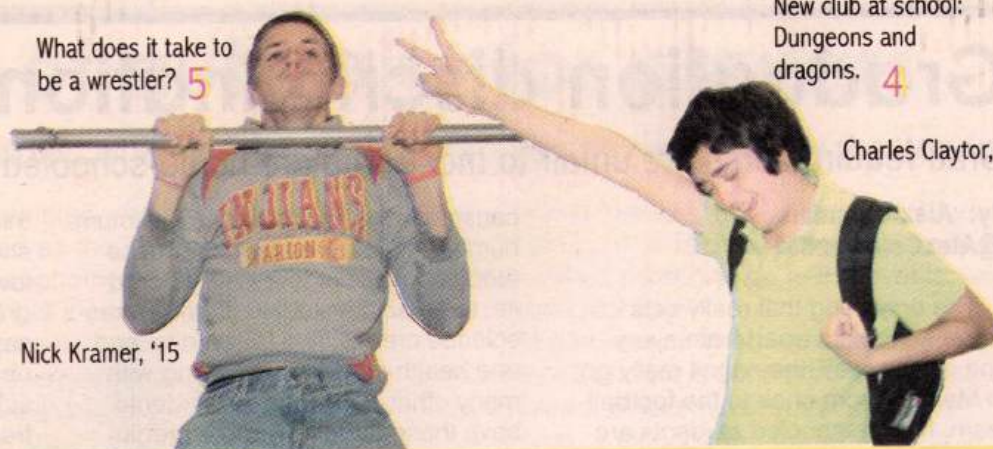


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Charles Claytor, '16

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Problems with judgmental teens

Judgmental comments and dirty looks float through the halls causing fights and hurt feelings. This ridiculousness could be instantly fixed if more people would think before they speak. When it's easier to be nice, why do so many default to being rude? 3

Who is Snooks?

Every Marion citizen is aware of the things that make up the city, it's simplicity of small shops and brick streets all make up the hometown quality known to Marion. But how much do people really know about the Mayor, his duties, personal life, and the responsibility he holds over the home to MHS students. Find out more about the man who runs and affects Marion personally, Snooks Bouska. 12

Planning for forever

It's that time of year when seniors begin to think about where their future leads them. But should seniors be the only people concerned about what is to happen after high school? Learn about how underclassmen should start preparing for their senior year right now. 2

DIY: Bulletin Board

Find out how to make your own fabric covered bulletin board. It's easy to create and can display your photos and lists in a fun, creative way. It's a perfect way to decorate any room. 6

English language

In today's society, the English language and rules of grammar are going down the drain. With all of the auto correct and spell check, people are relying more and more on their technological devices. Read on to see a poll about students relying on auto correct, and facts about the dying use of grammar. 2

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Freshman impacts our community

Nathan Jared shares the fun times that volunteering brings and how helping people is fun.

By: Savannah Guyer
@SavannahMGuyer

Heroes are all around us, some are just waiting to be noticed. Nathan Jared, freshman, is one of those heroes. He is into the second quarter of his high school career and already has his very own silver cord.

Jared's journey as a volunteer started ten years ago when his mom started working at the Linn-Mar Success Center, an after high school program for kids with disabilities. In 2010, Nathan got involved volunteering four days a week, two hours per day, "I help out with the kids and their work. I also answer any questions that they might have," said Jared.

He was a little hesitant to start volunteering, but it didn't last long, "My parents wanted me to volunteer, but I decided that it was better for myself to do it." Jared also said that volunteering has positively influenced his life, "I volunteer to help other people in the community because it improves their life. Helping with someone in need, it's a good feeling. There is no bad part about volunteering." At the beginning of November, Jared also scored a job at Linn Grove Elementary School, helping Linn-Mar and Marion students three nights a week, three hours a session.

Jared is fueled to volunteer because he knows what it's like to have



Nathan Jared, freshman, watches over the fourth, fifth, and sixth graders he helps out with basketball at Linn Grove Elementary School, a routine for him three nights a week.

people help him, "It feels amazing when someone helps us because instead of ignoring us they stay and make our lives better," Jared said, "I'm grateful for my family and the people that have helped them out." Along with volunteering eight hours a week, Jared is also involved with the Marion High School marching band, and also has to deal with the stress of having homework. "I usually get done with my homework right away and I volunteer the hours available to

me," Jared said.

One thing Jared would like other students to know is how important volunteering is, "Instead of playing video games or stuff like that, you could help out your community and the people in it by doing little things, but it's something you have to want to do."

From volunteering to just being a normal student here, Nathan Jared has shown outstanding leadership for his community.

Senior, Banes, injured for the season

By: Haley Shaffer @shafferdaffer

As basketball season begins, most players are feeling lots of excitement and are getting prepared to be on the court. For one player, however, this season will be much harder than past seasons.

Emi Banes, senior, has been playing basketball since she was in the third grade. Over the summer, while at basketball camp, Banes tore her ACL, and will be out for the majority



Emi Banes, senior, shares a laugh with Camryn Cannoy, freshman, while at practice. Banes is injured and will be out most of the season.

of the season this year. "When I first found out that I wasn't going to be able to play there was a lot of tears and a lot of choice words. I mentally shut myself down for a while," Banes said.

While it was hard for Banes to digest the news, as the only senior on the girls basketball team she knew she still had a responsibility to be there for her team. "I still want to support my team but it's hard to sit and watch," Banes said. When she first realized what this season was going to be like, she didn't know if she could handle it. "At the first open gym, I left early because I just couldn't be there," Banes said.

Although she will be on the bench, she hopes that she will still be able to help her team. "I hope to bring positive energy and I hope I can still be a leader to the team," Banes said. She is still going to treat the season as if she were playing and has high hopes for her team. "We have a young team given that there's no seniors, but if we work hard, good things will happen," Banes said. She is remaining positive about the team.

During Emi's time of struggle, she has had an extremely helpful support system to get her through. "My mom took care of me. She had to shower me," Emi said, "Riley has also been there but it's been harder because she's so far away."

Banes has a long season ahead of her, but she knows she will be able to get through it. While she remains positive, she offers advice for underclassmen in sports. "Cherish every moment you play, you never know when your last game could be."

Graduation discrimination

Grad requirements are unfair to those who are home-schooled.

By: Alex Coleman
@AlexColeman831

The only thing that really sets home-schoolers apart from everyone else is, well, they don't really go to Marion. From choir to the football team, home-schooled students are involved in a number of ways. Some full time students become really close with these home-schooled students, best friends even, so imagine how those students feel when they find out that their best friend isn't aloud to walk at graduation with them. It's simple, home-school students should have the same rights for graduation as full time students.

This year, there are roughly ten new students in the senior class.

They've come in from a number of schools, ranging from Kenne-dy to Linn-Mar. These transferred students are allowed to graduate in full, even though they've only attended Marion for one year. Joe Cach, senior, has been a lineman on the football team since his freshman year, and does not have the same privilege of graduating with his MHS classmates. "I was home schooled all the way up until junior year, my junior year I was half time at Marion and half time at home." Cach is now a full time student, and is still not allowed to graduate. "If the new students get to graduate, I feel like it should be the same for me."

Cach is not allowed to graduate be-

cause he does not have the minimum number of 'required credits'. These credits consist of four English credits, three social studies credits, three science credits, two PE credits, and one health credit. Cach, along with many other home-school students, have these and many more credits. One benefit of being a home-school student, is that the student gets to choose what they want to study and how fast they want to study it. Because of this, many home school students have more than enough credits to graduate. "I basically have enough credits to graduate," said Ashton Stivers, a home-schooled sophomore, "now I'm just trying to get more to look better for colleges." Even though these students have the required

number of credits to graduate, they're still not allowed to walk at graduation because the credits are not recorded in the 'correct way.' "A home-school students credits are determined by their

parents and their supervising teacher, they are not determined by the Marion Independent curriculum," said Sarah Pinion, superintendent. So, even though home-schooled students have all their required credits, they can't be considered 'real credits' because they weren't the same curriculum?

A lot of people would agree that these rules aren't exactly the best thing. "If you take classes at the high school and are involved in other

things, you should be allowed to walk graduation," says Nate Holub, a home-schooled freshman. "I say the more the merrier," commented Greg Semler, Principal. Others think that the rule should stand, or at most be tweaked a little. "The rules aren't in place for the people who follow the rules, they're in place for the people who try to break the rules," said Mr. Zrudsky, vice principal.

Even though the rule stands, there is an alternative to the high school graduation. The MHSAP, Marion Home School Association Program, has a graduation program which all home-school students are eligible for. It has basically the same requirements and is overall a great program, but for a student like Cach, the home-school graduation just wouldn't be the same. "I probably won't even go, unless my mom makes me. It's just that, I don't know anyone there, all of my friends are at the high school, so what is even the point?"

So, should the board really reconsider letting home-schoolers walk graduation? Overall, it sounds like a pretty decent idea. Now, the board doesn't have to let every single home school student in, but for the students that are interested, maybe a required



A group of homeschool students study after their Spanish class at a table at the Marion Homeschool Association Building.

number of credit hours or participation could be a possibility. "It's to the benefit of the school to say we have these people that come to our school, people that aren't necessarily full time students, that care and want to take classes and be involved. There's really no good reason not to let those people graduate," said Sebastian Grootchuis, home-schooled senior.

Obviously, there are reasons to perhaps change the rule, and also reasons to simply leave it alone. This is a subject that should really be looked into by the school board. Most home-schooled students care just as much about their school and community as any other student, so why should the district discriminate against them? Why should home-schooled students not be given the same privileges? Almost every student looks forward to walking across that stage and receiving their diploma. Imagine how it would feel to never have that experience, and ask the question 'does anyone deserve to have that right of passage taken from them?'

Advice to underclassmen for their futures

By: Haley Shaffer @shafferdaffer

While the year rolls on, seniors begin to think about where they are going after high school. They start stressing about which college to pick, how they're going to pay for it, or if they're even going to go to college. Even though senior year is supposed to be a super fun time with no worries, for most, that's not how it turns out. While seniors do need to think about the future, they shouldn't be the only people thinking about where they are headed after their four years here at Marion.

Though it seems like seniors are the ones who need to be worried about what lies ahead of them, everything that their future depends on has already happened. What seniors spent their time doing, the grades that they got, and the effort they put in the past three years, are what determine their acceptance into college. The people that should really be stressing are the underclassmen. Many freshman and sophomores think that the classes they take now, don't really matter too much, because after all, they're just underclassmen. Truth be told, every class

matters because every class affects someone's accumulative GPA, which is something that determines one's acceptance into college. All those classes that students are forced to take while being an underclassmen all matter.

Not only do the grades freshman and sophomores get now matter, but the effort does too. If a student thinks they don't need to try for a whole two years, chances are they will form a habit of not trying. As the saying goes, old habits are hard to break. Not putting effort in now means not wanting to put effort in later.

The best advice to give to underclassmen about planning for the future is focus on right now. Do those so called 'stupid homework assignments,' turn in those huge essays on time, and actually study for those big tests. The future will come as a breeze if underclassmen get good grades now.

Once a student gets to senior year, what's done is done. They can't go back and study for that test they bombed, they can't change any of the grades they got, and they can't make up for the things they didn't care about then. So some advice that can be given to underclassmen is work hard now, that way you can enjoy your senior year to the fullest.

