

THE GROWL

the voice of Mexico High School

Vol. 1 Issue 5
Jan 28, 2022

Who Will Be Mr. Bulldog?



The student body has spoken and selected five seniors as their Mr. Bulldog candidates for the 2022 Winterwarming festivities. Candidates are seniors Deacon Haag, Isaiah Reams, Daeye Miller, Haden Frazier and Ben Clampitt. Each candidate selects a senior girl to introduce and speak on their behalf in front of the student body. Pictured above are the 2022 Mr. Bulldog candidates and their escorts, from left: Lillian Yager, Deacon Haag, Taylor DeMint, Isaiah Reams, Mya Miller, Daeye Miller, Cora Ransom, Haden Frazier, Ben Clampitt and Samantha Joiner. Mr. Bulldog 2022 will be crowned after the basketball games against Kirksville on Friday, Jan. 28, at Filbert Court. The Winterwarming dance will be held on Saturday night in the sports complex lobby. This year's theme is Winterwarming Goes Worldwide.

Academic Bowl team gains seventh national consecutive bid

submitted by Mr. Dale Schenewerk

The Mexico High School Academic Team ended 2021 with a bang: finishing eighth overall at the MOQBA Fall Championship tournament.

Their success at the tournament was rewarded with a bid to the 2022 PACE (Partnership for Academic Competition Excellence) National Scholastic Championship, which features the best teams in the nation.

Freshman Camden Williams was among the tournament's top scorers and was the highest-ranked underclassman for the tournament.

Not satisfied with the seventh consecutive national bid, the Mexico High School Academic team started 2022 strong with an 8-1 win, Saturday, Jan. 8 at South Shelby, which was good for second place. Through the first seven rounds, Mexico had

the highest points per game total by more than 50 points.

Though they suffered a tough defeat by a talented Moberly team, the team remains motivated for a rematch during the NCMC Conference Tournament in March.

The A-team (varsity) was led by seniors Sydney Moeller (fourth top scorer in the tournament) and Zack McWilliams (captain) along with Camden Williams (second top scorer in the tournament), Christian Frederickson and Jamison Jeffries.

Liam Hoyle led the B-team to a 4-5 record on the day, placing as the tenth top scorer in the tournament.

Mexico will host their annual tournament, the Bulldog Regional Interscholastic Competition, on Saturday March 12.



Members of the Academic Bowl A-Team are, from left: Christian Frederickson, Camden Williams, Zack McWilliams, Sydney Moeller, and Jamison Jeffries.



Members of the MHS Academic Bowl team named to the South Shelby Tournament all-star team are, from left: Liam Hoyle, Camden Williams, and Sydney Moeller.

These are role models?

Years ago, Facebook was freezing with a cold-water challenge for ALS. Truth be told, a huge amount of people allowed themselves to be drenched with cold water for a cause they didn't understand - in fact, we may have it wrong. The cause was not really the important factor; the videos of people, known and unknown, freezing, screaming, and dancing out of shock was the pull.

The pull is the question: What would cause a person to try to eat a tablespoon of cinnamon while being filmed? Who decided to eat the Tide pods? The answer from most teenagers is a shrug and a mention of seeing it on social media. In other words, they were influenced by an entertainer, right? Someone famous, a celebrity, a role model, did these things and to be like their role model, teens followed suit. It is not that simple... not anymore.

Social media has become the social environment. The connected culture that comes with holding the whole world in a hand has changed the way that people become celebrities, the reason they become celebrities, and the type of celebrities they become.

Rock star is a dated term; role model is nearly an impossibility. Today's youth look to influencers and entertainers who live inside of the social media cosmos, particularly Tik Tok and Instagram. But what is an "influencer," and how do they differ from an "entertainer?"

INFLUTAINMENT

Jackson Lamb & Gage Walker

Who is who/what

The confusion between the two categories has existed for years, however the addition of social media has massively impacted both.

First, the two must be defined. An influencer is someone who inspires the viewers or sways their opinions such as Michael Jordan, Kylie Jenner, and Barack Obama.

An entertainer is someone who performs their art for the viewer's enjoyment such as famous musicians or YouTubers. While the two sides have their differences, they are quite similar in that one can often be the result of becoming popular or well-known as the others.

As entertainers grow in popularity, social media begins to cover them more, which eventually leads to the inevitability of becoming an influencer. Entertainers such as Charlie D'Amelio began her career simply as a teenager interested in TikTok. However, her content grew so popular that she became a household name. D'Amelio's audience was originally directed for people her age, but the age range of her followers began to stretch. She amassed over 100 million followers on TikTok as of 2021.

