when it's not easy.

-Mrs. Prokop

Don't take anything for granted. Have fun. Live your life. Don't be afraid of failure. If you are going to college, get involved and be active. Join a club -- it's worth it. Just whatever you decide to do, make sure it makes you happy.

- Mrs. Fabian

It has been such a pleasure watching you all grow up at MHS. I wish you all the best and hope you all find futures that bring you happiness.

-Mrs.Mills

"Keep your head held high." There will be times in your life when everything feels overwhelming, but it is during these moments that you show your character and strength. With perseverance, you can accomplish anything.

-Mr. Hecker



You are a talented Senior class in sports, arts, and academics. My advice to you is to choose wisely in everything you do and make choices that will make you happy.

- Mrs. Ifft



If you're going to have a career for 30 years make sure it's in a field that you are excited and motivated to work in. I have been fortunate enough to find my passion in teaching and coaching and have never woken up disappointed to go to work

-Mr. Senich



McDonald, Briefly – By: Theresa Greathouse



Prom is right around the conner and this past week Juniors and Seniors voted for prom court. Girls on prom court this year are Brooke Lewis, Carley Stitt, Madison Howard, Molly Howard, and Sarah Gray. Boys on prom court this year are Dominic Carkido, Dominic Schadl, Elijah Street, Gregory Dickson, and Michael Ferradino. Congratulations prom court of 2021!

Students last day will be on May 27th and grades will be due the 28th. Report cards will sent home Wednesday, June 2nd.



Seniors are to graduate this May on the 22nd, Congratulations class of 2021! The Village of McDonald wishes you the best of luck with your choices, and hopes you follow all your dreams in life.

On this week's agenda we will be having the Senior Picnic on the 14th. Monday the 17th - Tuesday the 18th are Senior Exams, Thursday the 20th we will have Class Day and Prom! Students attending Prom will have 2nd-half of school off that day! Friday the 21st students that attended Prom will also have 1st-half off, but will need to attend 2nd-half.



Senior Poll - What Is One Thing You Liked About The Hybrid School Year?

By: Elle Airhart

The 2020 - 2021 school year has been hectic to say the least. Everyone has gone through a lot and we're barely out of the woods yet, however, we still have some normalcy to stick with. The seniors are graduating! Everybody is celebrating another class of young adults moving up in the world. They have worked through 3 other years in the traditional in-person school learning, yet, now we have a weird in-person learning and cyber-learning mix which has brought out quite a few different views on the matter. So, let's hear what their thoughts are on this unprecedented year!



More Chances to Sleep In	24
More Time at Home	13
Easier to Manage	4
Less Paper	0

As you can see, out of our 42 responses, our 2021 seniors really enjoyed sleeping in! While 24 of our great seniors enjoyed sleeping in during their off-days, it wasn't an entire landslide. No one cared that there was less paper being used--no love for the trees. The runner-up was "More Time At Home," which is always a great thing at 13. 3rd goes to "School Being Easier to Manage" at 4 votes.



Mrs. Evans waves at her online students, including seniors Madison and Molly Howard, Dominic Carkido, Taylor Tuchek, and Emily Pratt

The hybrid system was wild and stressful, but you can bet that our seniors were well-rested! Congrats to our graduating seniors on an awesome high school career and a wacky, but thriving last year at MHS. Good luck adulting and enjoy your upcoming success in your field!

#Senior Goals - By: Theresa Greathouse



James Myers- "I've enlisted in the United States Army, and later down the road hope to start a family."

Sage Mason- "I plan to attend Kent State and study fashion merchandising, and soon be a writer for a fashion magazine."

Emily Leskovac- "I plan to double major in Psychology and Social Work, and hope to be happy and successful in life down the road."

Eli Street- "I am going to YSU to study Exercise Science, and later down the road plan to be graduated, married, and have a steady job."

Leanna Batchelder- "After I graduate I am going into the Air Force for Medical Service, and later down the road plan to have a blast with my family and friends."

Michael Ferradino- "I plan to attend Kent State for Horticulture."

Katie Gardner- "I plan to attend Ohio University to pursue a degree in Marine, Freshwater, and Environmental Science. Later in life I hope to be living on the East Coast and have a career in marine biology."

Chelsea Sanson- "I am attending YSU and plan to major in Computer Science. Later down the road I hope to have a good Software Engineering job and moved out of Ohio."

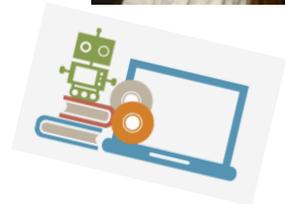
Dominic Carkido- "I plan on attending YSU and majoring in Respiratory Therapy. Later down the road I hope I'm graduated from college working in a career I love, and of course living in McDonald."



