As the 2014-15 school year kicks off, it’s no doubt that there are some major differences when compared to the 2013-14 year. One that has gained a lot of attention lately is the addition of the freshmen at Mercer County Senior High.

The school’s principal, Malissa Hutchins, said “I think it will have a huge impact on them [freshmen], definitely a positive thing for them to get a high school experience.” Hutchins also said, “It’s not too crowded, you can’t even tell there are 240 more students… but lunch is another story.” Some may say that the shift for students into a new school would be awkward or uncomfortable but Principal Hutchins said, “I think it was a smooth transition, not too many problems.”

With a whole new section of the school and a total of 9 new classrooms, the school “doesn’t look half bad. I think they matched it up pretty good” said junior, Andrew Dunbar. All in all, the completion of the freshmen wing at Mercer County Senior High has proven to be an overall success and thought to be a positive influence on the freshmen class.

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**‘Fresh’ faces at Mercer County Senior High**

By Gabe Tuggle

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**From Teacher to Asst. Principal: Guerra welcomes new role**

By Dylan French

As you all may know, Mr. Guerra is now our assistant principal. Previously, however, Mr. Guerra was a Spanish teacher and head athletic director. Guerra is a regional leader, winning an award for being our Regional Athletic Director of The Year. After receiving this award, Mr. Guerra, being the guy that he is, retired at the top. As for his new position Guerra says that he loves and enjoys being in Mercer County especially as a principal. However, Guerra stated “I do miss the classroom interactions. I’m still around kids, but I miss seeing my students day in and day out.” When asked if the position was more stressful than teaching, Guerra said, “Surprisingly I find my new position to be less stressful; however, I don’t hold position of Athletic Director on top of teaching.” All in all Mr. Guerra takes on any job he is given well. Guerra is known to strive for success and doesn’t accept anything short of it.
A Taste of Controversy

By Bailey Harder

School lunches have caused a great debate between the students and staff at Mercer County Senior High. Many students, including some staff members, are unhappy with the lunches being served and are trying different ways to deal with the menu or get it changed.

Marsha Rogers, the director of the district’s lunch program, says Mercer County’s district has nutritional requirements they have to meet. The requirements are: students have to have 3 of the 5 components (milk, vegetable, fruit, bread/grain, and protein) and a fruit or vegetable with their lunch regardless. If the requirements are met the government reimburses the district. For every fully paid lunch that’s purchased, the district receives $0.36. For every reduced lunch, they receive $2.75, and for every free lunch, the district receives $3.15. The money is given to the district for using the program and needed by the school because they are self-funded and have to buy their own products.

The students in Aimee McGinnis’s 3rd period culinary food class took a school wide survey to show the opinions and feelings the students have towards the school lunch. Results from the survey are still pending. They also participated in a dumpster dive, collecting the trash from just one of the three lunches and they found many fruits, vegetables, and milk cartons discarded and unused.

Ecasia Burrus, a senior at Mercer County Senior High and a participant in the dumpster dive, says she eats school lunch but only because she has too. “I have practice after school and if I don’t eat during the school day, I won’t have energy for practice.” When asked if she liked the school’s lunch program, Burrus responded without hesitation, “I hate it. They have to put into consideration that a lot of these kids participate in after-school activities or play sports and if they’re not even eating the school lunch because they don’t like it, they are going to be dead and have no energy for practice.”

A Look Back 20 Years Ago:

Compiled by Jackson Kelly

Twenty years ago, in August 1994 the world of pop culture was really random. With a total of thirteen movies being released, and only two songs sat number one on the Billboard Top 100 List. August 1994 was an interesting month.

Music: In August of 1994 the two songs that sat number one on the Billboard Top 100 List, was Lisa Loeb’s hit “I Missed You.” Boyz II Men’s hit song “I’ll Make Love To You.” Also probably the most recognized musical festival of all time was held in Saugerties, New York on August 12-14. The biggest artist to make a debut album was a little known singer at the time, Usher.

Movies: The thirteen movies released in this month were. “Airheads,” “Clear and Present Danger,” “The Little Rascals,” “In the Army Now,” “Andre, Blank Man,” “Color Of Night,” “Killing Zoe,” “Fresh,” “Camp Nowhere,” “Natural Born Killers,” “Wagons East,” and “Milk Money.” There are definitely some movies in there we all love.

