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Go to page four to read, "Spring sports preview" for information on the spring sports teams and their goals.



Want to learn more about the upcoming governor conference? Read about it on page five!

People's peculiar pets

Cats and dogs are going out of style, and more exotic pets are taking their place.

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

When someone says a pet, people probably think of cats and dogs, but others go above and beyond with their choices for animal companions. People like to have much more different pets than just the things we all come to recognize as the pets people usually have, but still love them equally as those other animals. Jordan Montoya, '18, is one of those people.

Montoya enjoys playing video games and practicing music, as well as math, science and history, but he also enjoys his family's pets. At his house, he has two birds (one is his, named Storm, one is his mom's, named Raptor), and two guinea pigs (Wizard and Ruby).

They got their birds from a bird breeder, and the guinea pigs from Petco. One guinea pig, Wizard, had a very interesting first day at their house.

When Wizard got to Montoya's house, they let him outside for the first time. "He was super amazed," Montoya said. But they have

a porch, and Wizard got underneath the porch, and no one could get them out. So as a last resort, they had to get the hose, and hose the guinea pig out.

Montoya said that birds are pretty easy most the time, and one of the only hard parts is training them. "They are stubborn, almost like dogs, but they are smaller, and they can fly," Montoya said. The Guinea pigs are also pretty simple, and just need to be fed and taken care of.

If anyone wishes to get a bird, here is some advice from Montoya. "You have to be really patient with them, they can be really stubborn at first," Montoya said. But Montoya isn't the only one with more than just a cat or dog. April Lawyer, Freshman, has some animals that may be considered out of the ordinary.

Lawyer enjoys drawing and writing, along with her AP Human Geography class, and playing with her and her family's many pets. Her family has two cats, six chickens, and some guppies, April herself owns a ferret, two parakeets, one corn snake (named Malfoy), and two Ball Pythons (Dovah and Hirsine), with Dovah currently missing.

Dovah escaped a while ago, "Let's just say, if you live in the northwest area of Marion, keep your dogs inside," Lawyer said. She also thinks that he may be living in the walls of her house.

Lawyer got Malfoy from a pet store when he was super small snake, but for people wanting to get pets in the future, she said, "Don't buy pets, adopt them." Malfoy is a corn snake, "He's just a big strip of Laffy Taffy," Lawyer said, and has gotten much bigger over the years.

The two ball pythons have a much more interesting story of how they got in her possession. Lawyer and her father were at an animal auction in Anamosa, looking at the selection of strange stuff for sale. "We were not going to buy anything," Lawyer said, this rang true until they spotted some snakes.

"I joked to my dad 'you gotta buy one'," She said, so they went to bid on them. The starting bid was ten dollars and her dad bid on the snakes, Lawyer thought it was just a joke bid, but he kept on going. No one else bid on the snake, and the rest of the story is obvious to guess.

Lawyer said that the parakeets are easy to take care of, their food is cheap, and you pretty much just got to clean their cage and feed them. The ferret however, is a bit harder. Ferrets are not like cats; they need to be kept in a cage, which needs to be cleaned periodically, and that's only part of it. The ferret's litter box needs to be cleaned a lot, because ferrets "go" more than some animals. "I have lost most my sense of smell," Lawyer said about cleaning up after the ferret.

Snakes, oddly enough, are also kind of easy, as long as you understand their body language, which will tell you if they're happy or if they're about to bite you, if clean their cages and keep their habitats nice, and if you can get by feeding them. "You just gotta get over the squirminess of

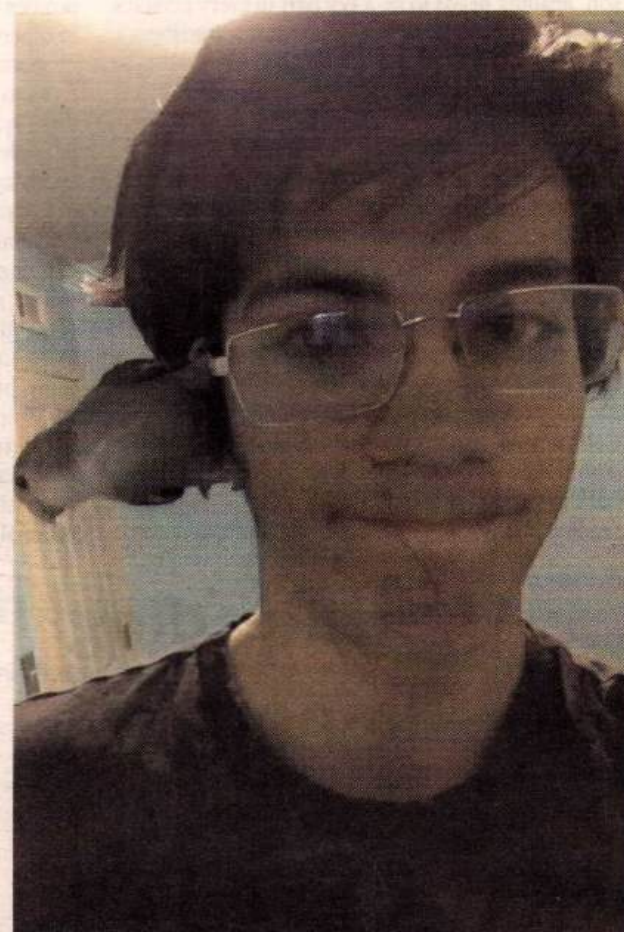


Photo provided by: Jordan Montoya

Jordan Montoya, '18 poses for a selfie with his bird.

feeding them mice," Lawyer said. About getting bit by the snakes, "It doesn't hurt that much, it's just scary," Lawyer said, that's because of the suddenness of the bites they give.

Lawyer has been struck suddenly by the snake Hirsine before. She was feeding the ball python, and wasn't paying close attention to her movements when she was moving her into a feeding bin. "Before I could react, she latched out and bit onto my ring finger," Lawyer said, but she was scared of pulling the snake off because of how delicate Hirsine's teeth are. This however, was a one time thing.

Lawyer says that snakes are sweet creatures, and that the whole event was her fault. "You're more likely to be injured by a cat than your ball python," She said. Lawyer sees everyday that snakes are docile creatures, if they are treated with care and handled appropriately.

She has more ideas for future pets, but doesn't know if she can get them. Lawyer wants a water monitor or a Savannah monitor, which are both big types of lizard. "Think of Komodo dragons, but not that big," she said.

Anyone wanting to get pets like these, need to know some more stuff first. "Snakes and lizards and ferrets and parakeets, are not like cats and dogs," Lawyer said, "Snakes won't play fetch with you or want to be pet, but they are really rewarding. It's always so peaceful to have this tube of muscle and scales wrapped around your neck."

So, if anyone feels like a dog or a cat aren't cutting it in the pet department, go for something different, like a bird, or a ferret, or a snake. Just because these animals aren't things that most people get when it comes to a pet, doesn't mean that they will not be fun to have around. People can find a companion in an animal they've never even thought of.

