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OATH OF HONOR
We, the students and faculty at Memphis University School, hereby pledge our full support to the Honor System. I pledge to be honest myself, and in order that the spirit and integrity of the Honor System may endure, I pledge that I will make known to the Honor Council any case of dishonesty which I may observe at MUS.

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The Honor Council is the most treasured of our institutions, serving as the bedrock of a living Honor System. From left, standing, are Honor Council officers and representatives senior Joshua Blackburn, freshmen McRae Dickinson and William Shell, senior Sloan Miles, sophomore DJ Brown, juniors Vaught Benge and Ben Spiegelman, sophomore Drew Burnett, and senior Stephen Christenbury, Honor Council president; sitting, seventh graders Bennett Owen and Griffin Brown, and eighth graders Carter Campbell and Lewis Butler.
Owls have been among the top Advanced Placement performers since MUS began participating in the program in 1963, and this year was no exception: 81 boys earned a total of 91 honors.

Since its inception in 1955, the AP program has been based on the premise that qualified juniors and seniors are capable of college-level work, and that such achievement should be rewarded by advanced placement and/or college credit.

In May 153 students took 346 AP exams. Nearly 90 percent of tests taken by MUS students resulted in a score of 3 or higher. Students earned the highest mark of 5 – designating them as “extremely well qualified” in the subject – on over 34 percent of the tests. The average score of all tests taken by MUS students was 3.89. The national average was 2.87.

A committee of readers representing colleges and secondary schools graded the exams this summer. Once the results were tallied, one student from the Class of 2020, nine from the Class of 2019, and 30 from 2018 qualified for AP Scholar with Distinction recognitions, with 10 of these Owls achieving the highest honor of National AP Scholar.


The school also offers 20 Honors Accelerated courses, designed to be equivalent in rigor to AP courses, including Advanced Topics with Multivariate Calculus, Chemistry II: Materials Science, Biology II: Molecular Biology, and Literature & the Fantastic.
National AP Scholars
Ten students earned this top honor, which is granted to students who receive an average score of at least 4 on all AP exams taken and scores of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.
Benjamin Freeman ’18
Jackson Howell ’18
Ethan Hurst ’19
Jeremy Jacobs ’18
Brad Kerkhof ’18
Jackson Moody ’18
Rick Reinhard ’18
Jon Staffel ’18
Bobby Wade ’18
Chang Yu ’18

AP Scholar with Distinction
Forty students received this honor, indicating they earned an average score of at least 3.5 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.
Graham Boswell ’18
Josiah Crutchfield ’18
Jonathan Douglass ’19
Smith Duncan ’18
Charlie Evans ’18
Benjamin Freeman ’18
Kyle Gan ’19
Alexander Goodwin ’18
Omkar Hosad ’18
Jackson Howell ’18
Ethan Hurst ’19
Jeremy Jacobs ’18
Liam Kaltenborn ’18
Brad Kerkhof ’18
Chris Kerkhof ’18
Barry Klug ’18
Ethan Lam ’19
Aidan Lonergan ’18
William Miller ’18
Jackson Moody ’18
Ev Nichol ’19
Sam Payne ’18
Arjun Puri ’20
Tyler Rakers ’18
Peter Raves ’18
Rick Reinhard ’18
Nick Rezaee ’18
Javan Smith ’18
Zuhair Somjee ’19
Jon Staffel ’18
John Ross Swaim ’18
Jet Tan ’19
Matthew Temple ’18
Loyd Templeton ’19
Warren Turner ’19
Leon Vo ’18
Bobby Wade ’18
Jason Wang ’18
Mason Williams ’18
Chang Yu ’18

AP Scholar with Honor
Sixteen students received this designation, indicating they earned an average score of at least 3.25 on all AP exams taken and scores of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.
James Blatchford ’19
William Dellinger ’18
Benton Ferebee ’18
Call Ford ’19
Trey Fussell ’19
Ryan Gorman ’18
Edward Henley ’18
David Jones ’18
Marshall Jones ’18
Leon Keel ’19
Jory Meyers ’19
Ryan Seamos ’18
Landon Springfield ’18
Jacob Webb ’18
Jonathan Williams ’18
Henry Wood ’19

AP Scholar
Twenty-four students received this designation, indicating they earned scores of 3 or higher on three or more AP exams.
Louis Allen ’19
Bennett Barousse ’18
Joshua Blackburn ’19
Sonny Charbonnet ’19
Anders Croone ’19
Jack Eason ’18
Eddie Feild ’19
Sean Fitzhenry ’18
Matt Fogelman ’18
Ben Gilliland ’19
Reagan Griffin ’19
Eli Gruen ’18
David Holmes ’19
Emerson Manley ’19
John Mann ’19
William Quinlen ’19
Brandon Roachell ’19
Omar Selim ’19
Sellers Shy ’19
Stan Smythe ’18
AJ Varner ’18
Ty Williams ’19
Philip Wunderlich ’19
Cameron Wyatt ’18
Grant Young ’19
Quiz Bowlers Surprise

Unknown factors can determine the outcome of open-bracket quiz bowl tournaments, especially early in the season.

Would advisors Darin Clifft, Davis Smith, and Jonathan Large be working with experienced bowlers or newbies? Would the team face easy or tough teams early on? Would they have sufficient depth of knowledge to cover the many, diverse categories?

