MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL®
FOUNDED 1909
ALUM

WINTER 2026

THY Traditions DEAR

MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL® ALUMNI MAGAZINE



A Note

from the MHS President

Dear alumni brothers and sisters,



Pete Gurt '85

Sixty-five words. Four lines. One Pledge. In August 2025, Milton Hershey School celebrated the start of our new school year by honoring the 100th anniversary of our School Pledge. Since then, every student, staff member, and graduate has been challenged to keep our standards high and to help others do likewise, while doing all we can for the good of our school.

This school year has been filled with inspiring moments that speak to the strength and spirit of our community. In October, we welcomed Shaquille O'Neal to campus to engage with our students during the Our Big Pledge Challenge, which was a larger-than-life experience. In November, we celebrated Founders Week like never before with intentional service projects, a renewed energy around Founders Feast and Founders Day Assembly, a Founders Day parade and fireworks show, and so much more. Together, we reflected on the importance of taking accountability for our future and striving toward excellence—principles that have guided generations of Spartans, starting with Mr. and Mrs. Hershey.

In August, we also celebrated the successes of our 2020-2025 strategic plan—The MILT Plan—and launched a new nine-year strategic framework. Within this framework—The GIFT—which will culminate in 2034, in honor of the 125th anniversary of the signing of our Deed of Trust, the MHS leadership team has identified four distinct areas of focus: Growing our Mission, Innovating on the Delivery of Our Mission, Fortifying The Milton Hershey Way, and Transforming Our Culture. I encourage you to read more about our vision and how you can get involved. Our alumni play an important role in our students' and young graduates' success. There is no better time to reconnect and lean into our alma mater than right now.

As MHS alumni, we are the heirs to the Hersheys' legacy. With this great honor comes even greater responsibility. I hope you are as inspired as I am to serve our mission and that of Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning. Whether through mentoring, volunteering, referring students and staff candidates, or returning to serve MHS and CHS through the variety of career opportunities we offer, the time you invest changes lives.

In 2026, we have much to look forward to. Later this year, we will celebrate the premiere of the major motion picture HERSHEY, which chronicles the life and legacy of our founders, and prepare for the grand opening of the former Hershey community building at the corners of Chocolate and Cocoa avenues. As our home and school continues to achieve new heights, I often think about what Mr. Hershey would say if he were here today. While I cannot say with certainty, I think he would be proud of the way his spirit of community and excellence continues to propel us forward.

Looking to the months ahead, I invite you to stay connected, return to campus for Alumni Fellowship Weekend (April 24-26), share your story, and continue being champions for the next generation. Together, we will continue to honor our past, embrace our present, and build a future worthy of the Hershey name.

With deep gratitude and Spartan pride,

Peter G. Gurt '85
MHS President

Scan the QR code to learn more about The GIFT Strategic Framework.

THY Traditions DEAR

The mission of *Thy Traditions Dear* is to share the stories of the Milton Hershey School family with our alumni, students, staff, and retirees in honor and celebration of our founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey.

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ABOUT THE COVER

From Oct. 23–26, 2025, the Milton Hershey School campus became a vibrant celebration of community as alumni, students, staff, and families came together for Homecoming Weekend. Across generations, Spartans reconnected, shared stories, and strengthened the bonds that unite us. Moments like these deepen our collective commitment to the MHS School Pledge and honor the enduring legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey—reminding us that our greatest strength has always been one another.

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Transforming Our Campus Community

MHS Department Brings Students, Staff, Alumni Together

Featuring Josi Rhoads '18

Milton Hershey School has long prided itself on traditions that shape students' sense of identity and belonging. Now, with the creation of the Community Life Department, those traditions—and the spirit behind them—are being reenergized for a new generation.

Designed to "make the campus come alive," as department leader and MHS alum Josi Rhoads '18 explains, Community Life is quickly becoming a cornerstone of student engagement.

Josi says the department was built on a simple but powerful charge: Bring people together.

"Community Life has so many tentacles," she says. "But at the heart of it, it's about community events, getting people together, and building a sense of belonging."

From major school-wide events—such as the Cocoa Bean Tailgate and Watch Party, Outdoor Chapel featuring two-time Grammy nominee and multi-award-winning artist Blessing Offor, Founders Week, and Pete Lights—to weekly student recreation, open swims, and smaller social opportunities, the department's reach stretches across all divisions. The goal is the same across every program: create space for connection, joy, and memories.

As an alum, Josi knows firsthand how meaningful those memories can be. When she reflects on her own years as a student, hallmark events leap to mind: Community Day, the Cocoa Bean Game, Hersheypark Day, student home outings, athletic events, talent shows, and Visual and Performing Arts recitals.

"Those events were where we made memories outside of academics and outside the student home. They were moments we looked forward to every year," Josi shares.

Today, Community Life is intentionally shaping those moments with more consistency and student voice. One of the department's most influential tools is the Student Government Association (SGA), which has been restructured to operate from within the student homes. This shift ensures students from every corner of campus have a voice.

"Now we're hearing from every student," Josi says. "SGA is a huge part of creating belonging."



She explains that while students are busy, high achieving, and dedicated to academics, they also need moments to "just be kids." Community Life programs offer that release.

"People tell us the events are a unique experience—something they can't get in the student home," she says. "These events let them breathe."

The department also helps make a large campus feel small. Bringing together different divisions, staff groups, siblings, and student homes fosters relationships that rarely form in day-to-day routines.

"Staff don't always get to see each other. Students don't always meet people outside their division," Josi says. "Events give everyone the chance to connect in person."

And alumni? Their presence matters. Josi encourages graduates to volunteer at events, attend the Cocoa Bean Game, join leadership conferences, or even just sit with a student home at an athletics game.

"There are so many ways to be involved," she says. "Those interactions make a huge impact."



On Friday, Aug. 22, MHS celebrated the 82nd Cocoa Bean Game with a tailgate and watch party in Founders Park. Scan the QR code to read the story.



In October, Shaquille O'Neal brought his larger-than-life energy—and his Shaq-A-Licious XL Gummies—to Hershey for a day full of inspiration and fun, making a memorable stop at MHS during the "Our Big Pledge Challenge" event. Scan the QR code to read the story.



MHS closed out our annual Founders Week celebration with a spectacular new event: a parade followed by a dazzling fireworks display over Founders Hall. Scan the QR code to read the story.



On Saturday, Oct. 4, MHS students and staff gathered for a special outdoor experience featuring two-time Grammy nominee and multi-award-winning artist, Blessing Offor. Scan the QR code to read the story.



In December, the second annual Pete Lights drive-thru transformed our Legacy Campus into a winter wonderland. Scan the QR code to read the story.



Turning CTE Experience into Real-World Momentum

When Marcus Rodriguez '23 enrolled at Milton Hershey School as a second grader, he was just seven years old—young, hopeful, and following in the footsteps of his sister, who was currently a student. Life in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he grew up with six brothers and two sisters, had been full of love but lacking the structure he needed. With his father incarcerated during his early childhood and his mother not working at the time, Marcus often felt the weight of uncertainty. Arriving at MHS offered the start of a chapter he didn't yet know would change everything.

"Being enrolled at MHS was a big opportunity," Marcus said. "It provided the stability I didn't have."

While on a construction job in Hershey, Pennsylvania, Marcus' uncle heard about MHS and encouraged his mother to consider it for her children. But his influence didn't end with that suggestion. He also gave Marcus a front-row seat to the construction trade itself. Marcus spent weekends and summers helping his uncle flip rental properties around Lancaster—projects that became his hands-on classroom. He learned by doing, assisting with the renovations and quickly realizing that the work came naturally to him, each task building his confidence as much as it built the homes he helped repair.

"Construction kind of led to MHS changing my life," he said. "I feel like God had a part in all of that."