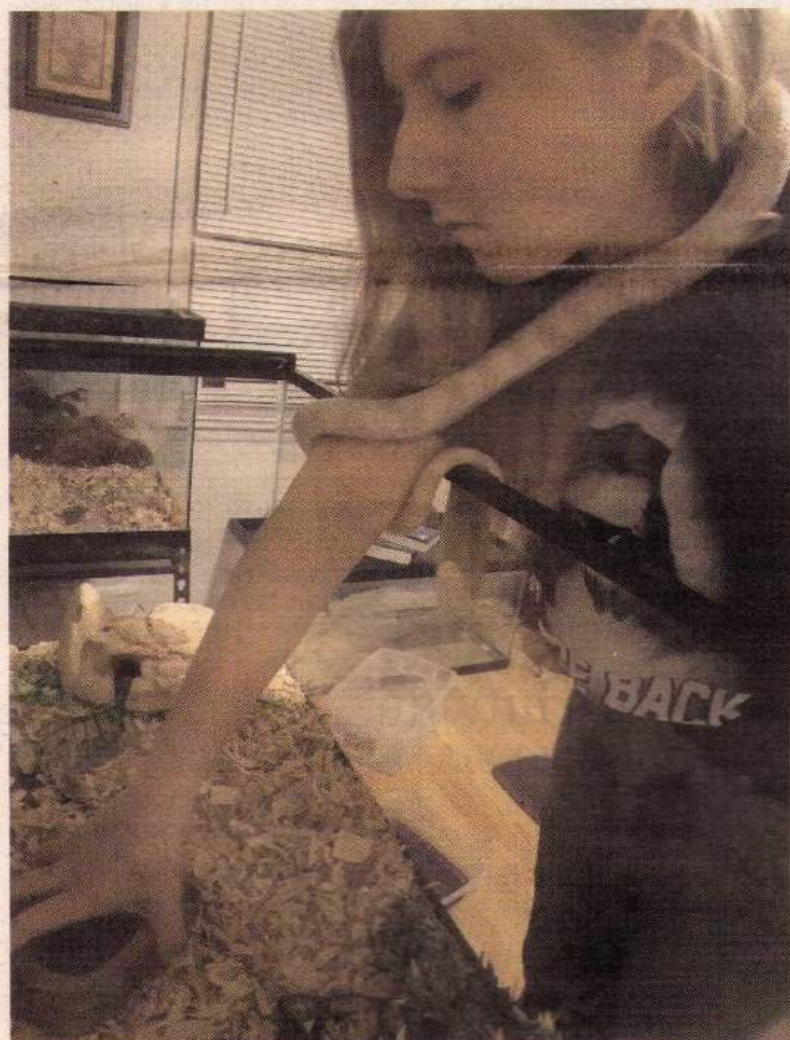


Photo provided by: April Lawyer

April Lawyer, '21 rearranges her snake, Malfoy's, cage around while he wraps around her.

What's happening around the school?



Photo provided by: Jacob Lang

Jacob Lang, '18 asked Karis Holley, '18 to prom with a track-themed sign.



Photo by: Summer Williams

Noah Jordan, '19 performs for a judge at the ensemble recital.



Photo by: Patrick Bleasorn

Niyo Gady, '20 attends a Fellowship of Christian Athletes meeting in the gold gym.

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Don't be shelf-ish; read all about it

Reading is an important activity, and it shouldn't be ignored.

By: Rachel Wilkey @RachelWilkey

How many times has one person said they hated reading? That they would rather die than picking up a book? That being in an English class is the most boring thing to be in? What many don't realize is how important reading truly is for the average person. Reading needs to be a key part in every person's lives. What many don't realize is that reading doesn't just teach people how to recognize patterns, sounds, and letters; it teaches people how to use empathy, solve problems, and reduce stress.

When reading any story there is a protagonist, and some type of antagonist whether that's just another person, their society, or it's themselves that is their own conflict. In every type of character, people can find themselves relating themselves to that fictional/non fictional being. In these moments of relation, readers have the capability to say they have experienced empathy in that moment. While teenagers can't say they defy their government like Katniss Everdeen in *The Hunger Games*, by Suzanne Collins; teens can say they have probably had conflict within their own thoughts. Many students can find it hard to tell others about their own conflict, and by reading books to feel the same empathy is a smart

move for others to find ways to deal with their own problems, and encourage people to reach out to others.

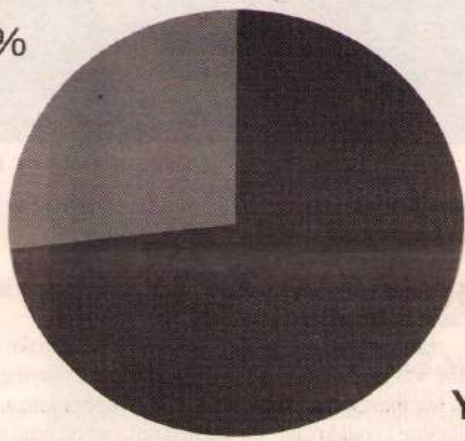
Books can help a person see into a life they usually wouldn't live, but it also teaches many on how to solve problems they make them struggle through everyday life. These problems can include basic word puzzles to talking to being able to communicate to others in society. By reading books, the brain memorizes the symbols we call letters and applies these to everyday life. Without constantly seeing these symbols people would not know how to use, or apply them. Reading is a skill one must use almost everyday. Unless someone is completely secluded, in a barren room with nothing in it, people will read something every day whether it from an email, twitter posts, and even watching TV. Communication is what makes reading so important. Reading is a way of communication that everyone should know how to do. Communicating to others can be struggle for some, but reading books not only teaches others the words to use, but also gives you something to talk about. In reading you can discover your interests, which can bring up topics for future conversations. Friendships can be formed by the mutual love over a fictional storyline.

In 2006, a study was conducted by the University of Sussex that proved that reading was the most significant stress reducers, by lowering stress levels by 68%. People will find themselves in a time of immense stress, and the best solution has been around since BC times. Reading is proven to reduce stress more than stereotypical stress reducers like tea and music. So deciding to pick up that novel in the library is not only beneficial to your intelligence, but also mental/physical health.

It's hard to look past the importance of reading, but it should be noted that reading is something everyone will do for the rest of our lives. If you start to have your doubts on reading just think about all the benefits that come with reading: empathy, problem solving, healthy life, and the language you speak. So why continue to live just one life, when you could live in thousands?

Is Reading Important?

No
27%



Yes
73%

Infographic made by: Rachel Wilkey

A poll was taken asking 100 MHS students if they thought reading was actually important.

The importance of being outdoors

By: Amy Noble @Amy_Noble12

Seven hours a day trapped in an old building, with some class rooms that don't even have windows. Students will spend about 2,340 days of their lives in school, with minimal time outside. Especially schools with closed campus like here, students can go all day without getting any fresh air.

Going all day without going outside is not good for students. There are many benefits of spending time outside. According to FitnessPeak.com, time outside can boost creativity and focus. It can also help students with ADD and ADHD. Simply going outside for a short amount of time during the day can help focus and stimulate the brain.

Being outdoors also can improve ones moods

and self esteem. According to OrganicLife.com, when you go outside, your body floods with Vitamin D. Vitamin D helps with not only mood but having healthy bones. Five to ten minutes every 2-3 days can satisfy the body with enough Vitamin D to boost mood and bones. It can also help keep students healthy.