For the quiz-bowling team of seniors Sonny Charbonnet and Loyd Templeton, junior Arjun Puri, sophomore Fawwaz Omer, and freshman Simeon Betapudi, a few answers came to light as the season began.

Their first showing in September, a school tournament at Hutchison, was less than impressive. They didn’t place at all. Perhaps that was to be expected – the team is younger than ever before, with the first freshman in memory to play for MUS, Betapudi. A state Geography Bee champion in the seventh grade, he possesses sizeable geographic knowledge.

“During early practices, I threw some tough geography questions out there,” Clifft said. “Simeon beat everyone to the buzzer, with correct answers, an impressive number of times. I had to rethink the whole ‘no freshmen’ thing.”

Despite the team’s inauspicious start, something magical clicked between September and October, when the Owls stepped up and took second place against about 30 teams in the second quiz tournament of the year – this time at Arlington.

This performance was a superb warm-up for the next week when they faced their first WREG Knowledge Bowl match. They won the game against Covington handily, 435-220, advancing to play White Station High School in late November.

Unfortunately, that match was an off night for the team, which fell to WSHS 230-460. This loss pushed the team out of the competition after round two of five. The bright spot of the night was Betapudi’s perfect pop quiz and seven additional correct answers during the match.
The National Merit Scholarship Program has honored eight Owls with the designation of National Merit Commended Student. Seniors James Blatchford, Call Ford, Kyle Gan, Ben Gilliland, Ethan Lam, Ev Nichol, William Quinlen, and Brandan Roachell are among 34,000 U.S. students honored for their outstanding academic performance on the PSAT.

National Merit Semifinalists

Seniors Eddie Feild, Ethan Hurst, and Hudson Miller have been named Semifinalists in the 64th National Merit Scholarship Program. They are among 16,000 U.S. students honored as Semifinalists for their outstanding academic promise, now competing for some 7,500 scholarships worth more than $31 million that will be offered next spring. About 90 percent of the Semifinalists are expected to attain Finalist standing, and about half of those will win Merit Scholar titles and financial awards.
Qasim Akbar Wins Shelton Spelling Bee

After three hard-fought rounds, seventh grader Qasim Akbar emerged champion of the Terry N. Shelton Bee in Dunavant Lecture Hall in early December.

Akbar and the other four valiant competitors, eighth graders Aryaan Ahmed, Amar Kanakamedala, Varun Krishnamurthi, and Kevin Ma got to the finals by capturing one of the top three spots in the October and November preliminary rounds. Mrs. Michelle Crews and Mr. Dax Torrey ’94, instructors in English, officiated those bees.

About 20 students participated in the October round, and many competed bravely, but the final three were Ma, first place; Akbar, second; and Krishnamurthi, third. Ma took the day by spelling voltaic and munificent.

In the mid-November round, the top three places went to Ahmed, Akbar, and Kanakamedala.

The championship, named in honor of longtime English teacher and spelling bee advisor Mr. Terry Shelton, took place in front of a packed Lower School assembly December 10. Torrey and Mrs. Sally Askew officiated the event.

Because Akbar was the sole representative from the seventh-grade, his classmates had difficulty containing their excitement as he survived round after contestant-eliminating round and as other young spellers fell to eviscerated, balaclavas, expiation, ambushade, and phaeton.

Akbar mastered Solomon, fuchsia, and marengo to take the trophy and the honor of representing the school in upcoming city and regional bees.

Last year’s MUS champion, freshman Mark Hieatt, who had advanced to an upper round at the national bee, was on hand to congratulate his successor.
Above, preliminary spelling bee contestants, from left, eighth graders Amar Kanakamedala, Adrish Biswas, Kaleb Conway, Jacob Cole, Alyaan Salman, Aryaan Ahmed, seventh grader Qasim Akbar, and eighth grader Hamza Janjua; at left, Lower School audience members congratulate Qasim Akbar on his victory; at right, seventh grader Carter Lamb reacts to a particularly difficult word.

Mathletes Score TMTA Honors

Results from last year’s Tennessee Mathematics Teachers Association contest revealed that seven Owls placed in the Top-10 List for the state: From the Class of 2018 Jackson Moody and Chang Yu; junior Arjun Puri; freshmen Forest Rudd, George Zhang, and Kerry Zhao; and eighth grader Lou Zhou. The awards dinner was September 28 in Sevierville, TN, where winners received certificates (places 4-10), plaques (places 1-3), and checks (first place awards).
### CERTAMEN

**UPPER LEVEL**
1. Fawwaz Omer ’21  
   Maya Chambers (Houston)  
   Hayley Simpson (Germantown)

2. Forest Rudd ’22  
   Max Shackelford ’21  
   Jaime Kim (Houston)  
   Dylan Fuentala (White Station)

3. Mark Hieatt ’22  
   Garner Uhlhorn, ’22  
   Collin Craft ’22  
   Andrew Hines (Houston)

**LOWER LEVEL**
3. Kerry Zhao ’22  
   Phillips Pratt (White Station)  
   Michael Tran (Germantown)  
   Lilly Booth (Houston)