As a sophomore, Marcus selected the Construction/Carpentry area within the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program at MHS—a space where his interest in building met real direction. One mentor quickly rose to the forefront for him: MHS construction/carpentry instructor Joey Fick. Together, the two tackled projects that didn't just strengthen Marcus' skills—they opened doors he hadn't yet imagined. Marcus earned credits and certifications that would lead him into higher education, with each accomplishment reinforcing that he was on the right path. One of his favorite memories in Joey's classroom is a table he designed, built, and gifted to his grandmother. When Marcus doubted if he could pull it off, Mr. Fick pushed him—showing him he was capable of more than he realized. The table became a symbol of how far he'd come and where he hoped to go—Pennsylvania College of Technology.

"Being enrolled at MHS was a big opportunity," Marcus said. "It provided the stability I didn't have."

"Mr. Fick saw something in me," Marcus said. "And pushed me towards what I really enjoy."

As a freshman at Pennsylvania College of Technology, he was expected to step beyond the classroom and onto a real jobsite through an internship. That opportunity came to fruition for him at a career fair, where a single conversation led to an internship offer with Whiting-Turner, one of the largest construction management and general contracting firms in the United States.



In that role, Marcus suddenly found himself surrounded by seasoned project managers, ambitious builds, and the kind of fast-paced environment he had always admired.

He quickly learned that success in construction management starts with listening. At Whiting-Turner, project managers operate at a high level—juggling drawings, specifications, subcontractors, and client needs across multi-million-dollar jobs. To keep pace with the constant motion, Marcus spent much of his early time notetaking and tracking the dozens of moving parts unfolding around him.

Each year of college deepened his understanding. As a freshman, he absorbed everything he could on the job site. As a sophomore, he moved into the rhythms of paperwork, scheduling, and office workflow. By his junior year, he was taking on real responsibility—managing smaller scopes of work and calling in resources when challenges arose in the field. It isn't just the technical side of construction that captures Marcus's attention. He thrives on the team dynamic—the way 10-hour days forge camaraderie, how a crew's different strengths knit together to bring a building from concept to reality. For him, the work is as much about the people beside him as the structures rising around them.

"People don't realize how many pieces have to fit—from plans and drafts to engineering and trades," Marcus said. "Construction is its own world."

What drives Marcus is a blend of gratitude, faith, and determination—fuel he carries with him into every new opportunity. He is deeply grateful to God and MHS for all that he has been given to make a difference in the world. As the only member of his immediate family to attend college, he feels a responsibility to make the most of every step in an industry that's constantly evolving.

"The foundational skills I gained at MHS are vital to my career success," Marcus said.

After his college graduation in 2027, Marcus hopes to launch his new career with a general contractor, beginning in a field in which he's spent preparing. However, his sights stretch further than that first job. He's already thinking like an entrepreneur, imagining the day he can build his own contracting firm—or even a specialty subcontracting business, perhaps in painting—partnering with a classmate whose carpentry skills complement his own. It's the kind of forward-looking vision that reflects not just ambition, but a desire to take what MHS and his experiences have provided to build something of his own from the ground up.

"The foundational skills I gained at MHS are vital to my career success."

As he looks ahead to his future, Marcus also reflects on the people who helped him get there and feels strongly that alumni have a responsibility to invest in those relationships. He believes that your MHS houseparents, coaches, and teachers weren't just part of your daily routine—they were the people who stood beside you, encouraged you, believed in you, and helped you reach the place you're standing today. Their support doesn't end at graduation. They want to see you flourish. They want to pick up the phone when you're unsure of your next step, to celebrate your wins, and to guide you through the moments that feel overwhelming. Stay connected. They're still in your corner, ready to walk with you as you figure out what comes next.

"You don't need to know everything," Marcus said. "With a little bit of grit and work ethic, you can 100% achieve your goals."

During the school year, Marcus returns to the MHS campus to speak with current CTE students about construction management, sharing the realities of the field with those just beginning to imagine their own futures. In his off time, he coaches fifth and sixth-grade wrestlers, offering younger students the same encouragement he once needed.

"You don't always realize it, but younger students are looking up to you," Marcus said.

From a second grader searching for stability to a college junior helping manage complex renovations, Marcus' journey reflects the heart of the CTE program at MHS—providing the skills, mentorship, and momentum that carry graduates confidently from classroom to career. His experience shows how transformative that support can be and encourages alumni to help inspire the next generation of Spartans.

Career and Technical Education Empowers Tomorrow's Leaders: Discover Our 10 CTE Program Areas

Career and Technical Education (CTE) was central to Milton and Catherine Hershey's founding vision—an education anchored in life skills, purpose, and opportunity. At MHS, students explore 10 CTE program areas, and by high school, select a pathway in which to specialize. Expert instructors, who bring real-world experience from the industries they teach, guide students in state-of-the-art labs, classrooms, and facilities designed to mirror professional environments. Through hands-on learning, industry-recognized certifications, and authentic work experiences, MHS is turning curiosity into career confidence—ensuring students graduate ready to thrive in college, the workforce, or life.

Agriculture and Natural Resources



Agriculture has been part of our mission since its founding, rooted in the Deed of Trust. Today, the Agriculture and Natural Resources CTE program area blends that legacy with modern, science-based learning. Students gain hands-on experience in aeroponics, hydroponics, and animal care—learning in several on-campus barns and greenhouses designed to reflect real-world agricultural environments. Through this immersive approach, students build the knowledge and leadership skills needed to shape the future of agriculture and environmental sustainability.

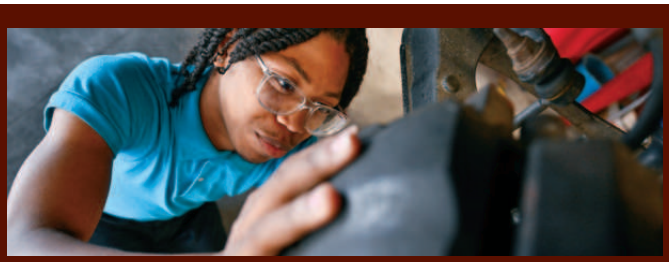
Scan the QR code to discover more.

Business



The Business CTE program area is a launchpad for future leaders and entrepreneurs. Students explore key areas like finance, marketing, sales, management, and media & communications—gaining hands-on experience with industry-standard tools like Adobe Creative Cloud. Through mentorship, real-world projects, and partnerships with professionals from The Hershey Company, students learn to think strategically, lead ethically, and communicate effectively. From career-focused competitions to professional presentations, MHS students graduate with the skills and confidence to thrive in any business environment.

Scan the QR code to discover more.



Automotive Technology

Students in the Automotive Technology CTE program area don't just learn how to fix cars—they learn how to build careers that keep the world moving. Inside a fully equipped lab that mirrors a real-world shop floor, they master fundamentals like brake repair, engine assembly, electrical troubleshooting, and more. With hands-on learning and internships, students are positioned to excel in high-impact careers like automotive repair, engineering, and manufacturing—right after graduation.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Computer Technology



Advancements in Computer Technology continue to shape this CTE program area, mirroring the rapid evolution of the tech industry itself. Students engage in project-driven learning rooted in STEAM principles, exploring fields like robotics, coding, software engineering, electronics, and drone operations. They gain hands-on experience with advanced technologies such as virtual and augmented reality, 3D design and printing, and IT systems—preparing for high-growth careers in software development, infrastructure, and emerging tech. With every skill mastered, students become agile thinkers ready to innovate in a rapidly changing world.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

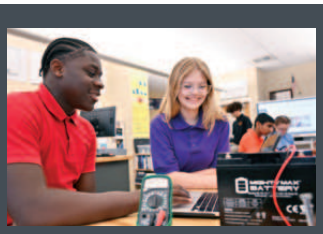


Construction/Carpentry

As the demand for skilled trades surges nationwide, the Construction/Carpentry CTE program area is preparing the next generation of builders and problem-solvers. From framing to finishing, students gain hands-on experience in carpentry, HVAC, electrical, plumbing, and welding—learning every phase of the building process. With access to industry professionals and exposure to local companies, students build practical skills and career confidence. Graduates leave MHS with the ability to build more than just structures—they build futures.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Engineering



