

# INTRODUCTION

Once again, the Wildcat Foundation is poised to play a pivotal role in the future of the Mechanicsburg Area School District. True to our mission, “to strengthen the educational, cultural, wellness, and athletic programs of the Mechanicsburg Area School District,” we have identified significant needs at John H. Frederick Field. The foundation last enhanced the District’s “front porch” with a new turf field in 2010; today, the Field’s entrance and ancillary buildings need significant improvements. Additional construction of a new field house will provide valuable space and purpose.

A revitalized Frederick Field is essential to our rapidly expanding District and the Wildcat Foundation will set a new standard of excellence just as our previous campaigns did for the Trails & Trees Environmental Center and the turf field.

Our community responded generously in the past and we again call upon a wide base of constituents to support this effort to assure project completion in a timely and efficient manner. Our plan is to break ground no later than spring of 2020. We have established an ambitious goal of \$2.5 million, with solicitation to accommodate a three-year pledge period.



# HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The Mechanicsburg Area School District (MASD) may claim Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Park as its own, though in reality, in 1919, it was the initiative of a group of local merchants and businessmen who took it upon themselves to raise funds to purchase land connected to the existing field, which was owned by Mechanicsburg Borough and leased to the Mechanicsburg High School Athletic Association.<sup>1</sup> When the purchase was complete, the land was “given to the people of Mechanicsburg as a memorial to those who lost their lives in World War I.”<sup>2</sup>

At that time, football was in its infancy and what was to become a multi-use field and stadium was not yet envisioned. Still the Mechanicsburg Club, a local service organization, agreed to fund the construction of the field house<sup>3</sup>, which exists to this day.

Years later, upon the death of John H. Frederick in 1994, the Mechanicsburg School Board of Directors recommended that the field at the west end of the Park bear the name of John H. Frederick Field as a lasting memorial to the beloved teacher, mentor, and winning football coach from 1937-1957, excepting two years of armed service duty during World War II.<sup>4</sup>

It wasn't until September 4, 1998 that the field was officially dedicated: John H. Frederick Field at Memorial Stadium.

Meanwhile, earlier in 1998, the MASD Board of Directors established the Wildcat Foundation, the educational foundation for MASD, whose mission is to strengthen the educational, cultural, wellness, and athletic programs of the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

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<sup>1</sup> Football program, October 12, 1945, Archives, Mechanicsburg Area Senior High School.

<sup>2</sup> Unsigned Note. Memorial Park Archives.

<sup>3</sup> Football program, September 27, 1946. Archives, Mechanicsburg High School.

<sup>4</sup> A Rationale Justifying the Renaming of High School Football Field. Archives, Mechanicsburg High School



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## PROGRAMS & PROJECTS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE WILDCAT FOUNDATION

While the Wildcat Foundation provides annual financial support for programs and projects not typically in the District's budget, the Wildcat Foundation has also been instrumental in notable District-wide capital improvements.



Led by the Wildcat Foundation, and supported by businesses and individual donors across the region, in 2007, funds were raised to install a synthetic turf field and improve parking and bleacher seating at John H. Frederick Field, the first time this stadium had been touched significantly since it was built in 1947.

The Foundation again solicited the community and received support to build the Trails and Trees Environmental Center, a near one-of-a-kind educational center.

The Trails and Trees Environmental Center is located on South York Street in Mechanicsburg. From The Center you can see "The Greater Valley," one of the most beautiful sights in Mechanicsburg. The Center features a forest, a large meadow, trails, springs, a stream, a modern pavilion, and a pre-Civil War farm house.<sup>5</sup>

With classroom labs, outdoor pavilions, blue bird trail, native trees and gardens, and a natural watershed, the Environmental Center serves as nature's classroom and has grown into a great educational asset for both our students and our shared community.



Photograph by Dennis Baker

<sup>5</sup>[https://www.mbgisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC\\_ID=841311&type=d&pREC\\_ID=1213418](https://www.mbgisd.org/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=841311&type=d&pREC_ID=1213418)



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# CURRENT NEED

The District's "front porch" is showing its age. While the field and stadium have seen upgrades, the locker room and ancillary buildings have not been significantly touched since construction in 1947.

*Concession*



*Existing locker rooms accommodate teams of 20*



*Ticket Booth*



*Existing locker rooms*



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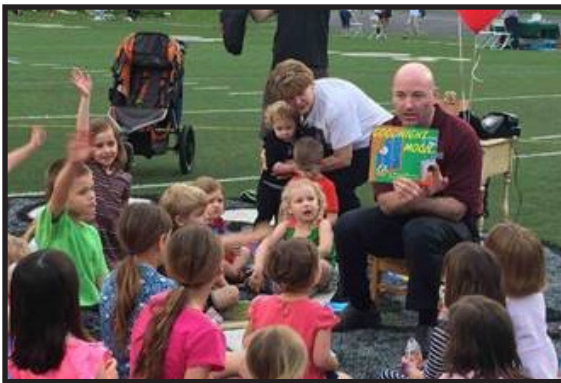
## MID-20TH CENTURY FACILITIES CANNOT ACCOMMODATE 21ST CENTURY NEEDS

The Wildcat Foundation needs your support to ensure that our students and our community will continue to benefit for generations to come from the educational, cultural, wellness, and athletic programs supported by the Foundation and **YOU**, and provided by and for the MASD and the greater Mechanicsburg Community.

