Mt. Healthy, Ohio - February 26, 2024 - The Mt. Healthy City School District is happy to announce the resounding success of the Black History Month Talent Show, which took place this past Friday, February 23rd, at the Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School Auditorium. The event celebrated the rich cultural heritage and diverse talents within our community, surpassed all expectations and left a lasting impact on all who attended.

The evening was filled with an array of remarkable performances that showcased the talent and creativity of our students, staff, and community members. From soul-stirring poems to musical renditions and awe-inspiring dance routines, the talent on display was nothing short of extraordinary.

In addition to performances, the art displays from South Elementary adorned the stage and provided spectators with a glimpse into the artistic brilliance of our youngest learners. Additionally, the support of our community was palpable throughout the event, as the crowd enthusiastically cheered on performers and provided encouragement during their moments of struggle.

The Black History Month Talent Show also served as a platform for giving back to the community, as all ticket proceeds will go towards scholarships for Mt. Healthy graduates pursuing higher education. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of this event, including our staff, performers, volunteers, vendors, and sponsors. Special thanks are also due to Tina Butler and MC Jacqueline Johnson-Wilkinson for their outstanding leadership, as well as to the individuals who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a seamless production.

The Mt. Healthy City School District is immensely proud of the achievements of all participants and remains deeply grateful to our community for its support. Together, we have celebrated the richness of Black history and culture while affirming our shared commitment to excellence and inclusivity.

Performances
Keynote Speaker: Tina Butler
Poem: Tyanna Graves
Song: Malachi Mingo
Poem: Yasmine Dalton
North Elementary Choir: Ms. Personke
Spoken Word: J.J. Tiku
Song: Zuriel Williams
Praise Dancing: Jah’Ayla Royal
Poem: Chi Chi
Song: Adraonna Devant
Guitar and Song: Reese Jones
Paintings: Anna Thomas
Song: Darielle Williams
Violin Performance: Ms. Dean
Song: Kayah Israel

There are so many wonderful pictures of the performance that we couldn’t put it into one photo collage. Check out the many pictures of the performances from start to finish below!
We are happy to share some wonderful news with you regarding one of our outstanding students, Chisom Eze, who recently represented our school district at the National Poetry Out Loud Competition. Chisom competed in the competition back in late December.

In a close contest of words and emotions, Chisom emerged as the runner-up in our district of Ohio, showcasing her skill and passion for poetry. The competition, hosted by the Mt. Healthy Alliance Charitable Organization, witnessed an exceptional display of talent from Chisom and other participants.

As we celebrate Chisom’s accomplishment, we also recognize the support and encouragement provided by Mt. Healthy’s own, Celine Quinn. Her guidance and belief in Chisom’s abilities have undoubtedly played a significant role in her success. Attached to this announcement, you will find a press release featuring a picture of Chisom, capturing a moment from the competition.

Once again, congratulations to Chisom for your outstanding performance in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition.
Press Release: CLICK HERE
On Thursday, February 22nd, 2024, the Mt. Healthy City School District welcomed the No Hate Tour to our Jr/Sr High School campus for an electrifying event aimed at promoting anti-bullying, adversity, and inclusion among our student body. The event, which garnered coverage from WLWT and came at no cost to the district, featured thrilling BMX stunts, free t-shirts/gifts distribution, and a powerful message about the importance of acceptance and kindness.

The No Hate High School Tour, now in its 23rd year, is an educational initiative that utilizes the energy and excitement of action sports to deliver critical bullying prevention tools and information to students in a relatable, peer-to-peer manner. Through the program, top BMX stars engage with students, sharing their own experiences with bullying, overcoming obstacles, and the significance of being an ally and promoting inclusion.

We extend our gratitude to the administration at the Jr/Sr High School for making this event possible and for the No Hate Tour for their invaluable contribution to our school community. It is worth noting that the program is provided to schools completely free of charge. Principal Amy Criswell deserves special recognition for her participation in the event as she was volunteered as part of the performance, where a BMX performer completed a backflip over her while she sat atop the ramp, much to the delight of the students and staff.

