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### Keeping the Family Legacy



Senior David Kruis reached the 1,000 milestone by scoring 32 points in a 54-31 victory over Lakeland. In his five game run, he averaged 27.6 points.

David Kruis hit the 1000 point career mark at the foul line. Ironically, his brothers, Ken and Ron, had done the same when they attended Midland Park. It is rare that a threesome from the same family hits the magical mark.

“A fun fact,” the youngest Kruis offered recently, adding to the historical coincidence with a laugh. “Both my brothers also did it on a foul shot.”

His 1,000<sup>th</sup> point came early in a January 12 game against Lakeland. “I knew I needed one point to make it, and I had two free throws,” he recalled. “I missed the first one. It went in and out. I was nervous. I knew everyone was watching. A lot of people showed up.”

Having two brothers precede him to that career milestone served as inspiration to equal their achievement. Finally, the second free throw went in, and he could relax. In effect, Kruis’s brothers had helped him reach that point.

David is hoping to continue playing basketball either at Salve Regina or Elmira. “I’m looking to be a middle school math teacher after college,” said David, an All-Division selection last year. “Middle-schoolers look up to their teachers. I know that. I had a few great teachers in middle school that I looked up to, and I’d like to be the teacher in the future that kids look up to.”

Kruis already is being admired for his play and the way he carries himself. “David is a good, all-around kid,” offered Midland Park’s first-year coach, Adam Sidrow, who was head coach at Dumont for seven years previously. “He’s humble. He does the right thing, and he’s a leader. As a player, he’s a good shooter, a good rebounder and he runs the floor well.”

And now Kruis has shown he can handle the pressure whenever history is on the line, just as Ken and Ron did.

### January

- 2 Classes resume
- 8 Motivational Speaker Arel Moodie (grade 12) 9:30 - 11:00
- 17 High School Band Concert 7:30 pm
- 21 In-Service Day - School Closed
- 25 Semester Classes Mid-Terms
- 28 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Begins
- 29-31 Mid-Term Exams

### February

- 1 Mid-Term Exam Make Ups
- 4 Staff In-Service Day - Early Dismissal
- 14 Science League Competition
- 18-22 Winter Recess



## Arel Moodie



On Tuesday, January 8, Motivational Speaker Mr. Arel Moodie spoke to our seniors. Mr. Moodie is a best-selling author and has been a featured speaker at the White House. Arel shared his story about growing up on welfare in the projects of Brooklyn, New York. He witnessed those around him being murdered, drug addicted and imprisoned. College became Arel's way out of his situation. After college, Arel built a million dollar event production and Education Company. Arel has taken his life knowledge and written a book called *The Student Success Action Guide*. Arel shared his philosophy of reaching success with our seniors. He emphasized the important message that "being naturally gifted isn't nearly as important as giving your best effort." Our students were actively listening and engaged in this dynamic presentation. Each student received a complimentary copy of Arel's book at the conclusion of his presentation. We wish to thank Visions Federal Credit Union for sponsoring Arel Moodie's speaking tour for seniors at North Jersey area high schools.



## Meet Mrs. Mallon



When Teresa Elwood interviewed for the job of teaching biology at Midland Park High School, August DePreker, the principal at the time, asked her what she would bring to the job if she was hired. She answered "enthusiasm" because, as a recent college graduate, she was interviewing for her first job in teaching. Ms. Elwood was hired and has been at Midland Park ever since, becoming Mrs. Mallon in the process.

In her 33 years at MPHS, Mrs. Mallon taught biology, advanced biology, environmental science, and honors environmental science at the high school, as well as 8<sup>th</sup> grade Earth science and 7<sup>th</sup> grade life science in the middle school. When the Next Generation Science Standards were adopted by the State of New Jersey, the middle school curriculum changed, and Mrs. Mallon is currently teaching 7<sup>th</sup> grade integrated science as well as honors environmental science.

When asked what she enjoys most about her job, Mrs. Mallon said that she enjoys helping the 7<sup>th</sup> graders transition to the high school. "Our students know that the 7<sup>th</sup> grade team of teachers are here for them and are their advocates. My job is to give my students a stable learning environment where they are valued as unique individuals. My favorite teaching moment is when a 7<sup>th</sup> grader tells me that their parent was in my class and that they know they will have a great year because their parent has good memories of science."

## Distracted Driving Simulation Program

With a grant from the Midland Park Public Education Foundation, Midland Park High School sophomores, juniors, and seniors were able to participate in a unique Distracted Driving and Drunk Driving Simulator Program.

We all hear about the dangers of drinking and driving and texting or operating other electronic devices while driving, but many young drivers are not changing their behavior. Distracted Driving Simulators give more of a realistic approach to teaching without the consequences.

The Simulator Program allowed our students to attempt driving while sending and receiving text messages and experiencing many diverse and adverse conditions including snow, fog, and heavy traffic. It also allowed students to drive with special "drunk driving" goggles to experience the effects of drinking and driving. With this special program, students were able to experience first hand, how texting and alcohol impairs their ability to steer and brake while driving.

Driver Education teachers Lisa McNerney and Jeff Hackett applied for the grant through the MPPEF and were notified that their grant had been selected for funding in November. They were excited to provide this incredible experience to their former and current Driver Education students. During this program, a 6-seat simulator was brought in and over 250 students were able to participate in the experience.

McNerney and Hackett hope their lessons on distracted driving, impaired driving, and the experience with the Simulator will have a positive impact upon the students' future decisions, help prevent risky behaviors, and hopefully save lives.