Mentor would be the perfect time for students to get their outdoor time. It wouldn't even have to be for the full 35 minutes, but for the last 15 minutes, it could really help students improve their focus for the rest of the day.

Some may think that high school students don't need their recess because we're older and more mature, but we, like children, still need time spent outside.

Outdoor classrooms have began to pop up. An outdoor classroom is an area set up outdoors that either has chairs, benches or ground seating with an area for a teacher's desk or the front of the classroom. These classrooms allow for students to get fresh air and sunshine. With these classrooms, there is also room for creative ways for lessons to be taught and projects to be do.

Benefits of Outside

PERKS OF GETTING TIME OUTDOORS

Increases Vitamin D levels in the body.

Exposure to natural sunlight can help you heal faster and experience less physical pain.

Being outside boosts mood and creativity.

Spending time outside is good for overall health and mood for both older and younger children

and gives students the opportunity for a more creative and beneficial learning experience.



Photo By: Sophie Reider

Students scramble to eat their lunch as students only have 25 minutes to eat.

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Summer Williams, Executive Editor
Leah Kray, Yearbook Executive Editor
Amy Noble, Yearbook Executive Editor
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Sophie Reider, Social Media Editor
Rachel Wilkey, Broadcasting Editor

Hope Faley, Staff Writer
Alessandra Sara, Staff Writer
Jacob Shaffer, Staff Writer
Kyle Mehlberger, Staff Writer
Jaffer Murphy, Staff Writer
Jenna Sackett, Staff Writer
Ella VanWeelden, Staff Writer

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 staff 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 the advisor.

Turn letters in to room 26 or any staff member.

Knowing ourselves

Taking chances, and getting rid of toxic behavior can help students live a more productive life.

By: Summer Williams @summerrose2001

All to known is the teenager slumped down in their desk scrolling mindlessly through Twitter as their teacher goes over the notes for the day. Or the late nights one spends binge watching their new found Netflix show. These small things only seem to set them up for failure. The countless minutes wasted on replying to people's snapchats, catching up on an Instagram feed, or playing iMessage games with friends takeaway important time that could be spent on being productive. Learning to manage our lives each and every day can further our success. Knowing one's own limits and when they should stop an activity and/or start an essential task is key in having a successful lifestyle.

In schools it's easy to dismiss what the teacher is saying especially when they're droning on about a subject a student could care less about. The act of pulling out our phones and swiping away through our Twitter feeds or playing a simple game sounds pretty harmful right? Not listening to this one small lecture won't kill a grade, or make one completely clueless in a class. But, when the behavior is continually repeated, a student can fall down a spiraling slope of self destructive behavior.

When students don't pay attention to the lessons being taught they'll find themselves clueless and hanging on by sheer hope that they'll pass their class. If students can't even learn the subject being taught, how are they supposed to apply the information? By choosing to give up selfish acts such as playing on a phone during class, the reward given in the long run will be so much more. Just think, will you regret choosing to focus on the teacher in class? Or will you regret procrastinating that paper and watching Netflix instead? Taking the one small second to weigh the options of self destruction or growth can sometimes be the sole factors that can shape the future awaiting us.

Almost everyone can agree that it's not really a good choice to be on phones during class. It's not good to not pay attention, most can understand the consequences of not giving enough focus to the task at hand. But what about behavior that seems so normal nowadays, that nobody really

even sees it as harmful anymore? Most know what's getting targeted here, copying homework.

Cheating, it's simple. A student forgets to do a homework assignment and texts a friend for a quick picture of the math packet that's due. It's simple and easy, no strings attached. Or so one might think. Choosing to use another's work instead of their own can be detrimental to their education. Most teachers aren't giving out homework to make a students life hard. They give it cause they know that a student needs to practice and they want the student to have the tools they need in order to succeed. Next time a student might think about getting those answers from a friend, it's important to take a step back and really think about how valuable it really is to sit down and take time to finish a homework assignment.

Think about that word regret again. Is this helping or hurting me, simple questions that make big impacts.

Now, it's easy for someone to say that they'll do their homework right when they get home. But for some, it's even easier to simply push it back and make ones future self swamped with work. Self destruction! We unknowingly set ourselves up for failure on a day to day basis. Even when we

do know what were doing it can be a hard to stop, especially when it's so much fun.

Procrastination is a word most every high schooler is all to familiar with. When hanging out with friends looks so much more entertaining than staying home and writing a four page paper, it's almost like no thought should even be given in that choice. Students could simply just get up and go have fun, cause why not? Sorry to be a Debby Downer but, here's why not. Think ahead, and ask oneself this question. Will future me be crutched by this decision? If yes, choosing to get that paper done right away is probably the way to go. If no, go back to asking that question again.

It takes little to no effort to push back assignments or to pay zero attention to teachers. But, making decisions that aren't going to self sabotage oneself in the future is really important. It's essential to realize that putting in maximum effort and focus into everything that one does will be so helpful in the long run. It's good principal to always know what one's boundaries are and what makes them fall behind. What one gives is what one will receive, hard work really does pay off.

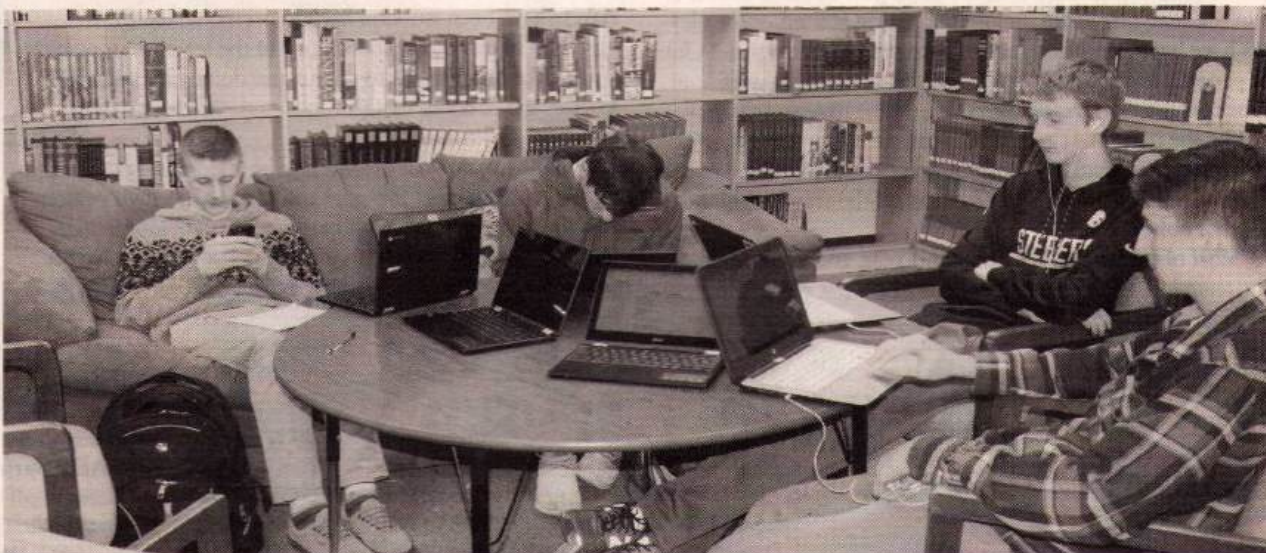


Photo By: Summer Williams

Breckin Bartels, '20, sits on his phone as his classmates continue to progress through their work assigned in their English 2 Writing class.

