

## **Notes From a Veteran Mom Or Helpful Hints and Bits**

*Disclaimer.....these are my thoughts and do not reflect the opinions of the program, or booster club, and are in no particular order.....Dolores*

### **WHAT IS MUN?**

Model United Nations is a class where students participate in debates modeled after contemporary UN subjects using formal UN protocols. Conferences are business-like and structured. Hosted by MUN organizations either at high schools or universities, conferences may be novice, intermediate, or advanced levels. Local events involve travel by bus. Invitational conferences may involve air and ground transportation, and attendance is by invitations delivered by the advisors. Consideration for these invitational conferences will be delineated by the advisors during class so students have a clear understanding of what is entailed and required.

### **WHO ARE THE BOOSTER CLUB?**

All parents of MUN delegates are members of the booster club, and the opportunities to volunteer in a variety of ways are always available. The booster club serves to support the students and the advisors. Volunteer chairpersons organize travel arrangements; provide communications via a web page and internet mail network, and internet newsletter "Gavel". Volunteer chairs organize two major fundraising events, Poinsettia sales and Hometown Fair Goldfish Booth. Corporate Fundraising is a significant endeavor and is headed by a chairperson. MUN typically has over 100 students and travel squads can range from 40 to 90 delegates.....involving the organizational skills of dedicated financial, travel, and communication chairpersons.

### **GETTING STARTED!**

Registration information will be available for downloading from the MCHS MUN webpage early during the first week of the new school year. DEADLINES for returning paperwork are important and must be met to insure the participation of each delegate for the earliest conference in the Fall quarter. All paperwork must be submitted via the secure BOOSTER MAILBOX in room 202.

Required Registration will include two fees: #1 transportation standard fee which is the same for sports teams etc and need be paid only one time per student for the school year even if participating in both a sport and MUN. #2 to the MCHS MUN BOOSTER CLUB for participation fees to help cover the costs of local conferences and the operating expenses. Exact fee information will be provided at the time of registration. Keep your eye on the challenging school budget.

Members of the travel squad are required to have a MUN bowling shirt, and cannot board the plane with the team without one. Bowling shirts are the choice of Timberlake/Knutson designs. Order information will be included in the registration packet.

### **BOOSTER CLUB MAILBOX**

In room 202 is a secure mailbox. All registration papers and checks are to be turned in via this box throughout the school year. No checks or conference papers are to be turned in to the advisors or to any MUN students at any time or in any circumstance. To avoid error all paperwork and checks go **ONLY INTO THE MAILBOX**. In some cases, paperwork and checks can be mailed as designated on invoices for conferences, but all are always accepted in the mailbox. Financial transactions must be by check, no cash accepted.

### **DRESS CODE**

Delegates must attend conferences in business attire. Men wear a shirt and tie (and must be able to knot ties themselves). Suits are encouraged. Growing adolescents change size often so encourage your delegate to try on the outfit for debates prior to packing them in the suitcases for away conferences. (Imagine how this item originated, think elastic.) Skirts and dresses are worn with hosiery and suitable undergarments, and may not be mini-skirts, or sheer fabric. Shoes cannot be sandals, sneakers, or open-heeled. “Traditional Business-Like” is the best adjective I can think of. No rainbow colored coifs, visible pierce sites other than ear lobes, visible undergarments, or visible tattoos. No jeans. No orange jumpsuits. No Mamma Mia spandex. As the mother of daughters, I recommend blister block for all those who prefer walking in high heels.

### **COMPUTERS**

Many delegates attend conferences with laptops; they are not required but are useful especially for research during travel conferences. I guess internet capable is best. Delegates who travel with a laptop assume full

responsibility for its safety. Internet fees at hotels are paid by the individual delegate and are not included in the travel price. Flash drives seem to be the new accessory at conferences. Printing is usually available at the conference sites.

## **COMMUNICATION**

Advisors will give updated information to delegates during class. There is a bulletin board in the classroom which will become a frequent site of delegate visits throughout the school year. Encourage your student to “check the board”. Information may also be available on the MUN website, although information specific to student conference responsibilities will only be available via classroom communication and not the booster club. Encourage your student to talk with advisors and fellow MUNers to keep on top of the information tree.

Traveling students always have the opportunity to share their experiences, but are not required to do so by advisors or chaperones. Make sure that you let your student know what their role in emailing or phoning home will be.

## **TRAVEL**

Information will be given to the student in a timely manner for each conference. Bus departure times are strict and late students will be left behind. All buses meet at the Peck parking lot. As in all travel, flexibility is a virtue. Encourage your delegate to travel with some homework, a snack, some spending money, and willingness to survive the inevitable role of Murphy’s Law. Delegates travel as a group with advisors and chaperones, and no one drives themselves to and from the conference.

## **MONEY**

Alas, the ever-present discussion topic. Registration involves two fees as previously noted. Travel conference prices will be invoiced after acceptance of invitations. The invitations will have a “guesstimate” price for consideration when accepting the invitation. Refunds after payment for trips cannot be made unless a substitute is found who will cover the invoice expenses since trips are booked in advance as “group”. Any withdrawing prepaid delegate will be held for fees incurred with rebooking through the airlines.

Fundraising efforts attempt to offset costs in two ways:

#1 subsidizing a portion of the trip for each participant using Booster club designated funds. #2 offering opportunity to earn credit in a student account that can be used toward trip expenses. Credit can be earned by working in the goldfish booth or by selling poinsettias. Poinsettia sales are especially successful in providing funds to student accounts. Exact credit values are determined by the success of the fundraising event and will be clarified at the time of the event.

The Booster Club does have scholarships available. Delegates and parents must discuss possible scholarships with the advisor, as soon after receipt of an invitation as possible. Scholarships are decided by the advisor and are awards in amounts determined by the success of fundraising efforts. All scholarship recipients and their families are encouraged to participate in booster club activities.

Please note that all deadlines for receipt of any funds are always clearly stated and strictly followed.

## **PARENT PARTICIPATION**

Needless to say, parent participation in the booster club is encouraged and WELCOMED. Please let your interest be known.

## **PARENT OBSERVATION**

MUN is designed to encourage students to be independent and responsible. Trips are chaperoned, but at times there is no micro-schedule and students have the opportunity to discover their own mature resources while required to be accountable for strict meeting places and times. Some meals are provided; most are the students' responsibility. This means students learn some of the skills needed for that freshman year of college:

- Time management
- Organization
- Food-finding
- Research
- Appropriate dress code (unpopular fashion)
- Money management
- Roommate Survival
- Leadership
- Cooperation
- Teamwork

Packing skills, ironing skills, listening skills and accurate functioning time pieces are a great advantage to all delegates.

MUN offers our students a unique opportunity to grow. I am always in awe of the maturity and camaraderie developed by the students as they evolve through their MUN years. This experience offers them the opportunity to work with students of all ages and learn from the experiences of the older MUNers. There is no need for personal tutoring. This is not physics or advanced math. Students will develop their personal speaking and writing styles, learn from those students who have participated in the debates themselves, and explore solutions that have creative and “out of the box” processes. Enjoy your role as supportive parent and experience this adventure through the eyes of your student.