The event was not only entertaining but also carried a message about the importance of kindness, inclusion, and resilience in the face of adversity. Numerous photos of the event were captured so that you can join in on the excitement and energy that filled the gymnasium.
The Peer Restoration students at Mt. Healthy hosted a remarkable Leadership Summit, marking a moment in the school district’s journey on positive change and innovation. The event, attended by over 200 individuals, showcased the dedication, talent, and commitment of the students and the school community.

The Summit, held at Mt. Healthy Jr/Sr High School commenced with a vibrant opening featuring a step routine by Fraternity members, setting the tone for an engaging and empowering day ahead. The event and agenda was thoughtfully curated by Mt. Healthy’s Peer Restoration/CICO Coordinator, Nancy Mallard, to foster leadership skills, inspire dialogue, and address pertinent issues facing the community.

Notable highlights from the Summit included:

Engaging Speakers: The event featured influential speakers who shared insights and wisdom with the audience. Lamarr Womble from Cool Speak delivered an impactful keynote, followed by a diverse panel featuring Patrick Fluegeman, Chief Operating Officer of ABX Air, NAACP VP David Whitehead, MTH Alum and Author Kenny Glenn, and Alex Jones from Lincoln Heights Outreach.

Educational Sessions: Students participated in breakout sessions aimed at cultivating leadership skills and addressing real-world challenges. These sessions provided a platform for collaborative problem-solving and idea generation.

Community Support: The Summit received overwhelming support from various stakeholders. GEAR UP played a pivotal role in organizing the event, leveraging grant funds to secure speakers and resources. The presence of state-level GEAR UP directors underscored the Summit's significance as a model for educational initiatives.

Following the event, the organizers extended heartfelt acknowledgments to individuals and groups whose contributions were instrumental in making the Summit a resounding success. Special recognition was given to the Peer Restoration students whose dedication and passion drove the event’s success.

The Summit also recognized the invaluable support of partners such as GEAR UP, the administrative team, counseling staff, and teachers whose commitment and enthusiasm facilitated the event’s seamless execution.

It is heartening to witness the collective effort and enthusiasm that went into making the Mt. Healthy Leadership Summit a reality. This event exemplifies the power of collaboration, leadership, and community engagement in driving positive change.

The Mt. Healthy Leadership Summit highlights the transformative potential of youth leadership and community collaboration. As the school district looks ahead, it remains committed to nurturing future leaders and fostering a culture of innovation and inclusivity.
NATIONAL SIGNING DAY
The Mt. Healthy School District is proud to announce the culmination of its National Signing Day festivities for football, marking a significant milestone in the academic and athletic journeys of our student-athletes.

Today, we celebrate the achievements of our student-athletes who have committed to furthering their academic and athletic careers at the collegiate level. Building on the success of December's signings, 7 football players have committed to playing at the next level, with the majority earning full scholarships to support their endeavors. This equates into nearly $750,000 in scholarship money.

Under the guidance of Coach Jordan Stevens, our student-athletes have excelled both on and off the field. Coach Stevens has poured his heart into our students and the program, helping to shape their futures and instill values of discipline, dedication, and teamwork.

In December, JayJay Etheridge and Israel Bradford made history as the first football players in Mt. Healthy CSD to graduate and become college student-athletes a semester early. They have paved the way for future generations of student-athletes.

Today, on February 7th, at 1:30 pm in the High School Auditorium, we honored an additional 5 student-athletes who have earned full or partial athletic scholarships to pursue their dreams at the collegiate level. This achievement represents not only the hard work and talent of these young men but also the support of our school community.

Tyree Hinkston - College of DuPage
Kash Mallory - Kentucky Wesleyan
Nazareth Badjo - Central State
Na'Zir Steele - Kentucky Wesleyan
Deaveon Washington - Kentucky Wesleyan

The college recruiting process has been a journey filled with challenges and triumphs, and we are immensely proud of each student who has committed to this next chapter of their lives. Through their hard work, they have demonstrated the power of athletics and education.

