

MHS Graduate Programs for Success Division: Supporting students in their journey to become Future Ready

## GPS Offers Opportunities to Explore Postsecondary Options

Milton Hershey School's Graduate Programs for Success Division offers a variety of opportunities for Senior Division students to explore postsecondary options for career preparation. During the fall and spring, students were able to visit with representatives of partner colleges and universities during their lunch period and at the annual Postsecondary Fair on March 6, in addition to in-person visits to GPS Partner School campuses throughout the year.

The Postsecondary Fair connected students with representatives from two- and four-year GPS Partner School programs and the Hershey entities. Students had the ability to talk one-on-one with the representatives and discuss how to best position themselves for long-term success.

Partner School representatives were assigned to individual classrooms where they could present information and answer questions from students without having to talk over nearby conversations.

During the fair, MHS junior Faith Flores visited with representatives from four Partner Schools. She said that the fair was helpful for her postsecondary planning.

"I liked how they were all friendly and open to questions," Flores said. "I learned what I was or wasn't looking for in a college," she continued.

Several of the representatives also made positive comments about the fair and agreed that the classroom format was beneficial.

"It's a little more private and intimate," Christina Williams from Millersville University said. "And, students can ask questions," she continued, noting that the students in her sessions were engaged and had good questions.

Tristan Hamilton from York College agreed the classroom setting enhanced interaction with the students. "I felt like I was able to

have more conversation with the kids," Hamilton said, adding that students came prepared with questions about college majors and the types of support the college provides to help students prepare for their intended careers.

GPS Partner Schools demonstrate support for MHS graduates, offer first-generation programming, and work with MHS support specialists to help MHS graduates stay on track with their education.

Key components of the career readiness process are self-awareness and career awareness. Events like the Postsecondary Fair help students become aware of options to help them prepare for careers of interest to them. MHS college and career counselors play an integral role within this process, working closely with high school students to develop career preparation plans that align with students' personalities, skills, and aptitudes.

## CES Basics: Students Accrue Scholarship Funds During High School

Milton Hershey School graduates can use Continuing Education Scholarship (CES) funds to help pay costs at apprenticeship programs and to help pay costs at accredited U.S. colleges that offer federal financial aid. They must meet annual application steps and standards to remain CES eligible.

- Every MHS student may accrue up to \$95,000 in CES funds
- Accruing CES funds requires more than attending and graduating from MHS
- Every student has the opportunity to accrue a portion of the maximum amount of CES funds each year of high school
- Accruing full or partial CES funds each year depends on a student earning a minimum GPA, less than 51 demerit points, and no Level 4 infractions
- CES funds can be used to pay for college tuition and fees, food, housing, and textbooks, as long as there are enough funds available in a given year
- CES funds may also be used for short-term programs like apprenticeships, diploma and certificate programs, and associate degrees
- Students continuing their education after MHS must complete a financial aid application to supplement the CES funds needed for college, and to qualify for a subsidized Stafford Loan
- For a graduate pursuing a bachelor's degree, CES funds are dispersed each year as a percentage of the total amount accrued
- After successful completion of a degree or program, any CES funds remaining may be used to pay back any qualified outstanding Stafford Loan



## GPS Staff Member Provides Support to Alumni Enrolled in Certificate Programs



The Milton Hershey School Graduate Programs for Success Division provides individualized preparation and support for students in grades 5 through 12 and graduates who are entering college, trade schools, or certification programs. In 2023, Wendy Gillman joined the GPS staff as a workforce development specialist and provides support to graduates interested or enrolled in certificate programs.

Certificate programs are short-term programs that can be completed in a few months and require less financial commitment than most college degrees. Some, like programs in health care, can also serve as the starting point for more advanced careers.

If you would like to learn more about short-term training, please contact Wendy Gillman, for assistance, [gillmanw@mhs-pa.org](mailto:gillmanw@mhs-pa.org).



## GPS Staff Answer Questions During Family Weekend

During Winter Family Weekend, students and their parents/ sponsors had the opportunity to visit with representatives from Alumni Relations, GPS, Social Work, and Career Services during lunch at Founders Hall. In the photo, Unique Patterson, higher education support specialist, visits with a recent graduate and current student.

## Pre-apprenticeship Program Prepares Student for Workforce

*By Allen Snyder, MHS Senior*



In August, Milton Hershey School gave me the opportunity to participate in the Manufacturing Pre-Apprenticeship Program. Students in the program completed a two-week training that helped us prepare to enter the workforce after graduation.

The program was split into classroom time and shop time. In class, we learned about lean manufacturing techniques. We also learned how to perform the calculations necessary to take full advantage of tools available and OSHA workplace safety.

During the second part of the program, we went to the shop at the Manufacturer's Association where we practiced what we learned in the classroom. There, we used precision milling equipment to build a cell phone holder.

As a result of attending the workplace safety lessons, we earned OSHA 10 general certifications.

Since the pre-apprenticeship experience, I have used many of the procedures we went over in my day-to-day life.

As I near graduation, I hope to further expand what I have learned to work even more efficiently and safely.

## Rafferty Joins GPS as Director of College and Career Readiness



Earlier this year, Ed Rafferty was named director of the college and career readiness department within the Graduate Programs for Success Division. In his new role, he is responsible for college and career counseling for students from fifth through 12th grade.

Ed works with the counselors as they guide students to find their best fit career and the right education or training program to accomplish their goals. Counselors provide career assessment, career and authentic work experience exploration, academic guidance, personal counseling, college planning, and transition planning from Milton Hershey School.

While Ed is new to GPS, he has been working at MHS for 22 years. He and his wife were first employed as Middle Division houseparents. Ed completed a master's degree in counseling and post-graduate work in school administration. He then worked as a college and career counselor and eventually was promoted to manager of student academic programs for the Senior Division before moving into his current role.