### VOCABULARY

**LEVEL 2**
1. Sakshama Saksema (Houston)
2. Mark Hieatt ’22
3. Forest Rudd ’22

**LEVELS 3, 4, 5**
1. Jonathan Huang ’20;  
   Kyla Settle-Jones (Germantown) - Tie
2. Ty Williams ’19;  
   Cooper Grinspun ’21 - Tie
3. Victoria Ouyang (St. Mary’s)

### MYTHOLOGY

**LEVEL 2**
1. Kerry Zhao ’22
2. Forest Rudd ’22
3. Saksham Saksema (Houston)

**LEVELS 3, 4, 5**
1. Will Schuessler ’21
2. Loyd Templeton ’19;  
   Maya Chambers (Houston) - Tie
3. Kyla Settle-Jones (Germantown)

### FEATS OF STRENGTH

**JAVELIN**
1. Jacky Pham (Collierville)
2. Carrigan Sulcer ’21
3. Watts Miller ’21

**DISCUS**
1. Nathan Deacon (Westminster)
2. Max Shackelford ’21
3. Clay Smith (Westminster)

**TRIGON TOURNAMENT**
1. Lilly Whitehead (Westminster)
2. Parker Cox (Collierville)
3. Alyaan Salmon ’23

### MEME CONTEST

1. Trey Grant (Westminster)
2. Hart Gowen ’21
3. Nathan Jones (Westminster)

### MYTHOLOGY SPELLING BEE

1. Loyd Templeton ’19
2. Maya Chambers (Houston)
3. Reid Chandler ’19

### CATAPULT CONTEST

**SMALL**
1. Noah Emmert, Forest Rudd,  
   Kerry Zhao ’22
2. Turner Bishop, Talal Siddiq,  
   Nicholas Tam ’22
3. Willow Blythe (St. Mary’s),  
   Mallory Miller (St. Mary’s)

**MEDIUM**
1. Walker Burks, Michael Gallagher,  
   Will Jarratt ’21
2. Sylvan Paul (Houston),  
   Kylan Hebron (Houston)
3. Daniel Rhodes (Westminster)

### KAHOOT MOVIE QUIZ GAME

1. Abby Simpson (SBA)
2. Warren Barry ’21
3. Daniel Uh (Houston)
Fabulosum Certamen

Seniors Jack Dabov, Call Ford, Ben Gilliland, Bailey Keel, and William Quinlen recently participated in the 2018 SCRIBO Latin Composition Contest, an international creative-writing contest sponsored by the Ascanius Youth Classics Institute. Keel earned a medal for scoring in the top-20 percent of all students in the competition and the Fabula Optima ribbon for having the highest-scoring composition for all Owls.

Latin Feasting

Latin students attended the Latin Veterani Dinner along with organizer and Instructor in Latin Ryan Sellers and Dr. Susan Satterfield, chair of the Department of Greek and Roman Studies at Rhodes College, speaker for the evening. The dinner is a celebration of all Memphis-area advanced Latin students and faculty.
“Petit à petit, l'oiseau fait son nid” is a delightful French phrase translated, “Little by little, the bird makes its nest.” And so Owl instructors, by lectures and by labs, by games and by treats, teach their students la langue. November featured National French Week, and our students celebrated with fresh crêpes during Organizational Period, pétanque matches, a movie-showing in the chapel, and various other activities and cuisine planned by Dr. Eric Dalle ’93, and Mrs. Jenny Pratt.

The hot crêpes were not complete until garnished with Nutella, powdered sugar, whipped crème, and/or strawberries.

First out of the crêpes line, juniors Ben Merriman, John Henley, Alan Applewhite, and Tom Monaghan.

Freshmen Duncan Williams and Felix Campbell, pétanque grand champions.

Freshmen Hunter Barnes and Clayton Nearn, pétanque referees.
Mr. Ken Stacey’s Spanish II Accelerated students, sophomores Ahmad Alsafwah, Omar Alyousef, Joseph Barnes, Harmon Colvett, Ben Hernandez, Joe Hudson, Warren Johnston, Matthew Jones, Tamaz Young, and freshman Jacob Zamore, celebrated Pablo Picasso’s birthday in November by recreating the master artist’s Guernica mural.
Mr. Tim Greer’s Detective Fiction students participate in labs throughout the semester as they read stories from such greats as Dashiell Hammett and Arthur Conan Doyle.

“Students learn that many of the forensic-science techniques used today had their origins a century ago in literature,” Greer said.

In the gunshot-residue lab, students shot a blank-firing stage revolver in a controlled area, demonstrating the patterns of gunpowder burn marks at distances depicted in *The Maltese Falcon* and “The Reigate Squire.”

Using a securely mounted stage gun and donning eye and ear protection, seniors Joshua Blackburn, Robin Coffman, Mac Coleman, Ben Cox, Griff Griffin, Bailey Keel, Ethan Lam, Hudson Miller, Ev Nichol, Matthew Rogers, Josh Tanenbaum, Liam Turley, and Billy Weiss fired black-powder blanks at targets placed at three distances, then scrutinized the results to write their reports.
Fired Up
Detective Fiction

Science Department Chair Analice Sowell and Lower School Principal Loyal Murphy ’86 took Sowell’s Materials Science juniors Henry Bridgforth, Gus Carter, Michael Gayoso, Cody Hopkins, Yousef Husein, Daniel Lim, Hooper Mattis, Jerry Peters, Reilly Ring, and James Smythe to visit Oak Ridge National Laboratory in mid-November.