Would you catch me if I fell

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley21

Ever since we were kids we have had to develop trust for people. In hide and seek we trusted that the person would eventually find us and not force us to have to live off of old costumes and props in a storage closet. We have always been working to gain others trust. We would gain it from doing things like not lying and telling the truth if you get caught doing something you shouldn't, like if someone took two suckers when they were only supposed to take one.

Trust has become way more serious than a lot of us thought it would when hiding in those storage closets. Someone's trust being betrayed isn't just from a game anymore, their significant other cheated on them, or their best friend stabbed them in the back. Getting caught stealing something is way more serious than taking an extra lollipop. However it seems that someone gaining that trust back isn't as serious. People don't take trust serious enough. The truth of the situation is that if someone one loved did something like cheating, they will probably be forgiven way quicker than they should be. A person's best friend and them will be in a serious argument, but if they buy their bestie a shake and apologize should it really be forgiven so easily?

Loved ones have an advantage when in an argu-

ment, someone probably isn't going to hold a grudge against their sister as long as they would a new friend. However this shouldn't give leeway for best friends, significant others, and family members to walk all over somebody. Boundaries should be made, and if somebody crosses them the trust needs to be worked off. The problem with forgiving someone quickly is that it can show that person that if they did something like that or worse again, they would probably get off the hook. Of course everybody has their breaking point, but for some that breaking point is final, and what could've been a forgiven friendship is now a grueling grudge that nobody wants to have in their life.

Forgiveness while sometimes is expected, it shouldn't happen right away. With that said, holding a grudge affects the person holding it more than the person it is against. It is a heavy weight that follows the person around, something that happened in high school should not stay on your shoulders for the rest of somebody's life. No matter if it was cheating or bullying or backstabbing, the truth is it will all end after four years. What happens here should stay here. Forgiving doesn't even have to mean somebody reaches out to the person that did them wrong and tell them, forgiveness happens with just that person.

Taking somebody's background with friendships and relationships is something to consider as well. The saying once a cheater always a cheater has some truth behind it. Maybe once it was them not in the right mind, or their were more details to the ending of that friendship than you know, but someone should always think of their past. If someone cheated on several past partners, than that should be a hint that a serious relationship probably won't work out. With that said, everybody makes mistakes and their past does not predict their future.

Everybody is different levels of stubborn and forgiving, and every situation is different. But trust is something to be taken seriously, and how they earn it back should be from showing integrity and telling one the truth, not from materialistic things or just a lousy apology. Compassion and forgiveness are free, however one should have to earn respect and trust.

Don't lie to yourself

By: Jacob Shaffer @JacobShaffer_18

Lies are a snowball rolling down a hill. First, the snowball starts small and simple, but as it starts rolling down the hill, it gets bigger and bigger. The longer it rolls, the bigger it gets and the harder it is to control. One thing is inevitable, it will eventually reach the bottom of the hill and blow up into a million pieces in that person's face. Lies are the same way, they start out simple, but as more people hear the lie, the harder it is to conceal the truth. The truth is like death; it is inevitable, and it will find you someday.

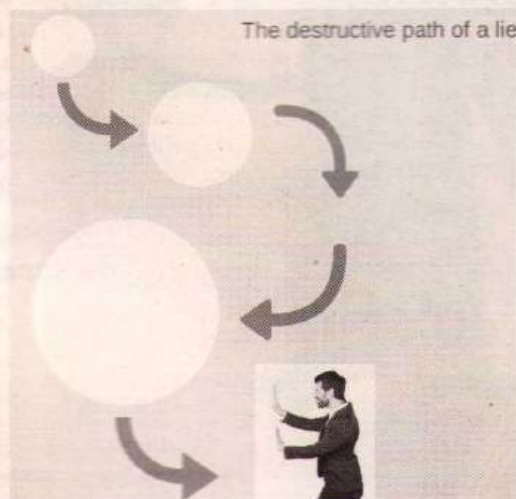
For some individuals, lying is like a compulsive trait. Whenever there is a chance to construct a new lie, or add to an already existing lie, they will take the opportunity to do so. In their eyes, it may seem like their life isn't interesting enough, so they have to lie about things they did or over exaggerate events that really did take place. If that person can make their life seem more extravagant than it really is, maybe they can make

some friends and people will start hanging out with them. In life, getting what you want can sometimes be bittersweet, because once people start hanging out with that person, they will start to realize they lied about all the things they did, and in reality, that person is really just a boring, lifeless cellar dweller. The truth always has a way of getting out, and people shouldn't have to lie about their life to make friends.

Another way people lie is by starting drama. Some people just want to be in the spotlight at all times, and in a high school environment, starting unnecessary drama is both the easiest and most common way of lying. Any lie, no matter how small or simple it could be, has the potential to seriously affect someone's life, especially when it's a lie about their character or their actions. Everyone has their vices and ways to have fun, but making up lies about people and potentially ruining their life shouldn't be a way someone has their fun.

Compulsively lying is especially common in high school. It may not seem like it at first, but making up even a small lie can harm a person's future. If the truth gets out, it could affect them getting into college or getting a job as an adult. A person can save their own future by simply not making up lies and have a better chance at making it in life.

Lies start small, but get bigger the more people hear the lie, just like a snowball rolling down a hill. Just like a snowball, a lie can easily be stopped when it is still small, and save a lot of people from being affected by a huge lie by coming out and telling the truth.



Infographic by: Jacob Shaffer

The path of a lie is shown in this snowball effect, as it keeps passing on it gets bigger and eventually blows out of proportion.



Infographic by: Hope Faley

When asked 69% of students said yes and the other 31% replied no.

Guess who's track, track again

Can the boys' track team bring in another championship win again?

By: Jacob Shaffer @JacobShaffer_18

In sports, it can be hard to follow up on a great season and do as good or better next season. Especially in a sport like track, where everyone does something different and everyone is equally important. With the boys track team returning this year after winning at state, Caleb Wagner, '18, believes that the team can do better than they did last year.

Wagner throws shot put and discus, and now that the team won state last year the coaches have been working the team even harder now. "They know to be able to repeat success you have to keep working and compete at your best at all times," Wagner said. The coaches plan on repeating success, as the main goal of the season is to win the state title again. Before the season started, some players have been preparing for the upcoming track season. "A lot of people are in other sports which helped performance, and other people do personal workouts all the time so that they can be the best they can be," Wagner said. With the main goal of winning the state title, some players also have the personal goals to break their own records and set the standard higher for themselves.

Most of the team is returning this year, and even though the team lost a few seniors last year, and a few players that

didn't return this season, the team is just as good. "We have a pretty good program, really good athletes, and Marion has been really good in all sports the past few years and it shows on the track," Wagner said. Now that most of the team has returned, the team has improved since last year. "With returners, there are players who got stronger in the weight room and by running," Wagner said. By improving themselves and staying healthy, the team has better chances of winning the state title again this season.

