

## Beyond the Cave – A MEF Signature Project

In its fifth year Beyond the Cave continues to be an amazing place for MHS students! A partnership between MEF and School City, BtC aims to get children and their parents thinking about what they could do after graduating from Mishawaka High School. Those thoughts—and conversations—happen in every hallway in every one of our schools!

The biggest impact: the Beyond the Cave Center. Located in the Guidance Office of Mishawaka High School, trains volunteers to be ready to help School City students of any age explore career options, plan for college and expect success. We have assisted over 120 families just through the Center alone.

We continue to remind students of all ages of the possibility of college. We hang pennants for every teacher, administrator and staff member who holds a college degree and which invites a conversation with each one. Students can explore over 75 colleges, just by ducking in a classroom or office in their school building. BtC tackled standardized admissions testing by offering affordable SAT review classes in Mishawaka High School each semester. These classes are affordable and convenient for our students! BtC also has arranged yearly career speakers for our students to hear and experience possible ideas for their future.

Once again, we celebrated our seniors' next steps! In 2014, we celebrated 185 seniors being admitted to over 80 different colleges and universities. These seniors were also awarded more than over \$2.5 million in scholarships, which were prominently displayed in the hallway by Beyond the Cave. There was rarely a time when in that hallway people were not taking pictures, talking with pride about 'their' display, or talking about their own future plans. We are so proud of the Class of 2014! We know that they have set a bar for the next classes to jump over...and continue to explore, plan and succeed!