For the past four years, this annual, intensive field trip has provided our science students the opportunity to see firsthand how the best minds in STEM fields are working at world-class facilities – right here in Tennessee – to tackle some of the nation’s most compelling challenges in nuclear energy, advanced materials, national security, and supercomputing.

Secret-City Science

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Students Reach Out Through the C S O

Service Activities

- Served weekly Sunday dinners to Grace-St. Luke’s More Than A Meal guests
- Served monthly breakfasts to St. Jude patients and their families at the Ronald McDonald House
- Hosted monthly carnivals for the women and children at the Salvation Army Purdue Center
- Tutored students at Balmoral Ridgeway Elementary School twice a week
- Delivered meals weekly for MIFA Meals on Wheels
- Took Knowledge Quest and Balmoral students to the Memphis Zoo
- Took firemen breakfast and a thank-you card, hosted a cookout on campus honoring local firemen
- Participated in Day of Service work, including making care packages for the military, donating lunches to the Memphis Union Mission, volunteering in the garden at Memphis Tilth, helping teachers and playing with kids at Perea Preschool and Cornerstone Prep, driving meals to the elderly and underserved for MIFA Meals on Wheels
- Worked at the Lester Community Center Halloween Carnival
- Served as set-up crews for The Dixon and Church Health Center fundraising parties
- Held a cookout and concert at Shelby Farms for Homeless Organizing for Power and Equality
- Hosted blood drive
- Cooked and served dinner to homeless guests at Room in the Inn

As of November...

429 Boys have served
1,082 hours given
$4K raised
14 partners helped

Sophomores Jon Van Hoozer and Elliot Allen go on a playground-jeep adventure with little Perea Preschool pals.
**No-Shave November Winners**

Peachiest Fuzz – Sophomore Dutch Hansen  
Best Neckbeard – Sophomore Fawwaz Omer  
Grossest Neckbeard – Junior Ben Merriman  
Best Mustache – Senior Johnathan Whitehead  
Best Overall Beard – Sophomore Akbar Latif

Owls raised $1,000 for the American Cancer Society during No-Shave November. Here are the hair-raising winners:

Mr. Jonas Holdeman judges “grossest neckbeard” contestants, from left, senior Ev Nichol, junior Ben Merriman, and sophomores Fawwaz Omer, Warren Barry, and Akbar Latif.

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Owls collected $3,000 cash and 800 cans during the Mid-South Food Bank Can Drive in November. Raising the most donations were the homerooms of Mr. Jonathan Large, Mr. Antony Eddy, and Mr. Lin Askew.

Can Drive

Orleans raised $1,000 for the American Cancer Society during No-Shave November. Here are the hair-raising winners:

MIFA Meals-on-Wheels delivery Owls, from left, senior JoJo Fogarty, sophomore Michael Gallagher, senior Nicholas Hurley, junior Landon Ford, senior Henry Wood, junior Lucio Rosa, seniors Louis Allen, Richard Neff, Stillman McFadden, Jonathan Dougliss, and Bailey Keel, junior Michael Gayoso, senior Grant Young, and junior Jacob Curlin.

Seniors, from left, Henry Wood, Grant Young, and Bailey Keel and CSO Advisor Jonathan Large were among Owl volunteers who endured frigid temperatures in early December to ring bells for The Salvation Army.
When chilly air begins blowing leaves about the campus, Owls know the Winter Concerts will soon fill Hyde Chapel with music. Led by instructors Mrs. Stephanie Hancock, Mr. Chris Carter, and Mr. Matt Tutor ’91, two concerts delighted audiences once again with performances by the MUS Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, and Advanced Chamber Ensemble (December 3); and Beg To Differ, Studio Band, and Jazz Band (December 6).
GUITAR
Jack Fowler ’24

ELECTRIC BASS
Will Hess ’24

ADVANCED CHAMBER ENSEMBLE

VIOLIN
Leo Campbell ’21
Jacob Curlin ’20
Mark Hieatt ’22

VIOLA
Reece Needham ’22

OBOE
Noah Emmert ’22

CLARINET
Samy Paul ’21
Forrest Rudd ’22

CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

VIOLIN
Leo Campbell ’21
Gabriel Chen ’24
Jacob Curlin ’20
Mark Hieatt ’22
Frederick Huang ’23
Varun Krishnamurthi ’23
Daniel Lim ’20
Samuel Lim ’22
Bennett Owen ’24
Ryan Peng ’21
Lou Zhou ’23

VIOLA
Reece Needham ’22
Evan Wu ’24

CELLO
Loro Lado ’22

OBOE
Noah Emmert ’22

CLARINET
Samy Paul ’21
Forrest Rudd ’22

PERCUSSION
Jonathan Huang ’20
December 6 Concert

**STUDIO BAND**
DIRECTED BY CHRIS CARTER
- Tucker Caldwell ’20 - Guitar
- JoJo Fogarty ’19 - Guitar/vocals
- Akbar Latif ’21 - Drums/Percussion
- Hud McGehee ’21 - Guitar
- Fawwaz Omer ’21 - Drums/Percussion
- Max Sabin ’20 - Keyboards
- William Shepherd ’20 - Bass