Our goal is a lot like other teams to go out and dominate but we do a better job of doing that. We have a better mindset."

-Blair Brooks, '18

Blair Brooks, '18, is one of the returning seniors on the track team, and after the team won the state title last year, Brooks knows what he needs to do to win again. "We have a lot of people back," Brooks said. "We didn't lose much and we know what we need to do now."

Even with most of the team knowing what they have to do to do the best they can. Players have been working hard to overcome their own obstacles to meet the expectations of the team. "Our goal is a lot like other teams to go out and dominate but we do a better job of doing that," Brooks said. "We have a better mindset."

With the main goal of winning the state title again, the expectations to meet this goal and the player's own personal goals have been set. With hard work and determination the track team is working to meet expectations and have a season just as successful as last year.



Photo By: Rachel Wilkey

Caleb Wagner, '18, throws discus in the practice net during an indoor practice.

Springing into spring sports

By: Madigan Crowely @CrowleyMadigan

Soccer

The boys' soccer team made it to state last year and hopes to return again this year. There are 45 boys on the team that practice five days a week to be ready for anything the season might throw at them. They have between 13 and 15 games this season and having been preparing for them as much as they can. The main goals for this season is to make it back to state and then advance to second round of the state tournament.

The girls' team is made up of about 30 girls who are ready to compete this season. They have been having open gym practices and weight lifting since November and have around three weeks of regular practice before their first match on April 6th. The teams hopes to win a least 10 games and WaMaC. They also hope to make it to state.

Golf

The boys' golf team is excited to begin their season with their 21 student athletes. They are preparing for their 12 regular season meets before the sectional tournament. They have been getting ready for the season by going over rules and practicing outside whenever they can at Twin Pines until their home course Gardner is open. This season the boy's goal is to make it to state as a team and then have the returners improve from last year.

The girls golf team is preparing for their season

even though it's too cold for the course to be open. They have been going over the rules of the game and team bonding to make the season even better. The team has 13 girls who will be competing at 11 meets this season. Their main goals are to make it as far as possible in the season and try to get some of the girls to state. They are also making strides in building the program.

Track

The boys' track team is coming off of their state championship from last season and is preparing to make it happen again. This season there are 55 boys on the team who have been taking everything one day at a time and focusing on maximizing their opportunities. They are ready to take on their 19 total meets and reach all of their high goals for the season.

The girls' on the track team is made up of 27 girls who compete at 12 meets this season. They have been working hard already to prepare by completing preseason conditioning, running hills, and just overall getting in shape. Their overall goals for the season is to finish in the top third at WaMaC and get as many events to state as possible.

Tennis

The boys' tennis team this season has 18 boys with eight of them being returners. They have been practicing since the beginning of spring break and have been using there new tennis ball machine from the booster club to improve even more on their shots. Overall the team is aiming towards building a culture that is respectful, improving their tennis skill set, and to diversify their schedule. They are ready to take on the season with hopes of a good outcome.

The girls' tennis team is made up of 30 girls who are preparing to play at 12 meets this season. They are starting at the basics and going up from their to be ready to take on their competition. The girls main goals this season are to improve each day, have fun, and stay positive.

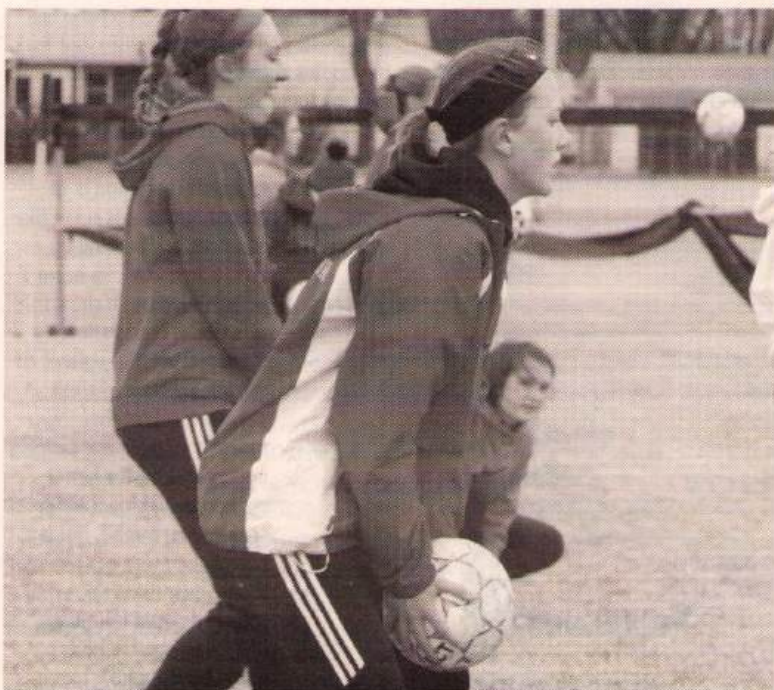


Photo by: Rachel Wilkey

Grace Byers, '19, and the girls' soccer team practice on the practice field in the cold weather.

Fresh faces for the fareway

By: Ally Sara @allysara05

For the first time in his 44 years of coaching, Dave Messerli will have the chance to coach a freshman golf team. This year six freshman boys went out for golf, which is the perfect amount to qualify for a golf meet. The top 4 scores will count toward the team's final score, to see how well they place.

Dave Messerli the boys golf coach. He coaches alongside his son Pete Messerli. When asked why he loves coaching he said, "I love the game of golf, used to play more. Golf is a game that you can see player's progression a lot easier."

Tiernan Crowley, 21' is one of the six freshman out for golf, he has played golf for a total of one year. "I am excited for this season because I enjoy playing the game of golf and I'm basically getting free lessons," said Crowley "I can't wait to compete in meets." Crowley is ready to have fun during this boy's golf season.

"I'm annoyed that we still haven't

gotten to play outside very much yet, I want to actually be able to swing. Which I can't do when we are inside this much, the snow needs to melt," said Crowley. As of March, 28 The boy's golf team has only been able to play outside at Twin Pines, because Gardner (Marion's home course) hasn't opened yet. "All we did yesterday [March, 26] was watch a video, which took almost 45 minutes because we talked to much," said

Jace Whittle, another freshman playing golf. The golf team hopes to be able to play outside, before their first meet.

Messerli is currently in contact with other coaches to see if there would be enough freshman teams to make a meet solely for them. "Most teams don't have enough freshman for a meet, you need 6 to qualify which makes it a lot harder to make a team," said Messerli. Most of the time freshman play on the JV team and if one of them are good enough they can play on the varsity team. If one of the freshman golfers makes varsity then there wouldn't be a freshman team, because one can only play in 12 meat per a year according to Iowa state laws.

The freshman team wouldn't play in the WaMaC tournament or any other

tournaments beyond that.

With the season having begun Messerli is excited for "the competitiveness, and to see who improves the most." The boys started golf right after spring break, with their first meet being on April 6th.



Photo provided by: Tiernan Crowley

Tiernan Crowley, 21' takes a practice swing during an after school golf practice.

Setbacks in sports

Injuries can be a setback, but there are ways to prevent them.