The Engineering CTE program area blends creativity and technology through a rigorous STEAM-based curriculum. Students gain hands-on experience with industry-standard tools like AutoCAD®, Fusion®, and Revit®, while earning certifications that prepare them for careers in engineering, architecture, and manufacturing. Classroom learning is enriched by real-world projects, such as the HERSHEY'S Holiday Chocolate House and partnering with industry leaders from Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. Students explore design, mechanics, and problem-solving in internships and co-ops that further connect their learning to their chosen career fields.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Culinary Arts



Students with a passion for food find their purpose in the Culinary Arts CTE program area. Learning in two fully functional, commercial-grade kitchens, they build skills in cooking, baking, and pastry arts—grounded in technique, nutrition, safety, and cost control. Beyond the classroom, students gain real-world experience through internships, co-ops, and mentorships, including a state-registered pre-apprenticeship with Hershey Entertainment & Resorts. From high-pressure competitions like the ProStart Culinary Invitational, MHS students graduate ready to lead with creativity and professionalism in any kitchen they enter.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Health Science



Immersive, hands-on learning in clinical-style labs gives students a real-world introduction to modern health care while in the Health Science CTE program area. Using professional-grade tools like medical manikins, hospital beds, and stethoscopes, students build the technical and interpersonal skills essential for patient care. Through internships at local and nationally recognized hospitals, they gain experience across various health care departments while earning college credits and industry certifications. Guided by expert professionals, students graduate with the knowledge and experience to succeed in a fast-paced, high-impact field.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Education and Human Services



Empathy, communication, and leadership are at the core of the Education and Human Services CTE program area. In classroom and office simulation spaces, students explore paths in education, social work, counseling, and more—gaining real-world insight through guest speakers, collaborative learning, and internships tailored to their interests. With each year, they build practical skills, earn industry-recognized certifications like the Child Development Associate (CDA), and develop the skills needed to make a lasting impact on the next generation.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Law, Public Safety, and Security



The Law, Public Safety, and Security CTE program area prepares students to serve and protect their communities through immersive, career-focused learning. From day one, students explore the criminal justice process, ethics, and legal systems in specialized spaces like a mock courtroom and a forensic simulation room. Throughout the program, students receive hands-on training in crime scene investigation, suspect interrogation, public speaking, and legal writing, while building a strong foundation in criminal, civil, and constitutional law. By senior year, they transition into real-world experiences through internships and college-level coursework taught by professors.

Scan the QR code to discover more.

Get Involved with Career-Focused Education at MHS

Throughout the school year, our CTE teachers offer students opportunities to learn from real-world professionals in their program areas. Your expertise as an alum is invaluable for our students!

Scan the QR code or visit mhsalum.org/update to share which CTE program area aligns with your career.



George and Prudence Copenhaver

The People Behind the Hersheys' Vision

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL History

At the heart of Milton Hershey School's rich history are two individuals whose dedication and compassion helped shape the school's foundation—George and Prudence Copenhaver. Hired by Milton Hershey in 1909 as the first superintendent and matron of the Hershey Industrial School, now Milton Hershey School, the Copenhavers were more than educators—they were the embodiment of the Hersheys' vision for a nurturing, family-like environment for children in need.

Building a Home, Not Just a School

George and Prudence were the first houseparents at MHS. They lived with the school's first students at The Homestead, the birthplace of Milton Hershey, during the school's early years.



William Hughes, George Copenhaver and Hugh Hughes, late 1920s

Even after the school outgrew the building, the Copenhavers continued to make it their home, reinforcing the sense of stability and care that defined their leadership.

George, with a background in farming and education, was entrusted with the monumental task of bringing Milton Hershey's dream to life. He introduced programs that would become pillars of the school's culture—Boy Scouts, athletics, technical trades, and the farm home program. Most notably, in 1926, he authored the School Pledge, a timeless reflection of the school's values and aspirations.

Prudence, a college-educated woman, was the heart of the home. She managed food, clothing, and daily routines, and even served as a nurse during the 1918 influenza pandemic. Her care extended through World War II, when she could still be found in the kitchen preparing treats for students.

A Lasting Tribute

When George passed away on Feb. 11, 1938, the school community came together to honor his legacy. Students and staff raised funds to erect a bronze sundial on a limestone base, originally placed in front of his office at the Junior-Senior High School—now Catherine Hall. Today, the memorial stands at the entrance to the MHS Heritage Center at Kinderhaus, bearing a simple yet powerful inscription:

"IN MEMORY OF/ OUR SUPERINTENDENT/ GEORGE E. COPENHAVER/ 1909–1938/ THE BOYS."



George and Prudence Copenhaver

Later that year, on Nov. 15—the anniversary of the signing of the Deed of Trust—students planted the first tree in George's memory. This Founders Day tradition continues today, symbolizing growth, remembrance, and gratitude.

Milton Hershey's Enduring Gratitude

In 1944, Milton Hershey deeded the Homestead to Prudence for the remainder of her life, a testament to her loyalty and the deep respect he held for her.

Mr. Hershey once wrote, "Much of the credit for the success of the lives of the students of the school was due and is due to the splendid work of Mr. and Mrs. Copenhaver. They have been real parents to all the boys who have come under their loving and thoughtful care."

A Legacy That Lives On



Prudence Copenhaver, 1937

The Copenhavers' influence extended far beyond their lifetimes. In 1950, they were named honorary alumni alongside Milton and Catherine Hershey. The Copenhaver Center, which originally opened as Catherine Hall in 1966, was later renovated and renamed in their honor in 1999.

Their story is a powerful reminder that behind every great vision are people who make it happen—with heart, humility, and unwavering dedication. Through memorials, traditions, and the memories of grateful students, George and Prudence Copenhaver's legacy continues to inspire generations at Milton Hershey School.

Scan the QR code to watch a video on the Copenhavers' impact.

DEPARTMENT OF SCHOOL **History**

Looking Back on a Life Shaped by Opportunity, Responsibility, Resilience

By Lee Legutko '62



The year 1962 was one of transformations and promise, both for the world and for the 131 students who graduated from Milton Hershey School. For me, a proud graduate and class officer of the Class of 1962, the memories of my time at "The Home," as we called it, are woven into the very fabric of my life. Those formative years offered not only an education but a sense of purpose, discipline, and resilience that have carried me through every chapter of my life's journey.

The Foundation of a Visionary

MHS stands as a unique testament to the far-sighted philanthropy of its founder, Milton S. Hershey, and his wife, Catherine. For those of us who were fortunate enough to be enrolled, it meant more than just escaping hardship—it was a chance to gain a sense of purpose, develop positive values, build lifelong friendships, achieve, and dream. It is here that I learned the values of hard work, integrity, commitment, sense of responsibility, and compassion—values that have guided me throughout my life.

Memories That Linger

More than six decades have passed since I walked the school's halls, yet the memories remain vividly etched in my mind like carvings on a well-worn student desk. The Class of 1962 was a group of young boys shaped not only by the educational curriculum, extracurricular activities, and chores, but also by a community and family of teachers, staff, and fellow students who believed in us long before we knew how to believe in ourselves.

We came from different places and circumstances, but MHS gave us common ground—a sense of home, structure, and, above all, opportunity. We woke up early to milk cows by hand, we worked hard stowing barley, pitching hay, husking corn in fields of snow, picking rocks out of the pastures, getting eggs from the chicken coop, and doing house chores, all as a process of learning the value of discipline, responsibility, and integrity. Our houseparents were more than caretakers; they were mentors, disciplinarians, and, in many ways, the guiding lights of our upbringing.