**JAZZ BAND**
DIRECTED BY CHRIS CARTER
- Ayo Adebiyi ’22 - Trumpet
- Ben Burk hart ’21 - Saxophone
- Jackson Dyson ’20 - Piano
- Harrison Finks ’20 - Organ/Vocals
- Braxton Hart ’21 - Trombone
- Caleb Riggs ’19 - Drums
- Ben Spiegelman ’20 - Guitar

**BEG TO DIFFER**
DIRECTED BY MATT TUTOR ’91
- Simeon Betapudi ’22
- Joshua Blackburn ’19
- Stephen Christenbury ’19
- Ben Cramer ’20
- Kylan Ewing ’19
- Michael Gayoso ’20
- Tre Johnson ’20
- Jonathan Johnson ’20
- McKnight Johnston ’21
- Warren Johnston ’21
- West Loden ’22
- Emerson Manley ’19
- Hooper Mattis ’20
- Smith McWaters ’19
- McLean Meeks ’21
- Watts Miller ’21
- Eli Nations ’19
- Houston Pate ’19
- Seth Richie ’20
- Daniel Russell ’21
- Aidan Saunders ’21
- James Smythe ’20
- David Wassef ’20
- Ty Williams ’19
- Tylyn Young ’21
A revolution took place this fall in Hyde Chapel as MUS presented *1776*, the Tony Award-winning Broadway musical, to packed audiences. Putting a human face on American history, the romantic and riotous show revealed the real men behind the icons: proud, frightened, irritable, charming, often petty, and ultimately noble figures, struggling to declare independence from a suffocating monarchy, believing in a fledgling nation not yet born.

**DIRECTED BY:** Mr. Ted Fockler ’10  
**TECHNICAL DIRECTION BY:** Mr. Robert Fudge  
**MUSICAL DIRECTION BY:** Mr. Matt Tutor ’91  
**SHOP SUPERVISION BY:** Mr. Trip Corder, Mr. Trevor Marshall  
**COSTUMES BY:** Ms. Alexandria Perel-Sams  
**CHOREOGRAPHY BY:** Ms. Kimberly Baker  
**PRODUCED BY:** Mr. Timothy Greer

In *Cool, Cool, Considerate Men*, Congressional moderates extol the virtues of compromise.

In *Mama, Look Sharp*, the courier describes the fates of his fellow soldiers.

Southern delegates weigh the implications of the Declaration.
STAGE CREW
Theater Production Class
David Byrd ’19
Reid Chandler ’20
Will Cooper ’19
Brock Dallstream ’19
Cameron Evans ’20
Vijdan Gill ’20
Dorian Hopkins ’19
Matthew Jones ’21
Colin McCown ’21
Smith McWaters ’19
William Quinlen ’19
Zane Snead ’20
Alden Southerland ’19

Afternoon Shop Crews
Ahmad Alsafwah ’21
Evan Boswell ’21
Andrew Bragorgos ’20
David Byrd ’19
Reid Chandler ’20
Arnab Das ’20
Thomas Eubank ’20
Cameron Evans ’20
Will Fraser ’22
Paige Fernandez
Jack Fernandez ’20
Vijdan Gill ’20
Cooper Grace ’20
Cooper Grinspun ’21
John Henley ’20
Ben Hernandez ’21
Yousef Husein ’20
Matthew Jones ’21
Carson Lakin ’20

RUN CREW
Props
Will Fraser ’22
Riane Bayne

Sound
Carson Lakin ’20
Reid Chandler ’20

Lights
Programmer - Paige Fernandez
Designer - Mackenzie Fitts
Followspot - Harry White ’20
Followspot - Andrew Bragorgos ’20

Costumes
Makeup and Costume Technician - Sarah Pratt

Stage Management
AV - Reid Chandler ’20
Stage Crew - David Byrd ’19
Actors - Katie Kerlin

Backstage
Yousef Husein ’20
Cameron Evans ’20

ORCHESTRA
Piano – Ms. Ai Ishihara, Boss – Mr. Scott Lane, Percussion – Ms. Kim Trammell, Violin – Mrs. Leah Hendrick, Viola – Mrs. Robyn Greene, Cello – Mrs. Jaime Stephens, Reeds – Mr. William Cody Bolton, Trumpet – Mr. Marc Franklin, Trombone – Braxton Hart ’21
Resident Artist Hamlett Dobbins

Explores the Power of Collaboration

Artist-in-Residence Hamlett Dobbins creates in the classroom.
Art students began to experience the power of collaboration at the very start of Mr. Hamlett Dobbins’ tenure as our resident artist this fall. One of the first assignments he gave students was to experiment with exquisite corpse, a collaborative art process invented by the Surrealists in Paris in 1925.

The school’s Luckett-Guinn Artist-in-Residence program was founded by Mr. Grant Burke, acting chair of the school’s Arts Department, to support local artists and to offer students a firsthand glimpse of how different styles of art are created. Resident artists complete a piece that becomes a part of the gallery on campus. Dobbins’ finished artwork, Untitled (for PMB/MUS/GBP), will hang in the Campus Center alongside artwork from the previous seven residencies.

In describing Dobbins’ residency, Burke emphasized the artist’s focus on the power of collaboration.

“You can think of it like [Beatles songwriters] Lennon and McCartney or rapper Post Malone and his collaborators,” he said. “These are great individual artists in their own right, but working together with others, they are able to create great things as well.”