By: Madigan Crowley @CrowleyMadigan

Injuries. They are the last thing almost any athlete who is passionate about their sport wants. Some people choose to push through their injuries and continue competing while others choose to rest and regain 100% health. Even though resting can hold some athletes back, it can help in the long run and prevent future injuries. Randi Wright, junior, knows all about injuries in sports.

Wright is involved in many activities including her main sport, basketball. She moved to Marion from Lisbon when she was a freshman. "We moved here for the school and the basketball team," she said. She has been involved in basketball since third grade after her parents forced her to try it out. "I fell in love with the game," Wright said.

Throughout her many years of playing

sports, many injuries came with it. From minor injuries up to her bicep and tricep tendinitis that has affected her the most, especially this year. "It got more agitated when I played volleyball because I had to keep my arms up a lot so I had to quit," she said.

The healing process for most athletes is long and difficult mostly because they have to sit out of the sport they are passionate about. For Wright it was six months of physical therapy and then continuous rehab. "I've done a lot of strengthening for stability in my shoulders and back to keep my muscles strong," she said. She also has used cupping to help loosen the muscles.

Issac Cechota, 20' is also involved in many

"It got more agitated when I played volleyball because I had to keep my arms up a lot so I had to quit."

- Randi Wright, '19

activities including football, basketball, and track. With these activities comes the risk of injury. Cechota sprained his ankle and hurt his knee this past fall season. "I went to physical therapy and work on my knee and ankle," he said.

Even with all of the exercises and therapy her tendinitis still affects her in basketball; but she's learned ways to lower her risk for injury. "I am more aware

of my movements when I pass the ball to decrease the pain in my arms," Wright said.

Whether an athlete chooses to push through an injury or let it heal, most just want to be able to play the sport they love. Taking time to properly

prepare for their sport or recover from an injury can be time consuming but it will benefit them in the end when they are playing instead of watching their team on the sidelines.

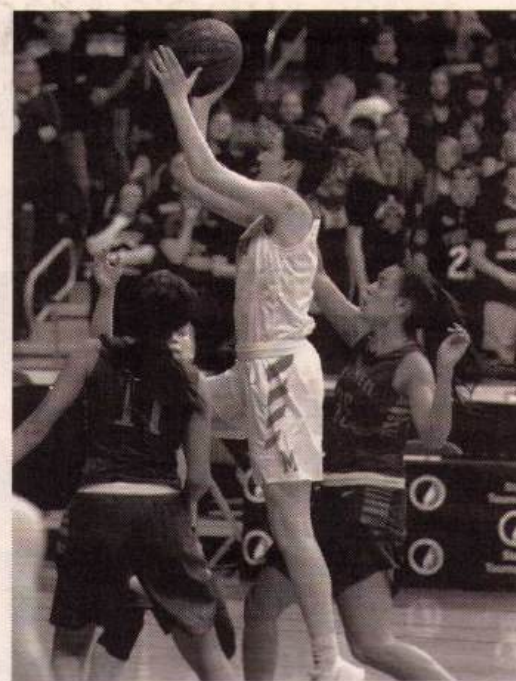


Photo provided by: Randi Wright

Randi Wright, '19, scores during one of the state basketball games this year.



Photo by: Jenna Sackett

Connor Murphy '21, and other members of GSA start their meetings with introductions.

A safe place to be you

By: Jenna Sackett @jenna32818873

Everyone deserves the right to love whoever they want, and be whoever they want to be. Connor Murphy, '21, is proud to be who he is. Connor is part of the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Questioning/Queer) community. He is transgender, and bisexual, and has been in GSA for three years. In those years he has been able to meet other people that are like him.

One of the main times he gets to meet these people is at the LGBTQ+ Governors Conference, which is on April 23rd this year, in the Iowa Events Center in Des Moines. The governors conference is a safe place for a bunch of GSAs to help them learn about and accept themselves and others, that is organized by Iowa Safe Schools. "You interact with people from different GSAs, and you can go to educational panels to learn about the community," said Murphy.

Murphy's favorite part of the conference is how everyone is becoming a community, as well as learning from the people there. Murphy has had the chance to make many memories because of GSA and the conference. "On our way back last year we just sang Hamilton the whole ride home," Murphy said.

Anyone in GSA should go, if you are LGBTQ+, or a straight ally. If a new comer is planning on going for the first time Murphy says there are some things to expect. "There are a lot of people. It's not really a set schedule, you get to do what you want to do," said Murphy.

The conference is so important to Murphy because he enjoys meeting people like him, and giving/receiving support. The conference is not only for those confident with their gender and sexuality, its also for those questioning.

Connor Murphy wants more people to join our GSA at Marion High School. He said to join if you are a part of the community or want to be a supporter. It might be the perfect thing to join if you

want to find out who you are, and help others.

Although he doesn't teach at the highschool, most of us know Mr. Daniel Lang, from Vernon, which is where he runs the middle school's GSA. This will be his 3rd year going to the conference.

"I think the best part of the conference for me, as an educator, is getting to take a group of kids to a place where they feel really at home; where

"The main room where the keynote sessions are held, and where we eat lunch, is huge and decked out in rainbow lights. It is a really amazing sight to see all of these happy middle and high school students gathered together in such a bright and welcoming space."

- Mr. Daniel Lang

they can ask questions and meet people like themselves, and where they can really just be themselves. It's pretty amazing to see so many happy, proud, kids gathering together," said Lang. Lang loves going with his students, pass and present.

Lang said that a when going you should

expect a long, but fun day but you will come back very tired. "The main room where the keynote sessions are held, and where we eat lunch, is huge and decked out in rainbow lights. It is a really amazing sight to see all of these happy middle and high school students gathered together in such a bright and welcoming space," said Lang.

Lang is very proud of his students, the community. "I'm really glad to have the opportunity to take a group of students again, and proud to be in a district that is supportive of this kind of activity with students. LGBTQ+ students can feel very isolated and alone, so it is a really powerful statement for us to be supportive of students attending," said Lang.

It can be hard to find a place where you feel you belong, no matter what your sexuality or gender is. If you haven't already found a place where you can be you, find one now.

The benefit of off season sports

By: Kyle Mehlberger

No sport last all year, they all take a break at some point. But what do the players of those sports do during the off season? Well, they can do a lot of things to prepare for the next season. Take Garret Wagner, '21 for example, who does lifting in his short off-season.

Wagner likes to hang out with his friends and play Fortnite and plays football, basketball, baseball, and shot put for track. Due to all these sports, Wagner only has an off-season of about two weeks. During this off-season and at other times, he lifts and shoots hoops for fun and practice. "I try to stay in good shape," Wagner said. Most football players who have no sports during that time also play off-season sports.

Lifting involves, well, lifting and a little bit of conditioning. "There's not really like a practice, you work on your own to make yourself better," Wagner said. Off-season sports are important, because people need to keep themselves active when they aren't doing anything, so they are prepared. "You don't wanna take a break and get lazy," Wagner said.

Most people have mixed feelings about off-season, some people love it and some hate it, but here is Wagner's opinion. "I think everyone should do it because you should do everything in high school and it keeps you in shape," Wagner said. "Put yourself out there, give anything a chance." Lifting is just one thing people can do during the off-season, they can also do club sports like Volleyball, like Delaney Rice, '20.