We extend our sincerest gratitude to Terell Davis, Athletic Director, and Coach Jordan Stevens for their tireless efforts in supporting our student-athletes throughout the recruiting process. They pour their heart into our students' success and it reflects the spirit of our community.

As we celebrate National Signing Day, let us come together as a community to support, congratulate, and encourage these young men as they embark on this exciting new chapter in their lives.
We are so excited to announce that one of our own, Katie Milbower, has been nominated as a Gold Star Teacher Finalists.

How Can You Help?
Voting for the Gold Star Teacher will be open daily for the month of February. Please consider voting for Ms Milbower EACH day in February by TEXTING “Milbower” to 24454.

Congratulations Katie Milbower, Gold Star Teacher Finalist

You were nominated by:

Rosa Burker: Katie goes above and beyond for Mt. Healthy South Elementary. She is the face of the school and she advocates for our students. From my first moment meeting her during our annual PD day this school year, Katie had our staff enthused for the school year. Our students were excited to see her on the very first day. She is their advocate. She would make sure she would have fun. It is this way because she is our own brother. But her passion toward our students is above and beyond. She works well with each grade and each type of student. I’ve watched her live hard on our fourth graders who are the red hot children who need support, and she is so passionate and caring to our first graders. Even our kinders with special needs, she then makes her lessons to give the best energy to those kiddos and they look forward to her class. This energy is not only shown to the kids, but also to the staff. One random staff meeting, she purchased snacks that covered the entire teacher lounge just to give the staff a pick me up. This is just essentially who she is. She is also the one who spearheads our community events. She led our Trunk or Treat and our Donuts with Grown Ups. She engages with every parent to make sure that the needs of their child are met. She is the very reason why this award was created. Please choose her.

Jackie Milbower: Katie is my daughter and as any mother would say, I’m so proud of her. But many others who know and work with her would say the same. Katie teaches Physical Education to students in grades 1-6 and she always goes above and beyond, putting the needs of her students first. She has implemented her activities to include students with different needs and works passionately to help them be successful. She is involved with many extra activities at the school. This year’s Mrs. Clause’s Treat and Selfies with Santa were both organized by Katie and were huge success. Often times she uses her own funds to help these events to be extra special for her students. She is a positive, loving, and a great role model for all who are blessed to know her.
Mt. Healthy City School District is proud to recognize and honor the contributions of our school counselors. As district leaders they support, guide, and advocate, our counselors play a vital role in nurturing the academic, social, and emotional well-being of our students across all levels of education.

In celebration of National School Counseling Week, we extend our gratitude to each member of our counseling team for their commitment to our students' success and well-being. Their compassion and expertise empower our students to navigate challenges, realize their potential, and achieve their goals.

Our counselors are the heart of our school community, providing critical support and guidance to our students during their journey of learning and personal growth. Their impact extends far beyond the confines of the school walls, shaping the lives and futures of our students in many ways.

We are pleased to highlight our exceptional team of school counselors:

High School Counselors:
Nikeisha Brooks
Micaela Pohlabel
Michael O'Toole
Brecka Russo

Junior High Counselors:
Larry Schellenberg
Sara Dadabo

Elementary School Counselors:
DeNesha Wade (North Elementary)
Elizabeth Morelli (South Elementary)

Each counselor brings a unique blend of expertise, empathy, and dedication to their role, fostering a supportive environment where every student feels valued, understood, and empowered to thrive.

In commemoration of National School Counseling Week, we asked our counselors to share their thoughts on their most rewarding experiences, what makes Mt. Healthy special to them, and what inspired them to become counselors. Their responses demonstrate their deep commitment to serving our students and community.

We extend our appreciation to Nikeisha Brooks, Micaela Pohlabel, Michael O'Toole, Brecka Russo, Larry Schellenberg, Sara Dadabo, DeNesha Wade, and Elizabeth Morelli.
Everyday, I am reminded of my humanity and to be humble.

**WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE A COUNSELOR?**

I remember meeting with groups of girls in my classroom during lunch everyday. I was intrigued by the group dynamic and the universal impact I could make as a school counselor.
The most rewarding part is the connections I get to make with the students and getting to see them reach their goals. It is really special to get to watch their growth and to be given the honor of being a small part of their journey.