As a student, I remember walking past Senior Hall and the Homestead—Founders Hall wasn't built yet—without knowing how much those places and the people within them would shape the rest of my life. I carry the lessons of MHS with me to this day: humility, perseverance, and the power of community.

The memories of MHS in the 1950s and early 1960s were a microcosm of post-war America. Structure and discipline defined much of our daily lives. But beyond the rules, there was a profound sense of camaraderie among us that, to this

day, makes our class reunions feel more like a family reunion of brothers.

One moment I often recall is our graduation—standing together with full hearts and tear-filled eyes, knowing something significant was coming to an end. While the future felt uncertain and scary, graduation was somewhat special for me because I was selected to deliver our Commencement farewell speech. Incorporated within the speech was our class song:

Farewell to thee, our school, our home:
We now approach the world alone.
With memories true that will remain,
We look upon our years as gain.
Through years gone by it seems so true,
That what we are we owe to you.
The gift to learn what's great and good,
Shall light the way to our manhood.
Our thanks to thee, oh M.H.S!
For loving care and watchfulness.
May spoken words and deeds to come,
Show always thanks for what you've done.
Stand firm, O school most marvelous,
And do for others what you've done for us.
We sing this song of thanks to you,
From this, the Class of Sixty-Two.

Our class song reminds me that even as we each went our separate ways, a part of us never left those rolling hills of Hershey, with its smell of chocolate.

Friendships Forged for a Lifetime

Among the greatest gifts MHS gave me were the friendships I formed throughout my 10-plus years residing in Hershey. Coming from various walks of life, my classmates and I shared a bond unlike any other. We leaned on each other, celebrated each other's successes, competed among ourselves, provided comfort at times of need, cried and laughed together, and sometimes, navigated the trials of adolescence together.

The Class of 1962 was diverse, resourceful, and spirited. We were dreamers and doers, shaped by our individual struggles but united by the opportunity MHS afforded us. While life has taken us in different directions, many of those friendships have endured, thanks to the unbreakable connection we formed during those transformative years.

Challenges That Defined Us

I was just a small, scared boy when I arrived, uncertain of what lay ahead and feeling abandoned. What I found was a home—not in the traditional sense, but one built on principles, a caring environment, and high expectations. We were given tools to become men, not only academic education, but a moral compass to navigate the world with integrity. Even so, MHS was not without its challenges. Life for many of us before entering the school had been marked by individual family challenges, and adapting to the structured environment of MHS required resilience. There were moments of homesickness, academic struggles, and occasional disciplinary action. Yet these challenges were instrumental in shaping our character. Every difficulty we faced prepared us to meet future obstacles in life with courage and determination.



I remember one teacher who pushed me to strive for excellence in everything I did. She had faith in me and saw something beyond my capacity to understand. She instilled in me a sense of purpose and enlightened my resilience, enabling me to become a straight-A student. Her belief in my potential inspired me to excel. The discipline and self-reliance instilled in us, though sometimes difficult to embrace at the time, became the foundation for our individual independence.

Reflecting on the Legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey

The legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey and their vision provided far more than food, clothing, and shelter—it gave us hope. A future. A chance to rise above hardship and become positive contributors to society, grounded in hard work, resilience, integrity, compassion, and an inner feeling hard to explain.

The Class of 1962 has gone on to achieve remarkable things in various fields—from education and business to public service and private enterprise to the arts and numerous other career paths. Unfortunately, some gave their lives serving their country and others served their country and returned to continue contributing to society. While our paths have been diverse, the influence of MHS is evident in how we approach life: with compassion, a strong work ethic, a lifelong brotherhood, and an enduring commitment to giving back to others.

Now, decades later, I often find myself reflecting on how MHS has shaped not only my life but also the lives of countless others. The sense of belonging and purpose instilled in me is a beacon that guides me through good and bad times. MHS gave me the tools to succeed, not just professionally but personally and ethically. When I look at our class picture and reunion pictures, I see a group of young people who dared to have hope and to dream while supported by the generosity of a man and woman who believed in the transformative power of education, surrounded by an environment of family and community.

One bit of advice I would offer today's graduates: Hold on to the values you learned at MHS and remember that they are part of an extraordinary legacy. It is up to you to honor the gift you've been given.

To my fellow alumni—especially the Class of 1962—may we continue to reflect, reconnect, and pay it forward.



MHS Alum Empowers Others, Carries the Legacy of Our Founders Forward

Phillipa Ashby '89 still remembers March 12, 1979, with startling clarity. She was 7 years old when she arrived at Milton Hershey School with her brother, Sterling Ashby '87—a day she describes not as a beginning, but as something closer to a rebirth.

"It feels like a born-on date," she says. "There's such a marked before and after. It's your day of possibility, but also a sad day. I still remember standing outside of [student home] Emerson, watching the car drive away. I can picture it like it was yesterday."

That moment—equal parts excitement and loss—became foundational. It taught Phillipa an emotional truth she still carries today: You can be happy and sad at the same time. "They're not mutually exclusive feelings," she explains. "It doesn't mean you don't enjoy."

Raised by a single mother, Phillipa enrolled at MHS after her mom learned about the school through a coworker. Though young, she wasn't entirely unfamiliar with being away from home, having spent time living with relatives earlier in childhood. What she didn't yet know was how deeply MHS would shape her understanding of herself—and others.



Phillipa with her brother Sterling Ashby '87 in 2017.

"Being in tune with yourself helps you be in tune with the people around you," she reflects. "That ability—to understand your emotions and own them—helps you empower others."

From the beginning, MHS felt welcoming. She remembers students running up to greet her, classmates braiding her hair for the first time, learning four square, and playing tee ball. "We felt like we ruled the playground," she laughs, reflecting on those times of being a kid. "We were the original Rugrats."

Those early years built a sense of belonging that never faded. Over time, that belonging evolved into deep bonds—friendships rooted in shared experience and mutual care. "It's truly family," Phillipa says. "My friends have been a life preserver. We're real with each other. That authenticity stays with you."

Both inside and outside the classroom, Phillipa thrived. She played the flute and saxophone, became a first-chair band member and drum major, ran track, played basketball, co-edited Acropolis—the MHS yearbook—contributed to Spartan Magazine, performed in theater, and served on student council. But the throughline wasn't about achievement for its own sake.

"One thing that stayed with me from the very beginning was a quest for excellence," she says. "Not about being the best—but being as excellent as I could be."

That expectation was reinforced by trusted adults at MHS who saw her potential and never questioned her ambition. Teachers and coaches pushed her, supported her, and normalized excellence. "No one ever asked, 'Why are you applying to Ivy League schools?'" she recalls. "It was expected."

She credits MHS houseparents, coaches, and teachers who championed students while holding them to high standards—people who believed love was shown through action. "At MHS, we knew we were loved," she says. "Love isn't someone saying it. It's their actions around you."

That environment gave Phillipa confidence—not only in her abilities, but in her identity. She learned to navigate the world as a Black woman, to understand how others might perceive her, and to remain grounded in who she is. "Milton Hershey School gave me the toolkit to understand my decisions in the right context," she explains.

After graduating in 1989, Phillipa's path reflected both discipline and exploration. She interned at Bell Labs, attended Brown University, studied abroad in Belgium, and later earned her graduate degree from The Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. Her career took her to Lincoln Financial Group, AIG, Bank of America, Independence Blue Cross, and General Electric, where she was part of the early Six Sigma movement—a program that teaches professionals methodologies for process improvements—and traveled the world as a member of GE's Corporate Audit Staff.

"Milton Hershey School taught me to become a leader," she says simply.

"One thing that stayed with me from the very beginning was a quest for excellence," she says. "Not about being the best—but being as excellent as I could be."

Today, Phillipa is the founder of Alchemi, a consultancy specializing in post–merger and acquisition integration. Her work sits at the intersection of strategy and humanity—helping organizations streamline operations while bringing out the best in their people.

