LITTLE SHOP DEVOURS: 20
With horticultural horror and hilarity
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National Honor Society
INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS

Current members of the National Honor Society tapped 32 junior and senior inductees in a schoolwide ceremony March 23 highlighting the organization’s emphasis on scholarship, leadership, character, and service. Four seniors spoke on these Honor Society characteristics.

Addressing scholarship, Jeremy Jacobs talked about “the scholar’s dilemma – the human tension between the simple pursuit of knowledge and the desire for recognition” and reminded students that scholarship is a process of self-betterment made more meaningful by pausing for “the simple joys of learning.”

Bobby Wade described the qualities of leadership and urged students “to use each day as an opportunity to inspire others through your actions [and] ideas.”

Speaking on character, Josiah Crutchfield said that the Honor Council helps students demonstrate integrity, while the whole MUS journey provides multiple chances to “test your mettle.”

Charlie Evans talked about the many opportunities for service at MUS and the long-term benefits that ensue: “Service builds camaraderie among all of us here; it is a bond that links us together, no matter what differences may seem to separate us.”

After Headmaster Pete Sanders’ closing charge to new members and congratulatory remarks, the honorees adjourned to a reception in the Dining Hall.
From left, Mr. John McCarroll, Ms. Anne McCarroll McWaters, junior Smith McWaters, Mary Virginia McWaters, and Mrs. GiGi McCarroll

Junior Reagan Griffin and Mr. Reagan Griffin, Sr.

Dr. Zabi Rezaee, senior Nick Rezaee, and Mrs. Sohelia Mansourianpour

Junior Loyd Templeton, Mr. Clay Templeton, and Marjorie Templeton

Mr. Bobby Nations, Mr. Sonny Howell, Mrs. BBo Howell, and junior Eli Nations

Sloan Miles’ family, Mrs. Gina Capizzani, Mr. Brian Miles, Mrs. Shirley Outlaw, Ms. Megan Miles, junior Sloan Miles, and Mrs. Shyara Miles

2017-18 Inductees

Louis Allen  
Joshua Blackburn  
Sonny Charbonnet  
Stephen  
Christenbury  
Jonathan Douglass  
Eddie Feild  
Trey Fussell  
Reagan Griffin  
Clay Harrison  
Edward Henley  

David Holmes  
J.J. Johnson  
Bailey Keel  
Lee Linkous  
Emerson Manley  
Smith McWaters  
Sloan Miles  
Robbie Musicante  
Eli Nations  
Houston Pate  
William Quinlen  

Tyler Rakers  
Nick Rezaee  
Omar Selim  
Sellers Shy  
Loyd Templeton  
Trey Thomas  
Weston Touliatos  
Jonathan Williams  
Henry Wood  
Philip Wunderlich  
Grant Young  

2016-17 Members

Tate Bailey  
Mack Bethell  
Graham Boswell  
Josiah Crutchfield  
Charlie Evans  
Benjamin Freeman  
Alexander  
Goodwin  
Miller Grissinger  
Eli Gruen  
Carlo Guinocor  
Jackson Howell  

Jeremy Jacobs  
Marshall Jones  
Brad Kerkhof  
Chris Kerkhof  
Barry Klug  
John McBride  
Hastings McEwan  
William Miller  
Jackson Moody  
Jimmy Morrow  
Peter Raves  
Javan Smith  

Stan Smythe  
Landon Springfield  
John Ross Swaim  
Matthew Temple  
Leon Vo  
Bobby Wade  
Jason Wang  
Jacob Webb  
Cameron Wyatt  
Chang Yu
Twelve seniors have been named Finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program – Graham Boswell, Benjamin Freeman, Eli Gruen, Jackson Howell, Jeremy Jacobs, Liam Kaltenborn, Brad Kerkhof, Jackson Moody, Rick Reinhard, Bobby Wade, Mason Williams, and Chang Yu.

MUS had the highest number of National Merit Semifinalists (13) among independent schools in the Memphis area. Twenty-three percent of the Class of 2018 received recognition from the scholarship program, including 11 National Merit Commended students, some of whom missed the threshold to advance to the Semifinalist level by as little as one point.

The Finalists now compete for some 7,500 scholarships worth more than $32 million offered beginning this spring. About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).

Varner Lands Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship

The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation has selected senior Aj Varner to receive a Cooke Scholars award. The scholarship, up to $40,000 annually, is intended to cover a significant share of the student’s educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books, and required fees. Cooke Scholars additionally are eligible for graduate school funding of up to $75,000.

Geography Bee

Eighth grader Simeon Betapudi took third place at the 2018 Tennessee National Geographic State Bee in early April, earning $2,000 in college-scholarship money.
Latin Proclamation Approved Fifth-Straight Year

For the fifth consecutive year, Gov. Bill Haslam has proclaimed April as Tennessee Latin Language Appreciation Month at the request of Instructor in Latin Ryan Sellers and his students. Once again, the official Latin motto for the month is Musica e montibus fluit (Music flows from the mountains).

Latin Students Garner National Medals

Bubones have risen to the challenge this year with 17 students earning medals at the 2017-18 National Classical Etymology Exam and 27 gaining honors and cash prizes during the 2018 Classical Association of the Middle West and South Latin Translation Contest.

CAMWS Translation Contest

More than 1,000 students from nearly 60 schools in 19 states (and one European country) participated in the 2018 Classical Association of the Middle West and South Latin Translation Contest this year. Only one student attained a perfect score: sophomore Rob McFadden.

Twenty-seven Owls in all earned awards and cash prizes, with senior Chang Yu attaining a Certificate of Commendation for placing in the top 20 percent of the Latin V participants. Juniors in Latin IV, Loyd Templeton and Ty Williams, earned Book Awards for scoring in the top 6 percent of their exams, and Ethan Hurst, Ethan Lam, Brandon Roachell, Zuhair Somjee, Warren Turner, and Henry Wood earned Certificates of Commendation for placing in the top 20 percent.

In addition to McFadden, sophomores had a strong showing in Latin III with Reid Chandler and Arjun Puri earning cash awards for scoring in the top 2 percent of the Latin III exam, Kyle Koester taking home a Book Award for scoring in the top 4 percent of the exam, and Charlie Eason, Michael Gayoso, Gregory Guo, Jonathan Huang, Will Portera, Seth Richey, and Jack Wellford earning Certificates of Commendation for placing in the top 20 percent.

In Latin II exams, freshman Cooper Grinspun scored in the top 3 percent, earning a Book Award, and classmates Warren Barry, Hart Gowen, Watts Miller, Fawwaz Omer, Will Schuessler, and Max Shackelford placed in the top 20 percent, earning Certificates of Commendation.

In Tennessee rankings MUS took home 27 honors, Montgomery Bell Academy and Houston High School earned five honors each, St. Mary’s claimed four, and Chattanooga’s Girls Preparatory School earned one.

NCE Exam

The National Classical Etymology Exam tests a student’s ability to handle both Latin and Greek derivatives and their usage in the English language.

In the Advanced Level, Latin IV, juniors Brandon Roachell and Loyd Templeton earned Silver Medals, and junior Ethan Hurst earned a Bronze.

In the Intermediate Level, Latin III, sophomore Kyle Koester earned a Silver Medal.