Our students are what makes Mt. Healthy CSD special for me. We have really incredible students in our buildings and they make me excited to come to work each day!
BRECKA RUSSO
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR ROLE AS A COUNSELOR?

The privilege to be present with a student and witness their development - academically, socially, emotionally. To bear witness as students tap into their personal power and the understanding of how to use it to navigate the world around them and meet with success.

WHAT MAKES MT. HEALTHY SPECIAL FOR YOU?

The Owl mascot is special. An owl symbolizes inner wisdom, change, transformation, intuitive development and self-actualization. I think it is a true representation of the students, staff, and families that I have gotten to know in my short time here.
MICHAEL O’TOOLE
HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR
At my son's funeral 7 years ago, 2 of my former struggling students showed up in my support. They shared with me their success stories and thanked me for making them believe they would be successful in life.

What inspired you to be a counselor?

It was ingrained into me by my High School basketball coach that "The best players make the players around them better." I have modified that and try to live by the philosophy that "The best People make the People around them better".
SARA DADABO
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR

WHAT IS THE MOST REWARDING PART OF YOUR ROLE AS A COUNSELOR?

Bearing with students and families during trials and difficulties, meeting them where they are, and finding ways to support them all remind me that school counselors make a difference.

WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BE A COUNSELOR

I had a fantastic school counselor who helped transition me from 5th to 6th grade. She was my advocate when I struggled and a cheerleader when I succeeded. She left such a major impression on me that I went into education knowing I wanted to be a school counselor one day.
Growing up, I always wanted a career that allowed me to help people, and support them in being the best version of themselves. I also knew I wanted a career in education, but I didn't exactly know what direction I wanted to go in. I shadowed a few positions in education, and after job shadowing a School Counselor, I knew being a School Counselor was the path that I wanted to take. I loved the idea of not only helping the students academically but socially and emotionally as well. As a kid, my School Counselor had such a positive impact on my life, and hopefully, that'll be the same for the students and families I encounter.
OAKLAND UNIVERSITY VISITS SOUTH ELEMENTARY
Oakland University Men’s Basketball Team Inspires Students at South Elementary

Mt. Healthy South Elementary School is excited to share the recent visit of the Oakland University Men’s Basketball Team to our campus. The players and staff from Oakland University graciously took the time to engage with our students, inspiring them with their stories, insights, and encouragement.

During their visit, the players fielded a wide array of questions from our students. From lighthearted questions about the "best player" and "who can jump the highest," to more profound questions like, "what advice would you give me before my first basketball game?" The players and staff warmly engaged with our students, creating an atmosphere of laughter, learning, and inspiration.

The players shared personal stories of their own struggles and triumphs, emphasizing the importance of perseverance, self-belief, and hard work. They underscored the message that success is not immediate, but comes through dedication, resilience, and a willingness to learn from both successes and setbacks.

In addition to discussing basketball, the players stressed the significance of education, responsibility, and gratitude. They encouraged our students to prioritize their studies, take care of their responsibilities, and appreciate the support they receive from family, friends, and mentors.

South Elementary extends heartfelt gratitude to the Oakland University Men’s Basketball Team for their generosity in visiting our school. Their presence has left an impact on our students, staff, and community…there are many staff and students that are now fans of the Golden Grizzlies!
FC CINCINNATI VISITS NORTH ELEMENTARY
Last week, North Elementary had the pleasure of hosting FC Cincinnati for an after-school camp aimed at introducing students to the game of soccer. The event, which saw overwhelming participation from our student body, was a great success thanks to the collaboration between FC Cincinnati and our staff members.

Over 130 North Elementary students participated in the camp, immersing themselves in the fundamentals of soccer, engaging in mini-games, and receiving expert guidance from the talented staff members of FC Cincinnati. For many of our students, this was their first experience with soccer!

The presence of retired FC Cincinnati forward Omar Cummings added an extra layer of excitement to the event. Mr. Cummings not only shared his expertise with the students but also actively participated in the activities, making it fun for our young athletes with his passion for the sport.

