

Mustang Activities

READ ALL ABOUT IT



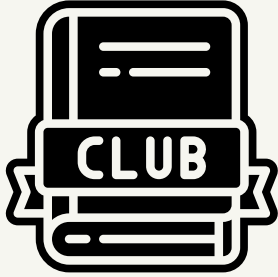
SMILE MAKERS

-"Merrill Middle School's Smile Makers: Spreading Joy and Compassion"

In the heart of Merrill Middle School, a remarkable club known as Smile Makers is making a significant impact on both the school and the surrounding community. Comprising compassionate and enthusiastic students, Smile Makers is dedicated to carrying out good deeds that not only brighten the halls of their school but also extend a helping hand to those in need beyond its walls. The primary focus of Smile Makers is to engage in acts of kindness that foster a positive and inclusive school environment. Members of the club actively seek out opportunities to make a difference, whether it be organizing school-wide initiatives, promoting a culture of acceptance, or simply lending a helping hand to fellow students. The club's commitment to spreading joy and compassion has garnered the admiration and support of the entire school community. One of Smile Makers' most notable achievements is their recent fundraising effort for the Animal Rescue League. The club members successfully collected over \$200, demonstrating their dedication to making a tangible impact on the welfare of animals in need. This philanthropic endeavor not only showcases the generosity of Merrill Middle School students but also highlights the power of collective action when individuals come together for a common cause. By fostering a culture of compassion, these clubs contribute to creating a positive ripple effect that extends far beyond the confines of the school. Merrill Middle School's Smile Makers have proven that small acts of kindness can indeed lead to significant positive change, leaving an indelible mark on the hearts of students and the community alike.

Current Clubs at Merrill

1. All the People All the Time
2. Art Club
3. Battle of the Books
4. Brother to Brother
5. Chess Club
6. Commercial Club
7. D and D Club
8. Dream to Teach,
9. First Lego League
10. Girls Voices
11. Lego Club
12. Math League
13. Mustang TV
14. Roblox
15. Rubik's Cube,
16. Show Choir
17. Sisters 4 Success
18. Smile Makers
19. Science Bound
20. Student Government
21. Unified Games
22. Unified Sports
23. Wizarding Club



TRIVIA NIGHT

Merrill Middle School is hosting its inaugural trivia night on February 23rd at Decades on Grand, with tables priced at \$200 each. For more details or to reserve your table, contact Martin.Luft@dmschools.org Tables are filling up quickly. 10 Tables left. Get yours now!

COMMUNITY EDUCATION

6 WEEK CLASSES STARTING SOON

FREE ACTIVITIES TO JOIN THROUGH PARKS AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Des Moines Public Schools
Community Education

GOLDFINCH SPEED JR. HIGH

WE LIVE BY: "BUILD A BETTER HUMAN FIRST, THEN A BETTER ATHLETE" AND MIX IT UP WITH SPRINTS, JUMPS, SQUATS, AND MORE! OUR GOAL? TO INSTILL GREAT MOVEMENT HABITS AND FOSTER A LOVE FOR TRAINING, ALL IN A LIVELY AND ENCOURAGING VIBE.

LED BY FORMER IOWA STATE FOOTBALL PLAYER, AND OWNER OF GOLDFINCH ATHLETICS, JEFF WOODY! THINK OF IT AS THE ULTIMATE PREP FOR HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS—TECHNIQUE, EDUCATION, AND A LOT OF FUN! YOU'LL ONLY NEED TRAINING SHOES TO GET TO WORK.

Class Details
6th -8th Grade
Location: Central Campus Gym
Dates: Wednesdays & Thursdays
Jan 24 - Feb 29
Time: 4:45 PM - 5:45 PM
Instructor: Jeff Woody
Class Limit: 50

How to Register




Go to <https://www.dmschools.org/community-education/at-dmpe/>

16spots remaining

Des Moines Public Schools
Community Education


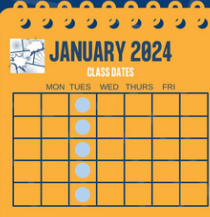
MIDDLE SCHOOL ART CREATING COMICS

LEARN HOW TO MAKE COMIC BOOKS!