Freshmen brought home honors in the Intermediate Level, Latin II, with Will Schuessler earning Gold; Cooper Grinspun, Fawwaz Omer, Samy Paul, and Ryan Peng earning Silver; and Akbar Latif and Cullen Lonergan capturing Bronze.

In Novice Level, Latin I, eighth graders Mark Hieatt, Forest Rudd, and Talal Siddiq earned Gold Medals; Simeon Betapudi took Silver; and Alex Li and seventh grader Jack Zaptin earned Bronze.

This is the eighth official year the National Junior Classical League has sponsored this online examination.
Three Honored at Rhodes Model U.N.

Instructor in Modern Languages Jenny Pratt and Instructor in History Davis Smith took 15 MUS boys to Rhodes College for the Mid-South Model United Nations in mid-February. Sophomores won four major awards.

As representatives in the Economic and Financial Committee, Parth Dahima earned a Verbal Commendation representing the Netherlands, and Arjun Puri received an Honorable Mention Outstanding Delegate award representing Singapore. Carson Lakin won two awards: Honorable Mention Outstanding Delegate and Honorable Mention Outstanding Position Paper, both for his portrayal of Captain Riker in the Star Trek Crises Committee.

Model U.N. roles and assignments range from real-world to outlandish, and a competitor must roll with whatever comes his way. Dahima and Puri were tasked with crafting global policies for electronics-waste control, loans for the least-developed U.N. countries, and labor-force rules for women in Singapore.

“The issues were not at all simple; they plague poorer countries, many of which are resistant to positive change because of culture, corruption, or religion.” Puri said.

“And without job training,” Dahima said, “women could not enter the workforce in impoverished areas – but increased training would increase the percentage of workers, leading to stronger countries.”

Lakin, on the other hand, was fighting off an invading Borg Empire while coordinating with the Romulan Star and Klingon Empires.

“Writing effective directives was a challenge,” Lakin said. “But the hardest part was getting my stranger crisis notes approved – such as creating an army of dogs.”

The full roster of Model U.N. attendees and their committee roles:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Committee Role</th>
<th>Country/Character</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Omkar Hosad, senior</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States Crises Committee: Turkmenistan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Blackburn, junior</td>
<td>Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural General Assembly Committee: Botswana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood Davis, junior</td>
<td>Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural General Assembly Committee: Mexico</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reid Chandler, sophomore</td>
<td>Star Trek: Attack of the Borg Crises Committee: Janeway</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parth Dahima, sophomore</td>
<td>Economic and Financial General Assembly Committee: Netherlands</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack Fernandez, sophomore</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States Crises Committee: Tajikistan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vijdan Gill, sophomore</td>
<td>Commonwealth of Independent States Crises Committee: Uzbekistan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yousef Husein, sophomore</td>
<td>Disarmament and International Security Committee: Jordan</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tre Johnson, sophomore</td>
<td>Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural General Assembly Committee: Thailand</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carson Lakin, sophomore</td>
<td>Star Trek: Attack of the Borg Crises Committee: Captain Riker</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Arjun Puri, sophomore</td>
<td>Economic and Financial General Assembly Committee: Singapore</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jonathan Shepherd, sophomore</td>
<td>Star Trek: Attack of the Borg Crises Committee: Admiral Paul Chapman</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeffrey Shulkin, sophomore</td>
<td>Disarmament and International Security Committee: Libya</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sean-Marc Taylor, sophomore</td>
<td>Star Trek: Attack of the Borg Crises Committee: Councilor K’tal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miller Galloway, freshman</td>
<td>World Health Organization General Assembly Committee: Djibouti</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dr. Eric Dalle ’93, English and French instructor, took 11 students to the 2018 WordSmith Writing Olympics February 25 at the University of Memphis, and junior Jory Meyers earned first place in the 11th-grade, 120-word Argumentative Essay/Letter to the Editor event.

Each event includes a specific time limit and prompt, and the writer is judged by clarity of content, power of expression, and demonstration of a strong command of vocabulary. Meyers’ prompt was “The Mass Shooting Generation Cries Out.”

He felt especially confident about this subject, not only because he is passionate about the topic, but he had prepared to address that subject at the Youth in Government event in April.

“I’m on the Governor’s Cabinet as commissioner of safety and homeland security,” he said. “I am very interested in politics – and Memphis has a gun-violence problem – so I have to be well-versed in the arguments on both sides of the gun-control debate.”

Celebrating over 35 years at the University of Memphis, the WordSmith competition brings hundreds of middle and high school students from 30 area schools to the University of Memphis to test their writing and creative thinking skills through a series of writing exercises.

The Mock Trial Team debated and defended their way through the season to qualify for the state championships in Nashville at the end of March. The team finished in eighth place, and senior William Miller earned the MUS MVP Award.

Arguing both the plaintiff and defense sides during four intense rounds of competition at state were seniors Miller and Stan Smythe and sophomore James Smythe. Performing witness roles for both sides were seniors Smith Duncan and Barry Klug and junior Henry Duncan.

A bizarre computer error renamed James Smythe “Tanus Smytne” at the state competition.
Boberski Sets Sail with Story Pirates
Seventh grader wins nationwide contest, inspiring a book by a bestselling author

Last summer The Story Pirates children’s media company sent out a call to fans across the country for book ideas, and seventh grader Vince Boberski answered. Now his name is featured on the cover of The Story Pirates Present: Stuck in the Stone Age by bestselling children’s author Mr. Geoff Rodkey.

“Based on an original idea by real kid Vince Boberski,” reads the credit, printed in a bright yellow circle.

That real kid had written a short story for his fifth-grade English class at Presbyterian Day School – a tale inspired by watching Back to the Future at home. His story followed two quirky, modern-day scientists accidentally transported to prehistoric times. Facing myriad natural, technical, and personality challenges, the duo needed to fix their broken time machine and find their way home.

After learning he was the winner of the idea contest, Boberski traveled to New York City in March to meet the Pirates and help Rodkey with the story. The young author wrote an introduction and recorded it for the audiobook, and he joined Rodkey for a question-and-answer session with a live audience, the book launch, and a signing event.

“It was a whirlwind of events,” Boberski said. “The Story Pirates were all very nice, fun people to be with.”

The seventh grader recalled that during the Q&A session, Story Pirates’ Artistic Director Lee Overtree encouraged the audience to be inspired by Rodkey’s work, telling them that everyone should write. “He said to just write whatever you want, because something good can come from it.”

Boberski’s next story idea is already in the works.

“I’m trying to write the memoir of a talking bear,” he said. “I don’t think there’s a lot of those out there.”

The Story Pirates Present: Stuck in the Stone Age can be purchased in book stores, at Amazon.com, and at the Story Pirates website, storypirates.com.

MATHCOUNTS State Champs

Coach Meredith McFarlin’s team of eighth graders Mark Hieatt, Alex Li, Samuel Lim, Forest Rudd, George Zhang, and Kerry Zhao, and seventh graders Aaron Barawid and Parth Mishra won the regional MATHCOUNTS championship February 3 at Southwest Tennessee Community College.

The fearsome foursome of Hieatt, Rudd, Zhang, and Zhao then advanced to conquer the state competition in Nashville in March. Besides taking state, Zhang and Zhao qualified to fill two of the four seats representing Tennessee at the national championship in Washington, DC, in mid-May.
Spanish Trio Brings Home Lauds

Istructor in Spanish Ken Stacey sent his Spanish II students to the University of Memphis Language Fair at the end of March, and three sophomore Owls earned honors in writing and performance.