Rice has two sisters, and enjoys playing sports, her playing volleyball and basketball. During the off-season, Rice

does club volleyball with other players.

Club volleyball starts after state and ends at the end of summer, and they practice three times a week with optional personal practice time. "It's mostly people who want to play in college and want more training," Rice said. Club volleyball trains with others from different schools, so they get to meet a lot of cool people.

A lot of people enjoy club volleyball, "When you get back to school you know more of what you are doing," Rice said. But there is a lot of people who think it is too much work. "A lot of people think it takes too much time, but it's worth it because it's a lot of fun," she said.

Most of people think that off-season sports, are worth it and everyone who is in sports should do something to improve. To all in a big sport, find something to do during your off-season, to keep a pep in your step for next season.



Photo by: Kyle Mehlberger

Garret Wagner, '21, keeps his skills sharp during the off season.

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5 HIDDEN MUSIC GEMS


1



ROLL UP

FITZ AND THE TANTRUMS


2



BREEZE BLOCKS

ALT J


3



EVEN IF IT'S A LIE

MATT MALTESE


4



PHASE ME OUT

VERITE

5



AMERICAN LOVE

SMALL POOLS

By: Summer Williams @summerrose2001

Staying organized in style

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna32818873

We all forget things sometimes. How many times have you walked into class ready to turn in your homework, but when you reach into your overflowing backpack full of papers it's nowhere to be found? Maybe you forgot to tell your mom or dad about that extra practice you going to after school, and now they are panicked calling everyone trying to figure out where their child is.

For high school students, and humans in general, it can be hard to stay organized. Marion Highschool's students, and teachers, are no exception. But what if you had a special journal to keep with you? Then would you remember to do the things you're supposed to do?

Bullet journals are a new trend, but there's nothing too new or fancy about them. Bullet journals are a combination of a planner, a diary, and a to-do list. The purpose of them is to write down quick notes in an organized format so you can easily remember what needs to be done. They are usually decorated to look nice, but it's not 100% necessary, but it helps the aesthetic.

The journals are split into different sections, the first being the index. The index is just like a normal index that you will find in a textbook. You add on to it as you go so you can easily find what you're looking for.

The next section is kind of like a planner, you fill in what your goals and plans are for the month, year, and day. You write down what you have to do, and you can also write how you're feeling that day, kind of like a diary. Sometimes writing down your problems can help get rid of the anger in a positive way.

You can also add pages to track things that you're going to be doing throughout the year, like the books you're hoping to read, how far you

In your bullet journal you should also have a couple pages committed to advice/ideas you have for yourself, kind of like a checklist. Like, #1. Buy Milk #2. Practice Verbs for Spanish #3. Read Chapters 7-8 from Lord of the Flies, Etc.

The great thing about these bullet journals

is that the user/creator doesn't have to follow any certain rules. It can be whatever you want it to be. Those who create it can make it personal to them. Every single journal should be different.

Cooper Dobler admits he's not a very organized student. He says the bullet journal might be a good idea for him since he tends to forget things. "It could be nice cause it keeps everything in one place," says Dobler. Although he thinks it's a good idea he said he probably wouldn't use it, since he only writes things down when he really needs to. He says that although its known as a trend it might stick around for quite some time, it probably won't stay popular. "It could be practical for some people, It would be good for reminders," says Dobler.

Chloe Parenteau is a more organized person. She also thinks the bullet journal is a good idea. "It would be a good thing to have so you don't forget things and keep track of time," says Parenteau. She, unlike Dobler, says that she would probably use it. Parenteau also says, "I think it would help people with jobs." She also thinks that this trend is here to stay and that it's very practical.

Both of these students are very different, but they both agree that the journal could be beneficial. It will take awhile to set up, but isn't it worth it to become a more productive person? A lot of highschools are balancing tons of activities, and homework. Its only a matter of time until you forget something. Try to make your life easier by making a journal, and hurry up! Before you forget!

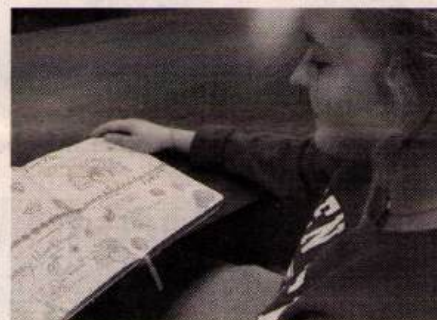


Photo by: Sarah Eicher

Stacey Sloan, 21' looks over her assignments in her bullet journal.

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What To VS What Not To Feed Your Dog

By: Ella VanWeelden @ellavanweelden

Dog 

Healthy

Not Healthy

Peanut butter

Avocado

Yogurt

Chocolate

Carrots

Grapes

Pumpkin

Coffee

Garlic



Living outside

Spending time outdoors is a great stress reliever.

By: Leah Kray @leah_kray



As spring comes into full swing, here are some ideas to fully enjoy the outdoors.



Planting flowers or other types of plants are a great way to add color to a landscape and help the environment.



Hiking is a good way to get some fresh air, along with some physical activity.



Taking a pet for a walk is soothing and beneficial way to get some relaxation, as well as exercise for the pet.



Springtime is ideal for bonfires because the weather isn't too cold or too hot.



Gathering with friends to spend the night in a campground or the forest is bound to make plenty of memories.



Representing in a brand new way

By: Patrick Bleadorn @p_bleadorn

Sometimes, the pride and morale in a school needs boosting. It is often thought that the best way to support one's school is by going to sporting events. However, it is considered far less to support one's school through other ways. So if someone doesn't find sporting events their cup of tea, some other ways will be sure to make someone feel involved.

One way to support your school is getting involved with the school's booster club. A booster club is created to help raise funds for the school that the students go to. It is usually run by the parents of students that attend the school the booster club is representing. A booster club will often sell apparel that allows people to show their pride for a school. And thanks to the show of pride by the community, the booster club collects the money from the sales they make and gives that money back to the school. This money allows the school to grow and to help maintain their funding. While the booster club here shows up at sporting events, buying apparel sold by the booster club allows our school to prosper and is a wonderful way to support one's school through the money they give and the pride they wear.

Another way to support your school is to go to the public hearings held by school's board of administrators. The board of administrators are the people that have the power to make the decisions that will guide the school district they represent down whatever path it is set to go down. If someone wants another way to support their school without going to the sporting events, voicing their concerns to the people who make decisions for the district is vital. By going to the public hearings, you can speak to the administrators about something that could help the school improve. As a consequence, sort of, students can enjoy going to

a school where they're getting the best quality education and access to extracurricular activities possible. Although it might feel awkward going to a school board meeting, you can show your support for your school by talking to the administrators.

With all the ways to support one's school, everyone who loves their school has no excuse.

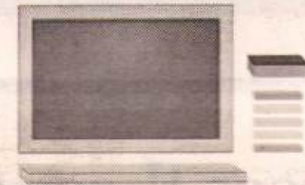
Upcoming board meetings

April 23 @ 4:30 p.m.

May 14 @ 7:00 p.m.

June 11 @ 7:00 p.m.

July 9 @ 7:00 p.m.