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Editorial Policy

The Vox is a public forum student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It's published six times a year by Tri-Co Printing Company and is distributed during the final block of the school day by the journalism staff.

The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of two hundred words per article and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters in to room 22 or to any staff member.

Ugly truth of the English language

Teenagers today use technology and it effects the way the English language is used. Read about how text-lingo is taking over.

By: Alex Coleman @AlexColeman831

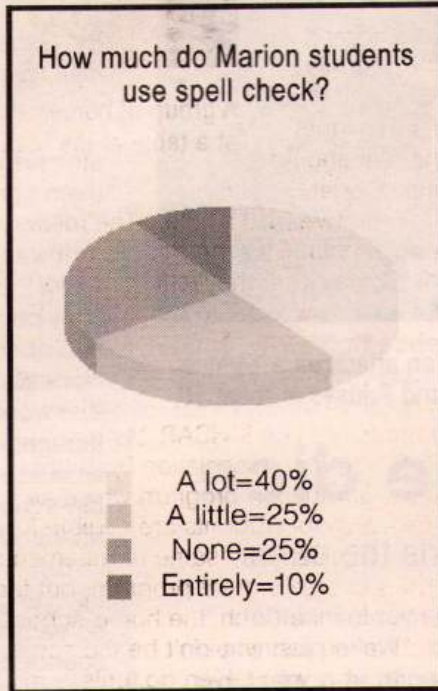
With the technology these days, many things are becoming easier. Pictures are at our fingertips, friends and family are just a message away, and Internet access is available almost everywhere. With all these advantages in today's technology, the English language is going down the drain.

To some people, the English language simply means English words. I, you, we, are pronouns in the English language, while lamp, boy, and cheese are nouns in the English language. To other people, the words English language mean things like punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. No matter what these two words mean to someone, it doesn't matter. At least not in today's society.

LOL, OMG, #SorryNotSorry: all of these are examples of today's technological 'slang'. Whether an individual is on Facebook, Twitter, or simply texting a friend, there is almost always a sign of this slang. Because of these shorthand signals during texting, punctuation and correct spelling are almost never used. It's okay to text 'OMG did u c Josies new shoes???' totes adorbs' to a friend, but when texting a higher respected person,

one might forget to use proper grammar. Whether it's texting a boss or a coach, it's really not appropriate to use LOL anywhere in those messages.

A lot of people would argue that



grammar and spelling are useless in this day and age. Countless times have teenagers said, "I don't need to know how to spell, I have

spell check for that." Okay sure, spell check, but what happens if for some reason someone would have to handwrite a paper? Sure Microsoft Word can correct your spelling and a few misplaced commas, but when faced with a blank page, with nothing but a pen, most people would probably wish they had paid a little more attention to their English teacher. According to vocabulary.co.il, "Spelling is important because it aids in reading. It helps cement the connection that is shared between sounds and letters." That is why children learn spelling and simple grammatical rules early on in life. But spelling and grammar aren't just important in the schooling years; they're also important later on in life.

The bottom line is, technology can only take us so far. If people continue to let technology run their lives, how long will it be until technology runs the world? Now, this doesn't mean that everybody needs to get rid of all their electronics and rely on themselves entirely, it just means maybe some people should really reconsider ignoring their English teachers. Being a good speller and a good reader will help everyone more in the long run.

Pains of the halls

Before I begin this column, I would like to assure all of you that I do not have anger issues, this specific topic is just one that really grinds my gears.



Haley Shaffer
By: @shafferdaffer

Generally, I enjoy walking in the hallways. I see my friends, maybe shove a couple freshmen, it's usually a pretty fun time. But there is just one thing that just completely destroys my happy walking through the hallway vibe, and that my friends, is slow walkers. These people absolutely kill me.

Now, I'm no mall fast walker, or in a hurry to get to my next super riveting class by any means, but there is a time limit on this kind of stuff. There is approximately five minutes to get from one class to another, as many of you know. Normally I do pretty good on time, I like to think that I have an amazing walking pace that is at great harmony with the amount of passing time we are so privileged to have. Then what do you know? Some kid with headphones in and not a single care in the world steps in front of me and decides that he or she is on a Sunday stroll in a nice park with a great scenic view. Unfortunately, unannounced to this child, that is simply not the case.

There are several ways to handle this situation. A, I could ride their heels until they realize, 'oh wow, I'm in a hallway with other people who, unlike myself, don't want to spend their Saturdays in retributions due to an obscene amount of tardies, I should really get moving'. Or B, speed up to a solid five miles an hour and pass this kid while simultaneously shooting them a glare that says 'your walking pace is unacceptable. Both methods are usually pretty effective, but that's just for me. You may choose which ever one you'd like.

Then, once you're past the obstacle of the slow walkers, you reach the dreaded freshman hallway. This hallway is similar to going to a carnival where the cotton candy is free and Justin Bieber is performing. Swarms of little girls and boys standing in clumps talking about how Johnny is talking to Sally when last week he hung out with Molly.

As pressing as those matters are, there is one that shockingly tops them, and that is getting to class. I don't know about you, but that's usually the reason I come to this glorious place we call school. Phones and group messaging were invented for a reason. You can text Molly about Sally at a later date. And yes, if I walk down this hallway and you are in one of these clumps, don't be surprised if I ever so gently push myself through to get to class. I say excuse me right now in advance. It seem a little harsh but I feel like it's common sense. Getting to class is a necessity, gossiping is not. Walking in the hallway could be an enjoyable event for all of us. Imagine a place where we could all prance through the halls, free of slow walkers and clumps of children.

Nice matters, form a friendly filter

By: Becca Hall @Backkahhh12

When on any social networking site or listening to an interaction between people, one can easily see that social norms have changed a lot in the past few years, and insensitive, rude humor has become a very common thing. This type of joking often ends up hurting someones feelings or fights. This begs the question: why is it so hard for people to just be nice? Is bashing someone's every choice really the first instinct of people these days? Gossiping as friends is a natural thing, it gives people a subject to talk about and bond with others, but not every second of every day needs to be spent telling the nearest person what so-and-so may or may not have done, and criticizing the apparently ugly clothes they were wearing while doing it.

In general, people are becoming less and less respectful to those around them, and many don't think twice about putting someone down in order to get a couple laughs from friends or favorites on a tweet. Why do other people think it is funny when someone gets made fun of? People don't realize that while they may be laughing, the person on the other side of the so called "joke" may feel very hurt? A joke is only a joke if it is funny to both parties involved. Putting down someone or making them feel less than is not considered a joke, it is considered bullying.

Seriously, is it really that hard to find something else to talk about other than those around you? If someone enjoys their hobbies or clothing choices, what gives anybody else a right to judge them? Do people think that they going to be harmed if they don't comment on that "weird shirt that looks like a tablecloth"? What does it matter to others if one person likes to listen to a different type of music? It honestly shouldn't even matter if they spend all their time talking to rocks, if they enjoy what they do, who is anybody to criticize them for it?

Many realize that what the people around them are saying is plain rude, but they don't know how to stop it. The answer is simple, stand up and say something. Often times if someone calls the bully out on their obnoxious behavior, they find that not only will other people stand up for them, but sometimes the bully doesn't even know that they are being offensive.

Why would someone spend all their time being mean and negative towards others, when they could just as easily be nice or even say nothing at all? Gossiping and criticizing others may seem like harmless fun, but there is a point that people often cross when they are hurting not only those around them but themselves with their constant negativity toward others. All in all, why be mean and feel bad about it, when somebody could be generous, leaving them feeling good about themselves and life in general.

The decision: should schools put out?

By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

One thing that is not on most student's minds is the use of contraceptives. For some people, it is. And why not? There's no shame in being sexually active, it's everyone's own personal decision.

What ever the students choice, its smart to be responsible with it. Contraceptives not only prevent unwanted pregnancies but some can even fight against Sexually Transmitted Infections, without any drawbacks. Some schools in Iowa already make contraceptives more available to their students, sexually active or not.

Marion High School should make non medicinal contraceptives, such as condoms, more accessible to students. Some kids wandering around the MHS halls might be sexually active with no way of getting contraceptives. They're either too scared to ask, don't know where to get them, or have the typical high school mentality and think that they're immune to any one of the outcomes of unprotected sex. By ensuring that students have a way to get contraceptives Marion High school could be solving or preventing problems for many of them.

Some people, such as parents, wouldn't like

this idea so much. Obviously some concerned guardians would have problems with contraceptives being so easily accessible especially if they think their child may not even be thinking about sex, but what estrogen or testosterone fueled teenager isn't thinking about the birds and the bees? If parents really have a problem with it, they can have a personal discussion with their children about whether to take them or not; just because the high school puts them out doesn't mean they have to take them and if they do, there is nothing wrong with being prepared.

If Marion could prevent every Tom, Dick, and Harry from impregnating Suzie, Jane, and Kate high school would be so much different for so many people.



Andie Scott, Collin Zeeks, Charles Claytor, and Lachlan Bell roll the dice to see if they hit an attack on a zombie in their fourth session of Dungeons & Dragons. The group meets Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in room 10.

Dungeons & Dragons: roll the dice

Joe Baum, freshman, is part of a new club where imagination runs the game.

By: Courtney Stull @itscourtney16

There are so many small things that go unnoticed every day. One of them is a new after school club called "Dungeons and Dragons." Joseph Baum, sophomore, takes on the role of a centaur in the enchanting storyline. The game Dungeons and Dragons was originally started in 1974 as a role playing board game. As time went on, it turned into an online event, making it more well known among people and increasing its popularity.

The club currently has around eight solid members, two of which are girls. The number of people varies every day since some students may be busy on certain days. During the time they are there, usually about an hour, they roll dice to determine death, or life on the other hand, act out plots, and transform into

their character's role. "I think that everything is interesting, all the time, because there's really no plot and it's unplanned. The characters can do whatever they want, based on the desires of each player and the Dungeon Master, but I think the most interesting part so far was knocking down the guardian of time, by breathing on him," Baum said, "There's really no plot, but for now, the main focus is destroying the elder gods. And the highest ranking character gets to decide which elder god can die."

The highest ranking character, who decides the value of the dice and determines the fate of the other player's characters. The Dungeon Master is the only character who is of "royalty." The rest of the people in this club are peasants or commoners. Although the title of the game is "Dungeons and Dragons", the

players have yet to include a fiery dragon, "We're planning on having a dragon re-appear, but we don't have one as of now, we killed a baby dragon earlier, but after that, there hasn't been one," Baum commented.

Although Dungeons and Dragons is a great after school activity, the club isn't as widely known among students as school sports, "I wish we could make t-shirts and hats for our club. It'd be pretty cool. Even letterman jackets would be pretty amazing to get," Baum explained excitedly. The students involved would like to wear clothing to represent their club, but have no time after school. They would like to make fan shirts, but since it's not very popular, there isn't much interest.

Although it's not the most popular game, Dungeons and Dragons is a great idea for anyone with a good, creative mind.

Making a difference

By: Gage Miskimen @gagemisky

From the train ride down there, to working hard everyday to make a difference in the Texas sun, one student helped a community and changed lives.