In Poetry Recitation Parth Dahima took first place with his performance of “Mi Abuela Es Un Hada” – a poem by Gloria Fuertes reminiscing on her childhood and her grandmother.

Cameron Evans took second place in Writing with a creative essay about treasure hunting, featuring legendary pirates including the Chinese female pirate, Ching Shih, who commanded 80,000 outlaws after the death of her husband.

Vijdan Gill, incorrectly judged as a Spanish III student, still took first place in Poetry Writing for his creation titled “Colores” – a tragic meta-poem about the meaninglessness of trying to create something new, as everything has already been done.

“I had already written the poem, so I just translated it and rewrote to accommodate the meter requirements Mr. Stacey gave us,” Gill said. “We have joked that they gave me first place because they were afraid I was depressed and needed the affirmation.”

Hieatt to Hit DC for National Bee

Eighth grader Mark Hieatt will advance to the Scripps Howard National Spelling Bee in May in Washington, DC. A marathon of spelling has transported him to this place of honor – and will soon put him in the bright lights of a live television broadcast!

Beginning in October, MUS hosted two preliminary bees. Eighth grader Forest Rudd took first place, seventh grader Alyaan Salman earned second, and eighth grader Loro Lado placed third. In November Hieatt finished first, and eighth graders Alex Li and Jack Zanone earned second and third, respectively. These winners battled for the final spell-off in December, and Hieatt emerged victorious.

In addition to conquering the MUS spelling bee, Hieatt had to score in the top 70 percent on the semifinal – a computer-based spelling and vocabulary test hosted by Scripps Howard. He did so with flying colors, matriculating to the regional spelling bee and five grueling hours of competition.

The two top contestants from regional advance to the national event, as well as a few select spellers who score highly in the Scripps ranking system, a combination of the speller’s performance on the online test, the regional event, and the contestant’s prior bee performances.

Hieatt did not make the top two seats, but his ranking comfortably qualified him to travel to Washington. Bee Week 2018 is May 27 to June 1. The finals will be Thursday, May 31. Learn more and keep up with Hieatt’s progress in May at spellingbee.com.
Twenty MUS juniors and seniors were inducted into the Cum Laude Society, an organization modeled on Phi Beta Kappa that represents the highest academic honor students in a secondary school can achieve.

Science Department Chair Analice Sowell, guest speaker at the February 16 ceremony, spoke about improvements in our lives due to science and the importance of students becoming “scientifically literate citizens,” whether or not they pursue a career in a scientific field.

Cum Laude Chapter Advisor Lin Askew, the Sue Hightower Hyde Chair of English, used Huck Finn as an example of a scientist – an empiricist with a sound heart – and said, “Science and the arts go hand-in-hand in the development of the young men whom we honor today.” Outlining the Cum Laude values of excellence, justice, and honor, he commended the students for their outstanding achievements and the ways in which they’ve displayed these characteristics.

Headmaster Pete Sanders also recognized the honorees for living up to the Cum Laude ideals. “You have demonstrated mastery of the academic life of this school where much is asked of you … as Cum Laude members, you have led the way.”

New members are seniors Josiah Crutchfield, William Dellinger, Ryan Gorman, William Miller, Tyler Rakers, Rick Reinhard, Jon Staffel, Leon Vo, Jacob Webb, and Mason Williams; and juniors James Blatchford, Ethan Hurst, Ethan Lam, John Mann, Ev Nichol, William Quinlen, Sellers Shy, Zuhair Somjee, Jet Tan, and Loyd Templeton.

Current members inducted last year are seniors Charlie Evans, Benjamin Freeman, Jackson Howell, Jeremy Jacobs, Liam Kaltenborn, Brad Kerkhof, Barry Klug, Jackson Moody, Matthew Temple, Bobby Wade, and Chang Yu.
Dean’s Scholars

Students who have earned 90 or above in every regular and honors course and 80 or above in every honors accelerated and AP course are designated Dean’s Scholars.

### Grade 12
- Mack Bethell
- Graham Boswell
- Josiah Cutchfield
- William Dellinger
- Harry Dunavant
- Charlie Evans
- Sean Fitzharry
- Matt Fogelman
- Benjamin Freeman
- Alexander Goodwin
- Edward Henley
- Jackson Howell
- Alex Humphreys
- Jeremy Jacobs
- Liam Kaltenborn
- Brad Kerkhof
- Barry Klug
- Hastings McEwan
- William Miller
- Jackson Moody
- Tyler Rakers
- Peter Raves
- Rick Reinhard
- Javan Smith
- Stan Smythe
- Jon Staffel
- John Ross Swaim
- Matthew Temple
- Bobby Wade
- Jason Wang
- Bays Webb
- Jacob Webb
- Mason Williams
- Cameron Wyatt
- Chang Yu

### Grade 10
- Forest Rudd
- Emerson Manley
- Ev Nichol
- William Quinlen
- Brandon Roachell
- Sidney Selvage
- Sellers Shy
- Zuhair Somjee
- Jet Tan
- Loyd Templeton
- Weston Touliatos
- Henry Wood
- Grant Young

### Grade 10
- Ethan Lam
- Cole Rutherford
- Garner Uhllhorn
- Coleman Whitehead
- Kerry Zhao

### Grade 7
- Jack Blackwell
- Vince Boberski
- Lewis Butler
- Clarence Chapman
- Jaxon Hammond
- Joseph Keeler
- Eli Lewis
- Kevin Ma
- Jackson Osvalt
- Isaac Palmer
- Thomas Preston
- Ryan Ramsay
- Jordan Saunders
- Andrew Schell
- Edward Wilson
- Jack Zaptin
- Lou Zhou

### Dean’s List

Students who have earned a weighted semester GPA of at least 3.25 with no semester grade below 80 are placed on the Dean’s List.

### Grade 12
- Joe Carter
- Baugh Doster
- Jack Eason
- Miller Grissinger
- Carlo Guinocor
- Jesse Homan
- Noah Hooper
- Omkar Hosad
- Will Huffman
- Michael Jennings
- Marshall Jones
- McCall Knowlton
- Foster Ligon
- Aidan Lonergan
- John McBride
- Thompson McDonald
- Bo McEwan
- Jimmy Morrow
- Will Murrah
- Mathon Parker
- Sam Payne
- Nick Rezaee
- Hayden Stark
- Zachary Street
- Matthew Stock

### Grade 11
- Louis Allen
- Joshua Blackburn
- David Byrd
- Robin Coffman
- Mac Coleman
- Anders Croone
- Walker Crosby
- Wood Davis
- Eddie Feild
- Trey Fussell
- Reagan Griffin
- Clay Harrison
- Allen Hughes
- Nicholas Hurley
- Lee Linkous
- John Mann
- Smith McWaters
- Sloan Miles
- Hudson Miller
- Kayhan Mirza
- Robbie Musicante
- Eli Nations
- Eston Pahlow
- Houston Pate
- Caleb Riggs
- Matthew Rogers
- Josh Tanenbaum
- Kylan Taylor
- Tj Williams
- Philip Wunderlich

