

# The Villager

MCDONALD HIGH SCHOOL

Volume 9, Issue 12 | Date: March 27, 2026

## Spring Sports Preview

By: Leah Evans

It's that time of year again where we welcome back our spring sports. While some of their seasons haven't started, the boys track, girls track, softball, and baseball have been working hard to prepare during practices and conditioning.

Softball has their first game on March 27th, at Hubbard, starting at 5:00pm. It's no secret that the team has to have a bond to work together nicely. They can create this bond through events outside the sport or tough practices that bring the team together.

When asked how she and the team create such a strong bond, Sophomore Natalie McKay stated, "To bond as a team we often go out after practices to get food or a treat, sometimes both! To prepare for our upcoming season we are just putting in a lot of hard work in practice. We have been practicing a lot for our game against Hubbard." Let's come out and support our softball team during their upcoming season.

Baseball has also been working hard to prepare for their upcoming season. with their first game on March 28th against East High at East High. The game will start at 1:00pm. Right now, the boys have been preparing for this match by working hard at practice and perfecting their skills to give us a great game. Come out and cheer on our baseball team as they take on East High! Good luck boys!

The girls track and field team's season has also not yet started but their first meet will be the Joe Lane Invitational at Mineral Ridge starting at 9:00 am on March 28th. Invitationals are important to all athletes participating and requires tons of hard work, dedication, and skills. To prepare for this meet the girls are meeting everyday during the week to practice so they are ready to perform on the 28th. Come out and support our girls as they take on host school and rival Mineral Ridge and many other schools during this very important upcoming meet. Good luck girls!

### IN THIS ISSUE

- Page 1- Spring Sports Preview
- Page 2- Students Prepare for State Testing
- Page 3- McDonald, Briefly
- Page 4- McDonald, Briefly (con'd)
- Page 5- Editorial
- Page 6- Recipe
- Page 7- Movie Review, Drama Review
- Page 8- Backpage Pics



Senior Sophie Johnson and freshman Sarah Sprague pose for a photo before weightlifting



Sophomore and Junior boys pose for a photo before practice.  
Photo Credit- Chris Pupin

### STAFF LIST

EDITOR STAFF: BELLA MORGAN, JULIANA KRUMPAK  
STAFF WRITERS: THEO COLLINS, LEAH EVANS, CHRISTAPHER PUPIN,  
ILUMINA KUHLEY, RICHARD WHITE

EDITOR IN CHIEF: MR. BACKUR

## Continued. . .

The boys track and field team's first meet is also the Joe Lane Invitational at Mineral Ridge starting at 9:00am on March 28th. The boys have been putting in tons of effort as well to prepare for this invitational by doing consistent workouts tailored to their events

When asked if he is excited for track season, Junior Amari Carayol stated, "I am excited for this upcoming season because I want to see myself and all my teammates reach above and beyond goals and overall get better. The best part about track season is when we have our cookout and the whole team gets together." Good luck boys on your upcoming meet!

"Come out and support the baseball team Saturday 3/28 at East High School"



# Students Prepare for State Testing

By: Theo Collins

With the 3<sup>rd</sup> nine weeks coming to a close and the end of the school year speeding towards us, it's time to talk about testing season.

Testing is important for the district because it helps the school understand how well the students are learning the content and growing in their various skills and subjects. It helps inform teachers of student success and allows them to see areas of focus to help their students make the most gains with the skills and standards they're expected to teach.

Junior Aiden Smith said, "Testing is important because it shows teachers how well the students understand the topic or section."

These results are important because it identifies where students are succeeding and where teachers may need to reassess instruction or provide additional support. It also allows the staff to make informed decisions about curriculum, resources, and programs the school has so it can continue to grow.

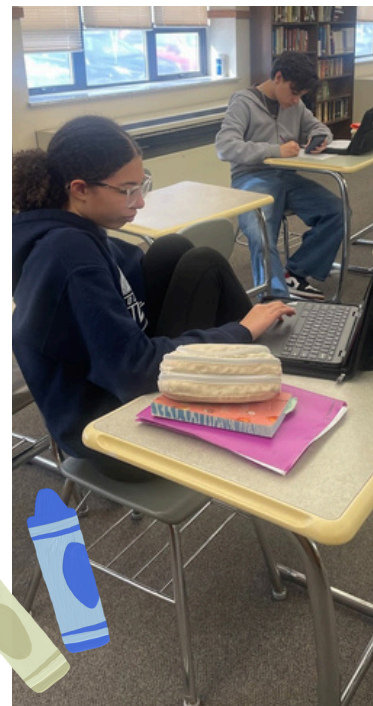
Ms. Watson said, "The test is only a small snapshot of all the amazing knowledge students have gained throughout the year, so I always encourage students to take advantage of the time they are given and think through questions so they leave proud of their efforts."