Salem Snoop, sophomore

Salem Snoop, sophomore, went on a mission trip to San Antonio, Texas with his church. They did many things to help the community but one of the big things they did was, "We helped build a playground for a church that their Sunday school and other youth groups would use." Snoop informed. Snoop went on this trip with about 25,000 people from different churches around the nation and attended many events and meetings along with helping others. Other than

the playground, he did other things to help as well, "There were many places down there that needed help at that time. We made care packages with food and other things and also had a food drive." As with all good things, bad things come too. "On the way there, the train broke down for a couple hours but other than that, everything was great." Snoop said. "It was fun, going down there and it felt good to help."

Snoop thinks people should also take opportunities to help others in need. "If you have the chance to

go, it's a great experience just to be there." There are many reasons why people help others but for Snoop, it was a more personal reason. "It involved my religion and I felt if I went, I would feel good about myself and what I'm doing." He said. Snoop is glad he went on the trip and overall it changed how he thought about life. "It changed how I look at things. Before, I was looking at myself and how I had to deal with things, but now I see others problems and how they have to deal with them." Snoop said.

People should help other people. Snoop thinks it's a great thing to experience and is worth the hard work. It can be fun too. It's easy to get involved and Snoop got involved through his church. Many churches get involved in trips and other volunteer opportunities. Snoop went to Texas to change lives, but along with that, he also ended up changing his own.

MAC monster



By: Gage Miskimen, @gagemisky

Lifting weights is a popular activity for middle school and high school athletes. Most of these athletes start lifting because they have to for their sport and many start in 6th or 7th grade, usually in a safe environment such as a home gym or a school weight room. The

athletes may even have a coach to protect them from the unpredictable.

However, some aren't so lucky.

I was very traumatized at that young age when I used to lift at the gym, The M.A.C. Now being a young middle schooler, I had absolutely no idea what I was doing. Honestly, I was there to look at all the girls that worked out there on their ellipticals. I thought I was pretty impressive, standing around in my cut-off shirt, exposing my middle-schooler, twig arms, which still haven't changed too much since then.

But one day, while lifting, I heard this intense grunting sound. It was almost screaming. Actually, it was screaming. It sounded like someone was being tortured. I stopped doing what I was doing, whatever that may have been (Probably staring at women on the elliptical or something else in that nature) and frantically searched for the source of the murder. I turned around a saw a very bulk man in a muscle shirt and a bandanna on his head. He was also wearing sunglasses, which I found very odd since we were indoors. He was curling like, a thousand- pound dumbbells while just screaming at himself in the mirrors that lined the walls of the entire building. He had earphones in which were attached to a big, bulky, knock-off brand MP3 player. The music was as loud as his screaming and I could clearly hear Eminem's, "I'm Not Afraid" being played.

The dude's veins were bulging out his gigantic arms and neck. I thought his jugular was going to explode right there in front of me. I just stood in shock, watching this monster scream and he almost seemed to be getting bigger and bigger as his warrior cries filled up the room.. I almost never wanted to lift again in my life. As a child, this was a very terrifying experience. I didn't want to become a monster like him. It was a very horrific moment of my young life, but I became stronger (mentally) and grew as a man because of this experience and on top of it all, I learned a very valuable life lesson: Never do steroids.

ALL THE HITS

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Rev it up with robotics

The twin teams aim to take their technological titans to the state level!

By: Andie Scott @KewtheRavager

Pop music hums quietly from the speakers, bouncing off the great piles of cardboard boxes, white stone walls, metallic pipes, and plastic boxes of iron pieces. Within those walls, among those boxes, stand a duo of elite teams, working hard in their own domains. Each pair, their own part in a larger goal. What is that goal? To make a robot. One that can complete any task the state competition throws at them.



Ross Brunner, senior

This is the resolve that drives the two Marion Robotics Teams: "Drop it Like it's Bot" and "Element of Surprise." The members and coach of these teams work tirelessly to make it to a state-level competition, or even beyond. However, from the meetings held - with pods of students all doing their own thing - you might not be able to tell how serious a fire burns in the bellies of the students.

"It's pretty informal," Ross Brunner, senior and member of "Drop it Like it's Bot," explains. "Work hard, play harder. Lots of informal rules like, 'You must eat before you come in here.'"

Chris Martin, robotics coach and math teacher, has a similar opinion, as well as an explanation to the current goings-on. "The group doubled in size this year. We haven't had everyone in here at the

same time, so we're not functioning as a unit just yet." With everyone's different schedules, it's hard to get everyone on the team in for a meeting. "We manage to pull things together when we need to."

Obviously, building a robot is no easy task, and Drop it Like it's Bot, the veteran team, has had their share of both triumph and hardship. "4 years ago, this year's senior class had a robot in a competition. A wheel fell off, and we lost the competition by a quarter of a point. We would've won if not for that wheel," Mr. Martin tells.

"There's always deadlines missed, and it's sort of frustrating like that, but it's also expected," Bruner adds.

Robotics seems to be lots of fun for everyone involved as well, and everyone seems to have stories, from building the robots to building team names. Some of the awesome names in years past included "7 Guys and That One Chick", as well as two teams named "Where are my pants" and "We have their pants," respectively. Every member of the team has memories they cherish from being part of this team, or whichever team they were a part of in the past.

"I think the most memorable part of robotics is the experience and the friendships you make," Bruner says. "Plus, it's super applicable to your future career. Look at the students out on the football field



Andrew Peterson, sophomore, and Austin Priborski, senior, work on their robot for their state competition. Both are on the "Drop It Like It's Bot" team.

- most of them aren't going to use football in their actual jobs. I'm learning to code right now in the same way I'll be writing code in my future career."

The pop music from the speakers overheard slowly fades away in soft-transition to another song, and in that moment of silence, one can hear the waves of activity, like a crowd chatting among itself in between the acts of a play. Talk of computer code, mentors explaining to the rookies, laughter, and the sound of bits and pieces being placed carefully together. This is the hard work the Marion Robotics team is putting towards the project they all joined this team to achieve one goal.

The mind of a wrestler

By: Gage Miskimen @Gagemisky

In all sports, athletes push themselves to be better and work hard to be successful. Wrestling is definitely no exception. It's the time of year again when wrestlers are cutting weight and hitting the mats, conditioning everyday for hours on end while wearing sweatshirts and sweatpants to drop those last few pounds. It takes a certain mindset to be able to handle the intensity wrestling brings.

Nick Kramer, Junior, wrestles and he loves the sport. "I love the challenges wrestling poses and the work ethic you have to have in order to be a wrestler." Kramer has been wrestling since he was in 7th grade. He actually started wrestling so he could improve his skills for other athletics. "Mr. (Jeff) Clark pushed me to start wrestling, so it would help my football career," Kramer said. For Kramer, wrestling is now as much as an enjoyment to him as football is. So much in fact, that it's hard to pick a favorite. "I love

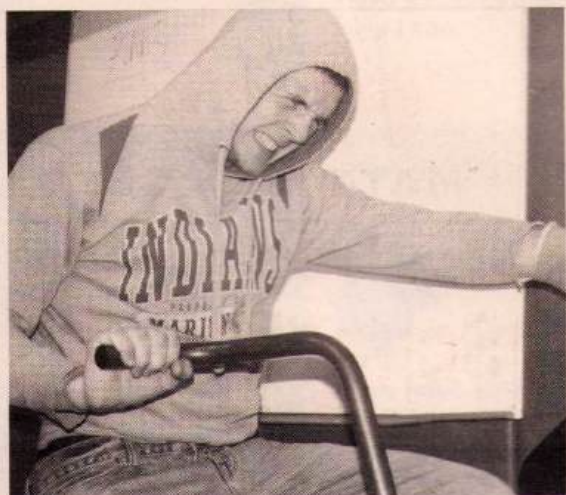
the team aspect of football, but if you're in that big match and win it, it's so thrilling," Kramer stated.

Some would say wrestlers are on a whole other level of athletes compared to other athletics. Kramer thinks it's about the mindset, "You have to be willing to do things that a lot of people can't and know everyday on the mat is going to be a challenge." Kramer also gave his advice on how to achieve the "wrestling mindset". "You have to work for it," says Kramer, "You have to train your mind to know your body can go a lot longer than you think."

Kramer has big goals for this season. He wants to place at state, win WAMAC, and achieve a 30 win season. And he believes he can achieve these goals. "I push myself beyond my limits and do things I never thought I'd be capable of."

Kramer wants the team to improve this year and with coaches who have influenced him, like Coach Haag and Coach Ike Light, Kramer wants to push his

teammates towards success and wins this year. "I want to help improve everyone as a wrestler, but more importantly, improve everyone as a team." Kramer stated. As winter hits and temperatures drop, the wrestling room will be heating up not only temperature wise, but heating up with an intensity fueled by determination as wrestlers strive for success this year.



Nick Kramer, junior, rides a spin bike to cut weight for the wrestling season.

New leadership for wrestling cheer

By: Kaela Halvorson & DeLaney Fisher @KaelaHalvorson @DeLaney_Fisher

As she steps into the gym for the first time, she sees all the new faces and wonders how to make a good impression on the girls. They are as nervous as is she for the upcoming season of wrestling cheer.

Cheerleading makes good bonds and getting a new coach can make that difficult, but with the love of the sport, they will pass on to the next coach and create new bonds.

"This is my first year coaching," said Teresa Haag, the new wrestling coach. She is excited for the new season with the girls.

As a younger girl, Haag said, "No, I didn't cheer or dance," but Haag has always been interested in the sport. She decided that wrestling cheer was a good choice since she really enjoys wrestling and has gone to many meets at Marion since her cousin, Jason Haag, is the head coach.

She is excited for the cheering, but also excited that she can watch wrestling like she has for the last

couple years.

Wrestling is a big part of her life, so being able to coach the cheerleaders, who support the wrestlers, will be a great thing for Haag to be involved with.

The girls on the wrestling cheer team are excited, but also nervous for the season.

"I'm excited, but I'm going to miss Martin since we developed a good bond with her last year," said Richelle Brunner, sophomore.

As the season progresses, new bonds will be developed between Haag and the girls. The expectation of the girls in cheer are the same and always will be, even if the coaching staff changes.



Richelle Brunner, sophomore

**Better Ingredients.
Better Pizza.**

Do it yourself: make a customized bulletin board

Find out how to create your own fabric-covered customized bulletin board. This DIY is easy and can be done in 45 minutes.

By: Taylor Millis @tinytmills



Supplies Needed:

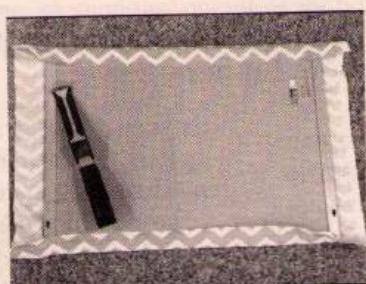
-Store-bought blank bulletin board, fabric of choice, pronged studs, accessories of choice, fabric glue and stapler.

Step One:

-Cut fabric to fit bulletin board, leave two or more inches to each side for attachment.

Step Two:

-Flip fabric so the wrong side is facing up and place the bulletin board face down in the center making sure if you have a patterned fabric that the pattern is straight. Pull the edges of the fabric over the side of the board and staple it down.



Step Three:

-Continue stapling every few inches around the edges being sure that the fabric is being pulled tight and is straight. For the corners, fold and staple one side and then crease and fold the second side matching the edges before stapling again.

Step Four:

-Carefully glue on decorations with fabric glue. Remember that a little goes a long way. Here a wooden letter was used and later a fabric flower was glued on to accent the color of the fabric. But you can use almost any kind of decoration that you'd like.



