

Middle College High School

MCHS Campus News and Views



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Welcome to the 2019-2020 School Year!

October Edition

Dear MCHS Families,
Welcome to our inaugural year as a state-chartered high school. Although our story begins in 2002 as New Mexico's oldest continuously operated early college high school, some new accolades have come our way. For one, the New Mexico Public Education Department recognizes us as our very own school district, no longer affiliated with the Gallup-McKinley Schools. This allows us to work directly, and more closely, with the state, affording additional opportunities for the school to expand and grow. Moreover, MCHS has the distinction of being the only early college high school to be designated as such in all of McKinley County. This follows an in-depth process in which schools operating on college campuses are required to submit to a rigorous review by the state's College and Career Readiness Bureau in order to qualify as an early college high school.

Other new accomplishments for this year include the hiring of Mr. Dino, adding a third STEM teacher to the mix, who, like the rest of the MCHS staff, is qualified to teach college courses in his respective subject areas. Enrollment has increased by 20 students and we have added a 9th grade. With these additions, we

have also begun offering food service to students. Lunches are free of charge, and students wishing to participate in the program simply notify us of their wishes. Finally, our promise to you is that we will work diligently to support students' development of successful habits of study. The school prides itself in having a graduation rate 30% higher than the surrounding schools. Moreover, ninety percent of graduates go on to pursue a college degree.

Though we work tirelessly to support these efforts, we anticipate the need for advocacy at the state level, as opponents of public charter schools have been hard at work to eliminate the competition that we bring to traditional school systems. Please support us as we push back against measures such as moratoriums that would stagnate options for families to enroll their children in high performing schools such as ours. We appreciate the support you bring in helping us to support your students.

Respectfully,
Robert D. Hunter, PhD

School Announcements by Jennabah Platero

- ALL students should be scanning their ID cards every day for attendance purposes.
- If you have signed up for school lunches, please regularly get your lunches in Dr. Hunter's room from 11:00am to 2:00pm Monday through Thursday.
- Job shadow presentations are happening now. Please see Ms. Shack for available times.

- Mid Term week is October 7-11 (10/7-10/11)
- On October 8, (10/8) NMSU will be here to present about scholarships, enrollment and campus life.
- Fall Break will be on October 10 and 11. (10/10-10/11)
- FAFSA night will be held on October 17, (10/17) from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. This event is for seniors. FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This is necessary if you intend to apply for scholarships.
- Spirit Week begins Oct 28 with class competitions! Watch for posters!

Class games will be November 1 at Ford Canyon Park, (11/1) with our dance at the Lion's Club Hall.

Spirit Week Schedule:

- Oct 28: **Merch Monday!** Rep your favorite bands!
- Oct 29: **Twin Day!** Dress up with a friend!
- Oct 30: **Tye Die Day!**
- Oct 31: **Class Colors Day!**
Freshman: Neon Pink
Sophomores: Neon Yellow
Juniors: Neon Green
Seniors: Neon Blue
- Nov 1: **Theme for the dance: Halloween!** There will be costume contests and prizes! (No masks, please)



MCHS NHS in Action! By Rebekah McNiel

On September 13, 2019 the National Honor Society had its first service project. NHS volunteered at BeeHive Homes from 10am-12pm. BeeHive Homes is an assisted living care facility that is located right by UNM Gallup. The NHS members cleaned the restrooms, windows, and mopped. Members also helped out in the kitchen, preparing meals for the weekend while others watered plants outside. BeeHive Homes was so impressed with the NHS that they were invited to come back in October. In October the NHS will have more members to help out at BeeHive.



A Note from the NHS Advisor, Ms. Shack:

Our chapter of the National Honor Society prides itself in the amount of service we provide to our school, the institution of UNM-Gallup, and the communities that we call home. Students who join NHS are held to a high standard of scholarship and dedicate their time to the Center for Academic Learning and serve as tutors. As leaders of their school, NHS members work tirelessly to promote a school culture that you, as a student, can take pride in. And as Rebekah shared, we also spend time within the community to help out where help is needed. All of this is done even as the student's carry full course loads and other community involvement commitments.

Trivia: What day is your tutor time due at the office?? By what time?

Student Editorial: The Importance of Critical Thinking
by Phillip Norton

You've probably heard the phrase *critical thinking before, but you probably don't know what it means. I'm not judging you, it's just a fact. People love to use this phrase, but hardly anyone can actually define it. This is dangerous, because a commonly-used but meaningless phrase can mean whatever anyone wants it to mean. But it is even more tragic that the meaning is unknown when we consider how important critical thinking is.*

Now, you're probably scoffing at this right now. Who needs critical thinking? You do, and here's why:

-Have you ever kept your opinions secret on social media because you were scared of what people might say?

-Have you ever attacked something you've never even seen, or only seen part of?

If either of these things are true, then you need critical thinking.

