

128 Starting Blocks.
One Finish Line.

The 2022 Tournament



Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award in 33rd Year



Thousands of students voluntarily extend their classroom day by taking part in extracurricular activities, often improving their academic achievements in the process. The value that such programs play in the total education of a high school student is highlighted through the MHSAA/Farm Bureau Insurance Scholar-Athlete Award, which will award \$2,000 scholarships to 32 top student-athletes and recognize over 2,000 other outstanding individuals in 2021-22.

Underwritten by Farm Bureau Insurance, the Scholar-Athlete Award is now in its 33rd year, and presents scholarships to students in every MHSAA enrollment classification. The scholarships may be used at any institution of higher learning.

"It is amazing to see the number of young people who are proven achievers in academics and activities," said Mark Uyl, executive director of the MHSAA. "At a time when our educational system is coming under fire, the Scholar-Athlete Award is something that proves how important athletics are to the development of a well-rounded person."

Students applying for the Scholar-Athlete Award must

be graduating during the 2021-22 school year, carry a 3.5 grade-point average, and have previously won a letter in a varsity sport that the MHSAA sponsors postseason competition.

Applicants will also be required to show involvement in other school- community activities and submit an essay on the importance of sportsmanship in educational athletics.

Application materials can be found on MHSAA.com.

Each MHSAA member school is allowed to nominate a number of student-athletes based on the size of the school. Class A schools can nominate six boys and six girls, Class B four boys and four girls, Class C three boys and three girls and Class D two boys and two girls. The first 30 scholarships will be awarded based on this graduated scale, with two additional scholarships intended for minority applicants.

A committee composed of school administrators from across the state will select regional and statewide winners.

Farm Bureau Insurance, a long-time supporter of MHSAA activities, also sponsors other educationally oriented programs.

Let The Games Begin!

There have been many heroes over the past several months during COVID. We have all learned of inspirational stories of those on the front lines in the fight against the virus and its impact on us all.

As we move from the regular season into MHSAA tournaments, let's take a moment to thank those working on the "athletic front lines" who have found a way to make athletic activity happen during these challenging times. These athletic leaders in each of our school communities continue to work hard for our kids and are worthy of our respect.

At this event, the front-liners are the school administrators creating a safe environment, our coaches teaching kids about the game, and more importantly life lessons, and officials applying the rules impartially for fair competition.

Let's remember and be thankful for the efforts of these people and many others behind the scenes for making today's game possible.

Enjoy the game.



— Mark Uyl
MHSAA Executive Director

Student Advisory Council Aids MHSAA

Eight student-athletes who are juniors at their schools during the 2021-22 academic year have been selected to serve two-year terms on the Michigan High School Athletic Association's Student Advisory Council.

The Student Advisory Council is a 16-member group which provides feedback on issues impacting educational athletics from a student's perspective, and also is involved in the operation of Association championship events and other programming. Members of the Student Advisory Council serve for two years, beginning as juniors. Eight new members are selected annually to serve on the SAC, with nominations made by MHSAA member schools. The incoming juniors will join the group of eight seniors-to-be appointed a year ago.

Selected to begin serving on the Student Advisory Council in 2021-22 are: **Sam Gibson**, Plainwell; **Brady Leistra**, East Grand Rapids; **Caroline Li**, Okemos; **Sam Matias**, Lansing Catholic; **Zar'ria Mitchell**, Saginaw Heritage; **Carney Salo**, Escanaba; **Brandon Thompson**, Petersburg Summerfield; and **Keira Tolmie**, Clarkston.

Those eight new members were selected from 114 applicants. That applicant total was 40 percent more than the total number of applicants who generally apply for SAC positions every year.

The first Student Advisory Council was formed for the 2006-07 school year. With the addition of this class beginning this summer, members will have represented 122 schools from 46 leagues plus independent schools that do not play in a league. Combined, the new appointees have participated in 12 MHSAA sports, and five will be the first SAC members from their respective schools.

The Student Advisory Council generally meets seven times each school year, and once more for a 24-hour leadership camp. Last school year, due to COVID-19, the Council met



2021-22 Student Advisory Council

First Row: Brandon Thompson, Petersburg Summerfield; Carney Salo, Escanaba; Sam Matias, Lansing Catholic; Keira Tolmie, Clarkston; Sam Gibson, Plainwell; and Caroline Li, Okemos. **Second Row:** Faith Breinager, Frankenmuth; Amina Ferris, Dearborn; Ashton McNabb, Three Oaks River Valley; Brock Porter, Orchard Lake St. Mary's; Melik Williams, Ypsilanti Lincoln; Nico Johnson, Britton Deerfield; Brinlee Barry, Caledonia; and Brenna Kosal, Peck. **Not Pictured:** Brady Leistra, East Grand Rapids; and Zar'ria Mitchell, Saginaw Heritage.

