



———— MOUNTAIN CREST ————  
**parent organization**

JAN/FEB 2022 NEWSLETTER • ISSUE 12

## Inside this Issue:

MARCUS MAW

Teacher  
of the Year

MC Guitar  
Program Wows

Winter Whiteout  
Dance Recap

MUSTANGS OF THE MONTH  
December & January

MCPO MISSION STATEMENT

Promoting partnership between parents, teachers, students, administrators, and the greater Mountain Crest High School (MCHS) community to create and support an environment where MCHS students can learn, grow, and succeed.



PAGE 7

**MC Students and Families Raise Funds to  
Brighten Holidays for Local Families**

# Upcoming Events

No School January 16, Martin Luther King Day

UTA Drama Convention, January 12 - 14

Registration Rodeo

January 18 and 19, MCHS Commons

MCHS 3 v 3 Basketball Tournament

January 23 - 26

MCHS Volleybros Tournament

January 30 - February 2

State Drill Competition @ UVU, February 2 - 3

Sweetheart's Dance

February 4, Girl's Choice

State Swim @ BYU, February 10

Talent Show Auditions, February 14 - 15

No School February 17, 20 & 21

\*Last day of 2nd Semester February 16, President's Day

Midsummer Night's Dream Presented by MCHS Drama

February 23 to 27, MCHS Auditorium

Girls & Boys State Basketball

Beginning February 23

Cache Valley Polar Plundge, March 3

Juniors take ACT Test @ MCHS

March 7

## MCPO General Board Meeting

Thursday, February 2 at the MCHS Sunroom.

## Membership Meeting for Entire MCPO

Thursday, April 13, 7 pm at the MCHS Sunroom. New officer elections. Mark your calendars!

\*Executive Board Meetings held the first Thursday of each month.

## Donations

Use the QR code below to make a MCPO \$10 Difference Donation for your family. 100% of donations stay at MCHS. We appreciate your support!



FROM THE PRESIDENT:

## Why End-of-Year Testing?

My oldest son just graduated with a master's degree from the London School of Economics in International Social and Public Policy. He is now a Research Assistant at Kings College in London working on an evaluation team studying the effectiveness and success of UK programs and policies. A few years ago, he worked on a similar team in Malawi, Africa evaluating an agricultural education program for local farmers. Its purpose was to make sure the program was effective. From that research, they changed instructional methods at the agricultural school as needed to better serve local families. It was an incredibly rewarding experience for him.

To be honest, until recently I didn't know these kinds of jobs existed. But I've learned that a lot of resources are used in different sectors of our society to evaluate the effectiveness of programs and policies. And our educational system is no different.

A substantial amount of time and money is spent on research, assessment, and evaluation in education to make sure what is being taught is actually translating into knowledge and skills for students. And they do that kind of assessment and evaluation through the Utah Board of Education tests that are usually administered at the end of the year. Currently, those are the Aspire tests.

I am aware there are different opinions about standardized testing, and even some controversy. But I am hoping that in the forming of our own opinions on this subject, we consider these thoughts.

Now more than ever, we, as parents, need a lot from our schools - we need not only a safe, positive place for them to be, but also a place where they gain crucial knowledge and learn essential skills to be successful in today's world. It is no small task. And one that, in general, educators are striving to do better every day.

One way that schools address complex issues and make improvements is through evaluation - using a standard assessment tool administered to all students the same way so there aren't biases or discrepancies. From those evaluations, they gather data that help them make future policy, staffing, and instructional decisions. Thus, each one of our students needs to not only be present for those evaluations but invested mentally and emotionally in them - so the school can see how they are doing and how to improve. The school knows they are not fun. They know they are long. They know they might be boring. But they are a necessary tool.

So, in the coming months as students start end-of-year testing, I encourage you to have conversations in your families about these tests, maybe try approaching it with a different attitude, and use even some different vernacular - like calling it the Aspire Evaluation instead of the Aspire Test. In reality, these are simple things we can do to "do our part" in the education of our students.

*Michelle*

## Christmas Tree Jubilee Success

Special thanks to Jenna Oakey and those who helped with Mountain Crest High School's (MCHS) tree for the Cache Education Foundation's Christmas Tree Jubilee.

