Alumni Spotlight: Alexander Hicks, ’11

We are extremely proud of our graduates and aim to highlight their successes – and showcase how Middle Township helped put them on the path to success.

Alexander Hicks was a standout player on the Middle Township High School Boys Golf team before graduating in 2011. During his time as a Panther, Hicks was honored in a number of ways: named Player of the Year by the Atlantic City Press four years in a row; won the New Jersey Group II state title and all-state honors as a senior; won the Cape Atlantic League individual medal twice; and led Middle Township to a team league championship.

Hicks went on to continue his successful golf career at William & Mary University in Williamsburg, Virginia. During his freshmen year he was ranked second on the team with a 75.78 average, which was also the sixth-best freshman average in school history. He had three top-20 finishes and was that year’s Provost’s Award winner.

Throughout the rest of his college career, Hicks continued to dominate the game. Among many other accomplishments, Hicks was named first-team All-CAA (Colonial Athletic Association), runner-up at the CAA Championships and earned a spot on the All-Tournament team. He earned his first collegiate medal at the Joe Agee Invitational, where he also set a school-record for the best 36-hole score of 10-under 132. In the final round, Hicks shot a hole-in-one, which was only the fourth in school history.

Hicks’ most recent success came earlier this year when he qualified for and played in a PGA Tour event, the Puerto Rico Open!

Congratulations Alexander! The Middle Township School District community could not be more proud of their former Panther.

Superintendent Letter

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For more than 2 years, we have been collectively advocating with other districts in the county to maintain our funding levels. This year, we have expanded our efforts beyond county borders and are partnering with more than 70 districts throughout the state in the SOS, or the “Save Our Students” group.

We need the help of everyone in our community to advocate for the state aid our students desperately need. Please follow SOS on twitter (@NJ_SOS). I urge you to contact some of the influential contacts to the right and express your support for stopping state aid cuts until further study is done. Let us ensure we are not hurting one group of students in order to help another.

Sincerely,
Dr. David Salvo
Superintendent of Schools

Gov. Phil Murphy:
Constituent.relations@nj.gov; 609-292-6000

Lt. Gov. Sheila Oliver:
Constituent.relations@nj.gov; 609-292-6000

Dr. Lamont Repollet, Commissioner, NJ DOE:
609-376-3500

Assemblyman Craig Coughlin:
AsmCoughlin@njleg.org; 732-855-7441

Senator Steve Sweeney: SenSweeney@njleg.org; 856-251-9801, 856-339-0808

Senator Bob Andrejczak (Dist. 1): SenAndrejczak@njleg.org; 609-465-0700 (Cape May Court House), 856-696-7109 (Vineland), 856-765-0891 (Millville)

Assemblyman Bruce Land (Dist. 1): AsmLand@njleg.org*

Assemblyman Matthew Milam (Dist. 1): AsmMilam@njleg.org*

*Same phone numbers as Senator Andrejczak
**We Need Your Assistance in Advocating for State Aid**

Changes to New Jersey’s funding formula will reduce our district’s funding by $3.4 million over the next 6 years. We need the community’s help in advocating for the state aid our students desperately need. Please read more on efforts to Save Our Students (SOS) below.

**Dear Middle Township School District Community Members:**

I wanted to ensure that you are aware of our school district’s position on state funding. Our school district had nearly $328,000 removed from the approved 2018-2019 budget by the State of New Jersey. We received this news well into summer, and were forced to make last minute decisions in order to maintain resources and programs for our students. These changes to New Jersey’s funding formula will reduce our district’s funding by approximately $3.4 million over the course of the next 6 years. With a current general fund budget of $43.8 million, this would represent an 8% reduction of our total operating expenses. If these reductions continue, we will be forced to make dramatic budget cuts each year, over the six-year term. Our district will be severely crippled, as we are forced to eliminate invaluable programs and supports our students require and deserve.

