

# SPARTANS SPEAK

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MOUNTAIN BROOK HIGH SCHOOL  
PTO NEWSLETTER

APRIL/MAY  
2011

## Words of Wilson...



*A message from  
Principal  
Vic Wilson*

Greetings,

Spring has arrived, and with it comes activities galore at MBHS. We have spring concerts, spring plays, spring sports, and spring fever. Needless to say we are busy at MBHS; however, we are having a wonderful time as well!

We have a very busy April and May. The first week of April, we were thrilled by our Fine Arts Department with *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. We also have the Spartan Invitational Track meet this weekend at Spartan Stadium. Not to be outdone, we have softball, soccer, tennis, golf, baseball, lacrosse, debate, choir, and band activities in the coming weeks for you to enjoy. Many of these teams will be performing at MBHS during this week. Check the calendar for times and locations.

We have also held our Relay for Life at Spartan Stadium on April 8. It was an amazing success and I want to thank Katrina McGuire, Rodney Kornegay, and the Interact Club for a great event.

Continue to encourage your student to work hard to finish the year on a strong note. Everyone has worked too hard to get to this point, and a coasting period could lead to a less than desirable finish. If students continue to be where they are supposed to be, when they are supposed to be there, and are doing what they are supposed to be doing, good outcomes can be expected.

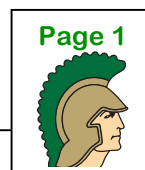
Some important events taking place in the coming weeks are the following:

- Awards Assembly – May 17, (**SPARTAN ARENA**) The event begins at 9:37AM.
- Honors Day – May 19, (**SPARTAN ARENA**) The event begins at 11:40AM.
- Graduation – May 27, (Samford, Wright Center) 6PM

It is my hope that you enjoy the remaining two months of school. Thank you again for all you do to make MBHS a wonderful place.

Sincerely,

*Vic*



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## Pride of the Spartan PTO



With Spring Break behind us and Graduation almost upon us, the end is in sight. It seems like this time of year is the busiest of all. There is certainly quite a lot going on at MBHS!

I hope you enjoyed our April PTO meeting. We were awed by the presentation one of our Career Tech students. He has conducted a year's worth of scientific research at UAB on triggers for epileptic seizures. It was extremely professional and interesting, and I must confess that much of it was beyond my understanding. This student won first place for the Alabama State Science Fair and will go on to compete nationally in Los Angeles. We are so proud of him. We also enjoyed hearing all of the accolades of our Art and Photography students as well as seeing some of their favorite pieces.

Our Hospitality Committees have been busier than ever with the NHS reception, and preparing for the Awards and Honors Day receptions and Graduation, which are just around the corner. Many thanks to **Hospitality and Graduation Committee Chairs Jennifer Cope, Heidi Johnston, Carrie Coons, Susan Williams, LaVonda Keel and Miller Middlebrook.**

Our **Teacher Hospitality Committee Co-chairs, Tricia Drew and Lauren Hayes,** deserve gold stars for their committee's work. Their ears should be ablaze with all of the compliments I have received on their behalf ... and they have done it all on a very tight budget. Thank you! Thank you!

**Cathie Luckie** and her **Hospitality IV Committee** have done a wonderful job of handling hospitality for testing days and workshops. **Anne Garret's Hospitality V Committee** cannot be thanked enough for keeping our AP students energized with snacks during long and stressful AP exams.

**Bradley Neighbors' Refreshments Committee** has graciously provided us with lovely refreshments for each of our PTO meetings this year. Thank you all so much for making our meetings so welcoming.

The **Graduating Senior Moms' Luncheon** will be held on May 5 at the home of **Committee Chair Carrie McMahon.** This is an event all moms whose youngest child is graduating from MBHS look forward to with both a little excitement and a little apprehension. Thank you so much, Carrie, for making this a special memory for these parents.

**Kaci Chesebro** and her **Volunteer Committee** have been pressed into service many times this year, sometimes with a moment's notice. Thank you for your dedication and willingness to be those extra sets of hands for supervising voting, baking and every other unexpected need for extra help that has arisen this year. You're the best!

**Sherrie Futch** has done the most wonderful job with **Publicity** this year. She has taken the committee to the next level, seeking out newsworthy opportunities in our school and having them published in several of our local newspapers. Thanks for getting some well-deserved recognition for our school.

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## Pride of the Spartan PTO



(continued from Page 2)

Special thanks to **Missy Scott** and her **Newsletter Committee** for making this publication happen each month. Thank you for all of your cutting, pasting, formatting and especially for your mad editing skills! With their encouragement, there may be some exciting changes including a new format for next year's *Spartans Speak*. Stay tuned!

Our May PTO meeting will be Thursday, May 5 at 9:30 in the Cage Club. ¡Cinco de Mayo! ¡Olé! We look forward to recognizing our retiring teachers, our graduating moms and installing our new PTO officers. I will pass the torch to next year's **MBHS PTO President, Meg Hightower**, and her Executive Board Members. Thank you so much to Meg and her Executive Board for agreeing to serve.