Students and faculty dropped by to watch Dobbins at work during his five days on campus, asking questions and drawing and painting alongside him in the studio classroom. Burke’s drawing and photography classes shared the studio with the artist during his residency.

Dobbins currently teaches full-time at the University of Memphis, where he completed his B.A. in 1993. He received his M.A. and M.F.A. from the University of Iowa. From 2000-12 he was the director of the Clough-Hanson Gallery at Rhodes College, and from 2003-09 he was the gallery coordinator for Power House, Memphis. In 2013 he received the prestigious Rome Prize and spent 11 months as a fellow at the American Academy in Rome.

Mr. Hamlett Dobbins explores the collaborative process with students in Mr. Grant Burke’s 2-D Design class.
Youthful Harriers Finish Seventh in State

by Daniel Black ’18

Coming off a 2017 campaign in which the Owls won the region and finished fourth in the state, the 2018 cross-country team continued the program's success. An extremely youthful squad that featured just one senior, the Owls finished the season with a 55-33 record, were region runners-up, and placed seventh in the state meet.

This year’s group participated in six regular-season meets – three all-comer meets, the Tennessee Classic, the Frank Horton Invitational, and the Varsity Championships – before commencing postseason competition with the region meet, held at MUS. Freshman Nash Kaye led the Owls with a sixth-place finish, ahead of junior Alex Warr’s 11th place. Sophomore Max White placed 12th, and a triumvirate of juniors – Duncan McLean (13th place), McKee Whittemore (15th place), and Robert Ayotte (19th place) – rounded out the team’s performance.

The Owls then traveled to Percy Warner Park in Nashville for the state meet, where they finished seventh. Warr was the speediest, placing 29th with a time of 17:54:33. Kaye was right behind with an 18:05:59 time that earned him 31st place. Other state participants were White (44th), McLean (45th), Whittemore (47th), Ayotte (48th), and sophomore Joseph Barnes (55th).

The cross-country program bids farewell to a lone senior, Hudson Miller, who provided experience and leadership for the younger runners. Said Head Coach Joe Tyler, “Hudson showed dedication and commitment over his four years on the team. His coaches and teammates could count on him to have a good attitude and put forth an honest effort each day. He will be missed next year.”

A vast array of underclassmen will lead the program in the future; a group

Runners, from left, Witt Smith, Nash Kaye, Joseph Barnes, Will Woodmansee, Alex Warr, Duncan McLean, Max White, McKee Whittemore, Robert Ayotte, and Hudson Miller

Duncan McLean, Robert Ayotte, Joseph Barnes

Will Woodmansee, Witt Smith
that contributed significantly to this year’s team – juniors Ayotte, McLean, Warr, Whittemore, and Will Woodmansee; sophomores Barnes, Griffin Hood, and White; and freshmen Kaye, Witt Smith, and Lawson Touliatos.

“We made significant progress from where we started in June to where we finished the season in November,” Tyler said. “Our returning runners improved, and we had some nice additions to the team.”

Assistant Coach Jonas Holdeman gave credit to the older runners for helping the younger guys adapt to the environment of varsity cross country. “It’s not easy to recover as a team from the loss of four of your top five runners; yet the returning guys did a good job indoctrinating the new guys to the culture of our team – a culture that’s built on running for each other and running a lot of mileage.”

There will be much excitement for the 2019 cross-country season, as the underclassmen head into their next year with a plethora of experience – and many miles – behind them.
Golfers Advance to State
Individual championship caps hard-fought season

Having won four of the past five team state golf championships, the golf program has set the standard across the state. With that success comes the reality that every opponent has marked the Owls on its schedule, and every player will do his best to beat the champions. This year the Owls played very well at times, and they advanced to the state tournament once again. Although the team TSSAA Division II-AA championship eluded them, senior Walker Crosby brought home a state-title trophy. Winning by five shots, Crosby posted 139 (-5) at the challenging Willowbrook Golf Club in Manchester.

Coach Cliff Frisby’s 10th team also featured seniors Call Ford, Hall Upshaw, Henry Wells, and Philip Wunderlich. All played great golf, improved over the years, and represented the school well during their time wearing the MUS-collared shirt.

Wells and Wunderlich said they will always
remember their time on the team.

“I had fun playing with these guys one last time,” Wells said. “It was great winning the state championship last year. I really had a blast with the team.”

Wunderlich agreed: “I enjoyed playing with all the guys and hope all the younger players can carry it on,” he said.

Underclassmen also played a significant role on the team. Juniors Cannon Hurdle, Charles Long, Hewes Scull, Spence Wilson, and eighth-grader Clarence Chapman hope to lay a strong foundation moving forward.

Playing in three tournaments – the Matt Cunningham Memorial Division II Preview, the Ronnie Wenzler Memorial, and the FCA Tournament – as well as eight dual matches prepared the Owls for the postseason. In the regional tournament at Windyke, the team grabbed second to qualify. Then at state two weeks later, the Owls started a little slowly and could not recover, finishing sixth overall and posting a final record of 19–17. But Crosby shined over the two days, shooting 71–68 on the par–72 course to win the individual title, the only player to post an under-par score.

“I loved playing and winning championships with this team,” Crosby said. “I really appreciate winning the individual state championship in my senior year, especially after having watched Goodman Rudolph ’16 win it two years ago.”