"My ability to work with all types of people, recognize their strengths, and create an environment that storms, forms, and performs—that comes directly from Milton Hershey School," she says. "So many business problems stem from leaders struggling to bring out the best in people."

When Phillipa talks about leadership, her thoughts circle back to a photograph from her senior year at MHS. In it, a group of friends—diverse in background, unified in joy—are piled together on the floor in the high school.



Phillipa (center) with her friends during senior year.

"It looks like a made-for-TV movie," she says. "Pure joy. All ethnicities. We had known each other for years. We felt so bolstered by our peers and the adults around us that we could do anything."

That image still grounds her. It reminds her why she builds protective, empowering environments—whether in boardrooms, communities, or friendships. "[At MHS], we were loved," she repeats. "And it builds your confidence to know it's okay to be who you are."

Phillipa gives back through board service, community planning, and arts and environmental advocacy. "If you live somewhere," she says, "you need to add value to it." She continually finds ways to give back to her alma mater in gratitude for what she has received. Asked what she would say to the school's founders, Milton and Catherine Hershey, her answer is deeply personal.

"As someone who was unable to have children myself," she says, "thank you for taking what could have been a personal disappointment and turning it into one of the greatest legacies one could never have imagined."

More than four decades after her "born-on date," Phillipa continues to carry that legacy forward—leading with empathy, excellence, and the unshakable belief that people do their best when they know they are seen, supported, and loved.

ALUMNI News

A Note from the Director of Alumni Relations

Hello alumni brothers and sisters,



Trachanda García '02

As Milton Hershey School alumni, we walk through life carrying something extraordinary—an inner light shaped by our School Pledge. What began as words spoken in student homes and classrooms has become the quiet strength that guides us long after graduation.

As I reflect on the 100th anniversary of the MHS School Pledge, I am deeply grateful for the gift Milton and Catherine Hershey gave us. Because of our founders, we were given a set of values to stand on. The Pledge taught us integrity—calling us to honor ourselves and others through our actions while holding ourselves to aspirational standards. It reminds us to live the Golden Rule, which now forms the foundation of the trust people place in us. It taught us courage, the kind that carries us through challenges that can feel overwhelming. And it calls us to continual growth in spirit, mind, and body—shaping us into lifelong learners and compassionate leaders who serve those around us.

Our Pledge didn't just prepare us for life—it prepared us to be the light in a sometimes dark world. Every time we walk into a workplace, volunteer in our communities, or mentor another Spartan, we carry that light with us—quietly, consistently, and proudly.

This year, we have a powerful opportunity to reflect that light together through the **100 Years, 1,000 Voices Challenge**. I invite you to add your voice by sharing how the School Pledge has shaped your life—simply follow the instructions on the next page to submit your video. As you reflect, take a moment to read the enclosed School Pledge insert and consider displaying it in your home or office as a daily reminder of the values that unite us. Your story—whether big or small—matters. When we lift our voices together, we honor our shared past and inspire future generations of Spartans to carry this same light forward.

I also hope you'll join us in person during **Alumni Fellowship Weekend**. There is something truly special about returning home—walking familiar paths, reconnecting with classmates, and celebrating the bonds that make our community so strong. Marcus Rodriguez '23's story on pages four and five is one of many examples of how the MHS Career and Technical Education program has a lasting impact. As alumni, many of you carry valuable professional experiences across one or more of our 10 CTE program areas. Alumni Fellowship Weekend is your opportunity to give back by sharing your kinship, knowledge, and journey with Senior Division students through **Career Day** or the **Alumni–Senior Brunch**. If you haven't already, please update your information in our alumni database so you don't miss important registration details. I look forward to welcoming you back to Hershey soon.

With Spartan pride,

Trachanda García '02

Trachanda García '02
Director of Alumni Relations

2025-26 Alumni Calendar

Please plan to join Trachanda and your fellow alumni at these upcoming alumni events:

ALUMNI FELLOWSHIP WEEKEND
April 24-26, 2026
A weekend to bring together generations of Spartans to celebrate shared memories, enduring friendships, and a commitment to the school's mission. The weekend features career panels and the Alumni-Senior Brunch to present Achievement Awards to both alumni and students.

REGIONAL EVENTS
Regional events are being scheduled for 2026. More information will be shared soon!

Don't miss out on the latest information on these exciting events. Update your information at mhsalum.org/update.

Scan the QR code to update your information.

Our Pledge 100 Years

1,000 Voices CHALLENGE

This school year, we are excited to celebrate 100 years of the MHS School Pledge. You're invited to join the **100 YEARS, 1,000 VOICES CHALLENGE**—a movement to share what the Pledge means to **YOU** and how you live it every day—creating a powerful mosaic of stories.

Prompts to guide you as you reflect on the Pledge:

- Which part of the Pledge resonates most with you personally, and why?
- What can Our Pledge unlock in you?
- What role do you think pledges like this play in shaping a school culture?

Scan the QR code or visit **MHSKIDS.ORG/OURPLEDGE** to learn more.


















HARLEY
DAVIDSON













Alumni Reconnect at Homecoming Weekend 2025

The Milton Hershey School campus came alive from Oct. 23-26, 2025, as alumni, students, staff, and their families gathered for a much-anticipated Homecoming Weekend filled with connection, tradition, and fresh memories. **Mark your calendars and plan to join us for this year's Homecoming Weekend from Sept. 17-20, 2026—classes ending in 1s and 6s will celebrate reunions.**

Scan the QR code to view more photos from the weekend.



Congratulations to Our 2025 Spartan Hall of Fame Inductees

Since 2004, the Spartan Hall of Fame has recognized alumni for their outstanding accomplishments in athletics and the visual and performing arts while at MHS. On Friday, Oct. 24, 2025, alumni, Senior Division students, and staff gathered in Founders Hall Auditorium for the Spartan Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Each recipient was asked to reflect on how the 2025-26 school year theme, Our Pledge, resonated with them.



Michael Black '79
Athletics

"I encourage every MHS student to get involved with some type of activity so you can experience what it is like to be a team player. My MHS football coach said it best, 'Don't evaluate your games by statistics, but by effort—after every game ask yourself, did you give 100%? If you can say yes to that, you can hold your head up high."

Michael was a multi-sport athlete. He participated in football from his sophomore to his senior year, baseball from his freshman to his junior year, and swimming in his sophomore year. In football, he was selected as the 1978 Homecoming Game MVP. He was also named to the Capital Area Conference (CAC) First Team as a punter and defensive back, and Second Team as a kicker and running back. He was previously inducted into the Spartan Hall of Fame as a member of the 1977 CAC championship football team.



Gerald Burge '95
Visual and Performing Arts

"Whether it's music, art, sports, or something only you understand, pursue it."

As a student, Gerald was an accomplished tenor saxophone player. He was in the honor band his freshman year, as well as the jazz band his freshman and sophomore years. He also participated in both the varsity and county bands throughout high school. Beyond band, Gerald excelled in choir as a four-year member of varsity choir, New Horizons, H choir, and county chorus. He was also chosen for the Susquehanna Youth Chorale during his junior and senior years.



Christopher Clark '02
Athletics

"Life will challenge you, test you, and sometimes throw hurdles when you least expect them. But, if you keep to Our Pledge, live your values, trust God, and give 100% every single day, you'll not only get 100% in return, you'll make a high impact on the world around you."

Christopher was inducted for his accomplishments in track and field and football. For football, he was all-conference on offense and defense and served as the team's leader in tackles for two years. In track and field, Chris was a conference champion in 110 hurdles and 300 intermediate hurdles. In 2001, he was also a district champion in 300 intermediate hurdles. In his senior year, Chris placed third in the 4x400 relay, fourth in the 110 hurdles, and eighth in the 300 intermediate hurdles. In addition, his 4x100 relay team took first place at the conference and district meets.