Step Five:

- Let dry and place where desired. Your bulletin board is ready to display your pictures or notes where ever desired. This DIY cost added to be around \$30.

Scoring super hero mania

By: Uriah Lekin @Uriah_theChamp

Super hero mania is one of the biggest things hitting the American movie culture. Thor is one of the Marvel Avengers and will also be featured in the summer 2015 "Marvel Avengers: Age of Ultron". First Thor had to finish his first movie sequel, "Thor 2: The Dark World". Thor's second movie made its debut in movie theaters November 8th, according to Entertainment Weekly. Thor 2 gets a solid C grade because of the choppiness the directors and producers did while handling the movie. Spoiler alert! In this movie, Thor contradicts himself when he needs to ask for help from his brother Loki, the man who betrayed him. Thor also needs Loki's help to take down an old evil elf, Malekith the Accursed, and his massive destruction machine called "Aether" from destroying the very fabric of the universe. Even though the plot was displayed well, the choppiness of the scenes was unnecessary and could've been an avoided issue. Because of this, "Thor 2: The Dark World" dropped its rating from an A to an A-. Some examples in the movie were



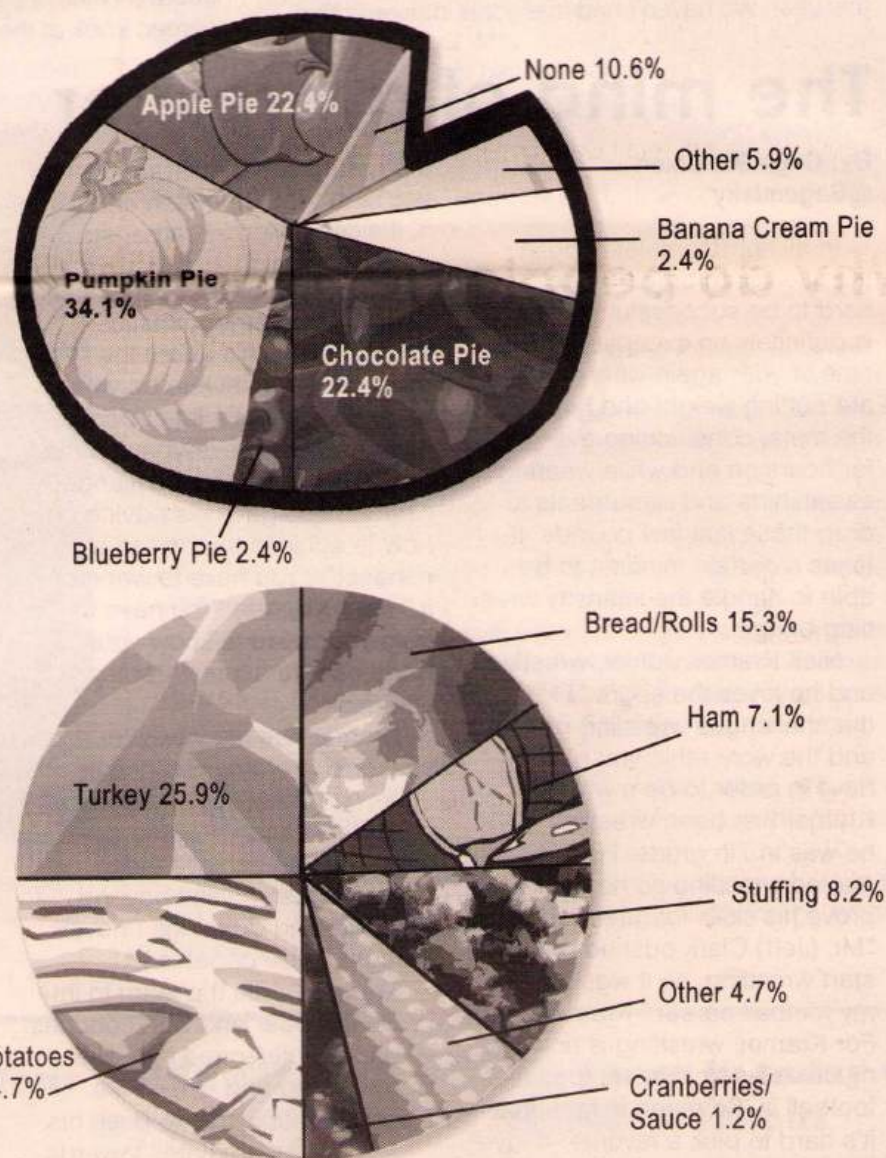
Thor 2 The Dark World an action super hero movie came out November 8th, 2013 and is rated PG-13. Image obtained from: Marvel.com/Thor

when Thor and his group of warriors all were speaking to Loki about Malekith and what he can do and Jane walks up and punches Loki in the face. This stopped the conversation making the scene jump from one subject to another. When Loki, Thor, and Odin their father were also talking about Malekith, Loki constantly kept making side remarks which went back and forth from subject to subject. This choppiness was a major mistake. The movie's battle sequences were very good and adrenaline pumping, but not great enough to pay a large fee to see it in 3D. It's safe to say the 2D experience is just as gripping with a lower price. During the scenes with Thor and his father talking about Malekith, humor was always present. Humor was over used which caused it go from an A- straight to a solid B. The amount of disappointment hasn't ended yet though, the journey to a solid C is still continuing. Now to this so called demon dog. This dog came into the movie when the group was teleporting to London and this dog got caught up in the teleportation. Now this dog is running rampant across the city of London, but why is it being used and why did it have to come into play?

According to Entertainment Weekly the dog will be tied into the newly found ABC series "Marvels Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D." But why confuse the watcher anymore than what they already are. This whole fiasco took that solid B straight to a C+ all in one scene. The final score of the movie came from the confusion of the Infinity Stones and the Tesseract. All of which have powers supposedly stored in the universe. During the movie these Infinity stones were barely brought up which yes, leaves a cliff hanger. These stones have barely been explained leaving watchers confused which then dropped the grade to a solid C. "Thor 2: The Dark World" is worth waiting for until it hits the local movie store, so don't spend your money on a movie that will be disappointing.

Favorites on the table

By: Andie Scott @KewtheRavager



MATT KLINGLER
 klinglerpainting@hotmail.com

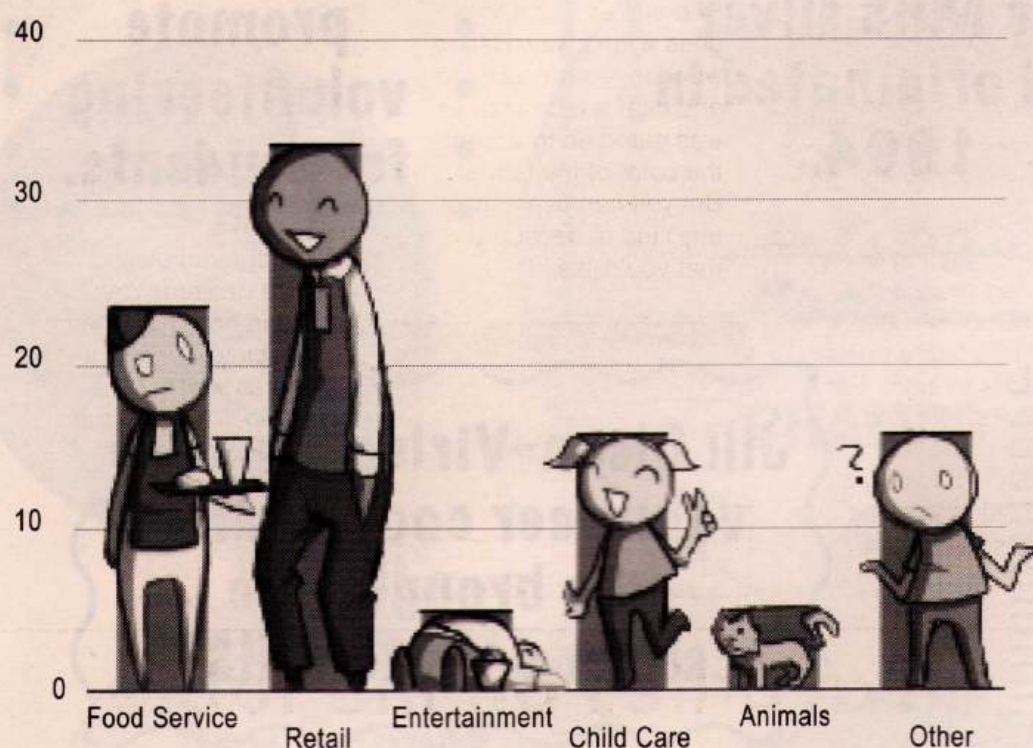
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 F. 319-377-2529

1540 6th Ave., Marion, IA 52302
 www.klinglerpainting.com

Common jobs for Marion kids

Check out the chart below to see the most popular places to work.

By: Kaela Halvorson @kaelahalvorson & Andie Scott @KewtheRavager



Although many people in society think teenagers do nothing and are lazy, many kids work and do activities in their free time. This is teenagers first step in to the real world and adults don't give enough credit. Out of 100 people the five most common jobs at Marion High School are 1. Hy-Vee, 2. Kids Inc, 3. Subway, 4. Lindale Mall, 5. Fareway. Easy paying jobs and they work with your schedule usually pretty well. Out of all the jobs there are six different categories, retail was the highest! So to the kids that work, continue to work hard and to the kids that don't work you'll find out in time that it helps in the real world.

Why do people get piercings?

By: Taylor Lamm @Lammers11



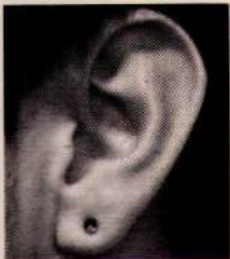
"I have six piercings, at first it was scary, but it was worth it."
-Bayley Fuller, sophomore



"I got my ears pierced when I was six because everyone in my neighborhood did it."
-Ashton Allen, senior



"I have five piercings. I got them because I wanted my ears bedazzled."
-Kaydence DeWoody, freshman



"Since second grade I've always wanted [my ears] pierced, but I was too much of a baby, but I got them sophomore year."
-Isiah Michaca, junior



"I pierce them on my own with a safety pin and an ice cube. I have twelve piercings."
-Sam Livingston, junior

Yum: pumpkin bars

By: Kylie McAllister @smileeyyykylie

Ingredients:

4 eggs
1 cup white sugar
1 cup vegetable oil
1 (15 oz) can pumpkin puree
2 cups all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons baking powder
1 teaspoon baking soda

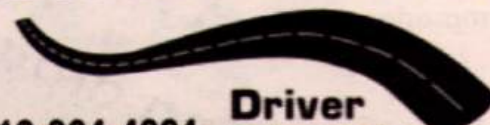
2 teaspoons ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon salt
1 (3 oz) package cream cheese, softened
½ cup butter, softened
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
2 cups sifted confectioners' sugar



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Mix the eggs, sugar, oil, and pumpkin with an electric mixer until light and fluffy. Sift together the flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, and salt. Stir into the pumpkin mixture until thoroughly combined.
3. Spread the batter evenly into an ungreased 10x15 in jelly roll pan. Bake for 25 to 30 minutes in the preheated oven. Cool before frosting.
4. For the frosting, cream together the cream cheese and butter. Stir in vanilla. Add confectioners' sugar a little at a time, beating until the mixture is smooth. Spread evenly on top of the cooled bars. Cut into squares.