Though Coach Frisby will miss his five varsity seniors, he looks forward to putting another talented team out on the course in 2019.
The varsity football Owls completed an outstanding season, going 11–1 and advancing to the BlueCross Bowl, the state-championship game. Though the athletes were disappointed to come home with the runner-up trophy, they can take satisfaction in knowing they returned the program to where it belongs—competing for championships.

The Owl defense was perhaps the best in the area and one of the best in school history. This unit recorded five shutouts during the nine-game regular season, holding Ridgeway, Kingsbury, St. Benedict, Briarcrest, and Douglass all scoreless. The other four regular-season opponents—Montgomery Bell Academy, South Panola (MS), Haywood, and Christian Brothers—scored only a combined 69 points against the stingy Owls.

The potent offense unit averaged almost 40 points per game in the regular season. The Owls often used the pass to help its running game, and that balance helped the team to the undefeated regular season. With their 37–14 win at Christian Brothers to end the regular season, the Owls wrapped up the top seed in the division, earning a first-round bye in the playoffs and home-field advantage until the championship game.

In the quarterfinals the team hosted Pope John Paul II out of Hendersonville. Despite leading only 14–10 at the half, the Owls scored four third-quarter touchdowns to build a big advantage and claim the 42–17 win. The victory earned the team another home playoff game, this time against Chattanooga McCallie. In the semifinal matchup, with the Blue Tornado leading 7–3 late in the third quarter, the offense started a long scoring drive. The Owls took the lead on a 2-yard scoring run, the 13th play of the drive, to make it 10–7, a lead that they would not give up. The jubilant team and fans rejoiced once the game ended as the Owls were advancing to the BlueCross Bowl for the first time since 2013—MUS’s 10th overall visit to the title game. Their opponent would be a familiar foe: Brentwood Academy, the three-time defending state champion.

In the finals the Eagles scored first after an early turnover, and the Owls answered with a touchdown to close the advantage to 7–6. Despite one more promising drive, the Owls were not able to overcome four Brentwood Academy first-half touchdowns, and the Eagles won another title, this time 28–6.

Coach Bobby Alston expressed pride in his Owls. “I have been so proud of this team all year for not only.
the physical effort they brought to every game, but also for our execution throughout the year,” said Alston, who was inducted into the Tennessee Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame the day after the BlueCross Bowl. “Unfortunately, we had a 15-minute stretch during the first half when we played our worse football of the year against a very good Brentwood Academy team. That was not a good recipe for success on the scoreboard. But the character of our boys shone through as we battled the entire second half and never gave up.”

Alston and his assistants will miss the 20 seniors on this year’s team. Captains Stephen Christenbury, Maurice Hampton, Thomas Hayden, Dorian Hopkins, and Sellers Shy all did very well leading the team. They, along with fellow seniors Scott Burnett, Jack Dabov, John William Farris, Trey Fussell, Ben Gilliland, Reagan Griffin, Jalen Hollimon, Bailey Keel, Emerson Manley, Sam Nelson, Eston Pahlow, Matthew Rhodes, Matthew Rogers, Dekari Scott, and Johnathan Whitehead, made everyone on the team feel welcome and important, regardless of position, class standing, or experience.

Check out the football honors and awards on pages 30–31.
Players presenting the football championship runner-up trophy to the school during the December 3 chapel were, from left, seniors Stephen Christenbury, Sellers Shy, Thomas Hayden, Dorian Hopkins, and Maurice Hampton.

2018 FOOTBALL AWARDS

POSITION PERFORMANCE AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Winner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Offensive Line</td>
<td>Sam Nelson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Offensive Receiver</td>
<td>Maurice Hampton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Offensive Back</td>
<td>Sellers Shy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defensive Line</td>
<td>Keithran Hopson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linebacker</td>
<td>Jack Dabov</td>
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<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Dekari Scott</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Teams</td>
<td>George Howard, Ben Skahan</td>
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</tbody>
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SPECIAL AWARDS

STEVE MINKIN HEADHUNTER AWARD
Dorian Hopkins

HOLIDAY HAM – TREY JORDAN “DO RIGHT” AWARD
Stephen Christenbury

DAN GRIFFIN SPIRIT AWARD
Offense: Stephen Christenbury
Defense: Matthew Rhodes

W.S. ROBERTS MVP AWARD
Offense: Maurice Hampton, Sellers Shy
Defense: Dorian Hopkins, Matthew Rhodes
FOOTBALL HONORS

TENNESSEE TITAN MR. FOOTBALL D-II AAA LINEMAN
Maurice Hampton

TOUCHDOWN CLUB DEFENSIVE PLAYER
Dorian Hopkins

LIBERTY BOWL HIGH SCHOOL ALL-STAR TEAM
Maurice Hampton  Matthew Rhodes
Dorian Hopkins  Sellers Shy

D-II AAA WEST COACHES ALL-REGION TEAM
1st Team
Offense:
Maurice Hampton – MVP
Thomas Hayden
Marcus Henderson
Jalen Hollimon
Sellers Shy