A local business purchased MCHS's tree for \$3200; raising funds that benefit the foundation.

Jenna Oakey, MCPO board member, once again planned and decorated MCHS's tree. This year's tree was designed with a Woodland theme featuring miniature owls, pine cones, berries, bird houses, and wreathes.

"I always feel as if it brings the spirit of Christmas early into my home. I get to use my creative mind and design something I can be proud of," Jenna said. "I want to thank the administration at MCHS, Principal Terri Cutler, and the MCPO for their help and support."





This month the MC Parent Organization is pleased to spotlight **Ryan Visser** and **Wendy Egbert**. We're grateful for the time and energy they've dedicated to building positive experiences for MC students. They're making a difference!

**RYAN VISSER –**

*Social Studies/Weights/Head Football Coach*

I am the head football coach, and a teacher of social studies and weights. I love being around the students and playing a role in helping them reach their potential.



My wife and I grew up in Preston, Idaho and went to Utah State. So coming back to teach in the valley and raise our family here is really special. We have two kids and love to spend time with them. I love to travel, go out to eat, just chill, and watch a good show/movie/game.

Something that happened to me in high school was while filming a short video for our school exec my friends and I filmed myself getting “ran over” in my car. We didn’t plan it well and I dented my car pretty severely, rolling over the top of the hood!

My advice for students is to enjoy this time of their life! You don’t need to grow up so fast. There will be plenty of time for all of that. This should be a great time of your life. Have fun, and get involved! Get out of your comfort zone and try new things.

**WENDY EGBERT –**

*Athletic Director*

I worked with Mark Weber (the former Athletic Director ) before he left Mountain Crest to coach at Idaho State. I am now the Athletic Director.



I love getting to know the students at Mountain Crest. My office seems to be a place for gathering, eating lunch, grabbing a snack, and getting a reward of chocolate milk. I went to Utah State on a full-ride Track and Field Scholarship. I found a lot of success throwing the shot, discus, and especially the hammer. In 1996, I was ranked 4th in the Nation and got the privilege to compete in the Olympic Trials in Atlanta Georgia.

I now live in Wellsville and have 5 children all of which have attended Mountain Crest. I love to spend time with my family, sewing, scrapbooking, and going to Mountain Crest athletic events.

My advice for students is to get involved! It doesn’t have to be athletics. But join something -- a club, FFA, choir, band, etc. Doing so will help you get to know new people, enjoy coming to school, and make you a more well-rounded individual.

# January Mustangs *of the* Month



STEPHEN GOWENS — *Senior, Wellsville*

**Parent(s):** Tim and Monica Gowens

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:** “The school mascot and the teachers.”

VIVIANE MADDOCK — *Senior, Paradise*

**Parent(s):** Amanda Undhjem

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:**

“The ability to be included in all of the school activities.”



DARCY CHRISTENSEN — *Sophomore, Hyrum*

**Parent(s):** Nathan and Heidi Christensen

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:**

“Everyone at Mountain Crest is so nice and the atmosphere is amazing.”

CHARLOTTE JONES — *Freshman, Paradise*

**Parent(s):** Jennifer and Jody Jones

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:**

“I love how everyone is so respectful.”



# December Mustangs *of the Month*



SADIE GIFFORD — *Senior, Hyrum*

**Parent(s):** John and Jessica Gifford

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:**

“I love the pride that we have here at the school. We are who we are and we’re not afraid to show it. Everyone here is so inclusive and supportive of one another.”

CARLOS LOPEZ — *Junior, Hyrum*

**Parent(s):** Carlos Lopez

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:** “My favorite thing about being a mustang is all the support from the teachers and students here.”



EDEN UNDERDOWN — *Sophomore, Hyrum*

**Parent(s):** Christine Underdown

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:** “I love all of the support in the school and the environment. People are super nice and inclusive and the teachers are always willing to help. Everyone pushes us to do our best but are understanding when we fail. The constant optimism always lifts my spirits.”



MASON MURDOCK — *Freshman, Logan*

**Parent(s):** Mike and Jocelyn Murdock

**Favorite thing about being a Mustang:** “I love the community’s kindness and everyone. Especially the school spirit. It’s amazing how fun high school can be.”



# Good News at MC!

Email [tarabone@msn.com](mailto:tarabone@msn.com) when you see positive MC happenings – we want to share the good news!