IN THIS CLASS, YOU WILL EXPLORE THE VISUAL STORYTELLING OF COMICS AND HOW TO CREATE OUR OWN STORIES. WE WILL DISCUSS DIFFERENT FORMS OF ART AND TECHNIQUES THAT ARE PART OF VISUAL STORYTELLING. LEARN HOW TO COMPOSE STORYBOARDS AND SCENES FOR THE CHARACTERS YOU DESIGN. STUDENTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO BRING THEIR OWN SUPPLIES BUT WE WILL HAVE SOME AVAILABLE FOR USE.

Class Details
6th-8th Grade
Location: Merrill Middle School
Dates: Tuesdays Jan 23 - March 5
No class on Feb 13
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Instructor: Cassia Darnen
Class Limit: 15

How to Register

Go to <https://www.dmschools.org/community-education/at-dmpe/>

3 spots remaining


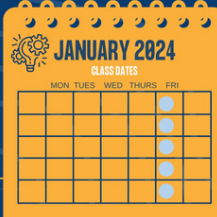
Des Moines Public Schools
Community Education

JEWELS ACADEMY SCIENCE

GET YOUR HANDS DIRTY WITH STEM!
ARE YOU SOMEONE WHO LOVES EXPLORING NEW IDEAS AND LEARNING BY DOING? WE HAVE THE PERFECT CLASS FOR YOU! OUR STEM PROGRAM - WHICH STANDS FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATHEMATICS - IS ALL ABOUT HANDS-ON EXPERIMENTATION. YOU'LL GET TO CREATE SOME AMAZING PROJECTS, SUCH AS HOMEMADE BOUNCY BALLS, LAVA LAMPS, AND EVEN BIPLASTICS. DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO DIVE INTO THE WORLD OF STEM - SIGN UP NOW AND LET'S GET STARTED!

Class Details
6th -8th Grade
Location: Merrill Middle School
Dates: Friday Jan 26 - March 1
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Instructor: Jewels Academy
Class Limit: 20

How to Register

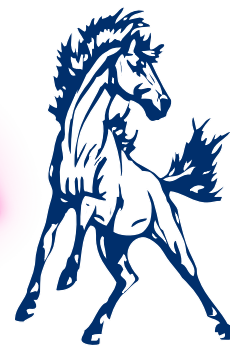
Go to <https://www.dmschools.org/community-education/at-dmpe/>

5 spots remaining

First Lego League Team Qualifies for State

Mustang Robotics on to Ames

SPOTLIGHT



Merrill Middle School's foray into the First Lego League competition has proven to be a resounding success as the Mustang Robotics team secured a coveted spot in the state lego league competition. Spearheaded by Merrill Teacher Eka Nahdiati and supported by parent volunteer Kent Middendorf, the teams quickly realized that this competition transcends the conventional notion of building with Legos. In its second year of participation, Merrill's teams discovered that success hinged on a mastery of coding, adept presentation skills, and the ability to compete against some of the brightest minds in the state. Despite the challenging nature of the competition, Merrill's Mustang Robotics team rose to the occasion, showcasing their exceptional skills and determination.

With two teams initially entering the regional competition, the Mustang Robotics team's stellar performance earned them a well-deserved ticket to the State competition, scheduled for January 28th. Merrill Middle School can take pride in its students' accomplishments in the First Lego League, showcasing the school's commitment to fostering STEM education and nurturing young minds for success in an increasingly technology-driven world. Kudos to the Mustangs for their outstanding achievement and best of luck in the upcoming State competition!

Unified Games Wants you!

In a thrilling initiative that began just this year, Merrill proudly introduces the Unified Games Program, inviting students of all abilities to come together and enjoy moments of fun and camaraderie. Hosted in Hanna Hall every Wednesday, this unique program aims to create an inclusive space where students can participate in game days, engaging in both board games and yard games. With the primary goal of fostering a sense of community and shared enjoyment, the Unified Games Program emphasizes the importance of embracing diversity and breaking down barriers. Encouraging an atmosphere of pure enjoyment, the club runs until 4:15, providing a vibrant and welcoming environment for students to unwind, connect, and simply have fun. All students are warmly invited to stop by and be part of the Unified Games Program, contributing to the school's commitment to inclusivity and the celebration of diversity.

