

## Spring sports sanitized

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It's 2021, and we have had a lot of complications. We have gone through COVID-19. Last year spring sports were canceled because of COVID-19. Then we had Derecho. Derecho is a horrible hurricane that took place in Iowa. This has also affected many schools. With schools being shut down, sports were also affected. But thanks to the rebuilding of the town, Marion is actually having sports this year.

One of the amazing sports that Marion is having this year is Track. With Derecho happening, people weren't sure if we would have somewhere to practice. Most thought that we would have to share and practice on another school's track. "I'm excited we get a season and every year brings new challenges. With or without COVID-19 we're gonna take what's thrown at us and compete," said Zrudsky. This is his 11th year at Marion and he is still in love with the sport of track. When Derecho hit, he wasn't affected personally, but he saw how everyone came together. "It makes me proud to see how willingly supportive people can be of each other in a time of crisis," said Zrudsky. The hurricane took a toll on all of us and it scared a lot of people. The damages were extensive. "It has caused the press box to be torn down, the track has to be patched, and our storage was destroyed," Zrudsky said. The track team has to take more responsibility when it comes to practicing. They have more safety precautions and the practice structures will be different than in the past. Because of COVID-19, they are going to have to be in pods or groups rather than practicing together. Mr. Zrudsky wants us to have hope, and he is very excited. He ensures that the track team will be fine and have no problems.

Another sport that is happening this year is soccer.

Last soccer season was also canceled because of COVID-19. This year many players are excited that they get a season and one of the players is Grace Coates, senior. She has played this sport for 13 years. Their practice field is behind Marion High School, and they play on different fields for games. "The hardest thing about my season getting canceled definitely was that I couldn't see my team or play a soccer game. We are all pretty close on the team so it was hard to be away from each other," said Coates. In soccer practice, they do a lot of drills which include dribbling, passing, and shooting. They also do scrimmages and competitive drills to keep the practices fun. "If anyone is debating going out for soccer, I am here to tell you to do it! You will have an automatic second family and have the opportunity to meet new people. Coach Trilk is so encouraging and welcoming to everyone! Soccer changed my life, and I want everyone to have that same experience. You won't regret it!" Coates said. She thinks that everyone should give the sport a try and you will eventually fall in love too.

As you can see everyone is excited for the sports season to kick off. Even with COVID-19 both sports have safety protocols that will keep everyone safe. We have hope that everyone will have a fabulous year



The throwers warm up at one of the first track practices of the season.

## Good morning MHS!

By: Noelle Regennitter @23norege

For most, the overly enthusiastic phrase "Good Morning Vernon!" sends a flood of awkward middle school memories through many students minds.

On January 17, 2021, the first official video of 'The Vox- Broadcast Edition' weekly announcements was posted, and the student body was once again greeted with vaguely familiar 'good morning' except this time with a few changes.

What is hopefully the first of many more to come, these videos are intended to inform the students and staff members at Marion of their weekly news announcements (such as upcoming events and the 7-day weather forecast). Aside from this, they also serve to replace a majority of the all too monotonous intercom announcements.

Allison Steffen and Xander Roney, sophomores, currently take on all of the roles vital to the production of their take on the weekly announcements; and because they're filming every week, they also have produced a few bloopers. "Probably 40 already," said Steffen.

With only a few videos made, Steffen and Roney have already received many compliments for their work.

When asked about this Roney said, "I've had a lot of classmates of mine come up to me and say they like it. There was a brief section of time that Semler forgot to send out the videos we had filmed, and in return I got a lot of complaints about that. So, I'd like to inform everyone that I'm not responsible for that miscommunication."

Steffen and Roney would also like to inform people that they can watch the weekly announcements by going into Youtube, searching 'The Vox Online' and then subscribing; or can locate the videos through a link sent

out by Mr. Semler every Monday morning.

As for Steffen and Roney, thanks to all of the positive feedback they've received from teachers, students, and especially Mr. Semler, they plan to continue releasing weekly videos of the announcements and look to add more edits, blooper reels, spit takes, and possibly some appearances by the rest of the journalism team as well. Mr. Semler has also requested that they put together a few additional videos such as 'How to Register for Your Classes Through powerschool' and 'How to Navigate the MISD Website.'

All in all, although this past year has been filled with uncertainty, you can surely count on seeing more of Allison and Xander in the coming future!



Allison Steffen and Xander Roney, sophomores, record an episode of the announcements in the broadcast room.