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Facts about volunteering and the silver cord

A person needs 160 volunteer hours to graduate with their silver cord.

The MHS silver cord originated in 1994.

It was made to promote volunteering for students.

Volunteer 40 hours per year to earn all the hours needed.

Jill Olson-Virlee was the volunteer coordinator who brought the silver cord to MHS.

Tara Zumwalt, senior, and Logan Charipar, sophomore, volunteer at the blood drive with the Win With Wellness Team.



Madison Kisling, senior, volunteers by correcting physics quizzes for Ms. Madi Ramaekers during her third block.

Volunteering around our community

By: Kylie McAllister @smileeyyykylie

Volunteering is an easy way to get involved in the community and also make people feel like they made a difference in others lives. There are many places that people can volunteer that meet their interest. If students submit their volunteer hours into the student services office, they can earn their silver cord. In order to earn a silver cord, a student must volunteer 160 hours. All these hours can be earned by volunteering at church, like Breiana Brown does, working at football camps and CHAMPS, like Evan Kramer does, or being involved in FAST-works and CHAMPS, like Hunter Gillespie does. These three seniors have all earned their silver cords by volunteering at those places. "If you're doing it for the right reasons, it shouldn't feel like volunteering," said

Brown. Volunteering can make students feel better because they are giving back to their community. "It's a great way to be involved in the community and make the world a better place," said Kramer.

Volunteering at different places can make students more prepared for jobs too. If they volunteer at places that they might be interested working at when they are older they are more likely to get the job because they will have connections with some of the people there. "It's a good way to help in your community and it's a good life experience," said Gillespie. People get to help others while volunteering and feel like a better person.

If people are volunteering for the right reasons it will be a fun and valuable experience. Get out there and earn that silver cord while making the community a better place!



Caleb Scott, junior, volunteered in Ne

Places to get involved in the community

Hospitals

**Mission
Trips**

**CR Humane
Society**

**Nursing
Homes**

CHAMPS

**Open blocks
for senior's and
junior's gives
70 hrs. !**

Boy Scouts

&

Girl Scouts

**One Day
in May
Committee**

**Starry/
FMI
festivals**

**Events at
Cedar Rapids
Ice Arena**

FAST

Volunteering to make a better world



"I volunteered for Mrs. Hootman. I went during 4th hour and I want to earn my silver cord."

-Madi Redlinger, senior



"[Volunteering] makes the community a better place to live and the school a better place."

-Tyler VanWey, sophomore



"[I volunteer] to help the kids because I'm a good person. I'm trying to earn [my silver cord] because I'm a good kid."

-Keanu Quinn, sophomore



"I volunteer for the ASA Softball program because I like being around the kids and around softball."

-Marissa Whitney, junior



"I volunteer over at the home school office and I'm starting to volunteer with Ms. Cassell in the administrative office. I think it's fun. You get to try new things."

-Emma Hartman, freshman



"I've been to South Dakota and New Jersey. In South Dakota I was helping children and in New Jersey I was doing recovery efforts."

-Caleb Scott, junior



"[I volunteer] because I needed to fill a class. It's fun and it's good to get involved in the community. [I volunteer] for Mr. Fontenot at FMI."

-Hayden Meister, junior

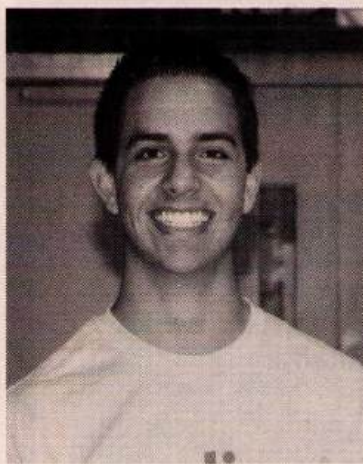


"[I volunteer at] St. Luke's Hospital. I escort people and tell people room numbers. It is something to do and fun to help people out."

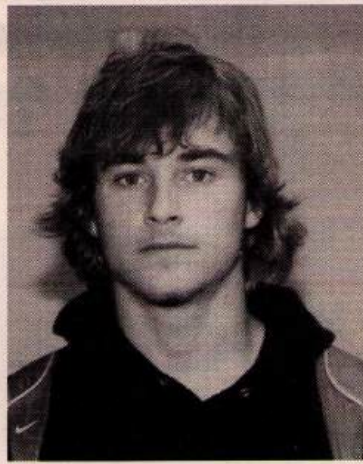
-SaCora Fisher, sophomore



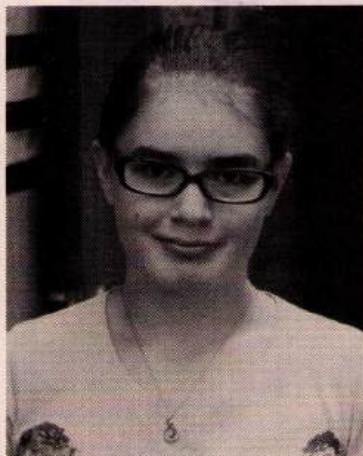
Jersey by building a wall for people in need.



Name: Jacob Davila
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "The people and simplicity of life."
Quote or piece of advice? "Not sure about which school, but I would like to go into music education."
Plans for the Future? "Losing is a fact of life, embrace it and learn from it."
What is your best Homecoming memory?
 "One Day in May and community service at my church."



Name: Logan Fuller
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "Sem, Mr. Fish, sports and the memories of the bus rides."
Plans for the future? "Kirkwood for two years of criminal justice."
Quote or piece of advice? "Work hard, Play harder."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "One Day in May."



Name: Danielle Donald-Nothdorf
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "I don't have anything here to miss."
Quote or piece of advice? "Go to St. Ambrose for a doctorate in physical therapy."
Plans for the Future? "It's not that hard being the new kid if you can easily make friends but if you can't just get involved and you'll have some sooner than you think."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "Well my 'career' has only been a few months so not a whole lot."



Name: Willis Fulmer
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "My friends, teachers, and wonderful school lunches."
Plans for the future? "Masters degree in computer engineering."
Quote or piece of advice? "Free time is sacred, enjoy it!"
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "Win With Wellness, NHS, volunteering at my church, One Day in May and robotics service projects."



Name: Christian Ebsen
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "Some teachers (you know who you are) and the projects I did in certain classes."
Quote or piece of advice? "Kirkwood then transfer to ISU for architectural engineering."
Plans for the Future? "Learn the rules so you know how to break them properly."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "I haven't helped the community."



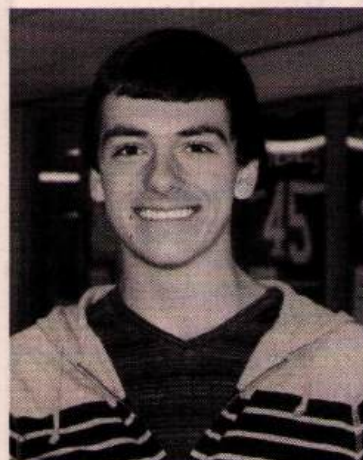
Name: Tyler Gaede
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "Friends and teachers."
Plans for the future? "Kwood for architecture."
Quote or piece of advice? "Give 110% effort in everything you do."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "I've done One Day in May."



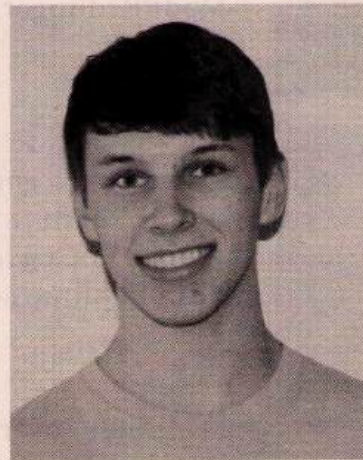
Name: Grace Ehlinger
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "A lot of little things but mainly my friends, the teachers, and being in soccer and cross."
Plans for the future? "Probably go to Iowa and study environmental policy and planning."
Quote or piece of advice? "Something that seems really important today might not matter in a few days, or a few weeks, or a few months. Don't let something like that ruin your day."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "Being apart of the One Day in May Committee and doing NHS road clean ups."



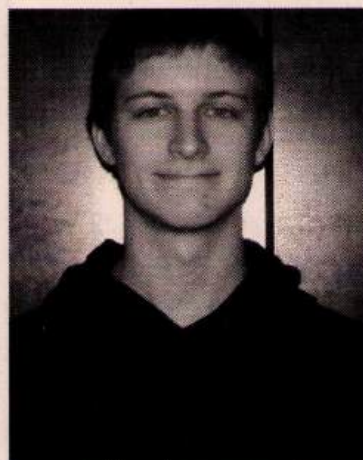
Name: Sadie Gaulke
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Won't miss the place at all."
Plans for the future? "Navy or Kirkwood."
Quote or piece of advice? "None."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "Nothing."



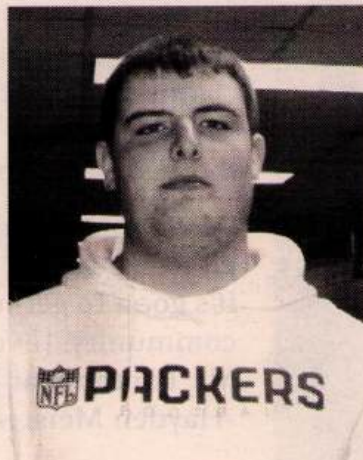
Name: Jeremy Ellerby
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "Chad Allard fo sho!"
Plans for the future? "Engineering."
Quote or piece of advice? "You have to believe you're the best if you want to achieve."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "One Day in May."



Name: Hunter Gillaspie
What are you going to miss about Marion? "The teachers, soccer, football games, dances, Katlyn, Hailey, and other friends."
Plans for the future? "Attend U of I to become a physician assistant."
Quote or piece of advice? "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "Volunteering for FASTWORKS and CHAMPS, doing garden clean-ups for NHS, One Day in May."



Name: Andrew Falco
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Seeing friends everyday."
Quote or piece of advice? "Kirkwood fo sho."
Plans for the Future? "Go hard in the paint."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "One Day in May."



Name: John Gorman
What are you going to miss about Marion?
 "Football, coaches, teachers, FCA, and all the memories."
Plans for the future? "I plan on attending either the United States Air Force Academy, or the Merchant Marine Academy."
Quote or piece of advice? "Don't ever take anything for granted."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career?
 "I've participate in One Day in May, Boy Scouts, NHS service projects, and volunteering at my church."



Name: Justice Hale
What are you going to miss about Marion? "William Randall and the Jazz Squad, the fab people in band and choir."
Plans for the future? "Two years at Kirkwood and Iowa State, then NYC for fashion design."
Quote or piece of advice? "Party like Gatsby."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "One Day in May, existing."



Name: Kaitlyn Hennessee
What are you going to miss about Marion? "All the friendly people."
Plans for the future? "Animal Rehab and to own my own business."
Quote or piece of advice? "Double up on gen eds early on so you can take college classes later. I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "I'm very involved at my church and I enjoy helping my mom with many volunteer positions throughout the year."



Name: Lydia Hamilton
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Teachers and friends. Also Jackie and Semler."
Plans for the future? "Attend Kwood for nursing."
Quote or piece of advice? "Only God can judge you."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "Being awesome."



