

## **2016-17 Athletics: A Year in Review**

The highlight of the 2016-17 school year was once again having the budget approved on the first try so that our students, coaches, advisors and myself could start out the school year on a positive note. I will always appreciate this. Other highlights included:

- Despite decreasing enrollment at MAU, participation numbers continue to soar in after-school activities. Athletics had a participation rate of 78% in grades 7-12. By comparison, when this study was started in 1989, MAU had a 53% participation rate. High School clubs enjoyed a 57% participation rate.
- The tracking of athletics and academics also provided encouraging news, as 56% of the students participating in athletics were named to the Honor Roll during the 2016-17 school year (school average was 42%). In addition, a record 76 students in grades 9-12 received the Tri-Honor Athlete Award, given to students who participate in a sport in all three seasons and are named to the Honor Roll each quarter. When this award was started in 1989, there were 12 recipients. This year, eight seniors received the Four-Time Tri-Honor Athlete Award.
- MAU continued its support of the Vermont State Athletic Director's Association's Student Leadership Conference by sending six junior student athletes to the two-day summit in Burlington which prepares athletes for the role of being a team captain.
- The Varsity Girls Volleyball team, in only in second year, competed in the Berkshire League again and despite winning just one match against Western Massachusetts, shocked the Vermont Volleyball world – comprised solely of northern Vermont schools – by upsetting Burlington in an opening round tournament game.
- The Varsity Wrestling “machine” kept rolling along by extending its national record state championship win streak to 29 straight. First year coach Brian Coon guided the Patriot grapplers to a 37-0 regular season record.
- The Lady Patriots basketball team won its fourth consecutive MVL title, and with 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Stars Madison Little (1,000 point scorer) and Briana Legacy leading the way, they made it to the Final Four at UVM and finished with a 18-5 record under first year girls coach Dan Sleeman.
- The Varsity Dance Team qualified for New Englands with a third place finish in the Pom category at the State Championships, and the Varsity Cheerleaders also qualified for New Englands with a strong showing at States.
- The varsity softball team made it three state championships in the past four years by beating Essex in extra innings in the title game to cap off a 17-1 season under the direction of head coach Katie Contrada, who was named MVL Coach of the Year. The win avenged a finals loss to Essex the year before.
- Whitney Brooks coached the Varsity Girls Lacrosse team to its first undefeated regular season in school history and took a 17-0 record into the state title game before falling to Middlebury 10-8 in a battle of unbeaten.
- Senior Emily Altland shattered the Girls Lacrosse career scoring record at MAU by finishing with 298 career goals and 140 assists for a total of 438 points and was named All-American by the US Lacrosse Association.
- The Varsity Boys and Girls Tennis teams enjoyed a successful spring season with a combined record of 22-8 – best in school history. Coaches Ken Turn (boys) and Steve Coggeshall and Tanya Case (girls) were each named Coach of the Year in the MVL.
- The Varsity Girls Tennis team recorded their second consecutive undefeated regular season before falling to eventual state champion South Burlington in the semifinals.

## 2016-17 – Clubs & Activities: A Year in Review

- The MAU Drama Club presented the classic Musical "Oliver" in the fall with a cast and crew of over 100, including many students from the Middle School and Elementary Schools. The Winter production was the "The Importance of Being Earnest" - a trivial comedy for serious people by Oscar Wilde. In the spring, two separate casts produced the well-loved "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown".
- In addition to their annual Christmas caroling, winter, Pop and spring concerts, MAU Chamber Singers and DaCapos spent time working on the music of The Beatles for two collaborative performances as part of the Biennial NJVT Exchange. In April, students traveled to Cedar Grove, NJ and joined forces with the students at Cedar Grove High School to put on a fantastic performance of Beatles Music.
- Chess and Board Game Club saw a large spike in participation this year, with three students participating in this year's Vermont State Scholastic Chess Championships.
- The Computer Gamers' Club grew in size and maturity during the 2016-17 school year. The group began extending its meeting time two days per month, and added another projector setup. Veteran members worked to make the many new freshmen feel comfortable and welcomed.
- The Interact Club was extremely active during the 2015-16 year under long-time advisor Dad Lucy, who is retiring and stepping down as advisor of the club for more than 30 years.. Among the charity events they participated in: Garlicfest, Bennington Museum Festival of Trees Gala, Warm the Children, Fallapalooza, Catamount Rotary highway cleanup, "Spirit of Sharing," North Bennington Winter Carnival, "Stuff the Bus," Bennington Coalition for the Homeless fund raiser, , collected sneakers and sports supplies for children in Panama, Catamount Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Town Green Up Day and Zemianek Road Race.
- The Patriot Ledger Yearbook club had another successful year. Students completed all of the yearbook deadlines on time and delivered a very popular book with the theme "The Story of. . ." Close to 400 yearbooks were sold to the student body of Mt. Anthony Union High School. MAU is very fortunate to have the very organized and dedicated leadership of Judi Estes heading up this monstrous commitment to providing lifelong memories of their high school years for our students.
- The senior class will held their ball again at Colgate Park on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and advisor Christina Gabrus noted that several seniors helped with the "Spirit of Sharing."
- The Marching Band performed at the home MAU football games, and marched in the Battle Day, Veterans Day and Memorial Day Parades in North Bennington and Bennington. Extra events included UMASS Band Day at Gillette Stadium and Vermont Day at the Eastern States Exhibition.
- The Jazz band, also under the direction of Marj Roegen, performed at the annual Winter, Puffer and Spring Concerts. They also performed at the Pop Concert and a few home basketball games for the boys and the girls. We had an extra performance at the Center for Living and Rehabilitation this year.
- The Sophomore Class dedicated this year to raising funds for the students' Junior & Senior Proms. Along with fundraising, the officers helped out with student senate events. They also donated money to Harwood School, when the school lost several students to a tragic car accident
- The Spanish Honor Society provided regular tutoring and after school homework guidance to Spanish students in lower levels and sponsored a family for Spirit of Sharing. Carmela Kovage, who is retiring this year at MAU, served as advisor for the past 10 years.