Cheryl Davis '98
Visual and Performing Arts

"Your talents and gifts will open doors to amazing experiences, but your character and values will be the real record of impact you make in the world. Make sure you stand for excellence, integrity, and community, now and wherever life takes you."

Throughout high school, Cheryl participated in New Horizons, varsity choir, district choir, varsity band, jazz band, and marching band—where she served as drum major for three years. She also guest-conducted the Central PA Symphony Orchestra. She was in the gospel choir from her sophomore through senior years, was a Spartan Player, and was a member of the International Thespian Society. Cheryl participated in competition dance during her sophomore through senior years and won the Outstanding Dance Student award and Miss Teen NADAA title.



Duane Daly '74
Athletics

"The Spartan Hall of Fame and the MHS Pledge go hand in hand. If you take advantage of the opportunities offered to you [at MHS], things will work out well."

Duane participated in wrestling, football, and was a shot putter. In wrestling, he was a District 3 Class A champion with a senior-year record of 25-1. As a shot putter, he set the school record with a throw of 52 feet, 3 inches. In football, he was a member of the first MHS freshman team in 1971 and played defense all four years, never missing a game. He was a Big 33 Football Classic player and named to the Coaches All-American Midstate Top 100.



Ingrid Perez-Martin '98
Visual and Performing Arts

"Do not underestimate how powerful your light can be when you let it shine. The Pledge we recite is more than words—it's a reminder that we are part of something bigger than ourselves."

Ingrid was inducted for her outstanding performance across multiple MHS Visual and Performing Arts groups. In choir, her involvement grew throughout high school. Starting in her freshman year, she participated in the varsity choir. Then, she joined the gospel choir in her sophomore year. By her junior year, she was chosen for the honors choir. Then, in her senior year, she was selected to participate in New Horizons. In addition to choir, she participated in color guard from her sophomore through senior years. During her junior and senior years, she was in competition dance and Spartan Players.



AnnaMarie R. Rabassi-Davis
MHS retiree
Visual and Performing Arts

"Life's journey is much like the process necessary to succeed in the arts. They both demand the pursuit of excellence, grit, sacrifice, and perseverance. That means believing in yourself, pushing through even when you doubt you can."

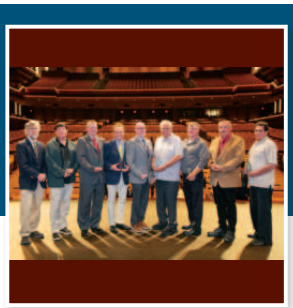
Ms. Davis was an Elementary Division performing arts teacher from Aug. 23, 1999, through her retirement on Aug. 1, 2016. She created and implemented a dual curriculum of drama/dance and theater etiquette, with the upper-grade levels attending Balanchine's Nutcracker annually at the Whitaker Center. In addition to her full-time position, she was the director of tap, drama, the stage crew, and the swing dance ensemble. Through these roles, she ensured high standards for students and challenged them in all performances. She received the Joseph and Sarah McDonald Teaching Award in 2012 and was honored with the MHS Board of Managers Chairman's Medallion in 2016 for outstanding teaching, achievement, integrity, and character.



Jennifer Rolfsema '98
Visual and Performing Arts

"We continue to learn and develop based on our passions and demands. MHS and my teachers gave me a place where I could create and showcase my artwork."

Jennifer was involved in the band from her junior year and in drama. She was also an award-winning student-artist. During her high school years, she earned a Scholastic Art Award and won a Harrisburg art competition. She credits MHS with allowing her to apply her graphic arts skills to a successful career as a designer, artist, and businesswoman.



The 1975 Cross Country Team
Athletics

"Reflecting on the induction, Gordon Jones '76 shared: "Running has proven to be as good for the mind as the body. I solve a lot of problems when I'm grinding out the miles. It brings me a sense of peace I might not know otherwise. So, I'm going to keep going, keep running my best race—even if it's only against myself. Just as Coach Ruth always told us to do, all those years ago."

This team was the first of five consecutive teams to go undefeated in Capital Area Conference (CAC) dual meets. They were also the first MHS team to win both the CAC Crown and Meet. In addition, the team took first place in the Crystal Pools Dauphin County Championship, were Class A Champs at the Solanco Invitational, defeated the Maryland State Champs at the Hereford Invitational, placed first in the Lebanon Valley College Invitational, and placed fourth out of 32 teams at the PIAA District III AA Championships.



Nominate a Graduate for an Alumni Award

At Milton Hershey School, the strength of our community is reflected in the lives and leadership of our alumni—and the alumni awards program celebrates those stories. From the Alumni Achievement Awards recognizing professional success, community service, and academic excellence, to the prestigious Alumni of the Year honor, and the Spartan Hall of Fame celebrating athletic and artistic accomplishments, these awards recognize graduates who embody the school's Sacred Values.

Nominations are now open, and we invite you to help us honor the Spartans who inspire you. If you know an alum whose achievements, integrity, and commitment to community deserve recognition, submit a nomination and help us celebrate the lasting impact of our MHS family.

Scan the QR code or visit mhsalum.org/awards to complete a nomination form.

MHSAA **News**

A Note from the MHS Alumni Association President



Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96

Dear fellow alumni,

As we reflect on another memorable year in the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association, I am honored to share a few important updates and heartfelt acknowledgments with our entire alumni community.

First, I am proud to introduce the newly elected 2026 Board of Directors. This dedicated group of alumni—both returning and newly appointed—brings an inspiring level of passion, experience, and commitment to advancing the mission of MHSAA. Together, we look forward to building upon the strong foundation laid by those who have served before us and continuing the work of supporting students, alumni, and the legacy of Milton and Catherine Hershey.

I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to everyone who joined us for Homecoming 2025. Your presence, enthusiasm, and shared spirit made the weekend truly special. From the Cuba in Hershey party to the Alumni Memorial Grove Service, and all the moments of connection in between, your participation keeps our traditions alive and thriving.

As we look ahead, I encourage all alumni to mark their calendars for Alumni Fellowship Weekend. This annual gathering is a meaningful opportunity to reconnect, reflect, and reaffirm what it means to be part of the MHS family. Whether you've attended many times or are considering joining us for the first time, Fellowship offers something deeply valuable for every graduate.

Finally, I would like to recognize and congratulate our Honorary Chapter Inductees. These individuals exemplify the true spirit of service, dedication, and love for our school and its mission. Their contributions strengthen our community in countless ways, and we are proud to welcome them into this special chapter of MHSAA.

Thank you for your continued support of MHSAA and for the many ways you live out the values instilled in us as students. Together, we carry forward a legacy of gratitude, service, and brother- and sisterhood that remains as strong today as ever.

With warm regards,

Mary Pratt-Lauchle '96
MHSAA President

Welcoming the 2025 Honorary Chapter Inductees

During Homecoming Weekend, the Milton Hershey School Alumni Association inducted five individuals into the Honorary Chapter in recognition of their significant contributions and support of MHS, its students, and the alumni community.



William Grove

Mr. Grove joined MHS in 1966 as an instrumental music teacher for the Elementary and Junior Division, and he led the Junior Band. From 1985 through 1991, he served as the Senior Division instrumental music teacher and as director of the Varsity Band, Spartan Jazz Band, and Brass Ensemble.



Amy and Nolan Hauser

Mr. and Mrs. Hauser began as houseparents at MHS in 1983 in Middle Division and Senior Division until their retirement in 2017. After retirement, they remained committed to the school's mission—Mrs. Hauser contracted in the Clothing Center from 2019 through 2021, and Mr. Hauser began a contractor role in Health Services, a position he still holds today.



Linda and Dennis Van Scoyoc

Mr. and Mrs. Van Scoyoc started their careers at MHS in the summer 1980—Mr. Van Scoyoc as a herdsman and Mrs. Van Scoyoc as a relief houseparent. They started their careers as houseparents in 1982 and retired in Jan. 2014.