## Annual Merry Mustang Exceeds Goal

Every year in December, MCHS's halls bustle with Merry Mustang, a fundraising event organized by MC's student government with activities that range from holding puppies to shaving heads. All funds raised from the activities go back to students in need from the school.

"Merry Mustang was a huge success, we were able to provide Christmases for some of our students and it was a blast!" says Brody Shock, Executive Council member. "We raised enough money to exceed our goal thanks to generous donations!"

Some of this year's activities included a Christmas party with a raffle, a white elephant gift exchange, and Christmas movie. Two students also shaved their heads for a fundraiser and a Christmas concert was held during flex hour.

Thank you to all students, teachers and staff member who participated and donated.



## MC Basketball Teams Brighten Family's Christmas

Last December, the Mountain Crest (MC) girls and boys basketball players and families came together to create a memorable Christmas for a local family with eight children whose father recently died from cancer.



"Besides making sure they had a Christmas this year, we wanted to create some Christmas memories to help ease the pain of not having their father this year," said a player's mother who wishes to remain anonymous. "The community was so willing, it was so awesome!"

She shares that there were miracles along the way as they raised funds and gathered in-kind donations and "experiences" from local businesses to make magic happen for the family's eight children who range in age from four to 20 years old.

These experiences included a private movie showing at The Utah Theatre, an evening of dinner at Juniper Takeout with tickets to a Utah State basketball game complete with Aggie gear from The Logo Shop, and a day with a Hardware Ranch sleigh ride followed by Firehouse Pizza and Crumbl cookies. Lazy-One also donated matching family Christmas pajamas, Crystal Hot Springs gave a family swim pass, and Old Grist Mill has provided bread for 2023.

In addition, the teams raised over \$3,000. Each child created a wish list and the MC players went to work purchasing and wrapping. An iPad was also donated to complete the wish list. The teams delivered the gifts to the family on December 5 to a "very grateful family."

The teams wish to thank the businesses who helped brighten this family's Christmas and teach MC players life lessons.

- Utah Theatre
- Firehouse Pizza
- Lazy-One
- Crystal Hot Springs
- Crumbl Cookies
- Bluebird Chocolates
- Casper's Ice Cream
- Hardware Ranch
- Mountain Crest High
- Juniper Takeout
- Utah State Basketball
- School Booster Club
- The Logo Shop
- Old Grist Mill

## Congratulations Coach Visser



PC: Lorene Hale

Cache Valley Media Group's 2022 All-Region 11 awards named Mountain Crest's Ryan Visser Coach of the Year. Though this is Coach Visser's first year at MC, his positive influence has led to memorable experiences for student-athletes both on and off the field.

**The following is from Eric Frandsen - Cache Valley Daily, December 1, 2022**

"Coach Visser has turned the MC program around," said [John Olsen, analyst for the Mustangs on 107.7KLZX].

"His ability to build a culture of brotherhood was amazing. He loves the boys and the team."

Visser's Mustangs finished 3rd in Region 11 with an overall record of 8-5 ...

Additionally, under Visser's leadership the Mustangs made it to the 4A semifinals in his first year after defeating #3 Dixie 28-21 on the road.

"After having to start over with three coaches in three years, he got the team to believe in themselves," Olsen added.

"And in a short offseason, he brought in an entire new staff and got coaches, parents and players to come together!"

# Good News at MC Cont...

Email [tarabone@msn.com](mailto:tarabone@msn.com) when you see positive MC happenings – we want to share the good news!

## Marcus Maw Named Teacher of the Year

Courtesy Cache County School District, Baileigh Beebe.

In his roles as both a teacher and an IHC athletic trainer, Marcus Maw spends long hours at Mountain Crest High School (MCHS), arriving at work as early as 7 am and often working as late as 9 or 10 p.m. Why? Simply because he loves the kids.

"I just like working with the kids. I can relate to them really easily. I'm a kid at heart, and I just get along with them really well," Maw expressed. "It's fun to see them learn, and see them heal and be able to come back and compete in their sport when they get injured."

While teaching a full class load, taping ankles, and helping student-athletes recover from injuries, Maw uses his time to connect with students and push them to be the best they can be. Maw's dedication and passion for helping students are just a few reasons he was named Mountain Crest High School's 2022-23 Teacher of the Year.