8TH GRADE BOYS BASKETBALL BEGINS JAN 2ND

Merrill Middle School's boys' basketball season is set to kick off on January 2nd, with coaches gearing up to determine the team placements for the upcoming season. Traditionally, Merrill fields four competitive teams – White, Blue, Silver, and Gray – as the coaching staff carefully assesses each player's skills and strengths. The anticipation is high, especially considering the impressive track record of the program. Last season, the boys concluded as the overall City Champions, boasting an outstanding record of 19-2. The Mustangs' dominance on the court extends far beyond a single season, with an astonishing overall record of 358 wins and 92 losses since 2004. As the new season begins, Merrill's boys' basketball team aims to build on their legacy of success and sportsmanship.

GIRLS BASKETBALL SEASON WRAP UP



Mustang Blue Team



Mustang White Team

Spotlight on History

The Mustang's record since 2008 is 288 wins and 27 losses.

The girls all time leading scorer in a single season is Arianna Jackson-192pts.

The Mustangs are 38 - 7 over Callanan Middle School since 2004.

2023 Mustang Girls

Blue Team: 2023

L 10 - 11.... Hiatt
 W 39-3....Callanan
 Win 16 - 14 Harding
 L 6-26.... Brody
 W 36-20.... Meredith
 W 16-10....Goodrell
 L 15-16....McCombs

4-3

Kendall Warren 38pts.

Season

White Team: 2023

W 39-0....Hiatt
 W 37-5....Weeks
 L 28-35....Callanan
 W 35 - 9 Harding
 W 36-17.... Brody
 W 17-16.... Meredith
 W 31-3....Goodrell
 W 29-19....McCombs

W 40-6....Hoyt

8-1

Dearia Thedford 97pts.

Awards 2023

Blue Team:

Ms. Hustle: Tara Gardoud
 Most Improved: Juniper Bromolson
 Defensive Player: Dallia Bol
 MVP: Kendall Warren

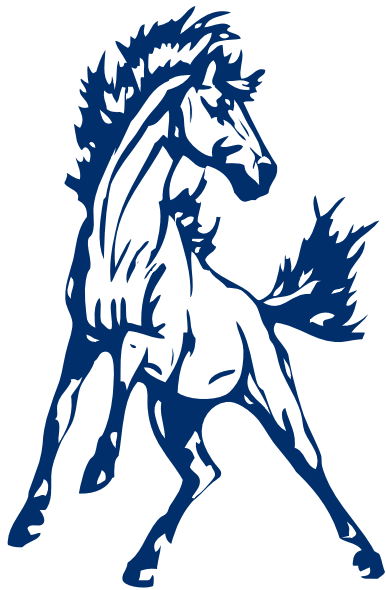
White Team:

Mr. Hustle: Ella Johnson
 Most Improved: Harlynn Jacobs
 Defensive player: Jaeliah Rhone
 MVP: DeAuria Thedford

Perfect Practice Attendance: Harlynn Jacobs, Jaeliah Rhone, Easley Saldanha, DeAuria Thedford, Ella Johnson

FEEL LIKE DONATING?

Supporting Merrill Middle School and its various clubs and sports teams has never been easier. By utilizing the provided QR code, you can directly access Merrill's activities donation center through RevTrak, the same platform used for school fees. This streamlined process allows you to contribute to your favorite club or sport effortlessly. It's important to recognize that many of Merrill's dedicated club sponsors volunteer their time without compensation, making donations crucial to ensuring they have the necessary resources to run their activities effectively. Additionally, despite no longer charging fees for sports participation at Merrill, the school relies on donations to fund essential needs such as new uniforms and equipment. Your generosity is instrumental in maintaining the vibrancy of Merrill's extracurricular programs, and the school community expresses gratitude for your ongoing support.



Forever!