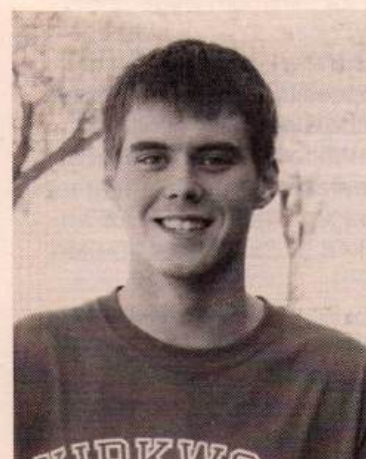
Name: Amanda Hinz
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Cheering, Haley S., Cody A., Hayden M., Blake V., Gage M."
Plans for the future? "Go to Kirkwood."
Quote or piece of advice? "Work it."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "One Day in May."



Name: Katlyn Hardecopf
What are you going to miss about Marion? "I'm going to miss Hunter, Tara, Mickenzie, Jeremy, Aaron and everyone else in my AP classes."
Plans for the future? "Going to Iowa state to major in Spanish and room with my best friend Haley Clifton."
Quote or piece of advice? "Adventure is out there!" -Up
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "I volunteered at Vernon Middle School and the Cedar Valley Humane Society. I have also helped with One Day in May since sophomore year, and I participate in the NHS road/garden clean-ups."



Name: Jacob Huegal
What are you going to miss about Marion? "My Friends."
Plans for the future? "Work my way up at Walmart."
Quote or piece of advice? "Never give up."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? N/A



Name: Trevor Hardman
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Haley Vanourney, Logan Fuller, Big J, and all of the sport families."
Plans for the future? "Attend a four year college for business management."
Quote or piece of advice? "It's not how hard you can hit, it's how hard you can get hit and keep moving forward."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "One Day in May. Being awesome."



Name: Michaela Jacobs
What are you going to miss about Marion? "Being in track. And seeing Deanna Lala everyday."
Plans for the future? "Go to Kirkwood and study either criminal justice or agriculture."
Quote or piece of advice? "Start planning for college before your senior year."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "One Day in May."



Name: Samantha Hassen
What are you going to miss about Marion? "All of my friends and the stuff I've learned."
Plans for the future? "I plan on going to college."
Quote or piece of advice? "I have one thing to say that I have kept in my head all year, love what we have before it becomes what you don't have."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "I have helped by picking up trash or anything else I see."



Name: Taryn Hathcock
What are you going to miss about Marion? "My friends, choir, and all the cool teachers."
Plans for the future? "Go to Kirkwood for two years then to UNI or Iowa for forensic science."
Quote or piece of advice? "Just keep swimming."
How have you helped your community during your Marion High School career? "I've volunteered for FAST, FASTWORKS, CHAMPS, and Take Charge."

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 Classes are held at Cedar Valley Christian School on Cottage Grove.

Classes: December 16 - 21 (4:00 - 7:00) December 26, 27, 28, 30 (9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Running the city of Marion

A sneak peek into the life of the mayor of Marion, Snooks Bouska.

By: Savannah Guyer @SavannahMGuyer

Mr. Bouska, or Snooks, Mayor of the town most MHS students call home, is coming up on his second year anniversary of running Marion.

Snooks Bouska wasn't always interested in local politics, especially in Iowa. He grew up in a California city and after spending a total of 26 years flying in the Navy and retiring as a commanding officer, moved to Marion in 1986 for business. "I worked eight years for the Coors company and quit. Then I bought the 7th Avenue Dairy Queen, established the other one and bought a couple of strip malls. Sold most of them. Kept the first one."

What drove Bouska to become Mayor wasn't because he always dreamed of being a politician, it was planes he loved. "I always loved planes, ever since I was little." Bouska's second love was physics. "I went to Cheeko State College, California. I have a major in physics, chemistry. Minor in biology. I was going to be a doctor, but I flew planes instead."

And after flying planes, Snooks became a dedicated shop owner, "I was in here everyday, seven days a week for thirty years working. Finally I woke up and I said, 'I can do this better if I was mayor.' That's why I'm mayor, because I can do it better," Snooks said, "I love people." So Bouska marched right up to City Hall and stated his case, "There's are no prerequisites to be-

ing a politician, you have to have support. If you're an honest person, concerned with people and the way things are being done, then go get 'em." Owning a business also aided to Bouska's ever growing popularity, "People are in and out of there every day. The know you either as a good guy, or a bad guy. Well I happen to be a good guy."

Now used to the duties of being a mayor, mostly social events, Snooks is working with employees to create a natural gas plant to fuel the city's cars, "We'll save money by doing that. And I'll do it too, I'll put the gas in my truck." As for the construction and reconstruction of Marion, Bouska states, "We're trying to get a better tax pace, and we're doing that by adding more businesses."

Snook's favorite part of Marion is it's home town qualities, "I lived a lot of places, but Marion's the best. It's a good, safe town. It's a great place to be, holy cow, it's almost a lifestyle." There's only one thing Bouska wishes he could change, "I'm concerned about schools, about bullying in schools. I want to make sure that we identify bullies, that it doesn't happen, and people who do bully are severely reprimanded. It shouldn't happen."

The Mayor's last and final advice is to get involved in politics, even if you're not into them, "There are so many things you could be doing. There are all types of committees, our city itself has around twenty of them. We're always looking for people."



Snooks Bouska, mayor of Marion and lover of planes, stands proudly next to his newly remodeled crop duster. Snooks has been mayor since 2011 and hopes to improve school safety.

Helping one family at a time

By: Taylor Lamm @Lammers11

For years Marion has been giving back to the community in more than just one way. During the holidays all five schools in the district participate in the Holiday Giving Project. For some schools it could be having ornaments on trees that can be found all over the school, or like the high school it's about adopting a family.

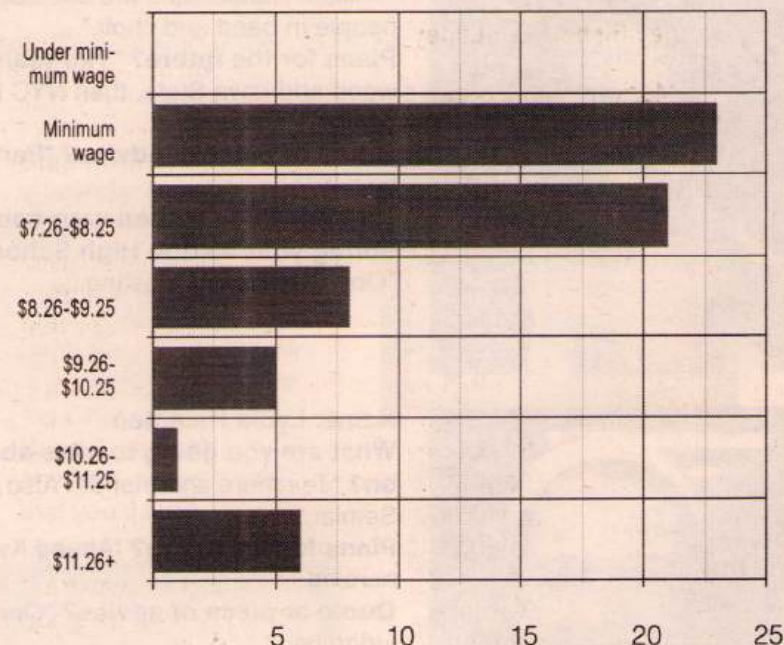
Michelle Wilson, social worker for the district, has been coordinating this project since she started in 1995. The community can help in a lot of different ways without having to commit to just one family. "All buildings participate in a food drive for the project," Wilson states. Simply donating a can of food can make a big impression in someone's life.

"FMI, VMS and MHS also participate in a clothing drive," she added.

Anyone from any of those schools can go and donate any extra clothes to go to the families that were selected. During mentor meetings at the high school, each group adopts a family to give a little extra help too. Students receive a list of items in need by the family they're helping. After purchasing the items, students add the final touches to the gifts before delivering.

This is a massive project to help out the community in the holiday season. Last year, Wilson helped 149 families, the most they've ever served. "It is truly a united community outreach and a labor of love and concern for others," Wilson says. Food and clothing donations are welcome by anyone. This is just one way to help out the community in the time of giving.

What high schoolers make



A school poll was done to see what students got paid hourly at their jobs and this is what the poll got. More students than any work minimum wage here at the high school.

The worth of \$7.25

By: Uriah Lakin @Uriah_theCHamp

It's a big issue, money's tight, and the economy is down. According to BLS.gov, over 73.9 million Americans work for minimum wage.

The national wage for minimum wage is \$7.25 an hour and it isn't enough to work off of. Mrs. Barkdoll and Mrs. Jackie Little, secretaries here at Marion, have experienced first hand, what minimum wage can do to someone. "My daughter use to work for \$7.25 but now she works for \$15 and it still isn't enough, she lives here in Iowa. She moved out for three months and is right back at our house," Mrs. Barkdoll said. "It won't ever be enough because what about if you live on either of the coasts east or west? Yeah, its probably like 9 dollars, but come on rent is higher, gas is higher, every thing's higher," Jackie Little added.

Jessica Alexander, senior, works for minimum wage at Kids Inc. , and seems to notice that it isn't going to work after she graduates. "It's fine to start out at as a teen, but living off of it when I'm eighteen is going to be impossible. I have gas, insurance, rent, school, etc. It's going to be a mess if I don't get a higher wage or paying job." Dalton Whitcher, senior works at Hy-Vee and gets paid above the federal wage and compares what it is like to work for minimum wage. "I get paid \$8.25 an hour and I can only imagine if I worked \$7.25 an hour," Dalton Whitcher stated.

There are two sides to every story though. Kathy Hampson, General Manager at the local Marion McDonald's by Thomas Park says, "I believe right now its enough. It can only go up so far until the cost of living does to. People just want more and more money that's all," she said.

It's a big issue especially in today's current affairs and society. The facts are there its just finding a solution to the problem. Either raise it or lower it.

Its something anyone can do. Write up a petition or make a statement, because minimum wage isn't working for the American people.

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Waving for academics

BY: DeLaney Fisher @DeLaney_Fisher

In the Marion High School gym students can be found running laps, testing body mass indexes, and taking heart rates at any hour of the day.



Tanea Westhoff, Freshman

Sweat drips down their faces as they run around the gym getting their daily dose of exercise.

Most students, but not all, will do this in physical education at one point or another during the school year. The students who elect not to

take the class can get it waived in the guidance office with the help of one of the guidance counselors, Mrs. Ann Grant or Mr. Tom Kettmann.

Although the gym teachers, one of which being Mrs. Lori Dostal, urge students to participate in gym. Not all have time to fit it into their busy schedules. For Tanea Westhoff, freshman, this is exactly why she doesn't want to take gym.

Westhoff, a freshman, wants to get gym waived because as she said, "It's an easy grade, and I would rather take classes that I need for graduation than gym, which is more of an elective". Westhoff is focused on her classes and wants to fill her time with core classes rather than playing games in gym.

Dostal, on the other hand, feels gym is much more than games and running. "The physical education staff tries to teach life long health, which is the best form of medicine, and give students the information to make their own decisions about health", Dostal explained.