His love and passion for sports motivated Maw to earn a degree in athletic training from the University of Utah. He then moved to Cache Valley to earn a Master's in Exercise Science from Utah State. His first job was as an athletic trainer and teacher at Sky View High School. At first, he only taught exercise science, but once he earned his teaching license and continued his education, Maw could teach various subjects. Now, he teaches several health-related subjects, including Advanced Health Science, Exercise Science, Intro to Health Science, and Intro to Emergency Medical Services.

His role as an athletic trainer is to help athletes who have suffered an injury, provide rehabilitation care, and create programs that help strengthen athletes and prevent injuries. He attends every practice and home sporting event the school has - no matter the season or sport.

"... Not only does he teach all day, but then he spends most of his nights at the school helping our student-athletes. Yes, being an athletic trainer is part of his job description. However, he goes above and beyond by being the best athletic trainer in the region," explained Teri Cutler, principal



# More Than Sweet Music: MC's Tyler Putnam Builds Guitar Program *and* Student Confidence

At the conclusion of every semester, about 100 nervous and excited Mountain Crest (MC) beginning guitar students pack the auditorium's stage for their guitar debut. The auditorium is packed with parents and families who don't know what to expect from the eager students who sit expectantly with their guitars, waiting for their mentor Tyler Putnam to give the cue.



*Pictured Above: Over 100 students participated in the Fall 2022 Mountain Crest Guitar Concert.*

The result is electric, and to many audience members a surprise to hear rocking renditions of “The Yellow Submarine,” “Paint it Black,” and “Take Me Home Country Roads.” By concert end, the crowd is clapping along and wondering how one teacher can take 100 high school students in one short semester to create such a musical experience.

Tyler Putnam has been growing MC's guitar program – along with his students' confidence and musical abilities – for almost 7 years. This is his 15th year teaching. Students say they love his engaging methods, kindness, and appreciate the opportunity to learn a new skill or improve their abilities with Mr. Putnam's guidance.

Mr. Putnam started playing guitar when he was 14 years old and graduated from Utah State University (USU) with a Music Education degree with an emphasis in Guitar. While at USU, he auditioned for and joined the 23rd Army Band in the Utah National Guard. He has been performing with this group for 17 ½ years.

Mr. Putnam teaches about 300 guitar students each year. This semester he has just over 100 students. He says building a guitar program has been a challenge, but his favorite moments are watching students change in the short time they're in his class and seeing them excel in the concerts.

For many students, the unique experience to be part of the guitar classes helps them navigate the challenges they face. Mr. Putnam has observed this over his years of teaching.

“My classes are geared to give them [students] as much practical guitar knowledge and ability as possible in a few short semesters,” he says. “It also gives purpose and direction for many students looking to find out who they are at this age. It builds confidence and teamwork as we work toward performing material.”

## Guitar Classes currently offered:

South Cache Beginning Guitar  
Mountain Crest Beginning Guitar  
\*students often take both above classes\*  
MC Beginning Guitar level 2

MC Intermediate Guitar  
MC Intermediate Guitar 2  
Auditioned Electric Ensemble during flex

## Mark Your Calendar!

Laugh-Out-Loud Comedy & One of Shakespeare's most popular works ... all right here at MCHS.



# MCPO Winter Dance Draws a Crowd

By Wendy Osborne

On December 3, 2022 Mountain Crest Parent Organization sponsored a Winter Whiteout dance. It consisted of a snowy winter night (how fitting!), a game area, black-lights, Just Dance, fun music and lots of students dressed in white and neon! With the help of Cache Valley Light and Sound as our DJ's, we kicked the dance off around 9pm.

The Winter Whiteout dance was a stag dance, so kids came by themselves, with a friend, or in groups. There were games in the entrance area: 9 Square, Corn Hole, Spike Ball, and a photo area. During the dance some were spotlighted for their creative attire, dancing, and fun energy! The kids enjoyed the Just Dance songs and it was great to see them have so much fun all night.

The dance concluded around 11 pm, with the kids wishing they had more time on the dance floor. It was a fun evening with a great group of kids. Even the DJ's told us this was the best school dance they have done – the kids had a lot of good energy – danced all night, and had no problems at all. They were very impressed with the kids who attended, and wanted to make sure to let everyone know.