### Grade 10
- Wasif Abdullah
- Robert Ayotte
- Stratton Barousse
- Andrew Bragorgos
- John Bridgeforth
- Gus Carter
- Parth Dahima
- Robert Dickinson
- Charlie Eason
- Jack Fernandez
- Landon Ford
- Michael Gayoso
- Bone Harris
- Cody Hopkins
- Jesse Houston
- J.D. Huber
- Yusuf Kazi
- Carson Lakin
- Charles Long
- Will McEwan
- Knox McQuillen

### Grade 9
- Omar Alyousef
- Evan Boswell
- Ben Burkhalter
- Walker Burks
- Drew Burnett
- Harmon Colvett
- Luke Donovan
- Judson Fair
- Miller Galloway
- Christopher Goodwin
- Eliyah Graham
- Zachary Herman
- Ben Hernandez
- Griffin Hood
- Joe Hudson
- Will Jarratt
- McKnight Johnston
- Matthew Jones
- Paul Jones
- Akbar Latif
- Thomas Lusk
- Colin McCown
- Ayman McGowan
- Reid McGowan
- Everett Miller
- Jack Morin
- Gavin Murrey
- Henry Nicky
- Matthew Phillips
- Jacob Rickles
- Henry Robinson
- Daniel Russell
- Carson Rutherford
- Carrigan Sulcer
- Harm Thomas
- Wes Vanderslice
- J.P. Wood
- Michael Wylie
- Tyllyn Young

### Grade 7
- James Alexander
- Aaron Barawid
- Andrew Burchett
- Carter Campbell
- Reid Chauhan
- Braden Chubb
- Thomas Coffey
- George Flinn
- Charlie Gamble
- Nathaniel Greenfield
- Charles Hamlett
- Phoenix Hernandez
- George House
- Jack Knighton
- James Ledbetter
- John Lee
- Ben McBride
- Parth Mishra
- Clyde Patton
- Sam Phan
- Doty Rawson
- Mohid Saed
- Wylid Solberg
- Barrett Summers
- Morgan Temme
- Rhodes Temme

An archive of Honor Rolls can be found on our website Resource Board behind your login.
Mrs. Jenny Pratt and Mr. Davis Smith took 44 Owls to Nashville in early April for the annual YMCA Youth in Government Conference, and they brought back a host of newly named statewide officers and a plethora of awards.

“Owls composed only 8 percent of YIG conference delegates, but we won 28 percent of statewide officerships for 2019,” Pratt said. “By far the most of any school and the most in MUS history!”

The juniors elected to serve as officers next spring are Joshua Blackburn, Blue Senate floor leader, and Wood Davis, Blue House of Representatives clerk. The sophomore officers are Jack Fernandez, Blue Senate chief clerk; Reid Chandler, Blue Senate sergeant-at-arms; Vijdan Gill, Supreme Court justice; Devin Malone, Red House of Representatives sergeant-at-arms; Jeffery Shulkin, Blue House of Representatives chief engrossing clerk. In addition, freshman Harmon Colvett was elected State of Tennessee attorney general.

Blackburn and Davis earned a Team Delegation Award; juniors Nick Rezaee, senior Nick Rezaee, sophomores Richard Neff, Robert Ayotte, and Colvett won Outstanding Delegate Award; sophomore Arjun Puri earned the MUS Delegation Award; and Fernandez and Gill won a Supreme Court Novice “Final Case” Team Award.

“Our boys conducted themselves exceptionally well and were universally commended by YMCA staff and teachers from other schools for their seriousness of purpose, gentlemanly and responsible behavior, and dedication to the spirit of this collaborative and problem-solving weekend,” Pratt said.

She also praised two seniors, 2018 Government Club co-presidents and YIG officers, Oyama Hampton and Omkar Hosad, for their contributions this year.

“Mr. Davis and I especially want to thank Oyama and Omkar for their recruiting efforts this year and their willingness to coach and guide fellow classmates,” she said. “Without their efforts, this year would not have been such a tremendous success.”

Bubones took first place overall for the 11th consecutive year at the 62nd Annual Tennessee Junior Classical League State Convention, thanks to a strong showing in individual awards, first place finishes in Intermediate and Novice Certamen, and a second-place award in Advanced Certamen.

“When you’ve won a competition like this for 10 years in a row, it would be very easy to become complacent,” Latin Instructor Ryan Sellers said. “However, these students maintained their level of focus and motivation, and they were determined to bring home our 11th consecutive victory. We are very proud of our students for their hard work and their perennial commitment to excellence.”

The Owls competed among approximately 600 students from 38 schools throughout Tennessee at the convention, held at Austin Peay State University in Clarksville April 20-21.

A total of 42 Upper and Lower School Owls earned a combined score of 1,423 points. University School of Nashville finished second, and Hume-Fogg finished third.

Owls earned five of the six top individual placements at the convention: Eighth grader Forest Rudd took first place with 147 points; freshman Max Shackelford, third place with 114 points; senior Chang Yu, fourth place with 105 points; freshman Ryan Peng, fifth place with 99 points; and sophomore Rob McFadden, sixth place with 87 points.

Best of Show Award winners were McFadden in Derivatives and Advanced Grammar, Rudd in Grammar Level I, Yu in Vocabulary, eighth grader Mark Hieatt and Rudd (a tie) in Level I Reading Comprehension, freshman Fawwaz Omer in Level II Reading Comprehension, and freshman Will Schuessler in Mythology Level II.

In addition, the team of juniors Ethan Hurst, Jet Tan, and Warren Turner and eighth grader Alex Li took first place in the Chariot Race.
It was a bittersweet year for Mr. Garrett Smithson, science instructor and robotics coach. On the sweet side, three teams competed with two qualifying for state – and one making it all the way to the semifinals. On the bitter side, it was the last year to coach his freshmen robotics engineers – team RoboBubo – a group of guys who began with him when they were in Lower School. Now they will graduate to the Upper School robotics programs with Mr. Lee Loden.

“It was a joy watching them go from seventh graders to freshmen, seeing the way they have matured over the years,” Smithson said. “I look forward to what they will achieve in the future.”

That team of Akbar Latif, Cooper Grinspun, Ben Hernandez, Cullen Lonergan, and Omar Alyousef had to overcome a bumpy start. Beginning the season with a strong robot design, they learned of last-minute rule changes right before the first tournament. They adjusted the robot accordingly, but didn’t get to test it before competing.

“The team had great ideas and built a really cool robot,” he said. “But after that on-the-fly adjustment, the robot basically twisted in upon itself on the first maneuver. They just looked at me like, ‘What the heck just happened?!’”

After correcting their problems, the engineers competed well for the remainder of the season. They earned seventh place in the state qualifier, experiencing defeat in the first round of the quarterfinals after a best-two-out-of-three elimination.

The season comprised three competitions running from November to February, culminating with the state event in Nashville in March. Smithson’s two Lower School teams performed well all the way to the alliance selections at the state competition.

Team MUSMachine, which made it to the quarterfinals, consisted of eighth graders Ricky Giledi, Scott Ledbetter (captain), Ricky Ransom, Kerry Zhao; and seventh graders Adrish Biswas, Mohid Saeed, and Isaac Palmer.

Team RoboBuzzards included eighth graders Will Chandler, Noah Emmert (captain), West Loden, George Zhang; and seventh graders Aryaan Ahmed, Jack Knighton, and Alyaan Salman. They competed into the semifinals, then fell because of a technically questionable call.