D'Amelio is only one example of the many entertainers whose lives were flipped by social media's pressure. Although social media's presence can cause pressure, it can also do good. Jimmy Donaldson, commonly known as MrBeast, a YouTube star with over 87 million subscribers has positively impacted viewers with his content. In his career, Donaldson has helped fund the planting of trees across the world, the cleaning of seas, and has donated to charity, all while influencing his subscribers.

This is often started in the spirit of goodwill and forging change, but with the monetization of the more popular platforms, entertainers and influencers quickly find themselves millionaires, and that brings in advertising and

see page 2: Influence

humans of MHS
all of us are human; some of us are just better at it...

Art Appreciation

by Myah Smith and Hailey Long

a meet and greet with some of the most talented artists at MHS

Caroline Branson, 10

Cora Ransom, 12



"I can't ever remember not doing art. I think I just grew up with it," says Caroline Branson, whose clay pieces are original and personal. "I enjoy art because I love to create things, but it usually depends on my mood. It tends to turn out bubbly and cartoony."



"I've always loved art since I was a little girl. It started with making crafts with my Grandma and slowly advancing by then. Now it has become more of a hobby. To me, drawing, painting and making art is peaceful. It takes my

mind off of things. I would describe my art as having a natural aspect. When I paint, it is usually of some sort of landscape and when I'm sculpting out of clay, I like to make faces and floral/group designs."

Collin Martin, 12



"I've always really enjoyed art. For as long as I can remember, I've asked for art supplies as gifts. It's a coping tool for me and lets my imagination flow into paint strokes and visual creativity. Art in itself is enjoyable. The way that someone can draw, paint or color whatever they want with no limits really accentuates a person's creativity. I would describe my art as abstract. I put my own twist on my artwork. Painting is really my go-to art form, because I can't really draw well, but when I paint, it's like my mind takes over and makes beautiful work with a splash of me."

Influence: continued from page 1

merchandise.

According to the Pew Research Center, the number one target market of all social media is the teenager. Youth has become a commodity, and the commodity translates to clout. Forget about Vans or Converse; they are cheap undesireables when compared to the merchandise that is being peddled by entertainers and influencers.

The merchandise promoted by content creators or influencers shapes fashion trends in culture and society - you need look no further than the recycled 80's trend revisitation including, but not limited to acid washed denim, high-waisted "mom" jeans, crop tops, scrunchies, and hair claws.

New fads are not only influenced, but created and sold by the likes of Kylie Jenner and Kanye West. West's high-density foam slide-on shoes, Yeezys, are a shoe collaboration between West's brand and Adidas. Kylie Jenner's makeup, specifically her lip gloss, sold for nearly \$20 and it was a must have. Style, life-style, desires, vibes, image, all of these things are in the hands and on the feed of people who have amassed millions of followers.

And the style is not always something that is just a "fad;" sometimes it is statement that teens only understand on the surface, heavy political and religious nuances are often carried Lil Nas X, an American rapper and singer, along with brand designer and creative resource, MSCHF, released modified Nike Air Max 97 sneakers with a supposed drop of real human blood inside of them, along with a pentagram on the side - the Satan shoes. These controversial shoes sold for over a thousand dollars and sold out in less than seven minutes. To be fair, however, MSCHF had released "Jesus Shoes" prior, in a collaboration with Drake. The shoes were all white and contained a drop of Holy Water, and only 24 pair of them were made and cost \$1,425, which references Matt. 14:25 where Jesus walks on water.

The ethical argument is one of nonchalance. Read the privacy policy of TikTok or Snapchat to a room full of teens and they will blatantly tell you that they don't care that these apps are gaining access to all of their media and claiming rights to everything that they post. It just isn't that big of a deal to them. They would rather have the connection. Post, post, post, that is how you get followers. It is almost as if it is a job, but the pay off is fame with some Mexico High School teens boasting tens of thousands of followers on their own feeds.

MHS students pick and choose who they follow. Emma Geers, a sophomore, follows musician and entertainer Upchurch. "I follow Upchurch because I like his music. Upchurch is like a country rapper and I really like his personality and how he acts. Nobody really likes him, so I do."

Junior Harrison Miller follows legendary band Metallica.

Collin Martin, senior, follows Joe Wachs and Cole Diamond. "I follow them because of their workout regime and because they're hot."

FBLA to Take Strong Group of Competitors to First Round of Competition

Mexico High School business instructor and FBLA adviser Sarah Gooch will be taking quite a pack of students to Moberly Area Community College on Feb. 4, to compete. Following are the areas where the students have tested and will be eligible to compete.

