

# MENTA ACADEMY HILLSIDE HAPPENINGS

*We Grow Potential!*



## *Moving into the Second Semester*

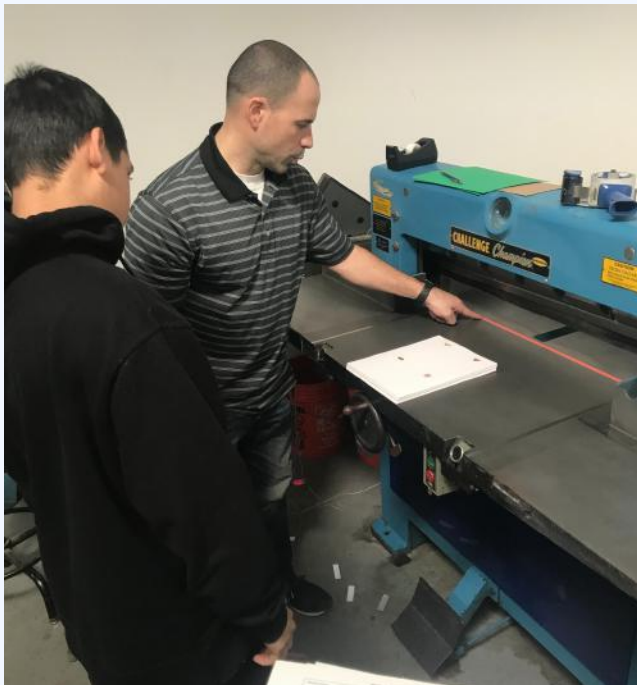
As we move into the second half of the 2018-2019 school year, we are excited to have some returning as well as some new curriculum electives to offer our students.

We would like to welcome Chef Franklin who joined MAH as we returned from Winter Break. We are excited to have her as part of our team.

She has been working with our high school students preparing breakfast and lunch each day. We look forward to an exciting culinary learning adventure in the months ahead!

In addition, to the culinary program we also have our print shop and art program up and running with Mr. Scurr. These programs allow our students to cultivate their creative sides as they explore the many genres of art.

Lastly, we are introducing a mentorship between our high school students and elementary students through a child development class. In this class select high school students who show an interest in the educational field have an opportunity to work with our younger students as educational and peer mentors.



## Staff of The Month

One of the many things we pride ourselves on at MAH is dedicated work for both our students and staff.

This month we are honoring a staff member who has gone above and beyond to ensure that MAH runs to its fullest potential on a daily basis. She works hard to ensure that our students and staff are safe and have all the necessary materials to do their jobs. It is an honor to recognize Ms. Watson this month as our staff of the month. Congratulations and thank you for all you do!



## Student of the Month!!

MAH is proud to announce that our Star Student for the month of February is **Antwone A.** Antwone has not only improved his grades, he continues to make huge gains with his behaviors. He is transitioning part time to his home high school, Naperville North. He wants to play football and basketball for his junior year.  
**Congratulations Antwone!!!**

## Restorative Practices

Following our EMM model, we take a restorative approach to creating an environment that is conducive to student learning. Adding Restorative Practices gives us a structure to use in order to resolve conflicts and increase student voice. Students at MAH can request a circle to communicate their concerns and restore relationships having a positive impact our school climate and culture.



### MAH Upcoming

2/5: MS Math Bowl

2/7: HS Math Bowl

2/12: Ele Math Bowl

2/15: Teacher Institute

2/18: No School

2/21: HS Speech Comp.

2/23: MS Speech Comp.

### Snow Day Make Up

3/4

4/19

4/22

6/14

## Positive Behavior Intervention and supports (PBIS)

### Tranquil Transitions

The focus will be on preparing the students for transition throughout their day. This will help students become more mindful of their behaviors in the hallway as well as in preparation for the next activity in class as well as walking to their next destination.

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH & EMPATHY

Every February, our teachers highlight the important contributions that African Americans have made to United States history, culture, and economy. Integral to these conversations is the importance of diversity, and teaching children to appreciate the differences—and commonalities—among their fellow human beings. But parents and caregivers can also help children understand that appreciating the differences among us enriches all our lives.

Children often pick up on the differences among human beings, but they can learn that difference is a positive trait, rather than a negative one. A positive view of diversity is taught by building self-concept, or self-esteem, as well as empathy.

When children are taught to empathize with others—or, to put themselves in others' shoes—they learn important social and emotional skills that benefit their relationships, communication skills and personal development. Additionally, children can develop positive self-esteem by learning to take pride in their accomplishments and talents, as well as those of their peers. Parents and caregivers can use Black History Month as an opportunity to discuss difference and diversity in a positive way, and to encourage children to be proud of how they look and what they can achieve. By using stories from history, songs, and dances that celebrate diversity and encourage self-esteem, parents can help ensure that their children will grow up with a positive outlook for life and respect for the world around them.