How to Increase Commitment in Students

Student engagement. It’s a topic every educator and parent thinks about today. How do we get these kids with an eight-second attention span to stay committed to what they said they’d do? How do we get them to pay attention long enough to accomplish something significant? How do we get them to continue when they’re bored?

What Motivates Students to Get on Board and Stay on Board?
We’re at the dawn of a new semester of the school year. It’s half time, about the time when many students question whether they should continue a program, a project, a major, or playing on a team. The novelty is over; it’s now a grind.

Author Travis Bradberry said, “Humans are creatures of habit. If you quit when things get tough, it gets that much easier to quit the next time. On the other hand, if you force yourself to push through it, the grit begins to grow in you.”

What is it, however, that we can do as teachers, parents, leaders and coaches to create an environment that attracts students to get on board and want to stay?

1. It Must be Push and Pull
Almost anything worthwhile requires a “push” at the beginning. By this I mean, no one climbs a mountain on accident. A leader must step forward and begin to push an idea, an aspiration and to connect the dots for students. At some point, however, the aspiration must be adopted by those students. Activism must eventually be organic, driven by the recipients, where they begin to “pull” the action forward. They become driven internally, not by an external push. Genuine progress is always push and then pull.

2. It Must be Different yet Doable
Students are not only overwhelmed with options today, but they’re almost impossible to “wow.” Everyone is clamoring for their attention. Brands, friends and media are all vying for their attention. To be attractive, even enticing, your challenge must be differentiated from other options. What are you doing that is unique from everything else? Next, your idea must seem doable; something that students feel they could actually pull off and succeed. It’s a tough balance, but an important one to capture students’ imagination.

3. It Must be Simple but Hard
This is difficult to pull off, but you must try. What you are challenging them to do must be simple to understand yet hard to actually pull off. It sounds like an oxymoron, but it isn’t. Just examine great movements in history, and you find that the vision was easy to grasp and comprehend—so much so that young people can share the idea with others, too. However, it must be difficult enough that it dares them to risk their reputations. I’ve believed for years that students want to do something that is very important and almost impossible.
4. It Must be Slow then Fast

Finally, you must be willing to endure starting in first gear, knowing that your big idea may take a while to gain traction. Ohio State University athletic director, Gene Smith, has a sign in his office: “You’ve got to go slow to go fast.” The beginning of any endeavor is when you tweak the recipe; you work out the wrinkles in your system. Once you do, you’ll eventually gain momentum. One signal is that things become student-led. They experience metacognition. They own it. As mentioned above, all activism must eventually feel organic. When it is, it will be self-sustaining.


Thank you for your continued support of Medina High School.

Department Spotlight: Social Studies Department

Coming back from Winter Break, the World History classes are starting in on World War I, a bloody conflict made bloodier by the invention of many modern weapons. In January, Mr. Mozingo’s World History students will study World War 1 by completing a project that combines history with marketing. The students will take one of the new inventions and make an ad campaign directed to the British War Department. The students have to produce ads in multiple formats to convince the government to purchase the new technology to win the war!

The Financial Literacy students are also kicking off the semester with a project. When the students in Financial Literacy were in 9th grade, they met with the counselors in their ELA classes to complete career research papers. Through Ohio Means Jobs, the students took interest surveys to determine career clusters and build a career profile that suggested jobs that the students might be interested in based on their surveys. To begin the project this year, the counselors came in to revisit those surveys and expand on the information so the students can build a career project. In the project, the students will focus on a career that they’re interested in, look up the details of what that job entails, figure out the education path they need to take to get into that career field, and even examine what courses they need to focus on for the remainder of their high school career to stay on that path.

Debate Team at Princeton

Congratulations to Medina Debate!
Another outstanding showing at the Princeton University Debate Tournament, with MHS finishing in the elimination brackets in every debate event we entered: Congressional Debate in the final session, Public Forum and Varsity Lincoln-Douglas in the double-octa bracket (top 32), and Novice Lincoln-Douglas in the quarter finals (top 8). Medina students also finished 1st and 3rd in the "top speakers" awards. There were 117 schools from eighteen states and three countries competing in the tournament.
Class of 2019 - Senior Diploma Verification/Commencement Participation

All MHS and MCCC seniors, with their medinabees login and password, are required to fill out the Diploma Verification/Commencement Information online google form. The information being requested is their first, middle, and last names in addition to indicating if they intend or do not intend to participate in the graduation ceremony in May at the JAR Arena. The form is available on Blackboard in the Class of 2019 organization only. Please note diplomas are printed with the student’s legal name as it appears on his/her birth certificate. Due date was January 7, 2019.