While the disqualification was a disappointment, the boys’ reaction was a high point for Smithson. Other alliance players demonstrably expressed their dissatisfaction with the official’s decision, but the Owls maintained their composure.

“We heard the announcement over the loudspeakers, and some alliance players started yelling and arguing,” he said. “But our guys calmly accepted it and showed great maturity; I was very proud of them.”

Quoting Lower School Assistant Principal Joe Tyler, he added, “We want to win. But if we’re not going to win, we are at least going to lose with integrity and honor.”

“We work boys hard and expect a lot of them,” Smithson said. “But it’s when you take them off campus that you see best how great they really are amongst their peers.”
MUS Honors Students with Book Awards and Inductions

At the annual Special Awards and Honor Societies Induction mid-April, eight students received special honors and collegiate book awards in recognition of scholastic achievement, leadership, and community service. Faculty, alumni, and special guests presented the awards. In addition to the special awards winners, students were inducted into the French, Spanish, and Latin language honor societies; History Honor Society; Quill and Scroll Society; Mu Alpha Theta; and Societas Caritatis (a community service honor society).
Two heifers and a crowd of seventh-grade Owls got an up-close look at animal husbandry practices on a recent field trip to Lone Oaks Farm. As staff members demonstrated how blood is drawn, medicine is given, and artificial insemination is conducted, it was unclear which faction appeared to be more uncomfortable – the heifers or the boys.

The experience is among the activities in the STEM education program at Lone Oaks Farm in Middleton, TN. Recently, both seventh and eighth graders spent a day at the farm. In late March, as the seventh graders arrived for their day, Mr. Ron Blair, director of STEM education at the farm, made the goal of the program clear.

“We don’t need any more professional football players. We don’t need any more professional basketball players. We don’t even need any more farmers,” he told the assembled seventh graders. “We need you to grow up to be scientists, architects, engineers, and...
entrepreneurs. What you do may determine how we feed the world’s estimated population of 8.5 billion people when you graduate from college.”

Following Blair’s introduction, the horde of boys divided into four groups and half piled into a trailer, taking off across the 1,200-acre farm. The first group was deposited on the edge of an idyllic lake where a bald eagle watched attentively from the distant side. Staff members introduced the boys to power tools and stacks of miscellaneous materials, including pieces of metal siding and rubber tubes – raw materials they would use to construct fish habitats. The resulting underwater abstract-art installations would grow algae and provide cover for fish in the many lakes at the farm.

A second group of Owls arrived at a barn for the heifer demonstration.

“It was kind of aggressive,” seventh grader Dylan Robinson said. “But it was interesting, and I learned a lot about the daily life of cows – like if they get sick, you have to muscle their jaws open to push big pills down their throats because they can’t chew them.”

Meanwhile, group three set about measuring trees and determining the economic value of timber, as group four extracted micro invertebrates from logs and identified them. Then all teams met back at the rallying point for a lunch break. Group rotations continued until each team had visited all four project areas.

“My favorite part was measuring trees,” Robinson said. “I didn’t know you could do it from the ground – or that they have a special tool to do it.”

University of Tennessee purchased Lone Oaks Farm from Mr. Scott Ledbetter ’60 to provide a 4-H Camp and STEM program to West Tennessee youth. Expressing the value of the experience, Lower School Principal Clay Smythe ’85, echoed STEM Director Blair’s introduction.

“We won’t have any more land, and we won’t have any new sources of water, yet we are going to need to feed 1 billion more people across the globe within a decade. Scientists will have to figure out how we’re going to be able to do it,” Smythe said. “Lone Oaks Farm wants to help inspire today’s kids to become the scientists of tomorrow.”

Robinson said he hoped more Owls would visit the farm.

“It’s a fun trip – but be ready for surprises,” he said. “And be open-minded; it isn’t every day you see cows get shots or take medicine.”
Knowledge Bowl Team Makes it to Round Three

Knowledge Bowlers and seniors Jackson Howell, Omkar Hosad, Jackson Moody, Jon Staffel, and Chang Yu aced their first and second matches this year, besting Covington High School in December and Brighton in January.

Round three against Oxford High School (MS) was bumpy, however, because of a few unfortunate events. One Owl was pulled away for Mock Trial, and the team gambled, but answered incorrectly, when they jumped the gun on a bonus question. With the significant loss of those points and one category expert missing, the team fell to Oxford, the eventual semifinalist team.

Junior Mock Interviews

Each year the College Counseling Office schedules Junior Mock Interviews, a time when faculty, staff, and alumni help juniors practice college and career interviews.

The process covers a variety of topics, from preparation and first impressions to follow-up thank-you notes.
Freshmen Test for GMOs

Mrs. Laura McCormick's freshman Honors Biology class concluded their genetics unit by testing common foods for the presence of a gene used to modify crops. The students processed samples and ran a polymerase chain reaction to amplify any GMO (genetically modified organism) genes, determining if the food was “all natural” or genetically modified.
Little Shop Delivers

An invasive species of man-eating vegetation took root in Hyde Chapel in early March when the curtain went up for Little Shop of Horrors. A rock-and-roll comedy about space-alien plants bent on world domination, Little Shop told the story of a down-and-out florist and his hapless workers, Seymour and Audrey. Did the evil plant, Audrey II, eat the shopkeepers and take over the planet? Did true love win in the end? Only those who survived the hilariously bloody tale know the truth.
CAST

Seymour ......................................................... James Smythe
Audrey ................................................................. Mykal Bayne
Mr. Mushnik, a florist .......................................... Sam Payne
Orin Scriverello, typical dentist .................. Stan Smythe
Skid Row Girls, Crystal, Ronette, Chiffon ......... Emma Nair, ................. Nora James Eikner, Bella Littleton
Angel, Shirelle ............................ Catie Lockhart, Callie Oehmler
Derelict ...................................................... Bennett Barousse
WSKID Interviewer ................................................ Jon Staffel
Mrs. Luce .......................................................... Rachel Adkins
Skip Snip, Agent .................................................. Ty Williams
Bernstein, TV exec ............................................. Vijdan Gill
Patrick Martin, Licensing .......................... Smith McWaters
First Customer ................................................ Henry Duncan
More Customers ............................................. Omkar Hosad, Jon Staffel
Plant Seller ...................................................... Vijdan Gill
Audrey II (voice) ........................................... Mr. Matt Tutor ’91
Audrey II (operators) ...................................... Riane Bayne, ............... James Smythe, Eli Gruen

Ensemble Women
Sarah Mednikow
Claire Schneider
Rachel Adkins
Meredith Kerlin

Ensemble Men
Mack Bethell
Thompson McDonald
Bo McEwan
Kollin White
Chris Kerkhof
Charlie Rhodes
Aidan Saunders
John Keegan
Daniel Russell
McKnight Johnston

RUN CREW

Lighting
Alexander Goodwin

Follow Spots
Mackenzie Fittes
Paige Fernandez

Sound Board
Charlie Nichols

Sound Cue Design
Sophie Fernandez
Carson Lakin

Set Changes
Cameron Wyatt
Reid Chandler
Carson Lakin
Cameron Evans
Andrew Bragorgos