Westhoff and Dostal have very different ideas on who should be eligible to get gym waived. According to Dostal, "There is no good reason to get gym waved and everyone should be required to take it". Westhoff stated, "You should be able to get gym waived if you are in sports, need to fit in another class or college class, or if you are a senior".

Opinions on gym will vary, but ultimately the decision lies with the student on whether or not they choose to take gym or get it waived.

New place, new beginning

By: Courtney Stull @itscourtney16

Trying to familiarize herself with new students and staff members, a new teacher is ecstatic to start out her first year. Sarah Poe is the new special education here at Marion High School.

Poe reveals that when she started college, she actually majored in music therapy, and got her bachelors degree in it. Eventually after pursuing her career, she decided to go back to college and get her masters degree in special education and music therapy.

She graduated in May from the University of Iowa and three months later she got her first special education job. "I wasn't ever a student at Marion," she explained, "but when I was interviewed for the job, I just got a good vibe from the staff." Even though she got a good feeling from Marion, she was still nervous since this would be her first job in special education.

Although Poe likes Marion's atmosphere, there are still some hardships she will have to face and things she would like to improve, like with any other occupation, "The hardest thing about my job so far is basically just trying to make sure I have everything ready for all of my students, because learning for these kids is a more individualized process," she commented. Poe says that even though learning takes longer for these kids, all of them have talents like advanced knowledge in math, spelling or science. The most rewarding thing about Poe's job is that she gets to watch all her students grow, "The progress isn't immediate, but it's noticeable bit by bit," she said happily.

But Poe wasn't the only one adjusting to the new changes, the students were forced to adapt as well, "Some of the kids took a month to a month and half

to get used to me," she added "a lot of preparation from the other teachers made the transition easier for them." Even though they have amazing abilities and brilliant minds, they're still hard to work with. It can be dangerous if you handle their situations the wrong way. If you give them time and space to calm down, it'll be easier to work with them," Poe explains.

Poe describes her class as being an individualized and quiet environment, overall a more relaxed setting that the students have time to process things taught to them. The things the kids learn are relatable to normal curriculum. The subjects include spelling, grammar, math, reading and comprehension. As the year progresses, Poe is getting more comfortable with the routine and flow here at Marion, "There's a lot of collaboration between the teachers and I. I ask education related questions, and they ask questions about the best way to handle certain situations with the kids," she stated. Poe doesn't think anything is necessarily absent from the autism program, there are just minor things that could be changed, "Although I don't think anything is missing, I want to incorporate the buddy system more often. I think it'd be awesome to have regularly educated kids come in during their open blocks and visit with my students." Poe added thoughtfully.

Even though she was feeling a little nervous and uncertain walking into the school, Poe has become a great addition to the staff here, and is now happy and having a great first year at Marion High School.

Lamb's take on Disney's new Star Wars

By: Uriah Lekin @Uriah_theChamp

It's a make believe galaxy full of love, greed, war, rebellion, and a huge fan base. Quinn Lamb, senior is one of those fans. Earlier this year in May after the ending of the Clone Wars series, Disney bought Star Wars and Lucas film from George Lucas for over 4 billion dollars, according to the official Star Wars website. Along with this buy out came the naysayers.

Quinn is one of those nay sayers, "I have hope for the film but I feel its going to be drug out like these spin off films that makes absolutely no sense. They said they're going forward, not staying in the rebellion era," Quinn stated. Quinn has a big opinion on the incoming plans.

Disney has brought an end to the Clone Wars series, only releasing a few more ending episodes in early 2014, and is starting up a new series called "Star Wars Rebels". This show is set between episode 3 and 4 and is suppose to talk about the beginning of the rebellion against the Empire. "I'd rather not see the show. It makes no sense. I want to hear about the new Jedi Order or the Fall of the Empire because it never truly fell," Lamm stated. All these endings and beginning Disney is making is to bring a bigger spotlight on Star Wars instead of it just hiding behind the scenes.

The Star Wars episode 7 movie will be directed by J.J Abrams who abandoned his Star Trek franchise and is making a new start. "I mean J.J Abrams is directing the movie which is cool because he did a great job with Star Trek but I'm scared that Disney will try and make it like it use to be back before the 2000's," Lamm said.

Star Wars, the Galaxy far, far, away has a lot of time before its seen on the movie screen but it has some very high expectations to live up to.



Quinn Lamb, senior

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Skills Center: a step ahead

The new room brings learning opportunities to the autism program.

By: Becca Hall @Backkahh12

The apples are sliced and the stove is heated. As they line up the ingredients, an associate talks through all the steps of making applesauce. With an electric smile beaming from his face, it is obvious that he is having fun in school, while learning very important skills needed to live an independent life. He however, is just one great example of how the new interactive Skills Center is helping Marion's autism program grow.

Joel Powers, junior, spends many hours learning not only basic curriculum such as math and reading, but also how to complete various tasks that will prepare him for life as an adult.

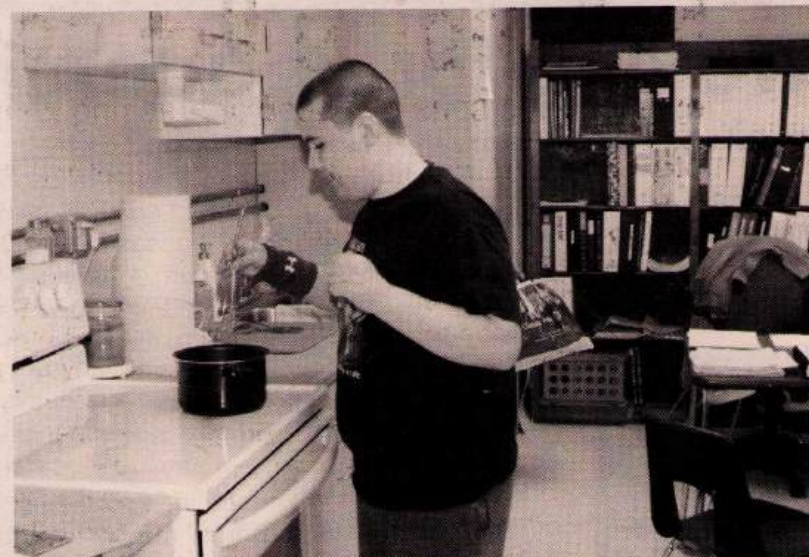
Many students are unaware of a huge improvement that has been made at our school. The Autism room has been moved, and updated, and is now known as the Skills Center. "My favorite part of the Skills Center is the break area. I like to go there and read books," explains Joel with much excitement. There are many activities that can be done in the new Skills Center, "It could be something such as cooking or washer and dryer use, general practical skills that you would need around a household" explains Principal Greg Semler, who has been a huge part of the construction of the new room. The Skills Center lets students learn and

become engaged in new activities. "I made applesauce in the kitchen with apples!" said Powers with excitement.

Students also have Task Boxes, "They are particular projects and experiences that develop those transition skills as well. It could be as simple as learning to sew a button to turning a wrench," explains Semler.

The new room is located across from the computer lab, and is the location of the well known coffee shop, The Daily Grind. The shop is run by the students in the Skills Center.

The idea of the new room was started about three years ago, when Mr. Semler heard about Vernon's improvements in their Autism program. He worked closely with former Special Education teacher Annie Bradford to get the room started. Once the idea of the room was molded to perfection, construction began and in no time the room was well under way. Many people were involved in the building and creation of the new Skills Center, including Ken Cook and Marion's carpenter John Denes. Even people from the community helped



Joel Powers, junior, makes applesauce in the brand new skills center.

with donating supplies, "The refrigerator, the stove, the washing machine, all given to us free by citizens. The only thing we had to buy was the cupboards," says Semler "It tells you that you can do just about anything... we had a lot of people reach out to us and offer those things." Even though the appliances may not be brand new, they still serve as an important part of the learning that goes in the new room.

Having this incredible improvement at our school shows how the learning environment is being constantly tweaked and fixed to benefit all students.

When exhaustion takes full control

By: Kayla Comried, @KComried

The late nights, the morning struggles, and the constant haunting of fatigue lurking behind every moment. These are all things that high schoolers experience every once in awhile, but for some this sequence of events is their everyday. It is the way they live their life.

Austin Lanteri, junior, is one high schooler that often finds himself a little overwhelmed and tired even though he gets a decent amount of sleep, "on average between six and eight hours," but he is involved in so many activities, that often his feeling of fatigue just comes from exhaustion. "I am involved in concert chorale, the musical, speech, the play, Thespians, and show choir." Many of these events take place outside of school, so with the homework he receives from fundamentals of oral communications, AP art history, French 3b, and math it is easy to see how one could become a little tired.



Austin Lanteri, junior

When this weariness sweeps over his body, he still has to focus in school. Sometimes he finds this difficult, but he has found ways to keep his attention as spot on as he can get it. "I don't drift off very often, but there are days when I am taking a test or something and I don't read properly or I forget something at home and have to go back and get it." This lack of attention could get him into trouble, so he does things such as: hum, sing a song in his head, or scratch himself to get his nerves and brain going. After three years of high school he has become relatively accustomed to this way of life, but many freshmen still struggle.

Coming from the middle school, where not many events are going on, it may be hard to adjust to a much more overwhelming schedule, but Austin has some advice. "Don't spread yourself too thin unless you can handle it. If you are able to get six to eight hours per night, then by all means, do it, but the activities here are not worth killing yourself over." He however, would never quit an activity to get more sleep. "I am too involved to ever quit something, and in the shows I typically play a key part, so if I were to quit it would throw a wrench in the whole operation."

Sleep is very important, but to some it is last on their priority list. So whether it is placed first or last, just learn how cope with the amount of sleep received, because no matter how much that number is, the world doesn't ever stop.

The dangers of junk food

By: Kayla Comried, @KComried

Junk food. The taste-good items that most teenagers tend to put into their body. Whether it's constant snacking on things such as chips and ice cream, or eating at McDonalds four times a day, most high school students get their fair share of this sugar-loaded, fat filled snack.

Jenna Floyd, junior, is one person who admits to this addiction. "I like ice cream and Poptarts and Disney princess fruit snacks," she said. All these things may please her taste buds, but according to school nurse, Mrs. Danielle Rice, these foods, although they might not make everyone gain weight, have some serious health risks linked to them.

They can cause high blood pressure and diabetes, clog veins which can lead to a heart attack or stroke, and can eventually cause bankruptcy if one becomes addicted to the point where they constantly buy the food. These items can also cause fatigue and depression, which could eventually affect a person's work ethic, possibly causing them to lose their job.

All these things can come from eating these foods, but is if a person doesn't gain weight is it worth their time or effort to stop?

Many people, teenagers in particular, eat mounds and mounds of junk food but never see a pound added onto their body. When they don't see these added pounds they don't see a reason to stop eating the food because on the outside, what is visible to them, is seeing no effect of these terrible foods, but according to Rice, "Just because someone is thin does not mean they are healthy, what matters is on the inside."



Mrs. Danielle Rice, school nurse

Everyone gains weight or loses weight for different reasons so using this as a measure of health is not accurate. Rice also believes that if one continuously eats this bad food, the effects will catch up to them. "I think they will catch up to them because the long term effects might take awhile to show up, but eventually they will."

So, as pounds cease to be shown, many other things are happening inside the body. Think before putting things into the body, because eventually the effects will rise above, and the results may be scarier than one would think.