Sophia Costantino- "I plan to attend Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, to major in Biomedical Engineering. Later down the road I hope to be graduated from college, possibly with a Master's Degree, and either working for a Biomedical Company or doing research in that field."

Melanie Smith- "I am undecided but later down the road I hope whatever it is I'm doing, that it deals with helping others."

Greg Dickson- "I plan to attend YSU but am undecided, and late down the road I hope to be graduated from college with a Bachelor's Degree in either an Engineering program or finance. I hope to have a well paying job."



Senior Class Flower, Song, Colors, and Motto

Class Flower: White Rose

Class Song: "Don't You (Forget About Me)" -*The Breakfast Club* theme song by Simple Minds

Class Colors: Carolina Blue and Silver

Class Motto: "I wish there was a way to know you were in the good old days before you actually left them" -Ed Helms

I WISH THERE
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LEFT THEM.

- Andy from The Office



Senior Spotlight

By: Hannah Werle



Senior Athletes:

Dominic Schadl:

How do you feel being voted in as a senior athlete?

"I am honored to be voted in as a senior athlete among all the great athletes at McDonald."

Molly Howard:

Molly Howard has had a wildly accomplished high school career. Molly has helped the girls basketball team in reaching state runner up. Along the way, she reached one thousand points scored.



Senior Artists:

Ethan O'Connell:

What is your inspiration for creating art?

"Mostly my friends, I'll go to some of my peers that are involved in art as well and they really help me sketch out ideas."

Maddie Williams:

How do you feel being voted in as the senior artist?

"It's very exciting because I have done art for so many years."

Do you plan on continuing in art after graduation?

"I plan on continuing art after graduation as a hobby. I use art as an outlet for expressing myself and my emotions and would like to continue to do that in the future."



Senior Musicians:

James Myers:

Do you plan on continuing to practice music after graduation?

Yes, my plan is to get a masters in music education after my military career.

How do you feel being voted in as senior musician?

"It felt amazing even being considered because I haven't been involved in music nearly as long as some of my classmates."

Leanna Batchelder:

Why did you choose to get involved in music?

"At first, my parents made me play music, but after so long I started to enjoy playing music."



Graduation Top 5

By: Elle Airhart

Graduation is upon us! With that major life milestone closing in, we need to know what's on everybody's minds. So, here's a crash course to a pandemic-ridden graduation.



1. Matching Mask - Has to be #1. I mean, you won't go near anyone without one. Match it to your cap and gown and you'll be a walking aesthetic.
2. Cap - I'm not lying; you're going to need this!
3. Name - Please know your name and where you lie on the alphabet list. Being in the wrong place would be the last thing you want. You want that diploma, right?
4. Flowers - Get ready to receive all kinds of beautiful bouquets to congratulate your graduation (and some great allergies too)!
5. Ruler - Seems stupid but remember SIX FEET! We aren't out of this pandemic yet, even in May... *insert nervous laugh here*

Best High School Memories

By: Theresa Greathouse



"My favorite memory was making it to state in basketball and also being back together in school." -Brooke Lewis



"My best memory was winning a District Championship in basketball with my team." -Dominic Carkido



"My favorite memory was making it to state for basketball and staying at a hotel with my friends." -Taylor Tuchek



"My favorite memory was having a baseball season for my senior year, before I graduate." -Nick Ferradino



"My best memory was Senior night for basketball when we had a moment of silence for our close friend Anna. I love basketball, I'm going to miss it." -Carley Stitt



"My best memory was being able to film the girls basketball team at state and also bonding with friends and getting close with them." -Sarah Gray



"My favorite memory was making the weekly updates with my friends senior year and making it to football playoffs for my senior year." -Greg Merdich



"My favorite memory was being able to finally have all the independent art students get together, it was really nice." -Madison Williams

Senior Recipe - Cake Pops

By: Riley Myers

Having trouble with catering for your graduation party? We have you covered with a simple little treat that can satisfy any fussy relative that RVSPs to your party. Try homemade cake pops!

Ingredients

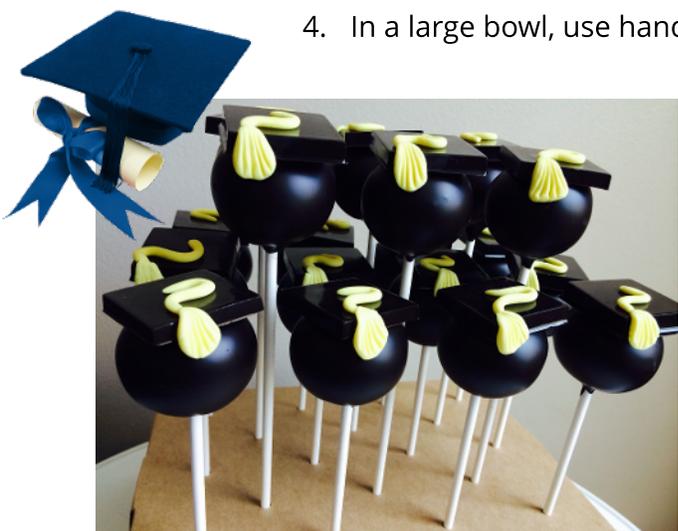
- 1 box of about 18 ounces of your favorite cake
- 1 box of 3.4 ounces instant pudding and pie filling mix
- 4 eggs
- 1 cup of water
- 1/3 cup of veggie oil
- 1 cup of frosting
- Candy Melts
- Toppings (sprinkles, nuts, and ect.)
- 9 x 13 in. Baking Pan