Stage Management
Matthew Strock

Puppeteer
Eli Gruen

Costumes
Ms. Alexandra Perel-Sams
Alexis Doan

Props
Riane Bayne
Alexis Doan
Caroline Couch

Directors
Mr. Ted Fockler ’10 and Mr. Timothy Greer

Additional Direction
Matthew Strock and Witt Miesse

Design and Technical Direction
Mr. Robert Fudge

Assistant Technical Director
Mr. Trevor Marshal

Musical Direction
Mr. Matt Tutor ’91

Choreography
Mrs. Kimberly Baker
Mr. Timothy Greer
Mr. Ted Fockler
Nora James Eikner

Assistant Scenic Designer
Harry Dunavant

Afternoon Stage Crew
Andrew Bragorgos
Cameron Evans
Carson Lakin
Cooper Grinspun
Arnab Das
David Byrd
David Holmes
Sophie Fernandez
Jack Fernandez
Harrison Finks
Harry Dunavant
Harry White
Houston Pate
Holden Pate
Jeffrey Shulkin
Matthew Jones
Matthew Phillips
Reid Chandler
Ryan Peng
Yousef Husein
Jack Morin
Wesley Butler
Cullen Lonergan
Kyle Taylor
Ahmad Alsaifwah
Omar Alyousef
Ben Hernandez
Vijdan Gill
James Blatchford
Edwin Rawson
Tate Bailey

Theater Production Class
Arnab Das
Cameron Wyatt
Ben Fernandez
William Dellinger
Austin Hamilton
Joe Carter
Rucker Wilkinson
Jake Wilbourn
Sean Fitzhenry
Buchanan Dunavant
Jack Eason
Aidan Lonergan
Mathon Parker
Owl Musicians Earn Band and Orchestra Honors

Seven Owls earned honors during All-West Tennessee band and orchestra auditions, and freshman Braxton Hart advanced to the state level.

In the All-West Tennessee Band auditions held in January in Jackson, TN, Hart earned third-chair trombone in the Blue Band for freshmen and sophomores. This high ranking sent him to Nashville in April for the All-State Band, where he rehearsed and performed during the state music convention. In other All-West Band honors, freshman Samy Paul was selected for the freshman and sophomore Red Band on clarinet, and seventh grader Henry Yu was selected for the middle school Blue Band on clarinet.

In the All-West Tennessee Orchestra auditions held at Briarcrest Christian School in November, freshman Junior Smith McWaters, left, earned third place and the Florence Leffler Award for Diction at the ESU Shakespeare Competition. He is pictured with second and first place winners, Kaia Williams of Arlington High School and Madeleine O’Toole of St. Mary’s. Cash prizes accompanied all awards.

Ryan Peng and sophomore Daniel Lim earned coveted places in the High School Honors String Orchestra, sophomore Jacob Curlin earned a violin alternate chair, and eighth-grader Samuel Lim made 10th-chair violin in the Middle School Orchestra.

Eighth grader Lawson Touliatos won the local Celebration of Music contest and will travel to Los Angeles, CA, at the end of the year to perform live on television.
WOODWORKING

Mr. Jim Buchman’s Upper School artists worked with power tools to craft candlesticks and other artwork from wood this semester. Below, from left, are junior Anders Croone and seniors John Keegan and Trey Thomas.

Digital Collages

Mrs. Terry Balton’s Digital Design students studied focal points, rules of thirds, and the Golden Mean as they practiced cropping and collage-making with photos they took on campus. Their collages were given texture and more interest by using a Photoshop overlay technique. Collages by seniors John McBride, Chandler Tabor, and Charlie Evans.
It was the evening of January 19. The varsity basketball Owls had just fallen by double digits to a talented Briarcrest squad at home, leaving the team at 8-9 on the year, 0-1 in the division. Many teams would have felt their season slipping away, discouraged that they could not recover. But this group of Owls was different. Instead of pouting, players and coaches got back to work. Instead of quitting, the team was determined to turn the season around.

And turn it around they did, as the Owls finished the regular season winning seven of their final eight games to claim the second seed in their division and a first-round bye in the state playoffs. It was during that span, after the first Briarcrest game, that the team played some outstanding basketball and defeated some highly skilled teams. The streak included victories over Evangelical Christian School and St. George’s outside of the division and two wins each over divisional rivals St. Benedict and Christian Brothers. The Christian Brothers victories marked the first time the Owls had swept the Purple Wave since 2013. The team finished divisional play with a 4-2 record.

After a first-round bye, the Owls took on Chattanooga McCallie at home in the quarterfinals of the state tournament. McCallie, with a Division I signee starting at guard and two Division I football signees starting in the post, came in looking to end the Owls’ season, but with the game tied at 50 and just six seconds remaining, the Owls ran a great out-of-bounds play, and senior John McBride found junior Sellers Shy wide open under the basket for the lay-in, giving the team the 52-50 victory. That advanced the Owls to Nashville and the final four, where they would face three-time defending state champion, Brentwood Academy. MUS led at the end of the first quarter, 13-9, and was trailing by only 4 midway through the third quarter, but Brentwood Academy slowly pulled away in the final quarter to win and end the Owls’ year at 16-11.

The team was led by its three seniors. Captain McBride ended his career with a stellar senior season, averaging 16.8 points per game and 7.7 rebounds per game. In fact, he also led the team in assists, steals, blocked shots, and charges drawn, and his season earned him the honor of being named All-State by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association and Co-Most Valuable Player of the division, as voted by the coaches. Senior Zachary Street, also a captain, overcame a nagging injury to play the second half of the year, and he played very well in several key games. Despite missing 13 games, he still shot 39.5 percent from 3-point range and showed great determination in trying to get healthy. And senior Aedan McKay played in 20 games and provided good athleticism to
the team both in practice and during games.

Juniors on the team included Jalen Hollimon, Sloan Miles, Matthew Rogers, Dekari Scott, Shy, Josh Tanenbaum, Philip Wunderlich, and Grant Young. And sophomores included J.D. Huber, Thomas Pitts, Charlie Street, and Tra Warren.

In addition to McBride’s Co-MVP honor, Street was named First-Team All-Division, and Scott and Shy were named to the Second Team.

Coaches Matt Bakke, Trey Suddarth, and Jerry Dover were proud of the group’s progress and accomplishments.

“It was an honor and a privilege to be associated with this year’s team,” Head Coach Bakke said. “Players and coaches displayed unwavering resilience, unselfishness, and total commitment to the success of the team. It was extremely satisfying to see their hard work and team-first attitude result in a trip to the final four of state. Many thanks to Coach Suddarth, Coach Dax Torrey ’94, and Coach Dover for the invaluable contributions they made this season. It was truly a special year.”

Basketball Roster

**JUNIOR VARSITY**

**Coach:** Jerry Dover  
**Record:** 11–14  
**Roster:** Juniors Walker Crosby, Call Ford; sophomores Robert Ayotte, Vaught Benge, Caleb Brock, Sam Gallup, Thomas Pitts, Blake Sexton, Charlie Street, McKee Whittimore, Will Woodmansee; freshman Jacob Rickels, team manager

**EIGHTH GRADE**

**Coach:** Wes Crump  
**Record:** 18–5  
**Roster:** James Allen, James Barton, George Hamsley, Kyler Herring, Oscar Marshall, KJ Milan, Mac Owen, Ricky Ransom, Nelson Saenz, Coy Stiles, Henry Weeks, Duncan Williams

**NINTH GRADE**

**Coach:** Joe Abrahams ’96  
**Record:** 14–3  

**SEVENTH GRADE**

**Coach:** Jason Peters ’88  
**Record:** 20–3; James W. Mathis Memorial Turkey Shoot, Blue Streak Holiday, Shelby League Regular Season and Tournament Champions  
**Roster:** Jack Billions, Carter Campbell, Clarence Chapman, Kaleb Conway, Curtis Givens, Chaun King, Griffin Marshall, Will McDaniel, Max Painter, Liam Shepherd, Wesley Street, William Tayloe
The 2017-18 swim team continued its stretch of success in recent years, winning the 10th-consecutive county meet and finishing third at state. They faced adversity entering the year, losing four seniors who combined to form the fastest medley relay in the country last season.