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Challenging the code of authority for players

Students learning consequences of breaking code of conduct while playing sports and alternatives to satisfy the conduct.

By: Ashley Lappe @Ashley_Lappe33



Breanna Smith, sophomore

There are many sports played by high schoolers. These athletics come with code of conducts. Marion's code of conduct states that if a member of an athletic team is caught with drugs or alcohol, there will be consequences based on the number of offenses.

When a student athlete gets his/her first offense, they must sit out of their activity for 20 percent of the season. If they get a second offense, they will be faced with 60 percent of the season suspended. Finally, if the athlete gets his/her third or more offense they will have 12 months of ineligibility. This may come as a disappointment to those students who are active in sports, but also want to partake in drugs and/or alcohol outside of school. To many students, athletics are the most important and enjoyable part of their high school careers. When caught with drugs or alcohol, they will have to face the consequences stated in the code of conduct, which means they must sit out of a sport. Rather than sitting out of their favorite sport, many students choose to go out for a sport that they have never participated in, such as bowling, rather than miss playing time in their preferred sport.

Many fellow students believe this is

unfair to the other athletes who have a love for the sport being used as the consequence, such as Breanna Smith, sophomore. Smith has been bowling for most of her life with her family, "My dad bowls and my mom bowled until my brother was born. I grew up around bowling." Smith said. Many people believe allowing athletes to choose alternative sports to satisfy the code of conduct suspension is not enough. "It isn't really a consequence. It should be the sport they play regularly so it's fair to the other players." says Smith.

Others, such as Mr. Corby Laube, the school's activities director, disagree with the approach that students should be suspended from a sport they have previously played, and would argue that students should be able to go out for any sport. Mr. Laube believes that everyone makes mistakes, but people should learn from those mistakes, "Everybody can make a mistake, but it's not a death sentence. Growing and learning from the experience is the most important thing." As the activities director he has to deal with the code of conducts along with Mr.

Zrudsky, vice principal and Mr. Semler, principal. Fortunately, Mr. Laube doesn't deal with many code of conduct suspensions at Marion and says it is "a small part of the job". There have been many discussions about changing the rules in the code of conduct, but overall they believe the current rules are effective due to the fact that every situation is different. There are positives and negatives to the punishment of the students and many may disagree with the way the Code of

Conducts are handled. Mr. Laube said, "If you're going to do another sport to work off a code of conduct, take it seriously, go to the events, and have a good attitude."

Regardless of where opinions may lie, the Code of Conduct is school policy and needs to be followed. Before making the decision to use drugs or alcohol, the student needs to realize there will be consequences if they do not abide by the Code of Conduct's rules. As a team, in order to remain strong and unified, the players must be able to accept those who may have made a poor decision and have chosen a sport to pay the consequence, remembering those words by Mr. Corby Laube that "everybody can make a mistake", "growing and learning from the experience is the most important thing."

Code of conduct rules

A student will lose eligibility for:

- Possession, use, or purchase of tobacco, illegal drugs, or alcohol.
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for an arrest.
- Inappropriate conduct such as fighting, insubordination, hazing or harassment.
- Refusing to cooperate with teachers/administrators.
- A student fails at one of the classes they took.

Student senate helping out the school and community

By: Alex Coleman @AlexColeman831

As some people may know, Student Senate takes care of quite a few things. Whether it's planning the dances, or working to make the school a better place, Student Senate is a big deal. Katlyn Hardecopf, senior, Vice President of her class and the President of Student Senate, gave a small look into the world of this student-run organization. Katlyn has been in student senate all through high school. Her Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior year she was President, and this year she's taking on the role of Vice President in her class. Hardecopf has been President of the entire Student Senate for all four of her school years. "I lead meetings and stuff, it's really just a lot of standing up in front of people and going through what we have to do for the day. I kind of organize everyone, and I send out like, ten mass texts a day, well, not that many, but sometimes it seems like it."

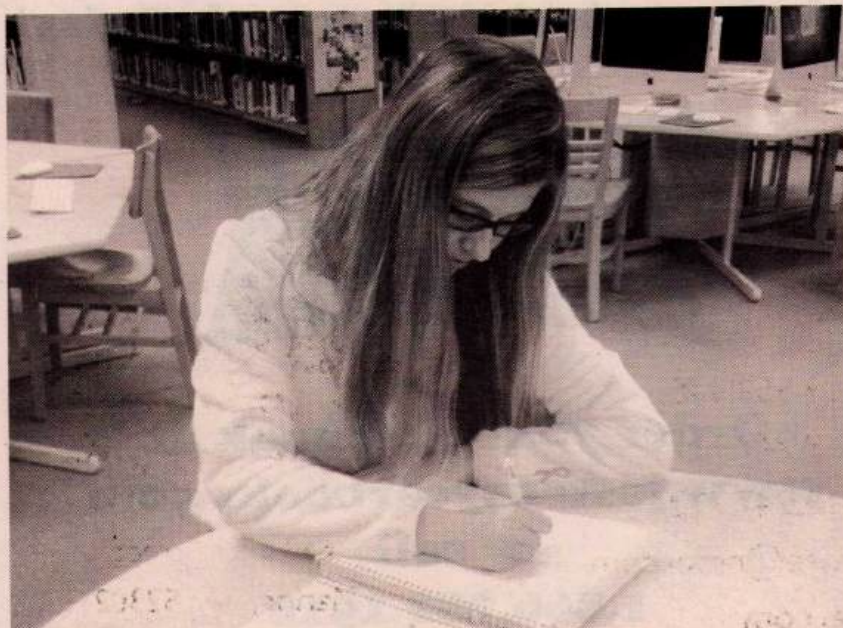
Unannounced to some people, Student Sen-

ate actually does a lot of things for the school. They help plan with the Homecoming dance, Prom, and they attempt to solve problems in the school. This year, the Student Senate will be interviewing teachers to ask how school has been and if they have any suggestions. They hope to attend more leadership conferences as well. "As a leader, the only thing you can do is become a better leader. So we hope to attend more leadership meetings to improve our leadership skills." Katlyn stated.

Student Senate is a really great way to connect with the school and the community. For someone like Katlyn, who's also in National Honors Society, Student Senate is an enjoyable experience. "You get to be with people you wouldn't normally be around, like, as a senior you normally take classes with other seniors and juniors, so getting to be around the lower class-men is cool." Even if it can get stress-

ful, the Student Senate always manages to pull through, "We've never really had any meltdown moments. One time we hadn't reached our goal for Prom yet, we needed to sell 300 tickets and we'd only sold 100, and there was only one week left, but we met the goal. Mr. Zrudsky does a good job of keeping us organized."

Hardecopf is really going to miss her school years. "I'm really going to miss football games, and it's sad that these are going to be my last school dances," she says, "but I hope to continue Student Senate in college. I know there's going to be a bazillion more people that want to be in it, where as right now we have to recruit people, but I would really like to continue." Student Senate is a great way to learn leadership skills and organization. It looks really good on a college applications. So for the people looking for an extracurricular activity, maybe Student Senate is something that should be looked into. For Katlyn, Student Senate made her high school years more enjoyable.

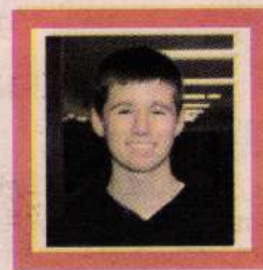


Katlyn Hardecopf, senior, works in the library on the newest Student Senate issues

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Where's the student?



Noah Walter, '16



Michael Moeller '14

Fun Facts

All the characters from Winnie the Pooh represented mental disorders.

British police officers carry a teddy bear in their cars to comfort children after an accident.

A teenager from China once sold his kidney for US\$3,400 to buy an iPhone and iPad.

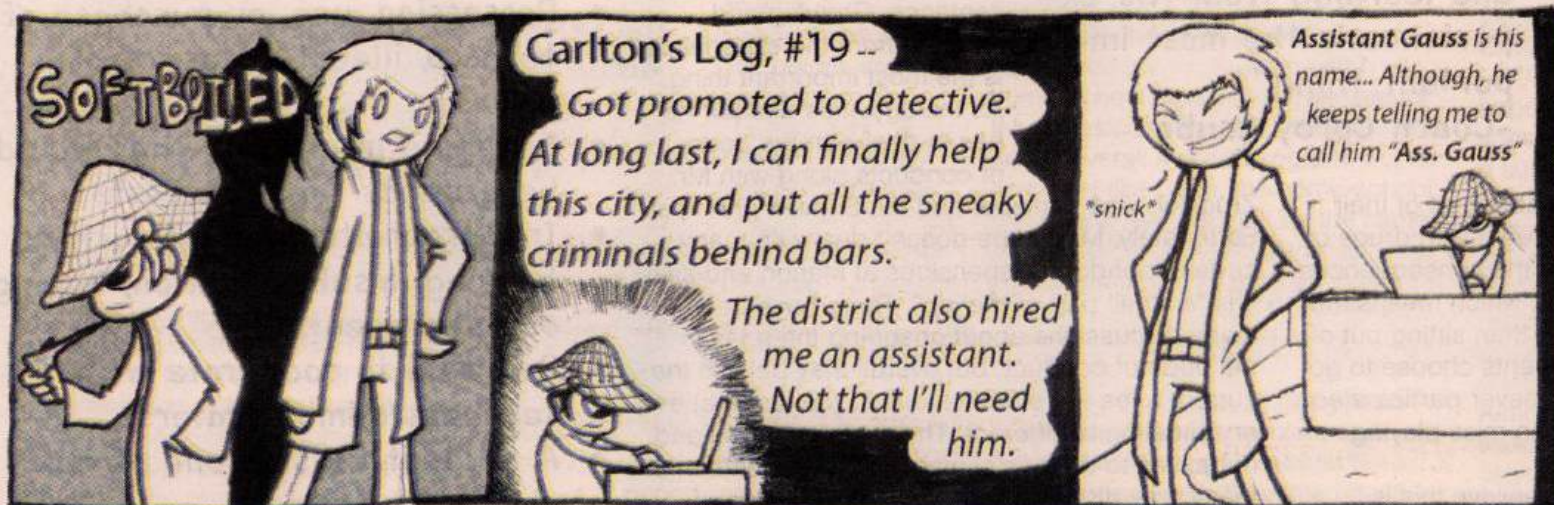
In Wyoming, it is illegal to take a picture of a rabbit during the month of June.

On average, a drunk driver will drive 80 times under the influence before their first arrest.

Repeating a word over and over until it temporarily loses all meaning is called 'semantic satiation'.

The proper name for the marshmallows in Lucky Charms cereal is 'Marbits'.

Fun facts obtained from: sotruefacts.com



Trivia questions

- What percent of current American teenagers have a television in their bedroom: 25%, 50%, or 75%?
- Who is the boyfriend of Mattel's fashion doll, Barbie?
- Which four string instruments make up a string quartet?
- What lovable things were the top selling toy of the Christmas season, 1983?
- What contracting membrane regulates the amount of light entering the eye?
- From which famous University did Prince Charles graduate?
- What is the only U.S. state with a one-syllable name?
- This is a woman movie star, a singing star, and was Miss America in 1984. What is her name?
- What is the next number in this sequence? 1, 4, 10, 20, 35, 56, ?

Go to dailypowwow.com for trivia answers!

Trivia questions obtained from: triviacafe.com

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