Today, MASD boasts an enrollment of over 4300 and in 2018, MASH graduated nearly 300 students.

Each year, the John H. Frederick Field hosts activities involving nearly 4,000 youth, and at least 55,000 spectators that include:

- ❖ **Music in the Park:** A Mid-Atlantic regional band competition attracts 18 high-school bands, 1,000 musicians/performers and 4,000 spectators.
- ❖ **Literacy Night Under the Lights** is a free event that attracts 500 children (infants to five (5) year olds) and their families. Through fun and play they are introduced to the importance of reading and learning.
- ❖ **80-90 Athletic Contests**
  - District III and PIAA Playoff Contests
  - Youth Football and League Championship
  - Youth Field Hockey
  - Practice field for Field Hockey, Lacrosse, Football
- ❖ **Multiple and varied community organizations utilize the space**



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# \$2,500,000 FUNDRAISING GOAL!

Paying homage to our past, TOGETHER, we will build for the future.

- Existing archway commemorating the John H. Frederick Memorial Field will be moved to provide a canopy, arching a new entrance and ticketing booths.
- Existing block structures will be repurposed for functional, modern use as support facilities.
  - ❖ Retrofit Current Team Rooms:
    - ◆ Public restrooms for men and women, each containing 20 private stalls
    - ◆ Officials' locker room with showers
    - ◆ Storage space
  - ❖ Retrofit current concessions
- Construction of new field house to include:
  - ❖ Two team rooms to accommodate teams of 40, with lockers, shower, restrooms, bench seating and training rooms
- Hall of Fame, between locker rooms, will serve as a natural walkway and include and expand upon memorial plaques, recognizing MASH alumni who gave the ultimate sacrifice in our nation's armed conflicts.



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# CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

**John F. Duggan, Esq.**

Campaign Chair

**Tracy Rohrbaugh-Besselman**

Construction & Design Committee Chair

**Dale Flor and Rich Heeter**

Donor & Gifts Committee Co-Chairs

**Greg Andersen and Ben Ried, Esq.**

Marketing Committee Co-Chairs

**Dr. Mark Leidy, Superintendent**

Mechanicsburg Area School District

**Gregory Lnogwell, CFO**

Mechanicsburg Area School District

**Campaign Support:**

Holly Laufer, Executive Director

Wildcat Foundation

**FORMER PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE**

**Christopher C. Conner**

July, 1999 - February, 2002

**Donald Farinelli**

February, 2002 - February, 2004

**Jim Voltz**

February, 2004 - February, 2005

**Steven Butz**

February, 2005 - February, 2006

**Jim Voltz**

February, 2006 - February, 2007

**Dr. Alan Wirt**

February, 2007 - February, 2009

**Dr. Ranny Singiser**

February, 2009 - February, 2011

**Gary Weber**

February, 2011 - February, 2015

**Richard Heeter**

February, 2015 - July, 2017



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# WILDCAT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Greg Andersen, Vice President**  
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*Capital Trustees, LLC*

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**Holly Rider Laufer, Executive Director**  
*Wildcat Foundation*

**Dr. Mark Leidy, Superintendent**  
*MASD*

**Rachel Jarabeck**  
*Atlas Management Resource*





# PLEDGE CARD



I/We \_\_\_\_\_ (donor names) pledge to contribute a total of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to the Wildcat Foundation BUILDING THE FUTURE TOGETHER Campaign, in support of enhancing and growing the facilities at John H. Frederick Field supporting the Mechanicsburg Area School District.

### PAYMENT OPTIONS:

Pledge will be paid in full with one payment on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
Please make checks payable to the Wildcat Foundation.

Pledge will be fulfilled over  1 year  2 years  3 years with equal payments beginning on \_\_/\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Autopay: I will set up a secure payment plan through [www.wildcatfoundation.org/](http://www.wildcatfoundation.org/) campaign (Bank AFT or credit/debit cards accepted)

*All pledges should be fulfilled by 12/31/2020 or sooner if it becomes advantageous to the donor(s).*

My gift will be matched by \_\_\_\_\_

My gift is made  in honor of OR  in memory of \_\_\_\_\_

For recognition purposes, please list my/our names as follows:

\_\_\_\_\_

I/We wish to remain anonymous.

\_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE

For more information on other ways to give, including in-kind or stock contributions, please contact Holly Laufer, Executive Director of the Wildcat Foundation, at 717-691-4505 or [HLaufer@mbgsd.org](mailto:HLaufer@mbgsd.org).

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

1225 South Market Street., Ste. 1 • Mechanicsburg, PA 17055 • 717-691-4505 • [www.WildcatFoundation.org](http://www.WildcatFoundation.org)  
A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll-free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