December 2018 Students of the Month

Noah Constance is the type of student who makes the class better just by being in it. Teachers and friends describe Noah as a good friend, outgoing, funny and a great role model. Noah is enrolled in AP, Honors and CCP classes and is a member of National Honor Society. He was a member of Link Crew and currently is a member of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Noah is the captain of the Boys Varsity Lacrosse team and plays rec basketball in the off season. After graduation, he plans on attending the Ohio State University or University of Cincinnati to study engineering. Noah is the son of Mark and Carolyn Constance.

Julia Razavi is always willing to go the extra mile to help others, and can be found daily in the Medina High School tutoring center working with students in just about any subject. Julia’s schedule consists of AP classes and she is the Vice President of National Honor Society. Julia is a Link Crew leader and has played the violin in the Medina High School orchestra for the past four years. She has lettered twice in cross country and is a member of the track team. She also works at Weymouth Country Club. In the fall, Julia plans on majoring in biology in college. Julia is the daughter of Matt and Danielle Razavi.

MHS Seniors Painting with Seniors

On Tuesday, December 11th four Medina High School students taught a holiday painting class at the Medina Senior Center for 33 senior citizens. Payton Cassel, Sydney Cassel, Gigi Cox, and Maddie Debnar were fantastic representatives of our school! Brad Patterson from Harbor Light Hospice who sponsored the event was thrilled with the professionalism of our young artists stating, "I am truly amazed at what a wonderful group of students. The girls were so eager to help and facilitate the class that it made our job easy! They were clear and consistent in their directions and truly cared to help the participants. If all of Medina High School students embody what these 4 young ladies have then I feel blessed to be a part of a great community! Kudos to you and your teachers!"

This was a great experience for our high school students to give back to the community by using their talents to spread holiday cheer. A big thanks to these four young ladies for volunteering their time to make this event a success and a memorable experience for all who participated!
MHS Student December the Reason for the Season

**GSA** - The GSA made blankets to donate to Rainbow Steps in Oberlin, an LGBTQ+ assisted living facility.

**Key Club** - On December 14, members of Key Club are going to go Christmas caroling with Kiwanis to local restaurants. They are dressed as Santa and elves and are asking for donations. The money is used to help provide winter coats, gloves, hats, and shoes for the under privileged in our district.

**StuCo** - Adopted a family through the Salvation Army, making sure the family of 10 each had new shoes and coats, along with a toys, for Christmas.

**Art 1.11.2019**

Students, District staff and alumni will share their talents at the upcoming annual Art 1.11 performance art show at Medina High School in the main cafeteria on January 11, 2019 from 3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Each artist will have just 111 minutes to complete their masterpiece on a 24 x 30 canvas in front of an audience of parents, family, friends, and community members. This event is open to the public with a suggested donation of $1.11.

The pieces created at this event will be placed on display around Medina High School for the year. They will then be available for bid on an online auction with the proceeds from the auction going to support scholarships for students who will pursue art.

The Medina High School Art 1.11 online auction is still open. The pieces on the auction site were created by students, staff, and community members who participated in the Art 1.11 event on January 11, 2018. The dollars raised from this auction will go to support scholarships to students who plan to pursue art in college. Click on this link to access the auction. [http://www.32auctions.com/2018art11](http://www.32auctions.com/2018art11)
Winter Formal
Key Club Presents Winter Formal - Winter Under the Stars - Saturday, February 2, 2019, 7:30 to 10:00 pm, MHS Gym, Doors Open at 7:00. All Fees Must be Paid by January 15, 2019 to Purchase a Winter Formal Ticket

Planned Ticket Sale Schedule:
Ticket Sales will Begin January 17, 2019 and End January 30, 2019, and the link will be on Blackboard.

Online Dance Ticket Instructions:
- Click on the link to purchase tickets.
- Click on Log In to create or use and existing account using an email address and password.
- Enter your student ID number to verify that you are eligible to purchase a ticket. If your ID number does not work, you owe previous years' fees and should see Mrs. Platz in the main office.
- You may only purchase ONE MHS ticket per account.
- If your date is an MHS student and you want to purchase his/her ticket, you will have to create another account with a different email and password. You will need his/her ID number to make sure they are eligible.
- If you are bringing a Guest from outside MHS (student grade 9-12 from another school or MHS grad age 20 and under), you can purchase ONE GUEST ticket on your account.