Student Advisory Council Belief Statement

As the voice of Michigan's student-athletes, the Student Advisory Council's role is to convey the message of how high school sports are supposed to be played. We are responsible for helping the MHSAA maintain a positive and healthy atmosphere in which interscholastic athletes can thrive.

*We believe **athletes** should be competitive, sportsmanlike and excel academically. We believe **students** in the stands should have fun, but not take the focus away from the game. We believe **coaches** should act as teachers, helping student-athletes develop while still keeping high school sports in perspective. We believe that **parents** should always be positive role models and be supportive of their child's decisions. We believe **officials** commit their own time to high school sports and respect should always be shown and given to them.*

The most important goal for student-athletes is to enjoy high school sports while keeping a high level of respect between all those involved in the games.

nearly twice as many times, but virtually all but once when members met for an outdoor, socially-distanced session.

In addition to assisting in the promotion of the educational value of interscholastic athletics, the Council discusses issues dealing with the 4 S's of educational athletics: scholarship, sportsmanship, safety (including health and nutrition) and the sensible scope of athletic programs. There also is a fifth S discussed by the group – student leadership.

The new additions to the SAC will join the Class of 2022 members who were selected a year ago: **Brinlee Barry**, Caledonia; **Faith Breinager**, Frankenmuth; **Amina Ferris**, Dearborn; **Nico Johnson**, Britton Deerfield; **Brenna Kosal**, Peck; **Ashton McNabb**, Three Oaks River Valley; **Brock Porter**, Orchard Lake St. Mary's; and **Melik Williams**, Ypsilanti Lincoln.

March Magic is Perfect Backdrop for MHSAA “Battle of the Fans”

The MHSAA Student Advisory Council's “Battle of the Fans X” featured a variety of enthusiastic rooting sections and original themes as groups competed for the title of best high school student section in Michigan.

Buchanan, Midland Dow and Traverse City West were selected as finalists by the Advisory Council from a group of nine semifinalists that took part in a series of challenges highlighting their sections this winter.

Members of the MHSAA staff visited all three finalists in February, producing articles about each section and videos of those sections in action, all published on the MHSAA's Second Half website.

The winner is selected by another vote by the 16-member Advisory Council, with consideration given to a public vote on the MHSAA's social media channels. The winner will be announced in late February and recognized March 25 during the Boys Basketball Semifinals at the Breslin Center in East Lansing.

Buchanan is a three-time BOTF champ (2013, 2018 and 2020) and has reached the final round for the fourth-straight competition. Traverse City West was the winner in 2016 and has been a semifinalist seven times since 2014. Midland Dow entered the competition this school year for the first time.

Howell, North Muskegon and Spring Lake filled out the next three spots, while Imlay City, Petersburg Summerfield and Yale also were semifinalists.

“After the pandemic cancelled



The MHSAA's Battle of the Fans has become the highlight of the winter season for school rooting sections. Finalists are recognized at the Boys Basketball Finals.

the competition in 2021, it's no surprise that two schools with rich student section histories made the final three this year,” said Andy Frushour, the MHSAA's director of brand management and advisor to the Student Advisory Council.

“The Herd from Buchanan and the Bleacher Creatures at Traverse City West have to be considered the favorites going into the final round. They have been in this position many times, winning four of the nine championships. But don't sleep on Midland Dow; we could tell right away this first-time challenger would be a contender, and this section has been strong all year long.”

Battle of the Fans is organized by MHSAA staff and the Student Advisory Council. Schools were invited throughout the fall to submit short videos, via TikTok, of

their cheering sections in action. The Advisory Council then selected nine semifinalists to accomplish a list of tasks showing off their sections over a 12-day span.

Semifinalists were required to complete five mandatory challenges, and up to a total of 20, and highlight them in a three-minute TikTok. The mandatory challenges focused on contest criteria: positive sportsmanship, student body participation, school spirit, originality of cheers, organization of the group, student section leadership and overall fun. Descriptions of all 20 challenges are available on the MHSAA Website.

*For a look at this
year's contest, scan
the code at right.*





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