

Dear MHA families and friends,

Our Homecoming Weekend (Oct. 7-8) is just around the corner, and tickets are on sale now! Online bidding for the auction will open the week of Homecoming. You can order tickets and browse items here:

<https://MHAGives.givesmart.com>

From Homecoming Games and Senior and Alumni Celebrations to the Highlander Hoedown and Talent Show – it's a family-friendly weekend with opportunities to fellowship, feast, and fundraise. ***New this year: A generous Angel Donor is offering up to \$100,000 to support the MHA mission and vision based on the percentage of families attending the Highlander Hoedown. See details below!***

Q: What is Homecoming Weekend?

It is a weekend of celebrating the MHA community – our alumni, students, families, grandparents, faculty, and staff – and raising money to support our mission and vision. All festivities will be held right here on the Mars Hill campus. ***The Highlander Hoedown October 8 is our largest fundraising event this school year.***

Q: How can I help make the most of the Angel Donor's offer?

To help kick off our fundraising efforts for the year, an Angel Donor has offered up to \$100,000 based on family attendance at the Hoedown. MHA will unlock \$50,000 if 50 percent of our families attend the Hoedown on October 8; \$60,000 for 60 percent attendance; and \$100,000 for 80 percent attendance! All family members are invited. Attendance percentages will be calculated based on at least one parent representative per family.

Q: What is the schedule for the weekend?

Homecoming Games, Oct. 7

Highlander fans will enjoy special homecoming festivities, including food trucks and an inflatable slide. The slide will be available from 5 p.m. until dusk and is included with your Homecoming Ticket.

- 3:45 p.m. JH Soccer
- 5:15 p.m. JH Volleyball
- 5:30 p.m. Varsity Soccer and Senior Recognition
- 6:15 p.m. JV Volleyball
- 7:30 p.m. Varsity Volleyball and Senior Recognition

Friday also is a time to honor our alumni, who will receive a goodie bag with free admission to the games and a free food truck voucher. They will be invited to join the Chamber Singers in singing the National Anthem at the beginning of the varsity volleyball game.

Highlander Hoedown, Oct. 8

New this year: Families will enjoy their meals and dinnertime entertainment together in the MHA gym. After the talent show, children may join Mr. Waldy for square dancing or remain in the gym for the paddle raise.

- 5:00 p.m. Registration and check-in for children
- 5:30 p.m. BBQ dinner, silent auction, and talent show
- Childcare for children ages 5 and under

*Youth dismissed to square dancing led by Mr. Waldy after the talent show concludes

Please note Grandparents Day will be celebrated in the spring on Thursday, April 6, 2023.

Q: What if I can't make it in person? Can I still support MHA during the Hoedown?

Yes! Family and friends near and far can participate in our silent auction and donate online! Simply visit <https://MHAGives.givesmart.com>.

Q: What can I expect at the Hoedown?

This year, families will eat together in the MHA gym while enjoying the Talent Show. At the conclusion of the show, youth may either join Mr. Waldy for square dancing or stay for the paddle raise. Childcare is available for children ages five and under during the entire evening. **We do ask that guests stay seated and refrain from coming and going during the Talent Show.*

Q: What is appropriate dress attire for the Hoedown?

Grab your boots, cowboy hat, and flannel or simply come in your comfortable casual attire.

Q: What is the cost of the event?

Early bird tickets for the Hoedown are \$20/adult, \$10/child, with discounted family tickets available. Prices will increase October 1. Tickets include gate admission to all the athletic games and wristbands for the inflatable slide Friday, as well as tickets to the hoedown. *Can't make it Saturday?* Families simply pay regular gate admission, and wristbands will be sold at the games for \$3.

Q: Can I skip the registration line?

Yes! If you place a credit card on file prior to the Hoedown, simply pick up your name tag and table number and head on in!

Q: How does bidding work?

All bidding will be done online so that our virtual guests can participate in the silent auction, buy-it-now items, donation opportunities, and paddle raise. A credit card must be on file to bid, but you may pay by cash or check at the end of the evening if you prefer. For information on how to bid, visit the event site <https://MHAGives.givesmart.com> or <https://e.givesmart.com/events/sPL/page/howtobid/>

Q: How do the various giving opportunities work?

Silent Auction

Returning this year are premium auction items. These unique auction items, which are sure to generate a lot of competition, will close early at 6:45 p.m. Be sure to get your bids in, so you don't miss out! The remaining silent auction items will continue until 7:00 p.m., giving time for all to finalize their bidding.

Sponsor a Need

In addition to the Silent Auction, targeted giving opportunities are available through the online bidding website.

Paddle Raise

We will have a Paddle Raise in which guests have the opportunity to donate a specific dollar amount. We are excited to unveil this year's paddle raise projects at the Hoedown!

Q: How do I pay for expenses at the event?

All your donations and purchases will be added to your online 'cart,' and you will have the chance to review all purchases before you check out at the end of the night. You can put a credit card on file prior to the event or at check-in. You are also welcome to pay by cash or check at the end of the evening.