The camp not only provided an opportunity for our students to learn and grow but also gave parents a chance to witness their children’s introduction to the sport firsthand. The support and encouragement from parents further added to the enjoyment for our students.

Thank you to FC Cincinnati and their staff for responding to our request to introduce soccer to our students. Their commitment to community engagement has left many students with a newfound interest in soccer.

We also want to acknowledge the contributions of our school district staff members who volunteered their time and effort to ensure the success of the event. With 130 students that wanted to participate, they found a way to make sure that everyone had a chance to be a part of the event. Our staff’s enthusiasm reflects their commitment to providing enriching opportunities for students.

As we look forward to the upcoming dates when FC Cincinnati will return to North Elementary for additional camps, we remain grateful for the partnership that has made this initiative possible.
We wanted to inform you of a situation that our district has been working through over the past 9 months. We wanted to take some time tonight to outline the measures that we have taken and will continue to take to protect our students, staff, and community.

In May of 2023, our 5-year forecast showed the district would enter deficit spending in year 3. In Ohio, any district that shows a deficit in years 1-3 immediately moves to “fiscal caution”. When we received this classification in June of 2023 we worked with the State of Ohio to develop a plan to reduce spending to remove the deficit in year 3. The plan included not replacing the various positions of people who left the district through resignation or retirement.

The state reviewed and accepted our plan resulting in our district showing a positive balance in years 1-3 of our 5-year forecast. We were removed from “fiscal caution” in August of 2023.

In November 2023, our projected 5-year forecast showed that we would move into deficit spending in year 1. As such, we again were put into “fiscal caution” and started to work with the State of Ohio on a plan to remove our deficit. We were given 90 days to develop and submit a plan to show that we could remove the deficit by the end of the school year. We have looked at a variety of scenarios to reduce spending during the 23/24 school year; however, we could not recover enough funds to cover the deficit.

Schools have different types of funds that support district activities. The 5-year forecast shows money that is part of “the general fund”. This money is used to pay for staff salary/benefits as well as certain purchased services. Purchases that came from the general fund are things like:

- Transportation
- Cleaning services
- Some special education expenses
- Facility repairs (such as boilers, chillers, lighting)
- Construction of the Early Learning Center
- Utility Bills

The other way we support the activities of the district is by the use of grant funds. These funds are not part of the overall general fund. Many of the projects that we have funded recently were paid for by grant funds. Some of these projects include:

- The Promethean Boards
- The Nightlock shades and locks
- The Culinary and Banquet Center
- The Addition of the elevator at the district office
Grant funds are designated for specific projects and awarded/approved based on the application for specific items. We can’t take money that may have been awarded for safety and deposit it into the general fund to help offset the deficit. Also, federal Title funds could not be used to cover monthly expenses such as utility bills.

The 2/12/2024 Special Board of Education Meeting the following resolution was approved:

This resolution authorizes the Superintendent and/or Treasurer to inform the Ohio Department of Education and the Auditor of the State of Ohio that the Mount Healthy City School District’s Board of Education and administration cannot formulate an acceptable Financial Recovery Plan to cover the FY2023 low balance in the general fund and budget deficits for future years as described in the district’s Five-Year Forecast dated November 2023.

The Board requests that the state immediately put our district into Fiscal Emergency.

We are asking the State of Ohio to move us into a Fiscal Emergency. This proactive measure would ensure our staff would be paid. Under the fiscal emergency, the Financial Planning and Supervision Commission would work with the district to look at expenditures and to make the cuts needed to return to a healthy financial state.

This process will take time. We will continually offer opportunities for updates and input from our staff and community. We are choosing to take this proactive step to protect the salary and benefits of our staff for the 23/24 school year and the overall financial health of the district in the future.

Superintendent Dr. Valerie Hawkins expressed confidence in the district’s ability to develop a comprehensive plan for financial recovery while prioritizing the welfare of staff and the long-term financial health of Mt. Healthy.

#WORTHY
GOOD MORNING!