The results also important for students because they help make sure they're on track for future courses and meeting graduation requirements. Assessments also don't go away. The state tests help prepare students for assessments they will encounter in college, careers, and other real-world situations.

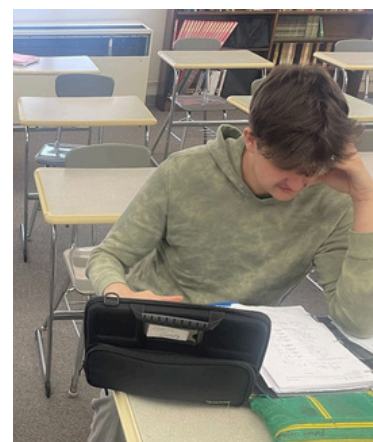
Senior Joey Cappuzzello said, "Testing is important because it shows the knowledge that students have learned."

The whole experience allows students to take accountability for their learning by encouraging them to recognize the progress they are making towards their academic goals and take their work seriously.

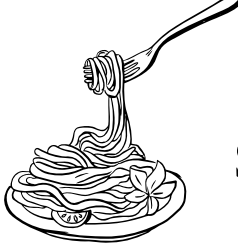
The testing window for our students begins on Tuesday, March 31st with the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ELA exam and go through Tuesday, April 28th with the Geometry exam. In between that time, students in 7th-11<sup>th</sup> grade will be tested on ELA, Algebra, Geometry, Science, US History, and American Government.



Students studying in study hall.  
Photo Credit: Christopher Pupin



Sophomore Patrick Bundy (right) enjoy the time given to study.  
Photo Credit: Christopher Pupin



# McDonald, Briefly

## Spaghetti Dinner Showcase for the Band

By: Christopher Pupin

On Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> the McDonald band held their annual Spaghetti Dinner. This concert serves as a fundraiser for the entire K-12 music program. The concert involved musicians from all over the school district.

The show started out with the sixth graders playing selections from *The Standards of Excellence Method Book*. Following this, the junior high band played their songs *Salute The Band*, *An American Hymn Tune (Amazing Grace)*, *Jurassic Park Main Theme*, and *Triumphant Voyager*. Lastly, the high school band finished strong with their performances of *Fantasy on a Fanfare*, *Idyllwild Fantasy*, *Spring*, and *New Century Overture*. Once again this was a successful fundraiser and the band appreciates all the support for the music program.



(The senior high band playing during the spaghetti dinner. Photo Credit: David Surverison)

## Students Raise Funds to Celebrate Pi Day



By: Leah Evans

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, History teacher Mr. Senich and English and Reading teacher Mr. Mason got pied as a result of raising the most money for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade field trip to Niagra Falls and 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington, D.C.

Math Club Advisor, Mrs. Ronghi, organizes this event every year as a fun way of celebrating this math-themed holiday. Thank you Mrs. Ronghi for putting together such a fun event, and to Mr. Mason and Mr. Senich for being such good sports.



7<sup>th</sup> Grader Sasha Carayol Pies Mr. Mason



Sophomore Cayden Davis Pies Mr. Senich



## Seniors Sign Their Intent to Join the Navy

By: Bella Morgan

On Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> seniors Travis LaNeve and Preston Ficeti took the next steps for their future after high school by committing to the United States Navy. Travis and Preston have spent the last two years at TCTC working towards their goals that they plan to pursue in the Navy.

Travis was also awarded a \$70,000 dollar check upon signing from the United States Navy. It was a great opportunity to honor their achievements surrounded by family, friends, and staff. We wish them the best of luck in all they do throughout their future.





# McDonald, Briefly

## National Honor Society Fairhaven Trip

By: Juliana Krumpak

For their senior NHS project, Miley Titus, Ava Salomone, and Paden Gabrelcik planned and implemented a trip to Fairhaven to read stories and complete activities with the preschool students. They hope this trip becomes an annual tradition.

This was a wonderful opportunity to read to preschoolers and brighten their school day by reading Dr. Seuss's *One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Blue Fish*.

For their activity, the preschoolers were given a printed out image of a fishbowl and were given Goldfish crackers to place on the fish bowl. This allowed each child to sort their goldfish by color and then eat them after.

This was another great experience for the National Honor Society members and the work they do to better their community.



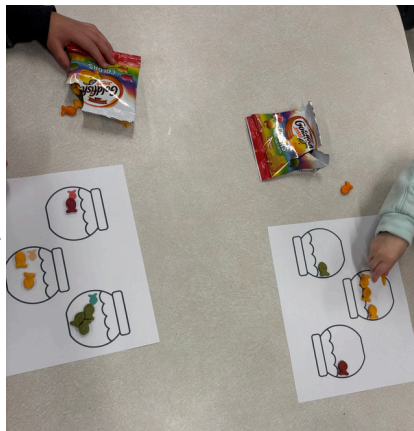
Miley, Ava, and Paden's Senior NHS Project.