“The team went through a tough transition after losing so many seniors last year,” Coach Bryan Parker said. “It required everyone to step up.”

In the county meet, MUS was victorious over Collierville by 60 points, winning all three relay events.

The team entered the state meet with high morale and finished third behind Baylor and McCallie, with senior Rick Reinhard finishing third in the 200 freestyle and second in the 500 freestyle.

According to senior Ryan Gorman, the team focused on leverage and improvement.

“We used our strengths to our advantage; we didn’t think about what we lost,” he said. “And we benefited from swimmers stepping up like Ev Nichol who really rocketed-up and improved. And he always looked out for the team.”

Reinhard, who will swim at Washington University in St. Louis, continued those sentiments.

“We rallied where it mattered,” Reinhard said. “Warren Turner, for example, really stood out by anchoring...
the 4 x 50 relay at county.”

Other Owls also performed well at the state meet. The team had three relay squads place in the top-five overall. The 200-yard medley relay team – comprising Gorman, senior Liam Kaltenborn, junior Turner, and Reinhard – finished fourth, and the 200-yard freestyle team of junior Ethan Hurst, Kaltenborn, junior Nichol, and junior Lukas Jakstas also claimed fourth. And the 400-yard freestyle team of Nichol, Hurst, Turner, and Reinhard finished fifth against a strong field.

In individual events at the state meet, Turner did well, claiming fifth in the 100-yard butterfly and sixth in the 100-yard freestyle. Nichol finished sixth in the 200-yard freestyle race as well as 11th in the 500-yard freestyle event. In the 200-yard individual medley race, Gorman finished in ninth, while Kaltenborn got 11th position. Gorman also claimed 10th in the 100-yard backstroke, and Kaltenborn finished 14th in the 100-yard breaststroke.

In the 100-yard freestyle event, Jakstas finished 10th overall, and senior Benton Ferebee ended his high-school swimming career with a 14th-place finish in the 100-yard backstroke against an excellent group of competitors. Overall, the Owls scored 201.5 points, trailing only Baylor (315 points) and McCallie (257).

“This was an excellent performance by our team,” Parker said. “I could not have asked for a better group of guys to perform in the face of this adversity.”

This year’s team featured the leadership of nine seniors: Graham Boswell, Ferebee, Gorman, Kaltenborn, John Keegan, Aidan Lonergan, Hastings McEwan, Reinhard, and Bobby Wade; juniors Louis Allen, Wood Davis, Clay Harrison, Jackson Hays, Hurst, Jakstas, Bailey Keel, Nichol, William Quinlan, Turner, and Ty Williams; sophomores Bo Abbay, Wasiif Abdullah, Ben DiMento, Jack Gorman, John Henley, Jonathan Shepherd, and Harris Tennyson; and freshmen Wesley Butler, Griffin Hood, McKnight Johnston, Caleb Littlejohn, Cullen Lonergan, Fawwaz Omer, Ryan Peng, and Max Shackelford.
The varsity wrestling team concluded its 2017-18 season with a 15-9 record and placed four wrestlers in the top-six at the Individual State Tournament in mid-February to conclude a good season – one that brought a new coaching staff, a new attitude, and a renewed commitment to excellence.

Led by seniors Ryan Aghabeg, Carlo Guinocor, Peter Raves, and Erik Richardson, the wrestlers bought in, worked hard, and made great strides for the new program.

The season began with dual victories over Bolton and Brighton; then the Owls competed in their first tournament, the Black Horse Invitational at Houston High School. The Owls placed six wrestlers in the top eight, led by Guinocor’s (113-pounds) and junior Stephen Christenbury’s (220-pounds) fourth-place finishes. The team placed 11th overall.

After the Black Horse, the Owls picked up an exciting victory over Collierville, as sophomore Jacob Curlin’s pin in the final match of the night sealed the victory. The Owls then dominated the Trojan Wars in Millington just before winter exams, winning four dual meets by a combined score of 263-51 on the way to winning the tournament. The first loss of the season came against the Bartlett Panthers, once again coming down to the last matches of the dual, but this time the Owls came up short, 39-33.

Over the Christmas break the grapplers
were busy, competing in the Ray Dalton Duals at Brentwood Academy, where the Owls went 2-3 and placed sixth. The team then immediately jumped on a bus to the Christian County Invitational in Kentucky. The team surprised, placing seven wrestlers in the top eight, led by Christenbury, who won the 285-pound weight class. The team finished sixth out of 25 teams. Returning home, the Owls hosted their own tournament, the MUS Festival, where they finished second behind Kingsbury and had four champions – Aghabeg, Christenbury, Guinocor, and sophomore Jake Knaff – while placing 10 wrestlers overall.

With the new year, the toughness of the schedule increased as the Owls attended the Wildcat Invitational at Wilson Central in Middle Tennessee in early January. Six of the top-ranked teams in the state competed there, and the Owls finished ninth overall – highlighted by Guinocor’s third-place finish.

Three days later, the team stumbled in a dual against the state’s top team, Christian Brothers. Snowed out of the Brentwood Invitational, the team regrouped to defeat Houston, 41-30, and placed fifth at the Briarcrest Dawg Fights. Aghabeg was the team’s highest finisher at Briarcrest, placing second, and the Owls placed nine other wrestlers. This tournament concluded the regular season.

At the Region Duals, the Owls placed fourth by defeating Franklin Road Academy and Battle Ground Academy but losing to Father Ryan and Brentwood Academy. This finish qualified them for the Division-II State Duals, where the Owls dropped competitive matches to Baylor and Montgomery Bell Academy.

Returning to Memphis, the Owls competed in the region tournament in which the top four wrestlers in each weight class would advance to the Individual State Championship. The wrestlers did extremely well, placing third in the region and qualifying eight wrestlers for state.

At the TSSAA state tournament, the Owls capped the season with a ninth-place finish overall, led by Christenbury’s and Guinocor’s third-place finishes and sixth-place finishes from Aghabeg and junior Matt Rhodes.

Other varsity wrestlers who contributed to the success of the season included junior Dorian Hopkins, sophomore Tucker Caldwell, and freshmen Torrance Bostick, Miller Galloway, Hart Gowen, Dutch Hansen, Christian Howard, Hud McGehee, Carson Rutherford, Nash Stewart, and Tamaz Young.

The Owl coaching staff, composed of Head Coach Chris Lewis and his assistants – Mr. Johnny Vo, Mr. James Walker, and Mr. Darius Williams – were content with the year.