I’m a Mt. Healthy Owl WORTHY as can be!
My school family, really loves me!
When I’m here at school, to learn and play,
I’ll be safe, kind, and responsible all through the day!
Have a great day little Owls!
THE ELC WELCOMES OFFICER NARED FROM MT. HEALTHY POLICE DEPARTMENT FOR A SPECIAL VISIT
The ELC Welcomes Officer Nared from Mt. Healthy Police Department for a Special Visit

We are delighted about the recent visit of Officer Nared from the Mt. Healthy PD to the Early Learning Center, where she delighted students with an engaging book reading!

Officer Nared’s surprise visit brought joy to the students as she interacted with them, exchanged high fives, and shared insights on safety through storytelling. The children were captivated as Officer Nared read a book specifically focused on school safety, promoting important lessons in a fun and engaging way.

In addition to the storytelling, Officer Nared gave stickers resembling police badges to the students as tokens of her visit.

"We are thankful for Officer Nared and the Mt. Healthy Police Department for their commitment to fostering positive relationships with our students," said Herb Dorsey, Safety Supervisor of Mt. Healthy School District. "Her visit not only provided an educational aspect but also created a warm and welcoming atmosphere for our young learners."

We look forward to continuing to collaborate with community partners like the Mt. Healthy Police Department to provide experiences that inspire and empower our students.
The Mt. Healthy High School Ethics Bowl team has been on quite the journey since last year, and the progress has been exceptional under the guidance of Mr. Tyler Barrett and Ms. Nikeisha Brooks.

Notably, the team has experienced growth both in skill and membership. More students are joining the team, eager to address complex ethical issues and contribute to meaningful discussions. The expansion highlights the passion of both the advisors and the students involved.

A recent highlight for the team was a celebratory meal organized by the culinary students, overseen by Chef Potter, in the newly established banquet center. During the event, Mr. Barrett took a moment to express gratitude for the team's accomplishments, the wonderful students on the team, and the support from the school district.

Looking ahead, the future is bright for the Mt. Healthy High School Ethics Bowl Team. With a solid foundation in place and a growing team, they are well-positioned to continue pursuing ethical dilemmas and make a meaningful impact amongst their peers.

As we reflect on the journey thus far, it is clear that the Ethics Bowl team embodies the values of integrity, critical thinking, and ethical leadership that are fundamental to our school community.
Mt. Healthy CSD Receives Grant from Ohio Arts Council to Enrich Early Learning Center with Cultural Arts Experience

The Early Learning Center is proud to announce that it was awarded a grant from the Ohio Arts Council (OAC) for the TeachArtsOhio (TAO) program, which has enabled the school to host Padma Chebrolu, an Indian Dance/Movement artist, at our Early Learning Center for a cultural arts experience.

The grant, provided by the Ohio Arts Council, supports the TeachArtsOhio program, which fosters collaboration between schools and community organizations to bring high-quality arts learning experiences to students. The program aims to provide engaging and immersive arts experiences that bridge cultural differences and promote creative learning.

Padma Chebrolu, the artistic director of the Cultural Centre of India (CCI) in Cincinnati, has brought her artistic abilities to our school community. With her extensive background in traditional Indian dance, Padma has enriched our students' lives through arts and movement. Padma Chebrolu's contributions to arts education and community engagement have been widely recognized. She is the recipient of the 2021 Ohio Heritage Fellowship Award and the 2022 OAC Master Artist award for Traditional Arts Apprenticeship. Her commitment to preserving cultural heritage and promoting cross-cultural understanding has made her a respected figure in Ohio's arts community.

Through the support of the Ohio Arts Council, 100% of the artist fees for Padma Chebrolu's residency at our Early Learning Center have been covered through the grant. This opportunity has allowed our students to participate in arts and crafts, dance, yoga, and other enriching activities.

We extend our gratitude to the Ohio Arts Council for its support of arts education and to Padma Chebrolu for sharing her talents and expertise with our students.
For the first time in 20 years, Mt. Healthy has a sectional champion in wrestling. Hard work has finally paid off for our 120lber. Off to districts next week! Congratulations Mario Rudolph!

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MT. HEALTHY CITY SCHOOLS

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