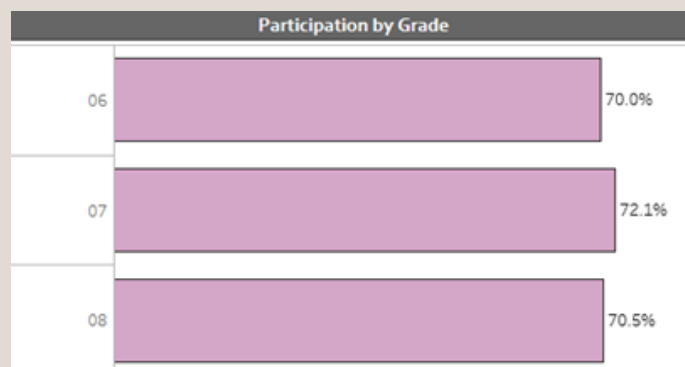


MUSTANG Activities Newsletter

School wide update



Merrill Middle School takes great pride in our consistently high participation numbers in extracurricular activities, which have remained among the best in the district year after year. Currently, our school boasts an impressive average of approximately 71% of students actively engaged in various activities and sports programs. As we enter into one of our biggest sports seasons in terms of participation, with track and soccer on the horizon, we are thrilled to offer even more opportunities for our students to get involved. Additionally, we are excited to reintroduce popular clubs like Gaga Ball and Futsal, providing diverse options to cater to different interests and talents. For students who have not yet explored extracurricular activities, there is still ample time to join in and experience the benefits of being part of our vibrant school community.



In this newsletter you will find:

History Spotlight, Club Showcase, Track and Soccer information, Basketball Wrap-up

Order a Yearbook Today!



Unified Sports

BASKETBALL, TRACK, SOCCER

Our Unified Sports program, sponsored by Kelli Luft, embodies these principles, providing a dynamic platform for weekly practices and competitive play. Currently immersed in basketball season, our athletes are honing their skills and building lasting connections on and off the court. As we gear up for the transition to track season, the program remains a vibrant testament to the transformative power of sports. The culmination of our efforts will be a spirited soccer game at the end of the year, where our athletes will showcase their teamwork and determination in front of the entire school community. Unified Sports at our school is not just about playing sports; it's about creating a supportive community that celebrates diversity and empowers every individual to shine.



Unified Games

WE WANT YOU! TO JOIN UNIFIED GAMES!

Our Unified Games program offers a unique and inclusive space for students to come together every week in Hanna Hall and create lasting connections. Meeting on Wednesdays from 2:45 to 3:20, participants engage in a variety of activities such as board games, yard games, and even creative sessions like painting. The primary focus is on fostering a sense of camaraderie and providing a platform for everyone to simply hang out and have fun. With an open invitation, we warmly welcome new members to join our vibrant community, ensuring that the Unified Games program remains an enriching and enjoyable experience for all.

Things to know for Track Season

LOOKING FOR NEW SHOES FOR TRACK SEASON? CHECK OUT FLEET FEET IN DOWNTOWN DES MOINES. THEY GIVE 10% OF YOU PURCHASE BACK TO MERRILL. IT IS CALLED TEAM CASH JUST TELL THEM YOU GO TO MERRILL AND ANYTHING YOU BUY BETWEEN FEB 1ST AND MARCH 31ST, BRINGS MONEY BACK TO OUR TRACK TEAM.



The Season

As the anticipation builds, we are eagerly preparing for the track season commencing on March 4th. To ensure participation, students simply need to have a current physical on file with our Merrill Nurse. With practices scheduled nearly every day after school until 5:00, our dedicated athletes will engage in outdoor training sessions, braving the elements. It's crucial that athletes dress appropriately for the weather. In the event of inclement weather, practices will continue indoors, but only the boys or the girls will have practice inside. The teams will alternate practicing inside and cancelling their practices. Throughout the season, our athletes will have the opportunity to showcase their talents in three track meets held at various locations across the city. These meets not only foster friendly competition but also serve as platforms for personal growth and improvement. A significant highlight of the season is the pursuit of qualification for the city meet, slated for April 22nd. Qualifying athletes will advance to participate in two additional meets. The pinnacle of the season will be the 4x100 event at the prestigious Drake Relays on April 26th, offering our athletes a remarkable opportunity to shine on a renowned stage. We eagerly await the achievements and milestones our track and field team will attain this season.