Dance Dress Code:
- All Students must wear shoes during the dance! Ladies, you are welcome to bring a different pair of shoes (sneakers, Crocs, flats, etc.) if you do not want to wear heels all night.
- Gentlemen: Dress shoes or dress boots, dress pants, dress shirt with collar and TIE; Sport coat/suit is optional. A tie is mandatory.
- Ladies: Dress shoes, pantsuit, dress, or skirt/blouse
  - Dresses that show midriff will not be permitted
  - Mostly sheer or see-through gowns are not allowed
  - If the dress has a front or side slit, it should not go higher than the person’s fingertips (when hands are at side)
  - Backs of dress should cover small of back
  - Gowns that show excessive cleavage will not be permitted

If in the collective opinion of the school administrators and advisors a guest dresses in an inappropriate manner, he or she will not be permitted into the dance.

S.P.I.C.E. - Students Performing in Creative Entertainment
SPICE, the MHS talent show extravaganza, is Friday, January 25, and Saturday, January 26, at 7 p.m. in the PAC. Come out and cheer on students as they sing, dance and laugh their way across the stage. Tickets will be available in the PAC Box Office, at the HUB, and online at Eventbright.com, starting January 14, 2019. Tickets will also be available at the door each night. All tickets are $8.00.
SPIRIT WEEK - January 28 - February 1

Monday - Flannel Day
Tuesday - Hat Day
Wednesday - White Out Day
Thursday - “er” Day (teach“er” / writ“er” / sing“er”)
Friday - Class Color Day
  ● Freshmen: Yellow
  ● Sophomores: Black
  ● Juniors: White
  ● Seniors: Green

Universal Scholarship Application - February 1 - February 24, 2019
The Universal Scholarship Application will be available on Blackboard under the MHS Counseling Organization, Scholarship/opportunities beginning February 1, 2019. There are more than 50 scholarships from various Medina Community and Medina High School organizations and from the Medina City Schools Foundation. This application includes the elementary and middle school PTO Scholarships. The application is a google form which must be completed in one sitting. There is an application worksheet with criteria information currently available on Blackboard which can be printed for seniors to begin preparing for the online application. A printable version of the application will be available online once the 2019 application is finalized.

Senior Yard Sign Sale
The After Prom Committee is once again selling Senior Yard Signs. The signs will be on sale from January 7 - January 25, 2019. Cost for each sign is $15.

To purchase a yard sign:
1. Complete the order form (see link below) and send cash or check (made payable to Medina After Prom) to be turned into the HUB or it can be mailed to: Tricia Shuck, 5992 Churchill Way, Medina.
2. Email your order to Tricia Shuck at shuckt93@gmail.com Include the student’s name, your name and cell phone number. Payment will be EXACT CASH ONLY on the pickup date.

Click here for Senior Yard Sign Sale Order Form

Signs will be available for pick up on Monday, January 28th from 1:00-2:30 at a table located near the HUB. If you have any questions, please email Tricia Shuck.

Attention Juniors - Class of 2020
MENINGITIS VACCINE REQUIREMENT FOR SENIORS - In 2017, the Ohio Department of Health issued new Tdap and Meningitis vaccine requirements for students entering 7th and 12th grades. All seniors must provide proof of receiving the required vaccine before the start of the 2019-2020 school year. Failure to do so will result in the student not receiving their fall schedule and/or being unable to attend school. Immunization forms should be turned in at the main office.
MEDINA CITY SCHOOLS PLACED ON THE 9TH ANNUAL AP DISTRICT HONOR ROLL

Medina City Schools is one of 373 school districts in the United States and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 9th Annual AP® District Honor Roll. This is the second year in a row Medina City Schools has achieved this honor. To be included on the Honor Roll, the District had to, since 2016, increase the number of students participating in AP® while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP® Exam scores of 3 or higher. Reaching these goals show that this district is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for Advanced Placement. “Success in Advanced Placement is a combination of students’
own motivation and the opportunities educators provide for them,” said Trevor Packer, senior vice
president of AP® and Instruction at the College Board. “I’m inspired by the teachers and
administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to
earn college credit during high school.” In 2018, more than 4,000 colleges and universities around the
world received AP® score for college credit, advanced placement, or both, and/or consideration in the
admissions process. Inclusion in the 9th Annual AP® District Honor Roll is based on a review of three
years of AP® data, from 2016 to 2018, looking across 38 AP® Exams, including world language and
culture. Districts must: Increase participation/access to AP® by at least 4% in large districts, at least
6% in medium districts, and at least 11% in small districts; Increased or maintained the percentage of
American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other
Pacific Islander students taking the exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American
Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific
Islander students scoring 3+ on at least one AP® Exam; Improve or maintain performance when
comparing the 2018 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2016 percentage, unless the
district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70% of its AP® student earn a 3
or higher. The complete 9th Annual AP District Honor Roll can be found here or follow the URL below.