Lani Blair - 10; Introduction to FBLA, Introduction to Financial Math, Personal Finance

Lana Blue - 9; Introduction to Business Communication, Help Desk, International Business

Elizabeth Burks - 11; Business Communication, Health Care Administration
Hunter Burnett - 9; Business Communication, Cyber Security, Computer Problem Solving

Ben Clampitt - 12; Personal Finance, Business Law

Katie Gooch - 10; Introduction to FBLA; Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure

Addison Heim - 10; Introduction to Business Concepts, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, Introduction to Business Communication

Lizzie Joiner - 10; Introduction to FBLA, Introduction to Business Procedures, Introduction to Financial Math.

Maddie Maxwell - 10; Health Care Administration, Introduction to Parliamentary Procedure, Introduction to Business Communication

Lucas McHatton - 9; Introduction to Business Procedures, Introduction to Financial Math, Introduction Information Technology

Savannah Perkins - 9; Introduction to Business Concepts, Advertising, Health Care Administration

Abigail Seibert - 10; Introduction to Financial Math

McKenzie Taylor - 10; Introduction to Financial Math

In the Halls

There are over 800 stories walking the halls of MHS - here are two of them.



Conner Baclesse,
freshman

"So one time, you know those wooden frames around doors? One time I turned around and hit my head on one... I was washing my hands in a bathroom, and I hit my head by complete accident, on the wooden frame on the door. Like I hit doors all the time. But the wooden frames are surprisingly durable. And I was feeling where I hit my head on the door for like two hours. Like that thing hurt for two hours I wanna say that this was in November...."

"My brother stabbed me in my arm when I was in kindergarden while we were cutting apples."

Leigha Shepherd,
junior



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Dakota White

Kids W/ Careers

Jack Talks Back

When the 2021-22 school year began, junior Jackson Wilburn was a mild-mannered "country" kid. But in less than a year, Wilburn has staked his claim as one of the leaders of the Dawg Pound as well as a commentator and host for local radio station KWWR/KXEO. Funny thing is, he hasn't changed one bit.

"I think they should put out a calendar of the Dawg Pound themes for the whole year," junior Jackson Wilburn has this reasoned out in his head. "That way we would all know and have time to prepare for the themes."

Wilburn will be at the games - football and basketball - in one capacity or another. He will either be painting a letter on himself in an effort to garner school spirit, or he will be commentating on the game on the local radio station. "That only happened once..."

Wilburn will remind in his most serious voice. When asked if it will happen again, he smiles. "Not during baseball season..."

It was baseball that brought Wilburn to radio. Last season, he helped announce one of the games as part of a team "thing."

"They offered me a job, so I was like 'yeah!'" And thus began the illustrious radio career of junior Jack Wilburn,

working at the local AM/FM station - Mix Country (KWWR, FM) and the Voice of the Bulldogs (KXEO, AM). Don't get worked up... it is anything but glamorous...



Wilburn and KWWR host Matt Pilger

On any given shift, Wilburn is moving between the two studios, sometimes running a Cardinal game while running a completely different show on the FM

side. "The timing is the most difficult thing," Wilburn explains. Dead air is a big no-no and running two stations whose formats are completely different is hectic. But he chalks it up to a positive experience, one that will be put on hold when baseball season starts, because that is his first priority.

"I have no plans to seek out a career in radio," Wilburn smiles. "...Unless it was sportscasting all the time."

BACK IN ACTION

MHS to compete in MSHSAA events
by Jackson Lamb

In 2021, MSHSAA decided not to allow the annual district competition of the one acts and reader's theater productions due to health concerns.

Now with the regulations lifted, theatre instructor Ms. Sara Given is back to win it. This year's one act is titled, *Bible Camp: The Musical*. It takes place at a Bible summer camp where the boys try to disrupt the girl's winning streak within the summer games.

Bailey Crum, a senior at Mexico High School, is performing the role of Jack, a cool, 1950's-style bad boy at the camp. Both Crum and Jack are fueled by the same motives, to never lose. "I want to expand my acting skills," Crum explains. "But I'm most excited to see how the community reacts."

Along with the one act, a script-read competition, or readers theatre, will also be produced. This year's performance, written by Given, is about dating through the ages.

Ethan Wiley, a junior at Mexico High School, has been selected to play a variety of roles as a narrator, "I play one of the narrators, Repoooc, an underdeveloped caveman, I play Wesley from Princess Bride, Friar Lawrence from Romeo and Juliet and a woman." Ethan Wiley is excited to be involved in the reader's theater this year because it's his first time being involved in the spring performance. "I'm excited to try and compete to go to state; I'm most excited to perform it because I love performing."

features and stuff
all of us are human; some of us
are just better at it

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My head, throbbing
You are wobbling
As you see me
Through the night.