History Spotlight

OUR TRACK TEAMS COMPETE IN THE DRAKE RELAYS YEARLY!

Merrill Boys 4 x 100 teams have won the relays 2 times since 2015.

Merrill girls 4 x 100 teams have won the relays 4 times since 2015.

Merrill girls also own the Drake Relays Record in the Distance Medley with a time of 4:21.59.- 2018

martin.luft@dmschools.org

MERRILL@DMSCHOOLS.ORG

QUESTIONS??

Order a yearbook today!

GET INVOLVED, GET INVOLVED, GET INVOLVED



Trivia Night huge success

The success of Trivia Night at Merrill Middle School surpassed all expectations, with over \$6000 raised to benefit Merrill's various clubs and activities. Held on Friday, February 23rd, the event was not only a fundraiser but also a fantastic opportunity for the school community to come together for a night of fun and camaraderie. The atmosphere was lively and spirited as participants tested their knowledge and enjoyed the friendly competition. The overwhelming support and generosity of the Mustangs, through both attendance and donations, truly made the evening memorable. This remarkable outcome will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on Merrill's clubs and activities, enriching the experiences of students and enhancing the school's overall community spirit.



Rising 6th grade Night

Rising 6th Grade Night at Merrill is an exciting opportunity for all current 5th graders transitioning into 6th grade to explore the vibrant array of clubs and activities available at our school. During this event, students who are involved in various clubs will be stationed at tables in Hanna Hall, ready to share their experiences and answer any questions about their respective clubs. The students will create a poster or flyer detailing information about their clubs. This setup allows rising 6th graders to leisurely walk around and engage with different clubs, gaining insight into the diverse extracurricular opportunities awaiting them at Merrill.

Rising 6th Grade Night is not a sign-up event for the following year, but rather a glimpse into the rich tapestry of activities Merrill has to offer. We aim to foster excitement and curiosity among incoming students, empowering them to make informed choices about their extracurricular involvement as they embark on their middle school journey.



Roosevelt Color Guard

On January 31st, the talented color guard from Roosevelt High School came over to our PE classes with a captivating performance. This unique opportunity provided students with a firsthand glimpse into the dynamic world of color guard, showcasing their skill, precision, and artistic expression. If you find yourself intrigued by the performance and wish to explore the vibrant world of color guard further, don't hesitate to reach out. For more information or to express your interest, feel free to email trnscg@gmail.com. Don't miss out on the chance to witness the artistry of Roosevelt High School's color guard and potentially discover a new passion!



BASKETBALL RECAP

White Team



White Team:
Mr. Hustle: Cooper Briggs
Team Leader: Noah Varghese
Defensive player: Travis Harvey Parks
MVP: Malon Taylor

MUSTANG BOYS BASKETBALL

This year, Merrill Middle School's basketball season has once again proven to be a remarkable journey, culminating in the team clinching the coveted title of overall City champions. The season saw three undefeated teams showcasing exceptional talent and dedication on the court, while the white team demonstrated their strength with an impressive 7-2 record. With each game, Merrill's basketball program continued to uphold its legacy of excellence, instilling a sense of pride and accomplishment within the school community. This season's triumphs serve as a testament to the hard work, perseverance, and teamwork displayed by all the players and coaches involved, solidifying Merrill's reputation as a powerhouse in city-wide basketball competition.

Order a yearbook Today!