CLASS Notes



Photo courtesy of Dustin McGrew Photography

MHS Alum Ashes Travel to Space

On Sept. 18, 2025, at 5:30 a.m. EDT, a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket could be seen over the Pittsburgh skyline. The mission launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, and was carrying the ashes of 1978 MHS Alumnus of the Year **Dr. K. Thomas Davies '53** as a tribute to his mentorship in physics from a Duquesne University student who now works for SpaceX. Dr. Davies was a professor of physics at Duquesne University and department chair. He passed on June 2, 2024.

1950s

A. J. "Jack" Gabig '53, of Williamsburg, Virginia, spent time at the Founders Hall Visitors Center with his family to celebrate his 90th birthday. The staff in the Visitors Center gave them a special tour and pointed out Jack's portrait on the Alumni of the Year wall. He also spent time reminiscing with Kenneth "Ken" Palovitz '50.



Jack Gabig '53 (right) visits with Ken Palovitz '50 (left) in Founders Hall.

David May '55, of Amherst, New York, continues to play woodwinds with several bands. He also does occasional commercial voiceovers and is involved in computer programming, including program design and custom applications.

John Feeney '56, of Laguna Niguel, California, celebrates 65 years of marriage to his wife in July. He is now retired.

L. Kenneth Subers'58, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, is retired from IBEW and electrical design.

Eldred Foore '59, of Palmyra, Pennsylvania, has been married for 64 years. He is retired and lives in Londonderry Village in Palmyra, with several MHS alumni and many former MHS staff. He and his wife are involved with various volunteer programs. They moved back to Palmyra after living at the beach in Delaware for 12 years. They have two sons, four grandchildren, and eight (soon to be nine) great-grandchildren.

1960s

Ray Randlett '62, of Delaware, Ohio, published "Mike-37... Thanks for your service", a memoir about the Vietnam War. It tells a story few know about, even those who served. He led five soldiers living and working with local Vietnamese near the end of the war. It is about a time when America's leadership was giving up, and many people were actively hostile to those serving in the military. No one said "thanks." The book reminds us that our reality is just a reflection of our experience.

Ken Whitney '62, of San Diego, California, retired at the age of 81 from his dog and cat delivery business. His primary focus is now on metabolic health and fitness. He also lectures on money, crypto, credit, and commodities—how they work and their economic and inflationary effects. He shares, "I can't seem to just sit and retire."

Andrew Morgan '65, of Belleville, Illinois, celebrated 53 years of marriage. He has three adult children and five grandchildren. He shares that he is now in remission after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in October 2019.

Ken Gandy '67, of Friendsville, Tennessee, is enjoying retirement life with his wife Lisa in East Tennessee. His hobbies include hiking in the Smoky Mountains National Park, lapidary, golf, and traveling.

1970s

Michael Kenna '70, of Port Townsend, Washington, recently sold his business to an employee and retired after 50 years of ownership of Printery Communications.

Jim Cardow '71, of Shalimar, Florida, is enjoying retirement with his wife of 52 years. They enjoy traveling. They have cruised from Istanbul to Athens and did a land tour in Spain and Portugal. They also did a river cruise through Germany, Austria, and Hungary. Their next trip will take them to Egypt.

Albert Leonzi '71, of Edinboro, Pennsylvania, is currently doing campus ministry work at PennWest Edinboro. He is the vice president and past president of Edinboro Area Senior Citizens. He is a Confirmation Instructor of 52 years at Faith Formation at Our Lady of the Lake R.C. Church. He is also a reader and commentator and is involved with Eucharistic ministry, choir, and hospitality. He



MHS Alumni Celebrate the Legacy of Dr. King on Campus

On Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, MHS students and staff gathered to remember and celebrate the legacy of Dr. King. The assembly featured performances by **Judy Agyepong '02** and Visual and Performing Arts groups, as well as remarks from **Michele Y. Smith '90**.

Scan the QR code to read the story.

has been an AARP Driver Safety instructor for 22 years and is a zone coordinator across multiple counties in northwestern Pennsylvania. He has been with Penn State Cooperative Extension for 26 years and is a member of the Edinboro Historical Society.

Grover Amspacher '72, of Dover, Pennsylvania, is married with two boys; they enjoy working on classic and antique cars. He loves woodworking and collecting Matchbox and Hot Wheels cars. He and his wife enjoy yard selling and just spending time together and with family. He is retired from welding, a career he had for most of his life.

L. Michael Dove '76, of Bloomsburg, Pennsylvania, is retired and "living the dream."

Peter Leary '76, of Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, is retired and enjoying boating, fishing, golfing, and the beach. He shares, "MHS staff helped make this happen by caring for me and helping me grow up with life skills in my formative years. Thanks!"

William Harding '78, of Ruskin, Florida, published his sixth book. He was awarded his 23rd biomedical engineering patent. He built his dream house in South Tampa and is celebrating 40 years with his wife. They welcomed their third puppy (Roo, Ivi, and Syd). He is currently teaching doctoral students in cybersecurity, systems engineering, and AI/ML.

1980s

Jeffrey Fasnacht '80, of Lewes, Delaware, retired in August 2024 from Harley Davidson Motor Company in York, Pennsylvania, after 34 years. He was a set-up person in the press department, where they made fenders and gas tanks. He moved to Lewes, Delaware, in October 2024 with his wife Bonnie. He loves saltwater fishing and enjoys life. He shares, "God is good."

Lynda Sullivan '82, of Vero Beach, Florida, has been teaching for 28 years. This year, she was promoted to administration as a character coach. She is also the coordinator of her school's MicroSociety Program. She shares that it has been her privilege to work closely with students in kindergarten through 8th grade in a student leadership program. She writes: "It's rewarding to see students stepping up into roles of excellence!"

Mary Ann Lovell '84, of Riverview, Florida, is currently the president of the Tampa Bay Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners. She will begin to be a guardian ad litem for Hillsborough County, which is supporting abused, orphaned, and neglected children in court cases.

Sheri Bradley '85, of Wausau, Florida, recently built her forever home in the Florida Panhandle with her husband and partner, Peottra Pickett. For the past 20 years, she has had a successful career in property claim adjusting. In addition, she coaches solopreneurs on running a financially sound business that does not depend solely on their efforts. In addition, she purchases investment properties with her husband.

Herb Gieringer '85, of Reading, Pennsylvania, celebrated his 30th anniversary with his wife, Marcy Jo. They have three children and two grandchildren.

Deborah Jackson '85, of Coudersport, Pennsylvania, lost her husband of 32 years in March 2024; however, she will become a great-grandmother in March 2026.

Teresa Mintz '88, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, retired as a human resource professional. She is now enjoying time with her middle school-aged kids.



MHS Alumnus Turns Success into Service

Guided by the principles of the School Pledge, alumnus **Garry Gilliam '09** transformed lessons learned at MHS into a career focused on innovation and giving back. His journey demonstrates how MHS prepares students to lead with purpose.

Scan the QR code to read the story.

CLASS Notes

Brother and Sister Turn Curiosity and Opportunity into Thriving Careers



Through hands-on learning in the Automotive Technology CTE program area, **Anh-Son Tran '11** turned his natural curiosity into a clear sense of purpose. Today, the skills, work ethic, and adaptability he developed at MHS guide his success in advanced manufacturing and engineering roles.

Scan the QR code to read his story.



Mai-Linh Tran '04 has built a thriving career in health care and financial IT by applying the resilience and work habits she developed at MHS. The opportunities she embraced on campus gave her the confidence to explore new paths and continue growing throughout her professional journey.

Scan the QR code to read her story.

1990s

Christopher Ward '90, of San Francisco, California, launched a nonprofit helping others bring their ideas to life through small-scale manufacturing.

