

THE DEE LITTRELL-LAWRENCE DANCE/THEATER ARTS SCHOLARSHIP



Dee Littrell-Lawrence

Dee's career at MHS began in 1969, teaching PE, Dance and coaching as competitive flag teams and drill teams were being organized around the state. For 15 years prior to coming to MHS, Dee taught dance at her private studio. Flag teams performed at the football halftimes and drill teams performed at basketball games and Dee's cheer teams were on the sidelines for every home game. The budget for outfits and equipment came from car washes, rummage sales and spaghetti feeds.

Dance (called drill teams then) teams were not an OSAA sanctioned activity, but in the early 1970's, MHS teams began to attend competitions that were beginning to be organized around the state. In 1982, MHS hosted a 30 team statewide dance team competition and the MHS "Pirate Prancers" claimed second place in the small team division. The following year the Pirate Flag Team brought home the 1st place trophy at the OSU Band Day Competition.

In 1984 the MHS Dance Team raised \$10,000 to attend the dance competition at the New Orleans World's Fair, along with 70 other teams from all around the nation, placing 4th in their division of 25 teams. They were very proud that they were the only team to use Dixieland Jazz as their music, recorded especially for the event by Frosty West's Dixieland Band. It was an unforgettable experience for all.

During her tenure at MHS, Dee established an excellent dance program that has continued to flourish today, regularly finishing among the top five teams in the state at the state championships. Dee laid the foundation for the ongoing success of dance at MHS and in our community. She retired from teaching and coaching in 1986, but continued to maintain an active lifestyle that included teaching dance, participation in theater productions, hiking (just a few years ago, Dee hiked the 8 mile trail to the bottom of the Grand Canyon!) and traveling with husband, John. Over the years, she received cards, pictures and announcements from former Dance Team members and enjoyed keeping in touch with them. Dee Passed away June 8, 2013.