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Missouri School for the Blind

Mules on the Move: Class of 2018

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On Thursday, May 31, the students, staff, and families of Missouri School for the Blind gathered to celebrate the graduating class of 2018. MSB alumna, USABA athlete, and community leader Ms. Wilma Chestnut-House gave the commencement address. Diplomas were presented to the graduates by MSB Board of Advisors President Mr. Phillip Hamilton. The MSB Class of 2018 had six graduates.

Kenia Cazares has been a student at MSB since 2007. Kenia was a member of the track and field and cheer teams, and this year she has been working on employment skills to apply to a career in retail or food service after graduation.

Class of 2018 Valedictorian Nicole "Nikki" Cox has been a student at MSB since 2012. Nikki was a member of the Senior Beta, Library Cat, and High School Book Clubs and the track and field, goalball, cheer, and swim teams. She is the recipient of many awards including the 2016-2017 Outstanding Student of the Year and the 2014-2015 Ina E. Hubbard Award. Nikki has been accepted to Missouri State University and plans to become a Teacher for the Visually Impaired.

Michael Johnson has been a student in the LIFE program for three years. Michael was a member of the Senior Beta Club and the cheer, swim, track and field, and goalball teams. He currently works in the MSB kitchen and attends St. Louis Community College, and plans to continue pursuing his degree after graduation.

Class of 2018 Salutatorian Dionna Towns has been a student at MSB since 2010. Dionna was a member of the Library Cat and Senior Beta Clubs and the goalball, track and field, cheer, and forensics teams. After graduation, Dionna plans to continue her education at St. Louis Community College while attending the MSB LIFE Program.

Nautica Wheeler has been a student in the LIFE program for two years. She was a member of the track and field and cheer teams, and plans to volunteer at an animal shelter while looking for employment after graduation.

Tyrone White has been a student at MSB since he was 5 years old. He has received multiple awards including Outstanding Student in physical education and math and Most Improved Student in English. After graduation, Tyrone plans to live with his family and attend the Happy Spirit Adult Daycare Center.

We at MSB are so proud of our graduates and their accomplishments, and wish them luck on their future endeavors.



Above: Ms. Chestnut-House gives the commencement address



Above: Nicole Cox gives the valedictorian address



Above: Dionna Towns gives the salutatorian address

Capstone 2018

Every year, MSB students and staff take part in the Capstone Project, a year-long experiential learning opportunity designed to help students develop the skills to manage and complete a multi-step, long-term project. The Capstone Project umbrella topic changes every year, with students breaking into small groups to research and explore various sub-topics and later sharing their findings with the whole group through essays, speeches, and videos.

The Capstone 2018 topic *Explorations in Culture and Conflict: Native American Studies* was designed to introduce MSB students to the history and culture of Native American people as it parallels and intersects with Euro-American culture and history. Students compared and contrasted a variety of historic events from the perspective of both cultures through the six (6) basic elements which constitute society: likeness, reciprocal awareness, difference, interdependent, cooperation, and conflict.

In the first semester of the year, students were introduced through lecture to the umbrella topic and relevant sub-topics. From February through March, students and staff divided into groups and worked on a writing assignment and recorded informative videos. Groups chose a sub-topic relevant to current conflict between some Euro-Americans and Native Americans to explore in-depth in a position paper. Each group was tasked with researching, organizing and outlining their viewpoints in a logical manner using supporting arguments and background research to demonstrate their command of the issues and the research behind their position.

In April and early May, students formally presented their position papers in oral presentations, or oratories, to their peers and MSB staff. Student oratories were both impassioned and research-based, logical arguments. Following the oratory, all students were challenged on their position by a panel of moderators and given the opportunity to defend their viewpoints.

Finally, Capstone 2018 culminated with an on-site trip in May to New Mexico where students experienced Native American culture, values, lifestyle and societal structure in person. Students met a variety of Native American people and were encouraged to ask respectful questions stemming from their research to help gain a personal understanding of the issues covered in the students' oratories. In light of their new experiences, students journaled daily to reflect and reconsider the positions they initially took on various issues related to Native American history and cultural conflict.

You can view photos of the Capstone trip to New Mexico on the MSB Facebook page at [Facebook.com/MSBMules](https://www.facebook.com/MSBMules) and the informative videos will be posted on the MSB website in an interactive timeline. Like MSB on Facebook to see when the timeline goes live this summer!



Above: The MSB Mules at Puye Cliff Dwellings on Capstone Day 4: Tuesday, May 22, 2018

Explorations in Culture & Conflict: Native American Studies



Above: The MSB Mules land at Albuquerque International Sunport on Friday, May 18 for Capstone 2018!