Erica Horyza '93, of Milpitas, California, got married on July 20, 2024. She obtained her real estate broker license, Notary Public commission, and paralegal certificate. She is working full time as a real estate executive assistant and contracts as a Notary and paralegal. She is a full-time participant in the Northern California Renaissance Faire and the Great Dickens Christmas Faire in San Francisco.

Nicole Dorman '96, of Astoria, New York, launched Bean Voyage, her own coffee and tea brand, with an online merchandise store. Learn more at beanvoyagecoffeeandtea.com.

Kyle Board '97, of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, published his autobiography, titled "Pieces of Me." It is available on Amazon.

2010s

Jade (Jensen) Damm '12, of Bradford, Pennsylvania, got married on May 9, 2025.

Sheyanne Cratty '12, of Hazleton, Pennsylvania, is planning her wedding on June 27, 2026.

Alexandra Horn '13, of Wilmington, Delaware, recently switched career paths and is a project engineer for Wohlsen Construction. Prior to this position, Alexandra worked for eight years in aviation as a quality engineer.

Chris Fink '14, of Swarthmore, Pennsylvania, was promoted to assistant vice president and placement support manager at Guy Carpenter in Philadelphia. He is excited to expand his role at the company and take on a leadership position.

Joshua Arledge '15, of Round Rock, Texas, founded a consultancy for deaf education and related services. He is currently enrolled in a doctoral program for educational leadership.

Anthony Repetti '15, of Gardner, Massachusetts, purchased his first home on Oct. 10, 2025.

Sky (Munson) Graves '18, of Mill Hall, Pennsylvania, got married to Evan Graves on June 7, 2025.

Samantha (Walters) Johnson '18, of McLean, Virginia, got married to Ethan Johnson in Sept. 2025.



MHS alumni attend a fellow graduate's wedding—from left to right, Florinda Good-Gonzales '19, Jennilee Lafferty '17, Re'Naye Waklatsi '19, Samantha Johnson '18 (bride), Sandra Good-Gonzales '19, and Celeste Bobro '18.

2020s

Assata Allah-Shabazz '21, of Bayonne, New Jersey, is pursuing a master's degree in sports business at Temple University while working as a publicity assistant at Lafayette College. She also writes for ESPN on occasion and is interning this spring with the Philadelphia Union. In February 2026, she worked with NBC on coverage of the winter Olympics in Milan, Italy. She shares, "I'm passionate about the fast-paced, ever-evolving sports industry and aspire to work for a professional sports organization, contribute to an award-winning documentary team, and eventually become an executive in digital media communications."

Deaths

Kenneth Brady '40, of Catonsville, Maryland, passed away on Jan. 15, 2026.

Lee Owen '40, of Bellwood, Pennsylvania, passed away on Nov. 24, 2025.

Bryon Smith '46, of Lititz, Pennsylvania, passed away on April 30, 2025.

Graham Wilson McIntyre '49, 1991 MHS Alumnus of the Year, passed away on Aug. 30, 2025.

Richard Hartman '49, of Yardley, Pennsylvania, passed away on March 25, 2025.

H. Stanley Wills '49, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, passed away on June 29, 2025.

James Hartnett '50, of Telford, Pennsylvania, passed away on Dec. 9, 2025.

Charles Hess '51, of Southern Shores, North Carolina, passed away on June 13, 2025.

Dalphon Jacobs '51, of Spring Township, Pennsylvania, passed away on Dec. 22, 2025.

William Dennis '53, of McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, passed away on Feb. 23, 2025.



MHS Mourns the Passing of 1991 Alumnus of the Year

It is with great sadness that we have learned about the death of former Alumnus of the Year **Graham Wilson McIntyre '49**. MHS honored Colonel (Retired) McIntyre in 1991 for his service in the United States Army. Additionally, he spent two decades in a second career as director of research and resources for The George Washington University's School of Engineering and Applied Science.

Scan the QR code to read the story.

James E. Murray '54, of Tyrone, Pennsylvania, passed away on Nov. 15, 2025.

Richard Jackowsky '55, of Glen Mills, Pennsylvania, passed away on Jan. 29, 2026.

Carl Beck '56, of Painesville Township, Ohio, passed away on April 27, 2025.

John Rosarius '56 passed away on July 8, 2025.

Arthur Bossler '57, of Cornwall, Pennsylvania, passed away on Sept. 20, 2025.

Joseph Corson '57, of Bowie, Maryland, passed away on May 15, 2025.

William Zombro '58, of York, Pennsylvania, passed away on March 31, 2025.

Richard Hersh '59, of South Whitehall Township, Pennsylvania, passed away on June 5, 2025.

John McCabe '59, of Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania, passed away on Dec. 4, 2025.

Brian O'Neill '59, of Hershey, Pennsylvania, passed away on Dec. 26, 2025.

Joel Clarke '61, of Wisconsin, passed away on Aug. 19, 2025.

Stephen Quick '61, of Upper Chichester, Pennsylvania, passed away on Nov. 17, 2024.

Richard Cross '63, of Easton, Pennsylvania, passed away on Oct. 1, 2025.

George Delany '64 of Rehobeth, Massachusetts, passed away on Jan. 21, 2026.

Keith Horning, '65, of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, passed away on Dec. 21, 2025.

John Rogale '69, of Washington Township, Pennsylvania, passed away on July 28, 2025.

James K. Harvey '69, of Plano, Texas, passed away on Nov. 26, 2025.

John Rogale '69, of Washington Township, Pennsylvania, passed away on July 28, 2025.

Timothy Killion '70, of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, passed away on Jan. 4, 2025.

John Cogdell '78, of Stoughton, Massachusetts, passed away on Nov. 23, 2025.

Barry S. Woodcraft '78, of Marshfield, Missouri, passed away on Jan. 10, 2026.

Nicholas Beidelman '83, of Schnecksville, Pennsylvania, passed away on June 13, 2025.

Julee Hixon '84, of Chesapeake, Virginia, passed away on Jan. 5, 2026.

Michael Cover '13, of Lebanon, Pennsylvania, passed away on Sept. 25, 2025.

John Hoerner 'HM, of Hershey, Pennsylvania, passed away on May 19, 2025.

Staff and Retiree Deaths

Wallace Conway passed away on Jan. 21, 2026. He started at MHS in 1960 as a math teacher, assistant wrestling coach, substitute houseparent, and assisted with intramural sports until his retirement in 1997.

William Deliberty passed away on Sept. 19, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1969 to 2003 as a guidance counselor, director of athletics/intramural, and recreation leader.

Robert Johnson passed away on July 29, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1984 to 1994, and from 2000 to 2011 as a houseparent.

Margaret Koppenhaver passed away on July 16, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 2002 to 2010 as a custodian.

Irene Kyle passed away on Jan. 31, 2026. She started at MHS in 1977 as a houseparent until her retirement in 1989. She continued her career as a relief houseparent from 1990 to 2014.

Joseph Miller passed away on Nov. 3, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1977 to 2018 as an AEE instructional advisor.

Rosa Reigle passed away on July 17, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 2002 to 2018 as a custodian.

Edward Schaeffer passed away on Nov. 21, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1963 to 2000 as a dentist.

Jessie Sharpe passed away on June 21, 2025. She was employed by MHS from 1998 to 2013 as a school nurse.

Fred Speicher passed away on Dec. 12, 2025. He was employed by MHS from 1960 to 1992 as a herdsman and dairy supervisor.

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ALUMNI Calendar

All dates are tentative. Please refer to **mhskids.org/events** and the Spartan Minute e-blast series for updates.

April

24	Career Day
24-26	Alumni Fellowship Weekend

June

13	Fourth and Eighth Grade Promotions
14	Commencement

July

6	Catherine Hershey's Birthday

August

17	Opening of School

Spartans, stay in the loop and strengthen the network—scan the QR code now to update your information or visit mhsalum.org/update.