**Housekeeping Reminders…**

**Homework Requests**
When students are absent, they should first check for assignments on Blackboard. If a student is out
for multiple days, the students or parent should email the teachers directly to get the homework
assignments and other missing work. The staff directory can be found on the website at
www.medinabees.org under Our District.

**Lost and Found**
Missing something? A Brown’s Hoodie? Adidas Gym Shoes? The Lost and Found is located in the
main office, just behind the HUB.

**Attendance Office**
Winter weather can bring cold, icy and snowy mornings, and you know what that means! It takes more
time to get going in the morning, especially if you have to clean off a car or shovel a driveway to get the
car out. Once you are out, it can be slow going depending on the road conditions. Make sure you
give yourself or your student plenty of time and leave early enough so that they still arrive to school on
time.

Linda Florian (A-K)
330-636-3208
florianl@medinabees.org

Diane Boccio (L-Z)
330-636-3206
bocciod@medinabees.org

Call-off Line
330-636-3207 - Voicemail available 24 hours a day
Fax: 330-636-3802 - Attn: Attendance Office
Medications
All medications must be delivered by an ADULT ONLY to the SCHOOL NURSE. The medication must be in a new, unopened container. Students must never possess any type of medication without documentation from a physician allowing him/her to do so. Only school health personnel are permitted to receive and log medications. Clinic hours are 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Monday thru Friday when school is in session.

All Student Must Have a Parking Pass
All students are required to have a parking pass in order to park in the campus lots. Students may park in Lots B, C, E and F with a pass. Students are not to park in the lots of any of the area buildings including the rec center parking lot. Parking passes can be purchased daily at the Hub. Passes now cost $20. They are reduced in price $10 each quarter providing the student has not been parking at the school in the prior quarter. The required paperwork can be found on the high school website. The high school has purchased boots. There will be regular sweeps of the parking lots to check for parking passes. Cars found without a pass will get a warning sticker with directions on what to do. If there is not a parking pass at the next sweep, the car will be booted. Please note there will be a $ 20.00 fee assessed if we boot a car. We ask for parent support by making sure your student who is driving to school is purchasing a parking pass.

Second Semester Important Dates - MHS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January 7 - March 8</td>
<td>Third Grading Period</td>
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<td>January 7</td>
<td>Classes Resume</td>
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<td>January 11</td>
<td>Art 1.11</td>
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<td>January 17</td>
<td>Encore Dinner and a Show, 5:00 pm, PAC</td>
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<td>January 18</td>
<td>Teacher In Service Day, No School for Students</td>
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<td>January 21</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday, No School</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 25</td>
<td>SPICE, 7:00 pm, PAC</td>
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<td>January 26</td>
<td>MCS Pancake Breakfast, 8 am, Main Cafe, SPICE, 7:00 pm, PAC</td>
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<td>January 28 - February 1</td>
<td>Spirit Week</td>
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<td>January 29</td>
<td>Sophomore Visit to MCCC</td>
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<td>February 1</td>
<td>Winter Pep Rally</td>
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<td>February 2</td>
<td>Winter Formal, 7:30 pm, MHS Gym</td>
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<td>February 7</td>
<td>Jazz Bands Winter Concert, 7:00 pm, Middle Auditorium</td>
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<td>February 14</td>
<td>Early Release, HS/MS Orchestra Concert, 7:00 pm</td>
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<td>February 15</td>
<td>Teacher In Service Day, No School for Students</td>
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<td>February 16</td>
<td>Medina Midwest Showcase, PAC</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td>President’s Day, No School</td>
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<td>February 25 - March 1</td>
<td>Say Something Week</td>
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<td>March 4</td>
<td>Staff Choice Awards</td>
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<td>March 5</td>
<td>Winter Band Concert, 7:00 pm, PAC</td>
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<td>March 8</td>
<td>End of the Third Grade Period</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 11 - May 30</td>
<td>Fourth Grading Period</td>
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<td>March 12</td>
<td>Choirs Winter Concert, 7:00 pm, PAC</td>
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<td>March 14</td>
<td>National Latin Exams, Parent Teacher Conferences, 3-5 pm</td>
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<td>March 22</td>
<td>VOFT Dance</td>
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<td>March 25 - 29</td>
<td>Spring Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>April 13</td>
<td>Dinner and All That Jazz, 5:00 pm, Cafeterias</td>
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<td>April 19</td>
<td>Good Friday, No School</td>
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<td>April 22</td>
<td>Conference Comp Day, No School</td>
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<td>April 23</td>
<td>ELA Testing, NHS Induction Ceremony</td>
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<td>May 1 - 3</td>
<td>Government, Math, Science Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 10 - 11</td>
<td>Showtime, PAC, May 10-7:30 pm, May 11–2:00 &amp; 7:30 pm</td>
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May 15    Jazz Bands Spring Concert, 7:00 pm, Middle Auditorium
May 17    String in the Park, 12:00 pm, Medina Square
May 18    Prom, Quaker Station, Akron University
May 27    Memorial Day - No School
May 28 - 30 Final Exams
May 30    Early Release, Last Day of School