Photo Credits: Mrs. Mason



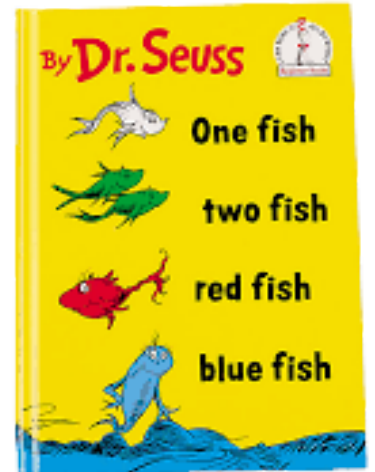
National Honor Society group outside of Fairhaven.

Photo Credits: Mrs. Mason



Preschoolers work on their Goldfish activity.

Photo Credits: Juliana Krumpak



# McDonald, Briefly

## TCESC Art Show

By: Bella Morgan

On March 19<sup>th</sup> a variety of student artwork was shown at the Trumbull County Art Show, representing all different forms of art. Sophomore Greenleigh Sedoris was chosen to compete in the People's Choice competition for her mixed media self portrait. Junior Riley Mills, who is taking Graphic Design and Smartphone Photography, entered numerous pieces including paintings and drawings. In addition, Riley's Multi Media work was based solely off a book she wrote and designed herself.



Photo credit: Mrs. Napolitano

Photo Credit: Mrs. Mills



## Editorial: March's Motivational Madness

By: Bella Morgan



Through January and February, we have had the luxury of having many days off from holidays, professional days, and snow days. In March we are attending school for four weeks straight without a single break.

Therefore, March is all about an outlook. If you look at March as being miserable, it's most likely going to be. If you take it week by week, it will be easy to stay motivated and successful.

One form of motivation is the spring sports season. March starts the beginning of practices and by the end of the month sports actually start. For a lot of people that could go a long way in helping them stay proactive in attending school and keeping up on their work. Being involved in a spring sport is a great motivator to be something that makes you get out of bed in the morning and have a great day.

March is also very important for your academics because the juniors take the ACT and, towards the end of the month, the state testing portion of the year begins for underclassmen. For many, this means the end of the year is almost near. Making sure you do not get into a drought with your grades cannot be stressed enough, especially because spring determines your eligibility for everything in the fall.

Looking forward to what's coming next after March is another great way to get through the madness of no days off. As soon as March ends we have spring break to look forward to, which will look different for everyone. For some it's just a long weekend, but others are going on vacation or maybe just celebrating Easter. After spring break, we will come back to more testing and, for the Seniors, the end will be almost near with just 25 days left of school.

To wrap up the madness of March it's super important to take accountability and make sure you take action to stay on top of things. Like stated above, March will be hard, but having grit and looking at it in a positive light will make it a lot easier and bearable.



# Recipe: Berry Cobbler



By: Ilumina Kuhley

This recipe comes from [Driscoll's](#)

Originating in the British American colonies, English settlers were unable to make more traditional puddings due to lack of proper ingredients. So, they created a delicious cobbler that is perfect served warm and with ice cream. Cobblers are usually characterized by the thick top crust and fruit fillings (usually seasonal fruits like apples, peaches, and in this case: berries).

After making this recipe, I recommend adding more blueberries than the recipe calls for, simply for more in each bite. The sweetness comes mostly from the fruit so make sure to be careful with how much sugar you add. Overall, this recipe is best served warm for a great seasonal treat. The recipe is also versatile since you can add in any extra fruit you may have laying around. Get creative!

## Ingredients:

- 1 pack of strawberries (16 ounces)
- 1 package of blackberries (6 ounces)
- 1 package of raspberries (6 ounces)
- 1 package of blueberries (6 ounces)
- 2 tbsp lemon juice
- ½ cup (plus 4 tbsp) sugar
- 3 tbsp cornstarch
- 1 ½ cups all purpose flour
- 1 ½ tsp baking powder
- 6 tbsp butter
- ¾ cup heavy cream
- (Optional) Whipped cream
- (Optional) Vanilla Ice cream

## Directions:

1. Cut the strawberries into slices, slice the butter into even squares, and start preheating the oven to 350°F (180°C)
2. In a large bowl, Combine the berries and lemon juice. Mix in the cornstarch and ½ a cup of the sugar until everything is thoroughly combined.
3. pour the mixture into a 9 x 9 inch baking dish
4. In another large bowl, place the flour, 3 tablespoons of sugar, the baking powder, and blend in the butter until it becomes crumbly. Stir in the cream until it becomes a dough.
5. Drop in spoonfuls of the dough into the berry mixture
6. Sprinkle the remaining sugar over the baking dish
7. Bake for 50 minutes or until the top is well browned



Bowl of the Berry cobbler served with vanilla ice cream.