We want to thank all parents who helped support the dance by cutting out snowflakes, setting up, manning the ticket table, chaperoning, helping with the games and taking photos for the kids, creating and providing prizes, creating the Just Dance playlist, cleaning up, and encouraging their kids to attend. We also want to thank Cache Valley Light and Sound for providing the music, black-lights, and projector for the Just Dance songs. Thank you also to the Mountain Crest administration and to all the custodians who helped us all night. We thank all of you and know this would not have been as successful a night without you and all you do!



## Counselor Corner

We are currently in the middle of registering our Juniors for their Senior year. If your Junior hasn't received registration materials yet, have them come to the counseling office to pick them up. These papers will help prepare students for a meeting with their counselor.

If you have not already done so, please schedule a time for you and your Junior to meet with your school counselor by scanning the QR code below.



MCCOUNSELING.WEBLY.COM

## Thank You Teachers! MCPO Teacher Luncheon

Once again MCPO members showed gratitude to MCHS teachers during Parent-Teacher Conferences on January 9. Thank you MCPO members who brought food items. And thank you to Michelle Bundy, Lisa Nebeker, and Breanne Skinner for their coordination efforts.



# Directory

MICHELLE HUNSAKER  
President  
[hunsakerfamily12@gmail.com](mailto:hunsakerfamily12@gmail.com)

MEGAN WOOLSTENHULME  
Secretary  
[meganjw@gmail.com](mailto:meganjw@gmail.com)

STEPHANIE FINLAYSON  
Treasurer/Stang Spotlight  
[3daisyfins@gmail.com](mailto:3daisyfins@gmail.com)

KELLY CHAMBERS  
Assistant Treasurer  
[kelly@champlinhomes.com](mailto:kelly@champlinhomes.com)

TARA BONE  
Communications Chair  
[tarabone@msn.com](mailto:tarabone@msn.com)

AUDREY ANDRUS  
Recruitment Chair  
[ajandrus7@gmail.com](mailto:ajandrus7@gmail.com)

WENDY OSBORNE  
Teacher VP/Social Media  
[osborne13@me.com](mailto:osborne13@me.com)

BRYN HEINER  
Academic Chair/Parent  
University  
[Brynheiner@gmail.com](mailto:Brynheiner@gmail.com)

JENNY GARLOCK  
Academic Chair/Sterling  
Scholar  
[garlockjenny@gmail.com](mailto:garlockjenny@gmail.com)

ANNETTE MCDUGAL  
Teacher Appreciation Chair  
[annette@themcdougalfamily.com](mailto:annette@themcdougalfamily.com)

JENNA OAKEY  
Student VP/Dance Chaperones  
[jennasoakey@gmail.com](mailto:jennasoakey@gmail.com)

SYNDEE ATKINSON  
Graduation Party Chair  
[syndee.atkinson@yahoo.com](mailto:syndee.atkinson@yahoo.com)

BRE PHELPS  
Lunch Activities Chair  
[brephehelps4@gmail.com](mailto:brephehelps4@gmail.com)

LORI HULBERT  
Community VP  
[lorihulbert@gmail.com](mailto:lorihulbert@gmail.com)

TRINA NYE  
Homecoming Parade  
[trinarny@gmail.com](mailto:trinarny@gmail.com)

TIFFANY BRADY  
Student of the Month  
[tiffj.brady@yahoo.com](mailto:tiffj.brady@yahoo.com)

MICHELLE BUNDY  
Teacher Luncheon Chair  
[bundymich@gmail.com](mailto:bundymich@gmail.com)

## Information

Mountain Crest Parent Organization  
[mcparentorganization.weebly.com](http://mcparentorganization.weebly.com)

### GO MUSTANGS!

Game schedule and athletic updates:  
[mcmustangs.com](http://mcmustangs.com)

Mountain Crest High School  
[ccsdut.org/mountaincrest](http://ccsdut.org/mountaincrest)

Newsletter design and production by  
White Palm Design and Tara Bone.

**If you have a good news tip  
or submission for the MCPO  
newsletter, email  
[tarabone@msn.com](mailto:tarabone@msn.com)  
Thank you!**