You are looking
While I'm hooking
My new painting,
My new plan.

Hanging up that
Vestige painting.
Shiny frame and
Obscure land.

Peering through the
Rusted handle
You are breathing
Heavily.

Darkened fog with
Monochrome house.
Brightened red eyes
In the mist.

You are staring
Leering, glaring.
In those eyes you
Are transversed.

Grabbing for the
Tarnished handle,
You remember
Why you're there.

I smile for
You have let me
Know that you have
Failed again.

Reaching for your
Shiv you struggle
Clatter! clink! clunk!
You now wince.

I chuck my dirk
Into the door
Almost skinning
Your front teeth.

You can see me
As I'm kneeling
To the carpet
Laughing, hard.

Writer Focus

You finally
Open that door
Seeing me with
Gleaming grin.

Hoisting on my
Desk I sense that
You don't know why
I am still.

Shiny frame and
Pigmented land.
Colourful fog.
Bright blue house.

Oh that twisted,
altered painting.
"Did it change, or
Did it stay?"

My heavy voice
Booms through the
room.
"You seem frightened,
Take a seat."

But you're not here
For simple talk.
You are here to
Slaughter me.

Knife in hand you
Charge at me with
Undivided

Eye contact.

That flimsy knife
You have thought to
Chop and slice this
Undead heart.

Stabbing one time
Into my chest
Your eyes question
How I stand.

Ruby, gleaming,
Auburn, sheening
Abnormally
Coral frame.

You lunge again
Missing twice then.

Resented grunts
Leave your throat.

This goes hours,
Almost a day.
But you seem to
Be stagnant.

"Why won't you die?"
"Just give up." "Gah!"
You don't seem to
Know my game.

My glance staggers
To that ever
Changing painting.
Yours do too.

At your weakness
I find time to
Grab a pen and
Jab at you.

Holding the wound
You fall onto
My painting with
Shine no more.

Bleeding painting,
Gushing, flowing
With the blood of
Those past dead.

Now I feel the
Stab you left me.
It has come to
Haunt me now.

Pain is shooting
From the both of
Our nerves and

Mortal flesh.

"Oh, my great Lord,
Do you hate the
Sacrifices
I did shed?"

I gave you my
Hope, my honour!
Yet you see to
Strike me dead?"

As you lean on
Covered old paint
You decide to
Mock my words.

"You stupid oaf.
Speaking to the
Great 'I am' shalln't
Save you now."

"No." I say, calm.
"My lord is not
The same one you
Seem to know."

My lord is who
Gave me that old,
Mindless painting
For my life.

He promised that
Awful painting
Would help me when
I need aid.

Now I'm dying
On account of
Those red eyes in
That grey fog."

You look up to
See the eyes that
Tormented me.

They aren't there.

Gloomy fog with
Grey-scale house, but
Brightened eyes aren't
In the mist.

"Where are they?" you
Hardly whisper.
"The eyes of red
Erstwhile stand." (Erst-
while)

Growling loudly
Came a shadow
From an unknown
Bizarre land.

Dark and eerie,
Drooling madly.
That shadow with
Bright red eyes.

"Oh!" I shout with
Furrowed eyebrows.
"You come now when
I'm half dead!"

But the creature
Came and moved its
Dark, grimy tongue
'Cross my gash.

Tissue folded,
Nerves were joined.
Painfully I
Was restored.

Then the creature
Turned to meet you.
Meet or murder?
I forget.

Next my eyes were
Closed before me
Throwing me in

Adjourned dark

White flashes are
All I can see.
All I see is
That bright light.

Did I die and
Go to heaven?
Or did I go
Straight to hell?

I can never
Tell where I've gone
For I see you
Everywhere,

But also I
See my savior.
Sitting there in
Glorious stance. (Glor-
ious)

Ruby eyes are
Always staring
In the East to
The office.

Never it moves.
Never it breathes.
I wish I could
Be like that.

In the distance
I see a house.
Painted grey while
Birthing fog.

All around the
Dreary ether,
Traced with shining,
Shining frame.



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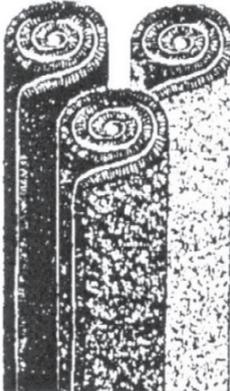
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