Instructions

1. Preheat your oven to 350F. Spray your 13 x 9 pan with your choosing of your cooking spray.
2. In a large bowl, combine cake mix, pudding mix, eggs, water, and oil, beat at medium speed for about 2 minutes. Pour into the cake pan.
3. Bake for 30-40 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool in the pan for about 10 minutes.
4. In a large bowl, use hands to crumble the cake until no longer chunks remain, you can crumble the cake easily with 2 forks.
5. Add frosting and mix with fingers until well combined.
6. Form mixture into cake balls.
7. Chill in the refrigerator for at least 2 hours to harden.
8. Melt Candy in 30 seconds intervals in the microwave (50% power) or on the stove top.
9. Dip sticks into melted Candy Melts and insert into cake balls; let set, you can place in the freezer to speed up the process - about 20 minutes (in the freezer)
10. Wait until candy is completely firm before dipping the pops completely in Candy Melts.
11. Put those decorations on and enjoy your yummy cake pops.

12. Source: <https://www.mommysfabulousfind`s.com/how-to-make-cake-pops/>



Growth Throughout High School

By: Theresa Greathouse



"From Freshman to Senior year my determination and work ethic have definitely changed along with personal growth as an individual." -Miles Culp



Photo Credit: Holly Jones

"Freshman year I was really shy and didn't have many friends. Now, I am more confident and am proud of myself; freshman me would never expect me to be where I am now. It's sad to think I'm a Senior and moving on. -Brody Rupe

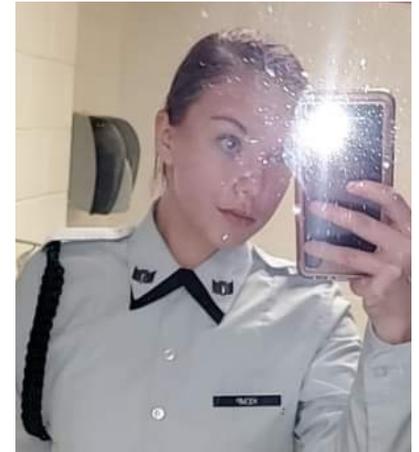


Photo Credit: Amelia Trickett

"I was really nervous being at a new school, but a few of my fellow teachers helped along the way. They helped me figure out what I wanted to do after graduation, so I went to TCTC for ROTC. Now, I'm heading for success."- Amelia Trickett

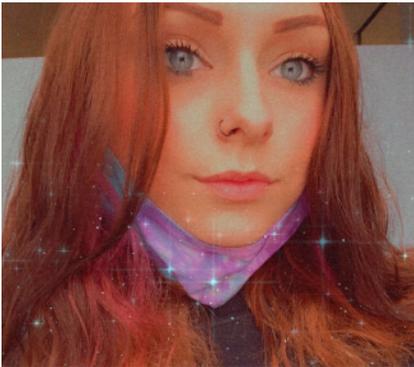


Photo Credit: Cheyenne Chaney

"From Freshman year to Senior year, one of the biggest things I've noticed that changed was my personality. I feel as if I see things in the world in a different perspective now." -Cheyenne Chaney



Photo Credit: Maddy Howard

"I feel my style has definitely improved since freshman year. Over the past few years I have also learned how to handle situations differently in a more mature way to avoid arguments and any sort of drama." -Maddy Howard

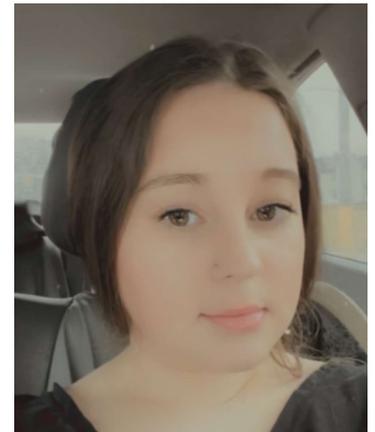


Photo Credit: Natalie Cornelius

"From Freshman to Senior year I think I have matured, working a job and being able to not have to depend on others has definitely gave me the chance to be on my own to know what it'll be like after I graduate." -Natalie Cornelius

Photo Credit: Mrs. Evans and the Senior Class

Backpage Pics

By: Hannah Werle