Above: The MSB Mules touring the Indian Pueblo Center on Capstone Day 1: Saturday, May 19



Above: The MSB Mules at Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument on Capstone Day 2: Sunday, May 20



Above: The MSB Mules at Taos Pueblo on Capstone Day 3: Monday, May 21



Above: The MSB Mules at working on looms at Espanola Valley Fiber Arts Center on Capstone Day 4: Tuesday, May 22



Above: The MSB Mules touring Golondrinas Outdoor Living History Museum on Capstone Day 5: Wednesday, May 23

4th Quarter Awards Recipients

Elementary

Nishaad Dean: Progress in Small Group Participation

Trinae Edwards: Honor Roll

Vivian Helmig: Progress in Reading, Progress in Science

Lucius Meyer: Increased Independence

Robert Mull: Honor Roll

Kadence Scott: Progress Made in Self-Help

Savanna Smith: Honor Roll

Allie Wolk: Honor Roll

Middle School

Nathan Brown: Middle School Most Improved Medal - 8th Grade

Noelle Dobbs: Honor Roll, Middle School Outstanding Medal - 8th Grade

Anastasia Gray: Honor Roll, Middle School Outstanding Medal - 6th Grade

Neil Grunig: Middle School Most Improved Medal 8th Grade

Jalan Leach: Honor Roll

Thomas Limbach: Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Middle School Most Improved Medal - 7th Grade

Kelton Ramsey: Star Student ELA, Star Student Math

Wayne Watson: Most Improved ELA, Most Improved Math

High School

Malikye Baston: Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Most Improved Braille, Most Improved Health/PE

Sirria Brooks: Most Improved ELA

Shelby Burchett: Honor Roll, Star Student Social Studies, Outstanding Science, Outstanding PE

Nikki Cox: Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Outstanding Careers, Outstanding ELA, Outstanding Science, Outstanding FACS, Dr. Robert H. Thompson Award for Excellence

Zyshaun Cross-Williams: Most Improved ELA

High School (Continued)

Chloe Deremiah: Honor Roll, Most Improved Art, Outstanding Music, Most Improved ADL

Charles Grady: Star Student Science, Honor Roll, Outstanding Math

Lexie Kaibel: Honor Roll, Outstanding Braille, MSB Student of the Year

Khylie Longmire: Honor Roll, Outstanding Math, Most Improved O&M, Outstanding PE, Most Improved Social Studies

Alison Miller: Honor Roll, Outstanding Social Studies, Star Student Science

Nikki Motley: Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Most Improved Math, Outstanding Social Studies, Ina E. Hubbard Award

Ravin Roper: Outstanding Academic Effort

Kiwan Sanders: Star Student Math, Honor Roll, Outstanding ELA, Outstanding Music

Dionna Towns: Honor Roll, Scholar Athlete, Most Artistic, Most Improved Music, Outstanding O&M, Most Improved Science

Tyrone White: Star Student Social Studies, Most Improved Math, Most Improved PE

L.I.F.E.

Kenia Cazares: Most Improved ADL

Hunter Hall: Most Improved LIFE

Jessica Johnson: Outstanding O&M, Most Improved Transition

Michael Johnson: Best Transition, Great Employment

Ali Lyon: Most Improved O&M, Outstanding LIFE

Heather Thaller: Most Improved Employment

Damon Tyson: Most Improved Social Skills

Nautica Wheeler: Outstanding ADL



Above: Supt. Geoff Barney, left, accepts the 1st place girls swim conference trophy from Nikki Cox, right.



Above: Damon Tyson, left, presents the 3rd place boys swim conference trophy to Supt. Geoff Barney, right.

Earth Day Celebration

The MSB Mules celebrated Earth Day 2018 on Thursday, April 19. Due to the chilly spring weather that day, some students stayed on campus and enjoyed a day of nature-based activities and play time on MSB’s musical, exercise, and accessible playgrounds. Other students went to Cliff Cave County Park near Oakville, Missouri, for a morning of hiking and biking and returned to MSB for a picnic lunch and an afternoon of lawn games with the students who stayed on campus. It was a fun Earth Day 2018 in nature for all our students and staff!

Below: MSB Mules pose in front of the Mississippi River at Cliff Cave Park



Above: MSB Mules ride the 7 passenger bike at Cliff Cave



Above: MSB Mules enjoying lawn games at MSB

Prom 2018

The Junior and Senior classes of MSB held their annual prom at Genesis Banquet Center in St. Louis on Thursday, May 10. Attendees were treated with a ride to the dance on a “partybus” limo, which first took them to CityGarden in downtown St. Louis for a beautiful photo opportunity. Once at the Banquet Center the dance-goers enjoyed a delicious dinner, heard humorous Senior Prophecy speeches from Junior class representatives and Senior Wills from Senior class representatives, and danced the night away. Everyone had a great time!

Below: Students in front of the partybus limo for Prom



Above: Kiwan Sanders & Dionna Towns were crowned Prom King & Queen

Below: Students on the partybus stopped for photos at CityGarden



Superintendent

Geoffrey.Barney@msb.dese.mo.gov

Assistant Superintendent

Joyce.Waddell@msb.dese.mo.gov

Clinical, Ancillary & Residential Services

Marsha.Bryant@msb.dese.mo.gov

Outreach Services

Susan.Bonner@msb.dese.mo.gov

Business Operations

William.Runzo@msb.dese.mo.gov

Human Resources

Karen.Burkhead@msb.dese.mo.gov

Community Relations

Carlie.Lee@msb.dese.mo.gov



MSB Calendar of Events

July	
9	Summer Exploratory Session 1 & 1A begins
16	Summer Exploratory Session 1B begins
20	Summer Exploratory Session 1 ends
23	Summer Exploratory Session 2 begins
August	
3	Summer Exploratory Session 2 ends
20	1st Day of School
September	
3	Labor Day - No School
October	
8	Columbus Day - No School
November	
12	Veterans Day Observed - No School
19-23	Fall break - No School

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Missouri School for the Blind
3815 Magnolia Avenue
Saint Louis, MO 63110