Berry cobbler out of the oven.



# MOVIE REVIEW: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN BY CHRISTOPHER PUPIN



The Greatest Showman is a musical about a man named P. T. Barnum who has dreamt about owning a circus since he was little. When he becomes an adult he decides to make that dream a reality. Over the course of the movie he searches far and wide for attractions for his circus, looking for people that are seen as outcasts by society and giving them homes in the form of the circus. His circus, Barnum's Circus, becomes a place where outcasts can find a home and perform not just circus acts, but sing songs too.

The movie is an incredibly fun watch as the mix of drama, romance, and music make it a thrill to sit down and enjoy. The songs featured in the movie are each amazing and enjoyable to listen to even after watching the movie. Additionally, the pace of the movie is really good as it manages to use the time it has very effectively and makes the movie feel a lot longer than it actually is.

However, some contrived plot moments can bring the pacing to a crawl. About half way through the film, the main character, P. T. Barnum, looks unlikeable simply for the sake of the plot and then it seems to just brush that off towards the end. This contrast made the film's tone a bit strange on the first watch. Additionally, due to there being such a large cast, it's hard to give each of the characters their own time to shine in the movie.

Overall this movie is an excellent choice for both family viewings and solo watching as the fun story in addition to the upbeat songs make for an enjoyable experience. It serves as a quick watch that doesn't require too much thought to understand the plot while at the same time it can make the movie much better when taking the time to put the events into thought.



## Drama Review: The Tragedy of Julius Caesar

By: Illumina Kuhley

Set in ancient Rome, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* by William Shakespeare is a famous historical tragedy that explores themes of betrayal, politics, and loyalty. The play focuses on Julius Caesar's rise to power, his assassination, and the consequences that came after. Much of the play follows the internal conflicts of Marcus Brutus, who struggled between his loyalty to Caesar, and the belief that the Roman Republic would be better off with him gone. Using dramatic speeches and intense conflicts, Shakespeare shows how power, ambition, and fear shapes history and influences decisions.

While reading, I enjoyed how powerful and dramatic the play is. The speeches and dialogue make the characters' motivations very clear, especially during major moments like the debates about Caesar's corruption and confrontations between warring military factions. Characters like Brutus and Mark Antony help highlight the themes of persuasion and how words can be used as an influence. Shakespeare is also able to create tension through his writing, making the events such as the final battle feel more meaningful and important to the story.

But, because the play was written by Shakespeare, whose era spoke a very different version of English than what we speak today, many find that they don't understand what is being said in the complex dialogue or the large number of characters in each conflict. And because this play focuses heavily on speeches and discussions, the pacing can feel too slow compared to more modern action-focused stories.

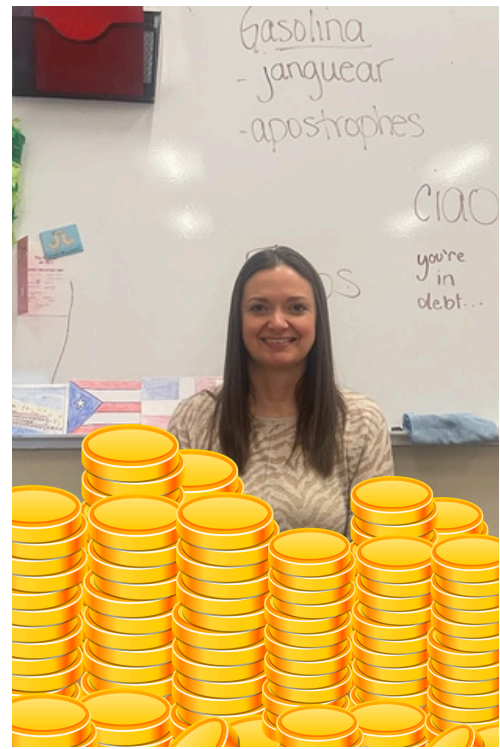
Overall, *The Tragedy of Julius Caesar* is an important and thought provoking story that explores themes of leadership, morality, and the consequences that come with betrayal. While the language is challenging, the story remains powerful and relevant today. It is a classic piece of literature that encourages its readers to think about the effects of ambitions, political power, and the difficult choices made during times of conflict.



One of the many playbills made for Julius Caesar



A portrait of William Shakespeare



# Backpage Pics

By: Christopher Pupin