Defense:
Dorian Hopkins – MVP
Jack Dabov
Devonte Nelson

Matthew Rhodes
Dekari Scott
George Howard

2nd Team
Offense:
Charlie Gilbert
Bailey Keel

Defense:
Walker Burks
Cody Hopkins
Keithran Hopson
Nash Stewart

Honorable Mention
Scott Burnett
Devin Malone
Matthew Rogers
Johnathan Whitehead

Homecoming Court

Football Homecoming Court and escorts, from left, Weston Touliatos, Hannah Garner, Liam Turley, Halle Dougher, Walker Crosby, Homecoming Queen Kendall Morgan, J.J. Johnson, Annie Leatherman, Ryan Matthews, Haley Clift, Hall Upshaw, Liza Luter, and Philip Wunderlich
Practice Makes Proficient
by Ryan Sellers, Instructor in Latin

If you do a search for saxophonist Chris Potter on YouTube, you'll find a lot of videos of him in action, many of which have been given expressive titles by his fans, including “Chris Potter Going Completely Insane on Moment’s Notice.” The one I find most interesting is a clip recorded in 2014 at a jazz symposium at New York University, in which he speaks about the importance of dedicated practice ... not just for a beginning musician, but even for a seasoned professional like himself.

“It doesn’t matter how high a level you’ve reached,” he says. “If you stop going further, it kind of goes back a level.”

Chris – who happens to be my brother-in-law – has worked as a professional jazz musician since he was a teenager. He’s released more than a dozen critically acclaimed albums, and he’s recorded and performed with Pat Metheny, Dave Holland, Queen Latifah, Steely Dan, and Herbie Hancock.

So how much practice does it take to play the saxophone like Chris Potter ... or to excel at anything else? How much practice is required to become a legitimate expert? According to the book Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell, the magic number is 10,000 hours. That is, it takes 20 hours of practice per week for 10 years to become really, really good at something.

Let’s consider this number in reference to students in Advanced Placement Latin. Before AP, they studied Latin for three years. We’ll say they spent four hours in class per week, for 36 weeks a year. We’ll add another two and a half hours of Latin each week – and, granted, this is a generous estimate – for homework, studying, exam preparation, and competitions. Based on these calculations, each of these students started AP Latin with 702 hours of practice. That is not an insignificant number, but it’s obviously a lot less than 10,000.

Let’s lower the bar a little bit from language expertise and focus on language proficiency. How much time would it take to become proficient? Consider the guidelines established by the Defense Language Institute, a highly-regarded language school in California run by the United States Department of Defense.

Programs in Spanish and French at the DLI are relatively short – 36 weeks. That’s nine continuous months of Spanish or French, eight hours of class per day with an additional mandatory two-hour study period each evening. If you’re studying Hebrew, Farsi, or Russian, the programs run for 48 weeks. And if you’re studying some of the most difficult languages for native English speakers – Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean – you’re going to be stationed at the DLI for 64 weeks.

Learning a language is difficult. It requires time, patience, and dedication.
Is there any way around this? Could we reject the Chris Potter philosophy of practice and instead reach the same finish line through a shortcut, such as a language app?

Babbel, for example, is one of the most heavily advertised language apps. It promises fast, intuitive, and interactive language lessons. As one of its commercials promises, “You’ll be speaking with confidence in no time.”

As an experiment, I decided to try to learn Hungarian this past summer by using the Duolingo app. Why Hungarian? First, Hungarian is not from the same linguistic family as the other Romance languages, so my background in Latin would not give me an automatic advantage. And second, my brother-in-law Chris, the saxophonist, is married to a woman from Hungary.

One of the most important things to realize about Duolingo is that, like all of these language apps, it is a commercial product, not an educational product. Although it is free, the app offers plenty of opportunities to spend money. If you grow weary of sitting through the copious advertisements, you can pay to make them disappear. If you would like offline access, you can pay for it. And if you miss a day of study and want to pretend your streak of consecutive lessons was never broken, you can pay for that, too.

Duolingo is designed to be addictive. It uses the principles of gamification very effectively, keeping you motivated, not just with bells, whistles, and the encouragement of a friendly cartoon owl, but also with email reminders, text notifications, bonus points, merit badges, medallions, and opportunities for social interaction with other users.

As an educational product, Duolingo has serious limitations. It mainly involves answering superficial matching and multiple-choice questions about vocabulary words and conversational phrases. It doesn’t explain the grammatical or linguistic principles, and it gives you a lot of positive feedback, even when you absolutely do not deserve it.

At the conclusion of my summertime study, I didn’t feel like I had accomplished much of anything, regardless of what the little owl kept telling me. I had learned how to use the Duolingo app, but I had learned very little of the Hungarian language. There’s no possible way that I could stroll into the Hungarian cultural center in New York City that my sister-in-law manages and have a meaningful conversation in Hungarian with anyone. I wouldn’t be able even to exchange a couple of simple sentences.

Based on my experiment, I would eliminate the use of the Duolingo app as a shortcut to learning Hungarian and return to the inconvenient truth: practice, practice, practice. The development of expertise requires time, patience, and dedication. In my brother-in-law’s video on the importance of practice, he says, “There’s no shortage of talented people.” This is certainly true in the realm of music, in the realm of athletics, and in the realm of language acquisition. There is, however, a shortage of people who are willing to put in the work.
On the Cover
Sophomore Braxton Hart, trombonist, plays during the Jazz Band portion of the December 6 Winter Concert.

See more on page 18.