News: One thing MLB fans remember is the strike of 1994 that led to no World Series, and that all began in August of 1994. O. J Simpson also had DNA test that linked him to the murder of Nicole Simpson and Ron Goldman.
Staying on top of your school work is a tough thing to do, especially in high school. You have AP classes, massive amounts of homework, and on top of that you may be involved in extra circular activities such as sports teams and clubs. Keeping up with all your responsibilities isn’t easy but studying, staying organized, and managing your time will help you reach all your goals for this school year.

Staying Organized

1. Use a planner and make lists. You can’t do your homework unless you actually know what you need to do. Write your assignments down so you don’t have to take the time to remember what your homework was.

2. Do one thing at a time. Working on your English paper, your math problems, and your science project all at once will confuse you. Pick one task and finish it, then move on to the next one.

3. Keep an organized workspace. It’s difficult for anyone to work productively in a cluttered environment. Pick up your area, clear a space, and get to work.

Time Management

1. Plan ahead. If you have a math problem sheet due tomorrow and an English problem that isn’t due till Friday what do you think you need to get done first?

2. Take frequent breaks. Cram sessions do not help you. You aren’t going to remember everything if you don’t stop every once in a while. Study for a while and take a 15 minute break and watch part of a TV show or scroll through Twitter then get back to work.

3. DO NOT PROCRASTINATE. We all procrastinate, and every single time it hurts us in the end. But we still put things off. Getting something done is a stress reliever. When you know something’s done you don’t have to think about it anymore and stress over when you will finish it.

Female Senior of the Month: Anna Mollett
What is your Favorite Color? “Purple”
Where do you want to go to College? “Northern Kentucky University”
What is your Favorite Sports Team? “Kentucky”
Who is your Favorite Teacher? “Ms. Collins”
What is your Favorite Subject in School? “Science”

Male Senior of the Month: Corey Shewmaker
What is your Favorite Color? “Orange”
What is your Favorite Sport Team? “Oregon”
What is your Favorite Subject in School? “Math”
Who is your Favorite Teacher? “Mrs. Russell”
Where do you want to go to College: Campbellsville University, Asbury University, or UK.
‘The Purge’: Reality?

By Kasey Halcomb

Recently people have been going around spreading rumors that a possible Purge might happen in Louisville KY. Could this actually have been a real thing? Can movies really influence what people do in real life? I asked a couple people to get their outlook on the whole situation and to see what they thought about the purge rumors.

In a recent interview with Randy Martin he told me that the purge rumors are redundant. He also went on to say that it’s disgusting how people want to put harm to other people. “I think it’s sad when young punks try to prove themselves to nobody.” “The Purge was fake and anyone who participates in the purge is also fake,” Martin said. Randy has seen “The Purge” and believes that movies influence people to an extent. Not all movies have the same effect on everyone is what he said to end the interview.

I also got a chance to talk to Colton Brown about the purge rumors going around. Colton said that “The purge was just a stupid prank that people took way to seriously. It was supposed to be a movie and not anything in real-life.” Colton has seen both Purge movies and believes that movies influence people in a way.

The Effect of Ferguson

By: Gage Redimarker

As of late, there have been a series of uprisings in the small town of Ferguson, Missouri, as a result of the shooting of a young African American boy, Michael Brown. When asked about the riots and uprisings in Ferguson, Mrs. Colette Smith responded with saying, “I just think it’s a real shame. I didn’t and still do not understand the need for 6 shots after the subject was already backing up, and he was 35 feet away!” As of now, there are still some facts about the shooting that remain unclear, but the fact of the matter is that there was too much violence either by retaliation, or out of cold blood. “I think it needs to be investigated more, and definitely find the root of the problem. It has been around for years, and it’s just now being brought into the light….. It’s kind of like the elephant in the room, you know? Nobody discusses it,” says Smith. This is not the only case of recent police brutality, yet it has gained the most media attention because of the riots from the locals in retaliation of the want and need for justice for the incident. As of now, the case is being handled by both the local police department, but also a parallel investigation by the FBI, and hopefully soon enough the truth of the case will be brought to the public, to bring the city of Ferguson the rest and tranquility they are yearning for.

School Student Section Alert!

Mercer County Senior High school football team will play at Danville at 8:00 this Friday. The theme for the student section will be Titans. Students will be meeting at 6:45 here at the school to paint up before the game. Everyone come out and support the Titans.
PROM DETAILS
Saturday, April 26
8-12 p.m.
Eagle Lake Convention Center in Anderson County