Ed understands the value of working with each student as an individual. "Parents and sponsors have entrusted us to work with their children, and we do our best to help their children prepare for and attain their individual goals and aspirations," said Ed. "We take that trust seriously as we strive to take into consideration the experiences and needs of each student as an individual."



# Authentic Work Experiences Help Alumnus Fine Tune His Career Goals

As one of the newest members of the Milton Hershey School alumni network, Rayshawn Shuler '23 did not waste any time. After graduating with the Class of 2023 in June,

Rayshawn took a one-week break in his hometown of Philadelphia before returning to MHS to work with the Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance (VEM) department. By using this time to advance himself and his career, he was gearing up for the next step in his education at Universal Technical Institute.

“What started as tinkering with LEGO sets to build cars has turned into a passion that I can see as a career,” said Rayshawn. “It just takes patience, organization, and problem solving to get to the bottom of an issue that is complex to most people.”

Rayshawn was able to develop these skills and get authentic work experiences through the school’s Automotive Career and Technical Education pathway, internships, and unique, hands-on learning experiences. He took on leadership roles as shop manager and lead mechanic in the Bike Repair Club. He also applied what he learned in the classroom in the school’s VEM department and at the dirt track during professional World of Outlaws races. This means he

got to work with the simple machines in a bicycle to cars that will travel more than 100 miles an hour.

To further immerse himself in the automotive field, Rayshawn jumped at every chance he got to learn more. Through the partnership between MHS and World of Outlaws, Rayshawn was part of the action for two races during the 2022-23 dirt track season at Williams Grove Speedway in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania. Rayshawn learned from professional driver Brock Zearfoss, shadowed his crew, and contributed to the team by fueling the car, changing the tires, and shining it so it was ready to race.

“The World of Outlaws opportunities have been a gateway to get me even more interested in cars,” said Rayshawn. “Prior to this year, I had never been to a race before, but the energy, smells, and sounds make it a valuable experience. Also, I got to network with people from dealerships. All of this will help me get closer to my goals.”

Rayshawn is enrolled in the BMW track at Universal Technical Institute with the goal of working with high-level and high-end dealerships, like Pagani or Porsche. He is confident that each opportunity he had as a student and every connection he has made will help him get there.

## MHS Students Participate in Shadow Event Hosted by Lackawanna College

Six Milton Hershey School seniors participated in a Medical Assisting Shadow event hosted by Lackawanna College in December. The six seniors, who are interested in nursing careers, will be completing the Certified Nursing Assistant program at Harrisburg Area Community College this spring.

The MHS students spent time with three of Lackawanna’s Medical Assisting students who were about to take their finals and move into clinicals. The event featured a scavenger hunt where students were challenged to find various instruments and anatomy in the classroom. The Lackawanna students also set up stations where students could practice skills, including putting on sterile gloves,



taking blood pressure, practicing drawing blood on an arm and hand model, and removing surgical staples from an arm model. Students also talked with a nursing professor and were shown simulation rooms.



## MHS Partner School Hosts Etiquette Dinner for MHS Graduates

Pennsylvania College of Technology hosted an Etiquette Dinner in October 2023 for Milton Hershey School graduates enrolled at the college and Graduate Programs Success staff members. The dinner provided an opportunity for MHS alumni to join the college’s Career Services staff, the Le Jeune Chef staff, and their friends for a delicious meal. They had fun while learning proper behavior for professional dining, including appropriate attire.

**Questions?** Call the College and Career Readiness Department at 717-520-2812.

## College and Career Counseling Staff

Contact your student's college and career counselor.

### 10th through 12th Grade

#### Leigh Farrar-Freeman

717.520.2910 • farrarfreemanl@mhs-pa.org

#### Daniel (Keith) Jones

717.520.2438 • jonesd@mhs-pa.org

#### Rebekah Manney

717.520.2994 • manneyr@mhs-pa.org

#### Matt Speese

717.520.2039 • speesem@mhs-pa.org

#### William Zapata

717.520.2813 • zapata@mhs-pa.org

### 9th Grade

#### Abbey Wascovich

717.520.2439 • wascovicha@mhs-pa.org

**Questions?** Call the College and Career Readiness Department at 717.520.2812.

## CLASS CORNER Important Dates to Remember

### Sponsors of Seniors:

**September 2023–March 2024:** Provide proof of health insurance to Mrs. Smyder.

**January–March 2024:** Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA\* (Financial Aid).

**February–March 2024:** Submit a copy of your financial aid letter to your career counselor.

**April 26, 2024:** College selection deadline\*

**May 2024:** Deadline for CES Application, release form, and other CES required documents.

**June 1, 2024:** GPS Plan Approval Deadline\*

*Note: If deadlines with an asterisk\* are not met, it is very likely your student's GPS Plan will not be approved for fall 2024.*

### Sponsors of Juniors:

Your student should research and discuss with you and their career counselor their ideas for a career and postsecondary options—military, world of work, apprenticeships, trade schools, or higher education.

**March–May, 2024:** SAT testing for postsecondary education.

### Sponsors of Sophomores and Freshmen:

**March–May, 2024:** Sophomores and freshmen are working through the scheduling process, choosing their classes for the 2024-25 school year.

## MHS Family Weekends Are for You

Learn how college and career counselors work with your student to explore, plan, and prepare for their career path and how you can take a more active part in the process.

### Spring Family Weekend, May 10-12, 2024

**Junior-focused:** The transition to senior year, CES and financial aid, postsecondary GPS planning.

**Grades 9-12:** Sponsor conferences will be available on Friday, May 10. Check the Spring Family Weekend promotional materials for registration details.

Questions? Call Katie Eckert at 717.520.2812