www.medianbees.org, click on Our Schools, click on Medina High School

Important Senior Dates - Class of 2019

January 7   Diploma Verification Deadline
February 1 - 24 Universal Scholarship Application Available on Blackboard
February 2   Winter Formal Dance, MHS Gym, 7:30 to 10:00 pm
February 29  Mr. Medina Pageant
March 14    Parent/Teacher Conferences, 3:00 - 5:00 pm
April 17    Senior Class Meeting, 7:30 am, Main Gym
May 10 - 11 Showtime, PAC, May 10 – 7:30 pm, May 11– 2:00 pm & 7:30 pm
May 13 - 16 Senior Exams – Exams will be given during a normal school day.
May 16    Senior Sunset, MHS Football Stadium, 7:00 p.m. to Sunset
May 17    Senior Exam Make-Up Day
May 18    Prom at Quaker Station in Akron, After Prom activities at MHS
May 21    Senior Awards Assembly, PAC, 7:00 pm
May 22    MCCC Awards Assembly, MHS Gym, 7:30 pm
May 23    Mandatory Graduation practice for All MHS & MHS-MCCC Seniors
           o 7:45 to 8:15 sign in and Continental Breakfast
           o 8:15 sharp practice begins
May 23    Baccalaureate, Cornerstone Chapel, 7:00 pm
Saturday, May 25  Commencement for all MHS and MHS-MCCC seniors,
                 James A. Rhodes Arena, University of Akron, 1:00 pm

<table>
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<tr>
<th>2019 MHS SPRING TESTING SCHEDULE</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Tuesday</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23, 2019</td>
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<td>7:30 – 10:30 am</td>
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<td>10:30 – 11:10 am</td>
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<td>11:15 – 2:15 pm</td>
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<td>English Language Arts 9</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>English Language Arts 10</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday – Friday</strong></td>
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<td>April 24–26, 2019</td>
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<td>Makeups during the regular school day</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wednesday</strong></td>
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<td>May 1, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Government</td>
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<td>Pull Outs (Two Sessions 8:00 am &amp; 11:00 am)</td>
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<td>Students will take at assigned times in assigned labs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday</strong></td>
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<td>May 2, 2019</td>
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<tr>
<td>Algebra/Geometry 9</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>Algebra/Geometry 10</td>
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<td><strong>Friday</strong></td>
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<td>May 3, 2019</td>
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<td>Biology 9/10</td>
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<td>LUNCH</td>
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<td>American History</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 6 – 10, 2019</strong></td>
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<td>Makeups during the regular school day</td>
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Medina City Schools
Community Pancake Breakfast & Spotlight on Students

Saturday, January 26, 2019
8:00AM-Noon
Medina High School Main Cafeteria
(Enter through the Performing Arts Center
OR the D4 doors at Medina High School)

Tickets
$3 per person or 4 for $10
Senior Citizens 60+ are FREE with voucher

Student Entertainment
Begins at 9:00AM in the Performing Arts Center
Face-painting and crafts with Medina High School Student Council

A FUN-FILLED FAMILY EVENT
Tickets and senior vouchers can be obtained by calling the Communications Office at 330.636.3012 or by visiting the following locations:
- All Medina City School District buildings
- Both Medina Buehler's locations

All proceeds to benefit the Medina City Schools Foundation
For questions, call 330.636.3012

www.medinabees.org