HISTORY SPOTLIGHT

MERRILL MIDDLE SCHOOL'S BASKETBALL PROGRAM STANDS AS A BEACON OF EXCELLENCE IN THE CITY'S SPORTING LANDSCAPE, BOASTING A FORMIDABLE RECORD OF 290 WINS AGAINST 53 LOSSES OVERALL. SINCE 2008, MERRILL HAS MAINTAINED AN IMPRESSIVE 85% WINNING PERCENTAGE, A TESTAMENT TO THE PROGRAM'S DEDICATION TO SKILL DEVELOPMENT, TEAMWORK, AND SPORTSMANSHIP. THIS REMARKABLE ACHIEVEMENT UNDERSCORES MERRILL'S COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING A CULTURE OF ATHLETIC EXCELLENCE AND PROVIDING ITS STUDENTS WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO THRIVE BOTH ON AND OFF THE COURT. AS MERRILL CONTINUES TO UPHOLD ITS PROUD TRADITION OF BASKETBALL PROWESS, IT SERVES AS AN INSPIRATION TO ASPIRING ATHLETES AND A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR THE ENTIRE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Gray Team



Gray Team:
Mr. Hustle: Jordan Rodriguez-Kilby
Team Leader: Abraham Thiandoum
Defensive player: Max Hutchings
Most Improved: Domanic Douglass
MVP: Jamie Rico

BLUE TEAM



Blue Team:
Mr. Hustle: Ryan Champion
Team Leader: Sam Albright
Defensive player: Nico Lockett
MVP: Harrison Loder

Silver Team:
Mr. Hustle: Levin Riekema
Team Leader: Beken Gardoud
Defensive player: Carmine Lovan-Robinson
Most Improved: Ted Swanson
MVP: Leo Allen

2024 Scoring Leaders

White Team Malon Taylor- 186pts.
Blue Team: Nico Lockett- 63pts
Silver Team: Leo Allen- 41pts.
Gray Team Domanic Douglass- 29pts

Silver Team



Chess Club

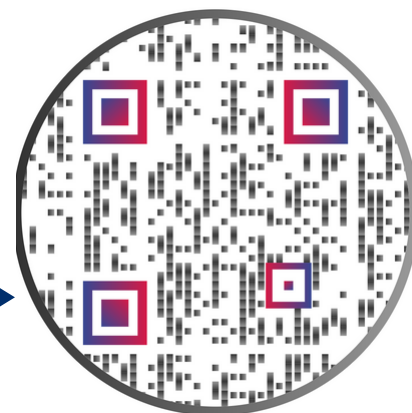
CLUB SPOTLIGHT



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.

Merrill Middle School's Chess Club, convening every Tuesday in Room 216, offers an engaging platform for students to immerse themselves in the intricate world of strategic gameplay. Led by students, this club provides a welcoming environment where individuals of all skill levels, whether novice or seasoned veterans, can come together to sharpen their intellect and hone their strategic prowess through spirited battles of wits. Whether you're new to the game or a seasoned player, the Chess Club invites all interested students to join and experience the thrill of strategic competition firsthand.



Donation QR Code

ORDER YOUR Yearbook

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Job # 17688

Save your receipt

Des Moines Public Schools
Community Education

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART CREATING COMICS

LEARN HOW TO MAKE COMIC BOOKS!
IN THIS CLASS, WE WILL EXPLORE THE VISUAL STORYTELLING OF COMICS
AND HOW TO CREATE OUR OWN STORIES. WE WILL DISCUSS DIFFERENT FORMS
OF ART 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 TO USE.

Class Details
6th - 8th Grade
Location: Merrill Middle School
Dates: Tuesdays March 26th - April 30th
Time: 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
Instructor: Carissa Dannen
Class Limit: 15

How to Register

Go to
<https://www.dmschools.org/community>

MARCH 2024
CLASS DATES

MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI
	●			
	●			
	●			
	●			
	●			
	●			

Still not involved in anything at Merrill , try this
free art class.