“I am very pleased with the progress of the team this season,” Lewis said, “and my staff and I are really looking forward to working in the offseason and getting ready for next year.”
Bowlers Finish Season 6-4, Morrow Takes Second at State

With a large senior class, the 2017-18 varsity bowling team entered the season hoping to rely on experience and leadership as they looked to challenge rivals Christian Brothers and St. Benedict for supremacy in the Western Division. With only two division teams advancing to the state tournament, the Owl bowlers knew that they would have to supplant either the Purple Wave or the Eagles to challenge for a team state title. Despite defeating St. Benedict for the first time ever in a team match (14.5-12.5), the Owls could not claim one of the top two seeds, and they finished their season at 6-4 overall and averaged a 173.7 score per game throughout the year.

The Owls had a very talented roster, led by senior Jimmy Morrow. Morrow leaves the program as the most decorated bowler in school history. He finished second at the individual state tournament for the second consecutive year, defeating Quinn Collins from Pope John Paul II in the quarterfinals, 212-188, to avenge his loss to Collins in last-year’s championship match. After a semifinal win over Nick Agnew from St. Benedict, Morrow could not overcome his elementary-school classmate, Jackson Stanley from Christian Brothers, with Stanley besting Morrow in the finals, 234-206. Despite not reaching his goal, Morrow enjoyed his time bowling for his school.

“My goal coming into this year was to win state. I still had a great year and enjoyed helping our team compete against some tough competition,” said Morrow, who is considering several opportunities to bowl in college.

Morrow’s senior classmates also had strong years this season. William Dellinger, Conner Hobbs, Jackson Moody, Macon Orr, Ryan Seamons, and Hayden Stark all played large roles and helped advance the program during their tenures. Juniors Allen Hughes and John Mann and freshman Caleb Littlejohn also bowled very well this season and will be looked to next year to lead the team.

Coaches David Jackson, Jenny Pratt, and Michael Escue expressed appreciation for the 2017-18 bowlers.

“The team was competitive all season. We will miss the seniors, and our returning underclassmen will have their work cut out for them next year. Jimmy Morrow’s impact on the team was greatly appreciated,” Jackson said. “And we were glad to add Coach Escue to the list of bowling coaches. He will add a depth of experience to next year’s team.”

Coach Pratt enjoyed coaching these bowlers, as well.

“This year’s roster was a great group of student athletes, and we are proud of their work to keep our bowling program strong. West Tennessee is home to many excellent high school bowlers, and I congratulate Jimmy Morrow as being among the best. He and his hard-working teammates kept our program competitive.”
Fencers Bring Home the Gold

Fencers built on another season of athletic and personal growth for the team. The Owls finished with a state championship under a new organization – the Tennessee State High School Fencing Association – with across-the-board wins in epee, foil, and saber.

They started the season with one of the best rookie classes ever as 10 Lower School fencers joined the program in August. A two-week intensive session with international coach Mr. Karo Michaeli followed.

The preseason kicked off with a tournament September 2, in which fencers put into practice some of the new skills developed by Michaeli. Two weeks later Referee Examiner Mary Mahon led the team through a seminar focused on credentialing new referees that included the latest interpretation of competition rules. Seniors Jason Wang and Jacob Webb were among the fencers qualifying for referee status.

The October MUS Open prepped the Owls for the Junior Olympic Qualifying event in Nashville in February. Individuals who qualified were seniors Landon Springfield, Wang, and Webb; juniors Eddie Feild and Ammon Wood; sophomore Jonathan Huang; freshman Akbar Latif; and eighth-grader Dex Jack. Four three-man teams also qualified.

The individual and team results at the Junior Olympics were significantly better than previous attempts. Scoring well against national and international competitors were team leaders Webb (Foil Team), Wang (Epee Team I), junior Sidney Selvidge (Epee Team II), and Huang (Saber Team).

The Owls finished on a high point in March with the event sweep and championship at the state tournament in Nashville, where MUS won 14 of 24 individual medals. Top scorers in foil were Wang, Webb, and eighth grader Johnathan Ray for a team total of 2,315.

Top scorers in epee were Wang, Webb, and Selvidge for a team total of 2,230. Top scorers in saber were Huang, Latif, and freshman Omar Alyousef for a team total of 2,465. This marks the fifth state championship in program history.

“Senior leadership is the real reason behind the long list of successes this season, our second in the [Kroeker-Petrosyan] Fencing Center,” Head Coach Brad Kroeker said.

Kroeker added that he and his assistants – Mr. Sergey Petrosyan (assistant head coach), Mr. Robert Aymett ’08, Mr. Steve Dobbs, and Mr. Mike Harber – will miss the energy and commitment of seniors Springfield, Wang, and Webb.

The coaches look forward to the continued success of juniors Feild, Ethan Lam, and Selvidge; sophomores Huang and Daniel Lim; and freshmen Harmon Colvett and Latif.

“Every day we get better and better until we stand with the best,” Kroeker said.
College Commitments Day

We celebrated another college commitment day mid-April in Wunderlich Lobby as seniors, from left, Rick Reinhard (swimming, Washington University, St. Louis), Rucker Wilkinson (lacrosse, Sewanee), and Conner Hobbs (baseball, Southwest Community College), made their decisions known.

Basketball Homecoming Court

Basketball Homecoming Court and escorts, from left, Trey Thomas, Anna Murrey, John Bolton, Elizabeth Farnsworth, Homecoming Queen Evelyn Roberts, Jesse Homan, Evie Laney, Matthew Temple, Marshall Jones, Curry Wilson, Benjamin Freeman, and Julia Hirt
Lower School Grandparents Reception

Rhodes Temme, Mrs. Joan Morgan, Morgan Temme

Mrs. Natalie Wilson, Edward Wilson, Mrs. Kathy Griffin, Mr. Paul Griffin

Ms. Jacqueline McNeal and Phoenix Hernandez

Garner Uhlhorn, Rev. Robert Van Doren and Mrs. Pam Van Doren

Ms. Mary Baine, Charles Baine

Mr. Wiley Barnett, Mrs. Karen Barnett, Kaleb Conway, Mr. Willis Richmond

Mr. Mike Rowland, Mrs. Dale Rowland, Mrs. Phyllis Thomas, Sutton Thomas, Mr. Robert Thomas

Eli Lewis, Mrs. Kaye Lewis
MAY
20 MUS Baccalaureate, Graduation
21 School Holiday: Hutchison and St. Mary’s Graduations
22 TSSAA Varsity Baseball, Tennis Championships
TSSAA Varsity Track State Decathlon
24 Book Buy Back Day
Orpheum High School Musical Theatre Awards
TSSAA Varsity Soccer State Championship
25 Last Day of School, half day
Book Buy Back Day
TSSAA Varsity Track State Championship
28 School Holiday: Memorial Day
29 MUS Summer Office Hours Begin
Baseball Camp Begins

JUNE
1 Fourth Quarter Grades Online
2 SAT and Subject Tests
4 Most Summer Programs Begin
9 ACT
15 ACT Registration Deadline for July 14 Test
22 ACT Late Registration Deadline for July 14 Test
25 Pitner Driving School Begins

JULY
4 School Holiday: Independence Day
9 Most Session 2 Summer Programs Begin
14 ACT

On the Cover
Little Shop of Horrors cast members, at front, from left, Bella Littleton, Nora James Eikner, Emma Nair; middle, Mykal Bayne, James Smythe; back, Sam Payne, Eli Gruen (plant puppeteer), and Stan Smythe

Cover Photo by Alan Howell