So what does critical thinking mean? There are many definitions, but all of them boil down to one simple thing: question everything.

Question everything, don't take it for granted. Know what you believe, and why you believe it—and don't base your beliefs on YouTube, for God's sake! Question YouTube, question social media, question Wikipedia. Why? Because any idiot can post things online! Trust sources with peer-review or documentation, but be a critical reader. Always be on the lookout for biases, because they will be there. In fact, you should try to avoid the internet as much as possible—I promise you, you won't miss it.

As for strategies, keep these in mind:

- If someone attacks an argument by saying that it's "backwards" or "outmoded", then they probably don't have a good argument. If they did, they'd give actual reasons for rejecting yours.

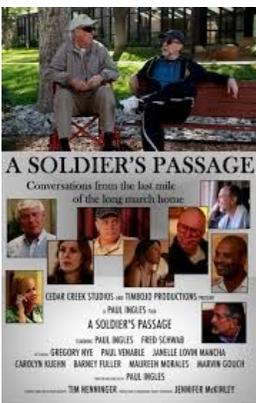
- Don't play the race card (or gender card, or sexual orientation card, or whatever) and don't fall for it. Accusing someone of being a racist is a great way to avoid responding to an actual argument. Even where intolerance legitimately exists, learn to respond to matters substantively, rather than taking shortcuts.

- People on social media will always attack someone they don't like with ad hominem attacks on their personal appearance. It never fails. This is another great reason to cancel your social media. Please, do not imitate these people.

All these tips, however, assume you've already been trained to think critically. If not, I highly recommend you take Dr. Simcox's critical thinking class, where you'll learn about logical fallacies and how to avoid them. More importantly, you'll learn how to argue, which is a dying skill. Our world is informed by postmodernism, a philosophy which claims there is no such thing as truth, and that all our values are formed by the people in power (never mind that under the terms of the theory, we don't have any reason to believe the theory itself is true!).

The practical consequence is that we postmodern people don't really argue, we just assert things at each other. In this illogical environment, the loudest person wins. The truth, on the other hand, usually loses. Let's give the truth a chance. Let's actually look for it with reason, the remedy that might help us all to better help ourselves. Thank you.

Gallup Film Festival
By Chancey Gibson



The Gallup Film Festival took place at downtown Gallup at the El Morro theater on September 12th-14th. The event premiered the short music video *Broncho* by Big City Boys and a film called *A Soldier's Passage*. I went to see the film. It is about an ex-WWII veteran, Thomas Williams, who is struggling with old age. The soldier feels like a burden to his kids who are adults. His wife had passed on and his kids, Steve, Paul, and Jane Williams, try to show their love and support to their father by visiting and giving him care in the form of a retirement home. William's faces the challenges of old age—certain things would bother him because he is not able to do the things that he used to. His son Paul tries to find ways of spending the moments with his father in hopes to make amends with his him. Out of the three, Paul has a more flexible schedule than his brother and sister, so the relationship between and Thomas and Paul develops. The movie ends with the passing of Thomas Williams. Paul let his father move on. Thomas always thought he could not be as great as his own father, but Paul tells his dad that he lived his life to the end and that his job was done. In the end, Paul remembers the book his father wrote called the *Soldier's Passage* which explains the untold story of Thomas Williams and how WWII affected his life.



Campus Spotlight: Gym
By Sam Ayesh and Miranda Saucedo



The UNM-G physical education complex has something for everyone, it is free for all UNM and Middle College students. The gym is open to the community at a \$3 charge.

The gymnasium includes different amenities such as a basketball court, a weight room, and a yoga/mat room. The basketball court can be used as an indoor walking/jogging court. The weight room includes treadmills and elliptical machines, weights, etc. The yoga/mat room is used for fitness classes but can be used for personal use. Outside of the gym is a walking trail that includes two different routes: A 1/4th mile and a full mile.

The gym coordinator, Michaela Henry, is very friendly and very helpful when going to the gym.

It is very easy to get into the gym as well. When you walk in, you go up to the window and sign in. Whoever is working then will check your student I.D and then you'll be free to go in. When going to the gym, remember to be respectful of the space and the other students that will be using it. Always make sure to wipe the equipment with sanitizing wipes, and clean up after yourselves.

There are many clubs, such as the running club.

Creative Corner



Join the Drive!

NHS Senior Dakota Notah will be hosting an initiative to demonstrate the caring and giving nature of MCHS students. In the upcoming weeks, we will be collecting toiletry items to create care packages to distribute to the less fortunate within our community.

Items like: travel size toothpaste, soaps, shampoos, and other self care items.

We will also accept clean, gently used socks (or new ones, if you've got a few to spare).

Donation boxes will be located in the GH classrooms and portables after Fall break until Nov 1. It's a class competition (posters will be in GH hallway)—so let's see who is the most giving!