Our district is unique in that we have a continued increase of students living below the poverty line at 48%. We have a high special education population (20%), as well as a large number of homeless students (155) enrolled in our district. Yet, we are considered “Overfunded” despite the fact that a month before the new formula was enacted we were designated as a “below adequacy” district. In simple terms, the New Jersey Department of Education stated that our school district has been underfunded by almost $2 million annually, if the correct school funding formula was used by the State of New Jersey. **continued on page 4**

**Upcoming Events:**

- Apr. 8-10 MS Eighth Grade PARCC Testing
- Apr. 11-12 & 15 HS PARCC Testing
- Apr. 11 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- Apr. 18 Early Dismissal – Spring Break
- Apr. 19-26 Schools Closed – Spring Break
- May 1-16 Elem. 2 Third Grade PARCC Testing
- May 4 HS SAT Testing
- May 6-8 MS Seventh Grade PARCC Testing
- May 9-10 & 13 MS Sixth Grade PARCC Testing
- May 6-17 HS AP Testing
- May 13 MTHS Band Concert, 7pm
- May 13-16 Elem. 2 Fourth & Fifth Grade PARCC Testing
- May 15 MTHS Dance Show, 6:30pm
- May 14-15 MS Eighth Grade NJ Science Testing
- May 16 Board of Education Meeting, 7pm
- May 17 MS & HS Early Dismissal
- May 17 HS Prom
- May 17-18 HS After Prom
- May 20-21 Fifth Grade & HS NJ Science Testing
- May 21 HS Spring Choir Concert @ PAC, 7pm
- May 22-23 HS Science Make-Ups
- May 24 Early Dismissal
- May 27 Schools Closed – Memorial Day
- May 29 MTMS Spring Concert, 7pm
The third-grade students at Elementary 2 recently discovered the wonders of weather and climate through their science lessons with Mrs. O’Dea and Mrs. Kabusk. Students worked in groups to construct their very own anemometer, a device that measures the speed of wind. Using their anemometer and air temperature calculations, the class was able to make their own weather predictions!

“The children really enjoyed constructing the anemometers and finding out what worked and what didn’t,” said Mrs. O’Dea.

A special thanks to Aaron’s Inc. Rio Grande for donating water bottles to keep our Heart Heroes hydrated throughout the competition!

Heart Heroes at Elementary 1

The students at Elementary 1 recently became Heart Heroes by participating in the Kids Heart Challenge - Jump Rope for Heart! The jump-a-thon was sponsored by the American Heart Association. Through this challenge, students raised money for children who suffer from heart defects or related diseases.

During their gym classes, students perfected their jumping rope skills and learned about how the heart works while they exercise. They also learned the reasons why it’s important to help children who are unable to participate in everyday physical activities like they’re used to, such as gym class, recess, or playing outside.

After a week of trial and error, the third-graders were excited to head outside and test their anemometer. Not only was it a success, but the weather also was in their favor. The students were lucky enough to complete their lesson and enjoy a rare warm and sunny day!

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We Have Meteorologists in the Making at Elementary 2

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Students enjoyed a warm day outside as they executed their experiment!
Middle School Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss’ Legacy at Elementary 1

Middle School students celebrated Dr. Seuss’ birthday at Elementary 1!

National Junior Honor Society students from the Middle School partnered up with students from Elementary 1 to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday! Every year, students across the country are invited to celebrate Dr. Seuss’ birthday by continuing his legacy and reading in a special, whimsical way. This year, students from the Middle School thought it would be fun to celebrate with Elementary 1!

The Middle School students visited a number of classrooms to read some of their favorite Dr. Seuss stories to the elementary students. They read some of Dr. Seuss’ most popular classics, such as *The Cat in the Hat*, *Oh, the Places You’ll Go*, *There’s a Wocket in My Pocket*, *The Lorax*, *Oh, the Thinks You Can Think* and many more.

Students read a variety of Dr. Seuss books – classics like *Cat in the Hat*!

In addition to reading these stories, the Middle School students also helped the elementary students with their reading skills. As they went through each book, they kept the following reading goals in mind: Comprehension, Fluency and Expression, Visualize and Decode.

High School Bands are Rockin’ and Rollin’

The Middle Township Panther Band program has been a staple of the Middle Township School District for more than four decades. The students perform in Middle Township’s multiple award-winning musical ensembles under the direction of Middle Township Band alumni Mr. Stefan Griffin. Students are provided with an education that will both instill a lifelong love of music and the tools to create opportunities to continue their musical endeavors after high school, and into their professional careers.

Recently, the Middle Township Panther Bands have been making headlines with their talent!

The Middle Township Jazz Ensemble has been expanding its fanbase by getting involved in the community. They recently connected with Christ Gospel The Love Center to celebrate Black History Month. They put on a special performance of *Roots Down* and the crowd loved it!

Congratulations to the Indoor Percussion Lineup for bringing home first place!

Congratulations to the Indoor Percussion Lineup! They recently showed off their skills at Gateway Regional and took home first place in the Indoor Percussion competition.

The Middle Township Jazz Ensemble recently performed for members of Christ Gospel The Love Center!