I would like to extend my deepest gratitude for the honor and pleasure it has been serving as PTO President this year. You have each been so eager to help make our school the best it can be by supporting MBHS PTO with your time, talents, energy and money. I believe the level of parent involvement at our school is somewhat unique. Our parents value education and are ready and willing to be a part of making MBHS the best school in Alabama. We are also blessed to have a principal, faculty and staff who cherish our children almost as much as we do.

It has made my job this year delightful. Thank you for the opportunity.

Gratefully yours,

*Carmen Morrow*  
2010-2011 MBHS PTO President



## **MBHS Parents: The 2011 – 2012 PTO Needs Your Help!**

The Willingness to Serve form is now on the MBHS Website under Online Registration, or you can access it by clicking on the following link:

[Willingness to Serve](#)

Please look over the form and consider serving on the many committees as either a chairman or a volunteer.

I know, I know...you've been filling out these forms for way too many years and you are wondering why you continue to do so. Activities continue for your children until they graduate and WE NEED YOU NOW like we needed you then.

The MBHS PTO supports the phenomenal programs and events that the high school provides for our children. Volunteering is a way to stay informed and plugged in to your child's school life. Also, many of these opportunities are "behind the scene" volunteer times so you need never to cross paths with your child if that's their choice!

Complete the form and submit it online as soon as possible. If you prefer, you can mail it to me or leave it in the PTO box at the high school.

I appreciate the commitment you will be making to your child and to the high school in helping to provide the quality education and experience we want to provide.

Looking forward to next year,

*Meg*

Meg Hightower  
MBHS Incoming PTO President  
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# From the College Advisor's Office



## ATTENTION SENIORS:

**Remember that you have until May 1st to commit to the college of your choice. This date also pertains to scholarships.**

Later this month, Mrs. Svetlay will be visiting senior English classes to gather information about college plans and scholarships that have been awarded. At this time, seniors will let us know where to send their final transcripts.

In order to get credit for A.P. courses at the college or university your student plans to attend, your student must indicate his or her college choice on the A.P. testing form. An official A.P. score report will then be sent to the college around mid-July.

## ATTENTION JUNIORS:

**Please make appointments now or during the summer months to discuss college plans in detail.**

For those of you visiting colleges soon, make sure you contact the Admission Office to let them know when you are coming. They will inform you about information sessions, tours, or specific visit days that they offer. Summer is a great time to visit campuses, especially for students involved in athletics or activities in the fall. Think of a few questions to ask about the college that cannot be easily found on the school's website. Ask questions that will help you get a feel for how much you are likely to learn, grow, and develop at a given institution. Some suggestions include:

- What do faculty expect of students?
- What does the campus do to encourage students to spend significant amounts of time studying and on academic work?
- How often do students meet with faculty members outside of class?
- What percentage of students participate in internships, study abroad, and community service?
- What does the institution do to assure that students get the academic and social support they need to succeed and thrive?

Visiting campuses is a great way to get a feel for a school and narrow down choices. Don't be afraid to ask questions so that you and your student make the most of the visit!



**TESTING**

## ACT & ACT Plus Writing: June 11

**Registration Deadline**  
May 6

**Late Registration Deadline**  
May 20

### Important Information Regarding Acceptable Calculators for ACT:

To be certain your calculator can be used on the ACT test day, visit [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or call 1-800-498-6481 for a recorded message. Texas Instruments with model numbers that begin with TI-89 or TI-92 are prohibited. Additional information on prohibited calculators is in the ACT 2009-2010 registration packet. Copies are available in the Guidance Office.

## SAT Reasoning & SAT Subject Tests: June 4

**Registration Deadline**  
April 13

**Late Registration Deadline**  
May 20

## AP EXAMS

Students have registered for the May AP Exams. The AP Exams are given during the weeks of May 2-6 and May 9-12. The AP Exams have been ordered. Any requests to change an order or to take an alternate exam will incur a late processing fee by College



# GUIDANCE & COUNSELING

## 2011-2012 CLASSES

All students are registered for classes for next year. Letters have been mailed home listing the courses that each student selected. If a student wants to change the courses selected for next year, please contact a counselor.

Beginning May 1, a Request for Schedule Change form will need to be completed and a \$20 fee will be charged for any schedule changes. As our enrollment increases, it is important for your student to make careful course selections because there is little room to make schedule changes once the master schedule is set.

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All **parent placements for English classes** must be completed before the last day of school. The deadline for parent placement in all other courses is June 15, 2011. No parent placements will be granted after this date. Please schedule a meeting with a counselor to complete the needed paperwork.

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No schedule changes will be made between June 15th and registration in August.

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Any senior taking a **University of Alabama correspondence course** should complete the course by May 1, 2011, in order to make sure that the final grade is received before graduation. The second semester at the University of Alabama ends in early May, and the professors leave for vacation before our school ends. It is the student's responsibility to complete the courses needed for graduation in a timely manner. If you have questions or concerns, please call Mrs. Dukes at 414-3860.

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**Summer School applications** are being accepted in the front office. Dates are as follows:

**1st Session: June 6 – June 24, 2011**  
**2nd Session: June 28 – July 19, 2011**