Infographic by: Patrick Bleadorn

Some of the upcoming board meetings are the perfect time to show support.



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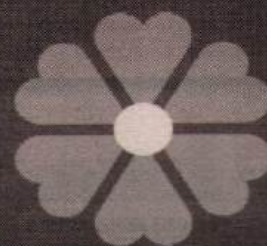
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Flowerama

• 3135 1st
avenue,
Cedar Rapids

**Pierson's
Flower Shop**

• 1961 Blairs Ferry
Rd NE, Cedar
Rapids

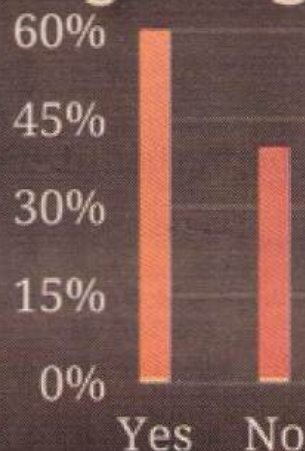
**Newport's
Flowers**

• 2125 Wilson
ave SW,
Cedar Rapids

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley21

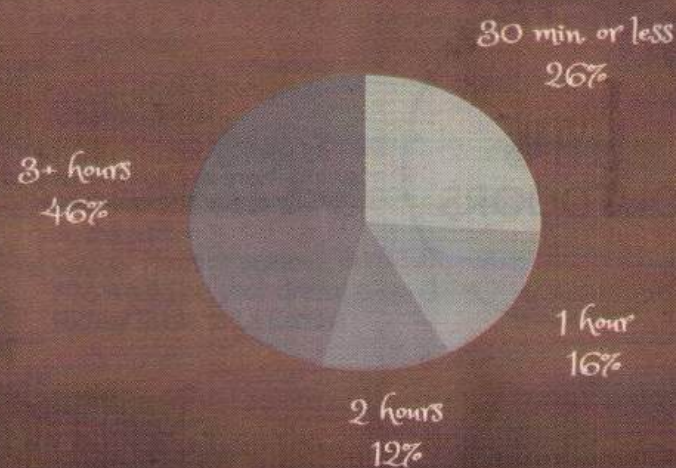


Are you going to prom?



By Rachel Wilkey @RachelWilkey

How Long Does Get Ready Take?



Dresses through the decades

The 1930's



The 1940's



The 1950's



The 1960's



Dropping the prom

The latests scoop on what to expect and enjoy at this year's prom.

Ella VanWeelden @EllaVanWeelden

Prom is the dance of highschool. Little kids look up to the pretty girls in big poofy dresses and wish they could be them. Girls pick out expensive outfits and shoes months in advance. Boys and girls think of creative ways to ask their date, hoping to get the best promposal. But some high schoolers think that prom isn't as glamorous as people say. While others love it, the experiences they get to dive into are something they couldn't not enjoy.

Grace Byers, '19, is one of the people that enjoys prom. Byers has been to prom and is part of prom committee. The committee comes up with ideas, decorations, and plans what is going to go on during this year's prom. Their hard work and planning pay off in the end because of the amazing dance they put together. "I think it's important to take it in and have a good time," Byers said.

Some students like to think about the negative sides

of prom like, who they're going to go with, what dress or outfit they are going to wear, or what group to go with? We can assume that some students stress about finding a prom date. But the important thing in the end is having fun, and enjoying it. Byers thinks that having fun with friends is the most important thing about prom. "It's all about having a good time," Byers said.

Halle Medland, '19, also on the prom committee, can see why high schoolers wouldn't like prom. Some believe that prom isn't enjoyable due to the lack of people there, the rules that are set in place, and the fact that we don't

have a post prom. But the dance is for friends to go and have a good time, no matter what. "I think the important part of prom is going with friends and having a good group who will let you go enjoy prom," Medland said.

The prom committee works hard to make prom an unforgettable experience but some students believe that there are things that can help make prom the best it can be. Medland believes people would have more fun if there was a post prom, as do other students. Prom only happens in high school, and Medland believes students should make the most out of it and have fun. "Go out there and enjoy prom, it's an experience you can only get in high school."



Behind the scenes: Chloe Rice, Elle Herold, Caitlyn Smith, all '18, discuss and discuss Midnight Forest.



Prom Need-to-knows

Important Times:

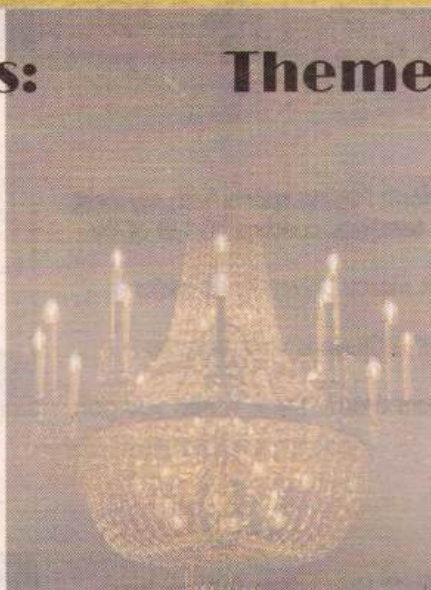
Grand March:
3:30pm-4:30pm

The Dance:
7:00pm- 10:00pm

Theme: The Great Gatsby

DJ: Mr Mitchell

No Re-Entry



The 1970's



The 1980's



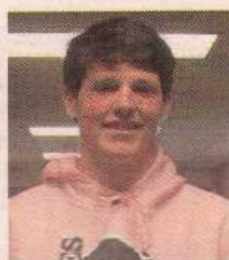
The 1990's



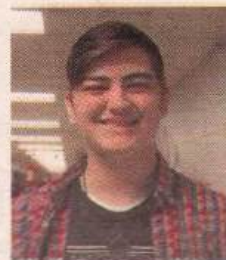
The 2000's



Why are you excited for this year's prom?



1st Year Attendee
"I get to spend time with friends,"
-Colton Wilkinson, '18



3rd Year Attendee
"I'm excited for the first actual themed prom in a while."
-Bryan Crow, '19



2nd Year Attendee
"I get to see everyone dressed up and have fun,"
-Beth Foster, '19



4th Year Attendee
"I always enjoy the time with my friends,"
-Shea Bohland, '18

et up trees for last years prom the friday before the dance, the theme was

Senior Interviews 10



Cole Quint

What will you miss about Marion?: Fun teachers.
 Future plans?: University of Iowa for Sales engineering.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Wake up, eat some poparts." -Lil Uzi
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Dwayne Johnson and Pancheros.



Trey Robertson

What will you miss about Marion?: Football, track and my friends.
 Future plans?: Attend the University of Iowa to study Physical Therapy.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Be who you are, identify as a star."
 -J. Cole
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Myself, probs go to b-dubs.



Kenzie Redmond

What will you miss about Marion?: Playing sports with my best friend, walking Kayba to class, teachers, coaches and all of by JV babies.
 Future plans?: To attend Mount Mercy University to major in nursing.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Your attitude is your altitude; everyday can be great."
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 My boyfriend.



Madison Roling

What will you miss about Marion?: My calc class and my teachers
 Future plans?: Go to the University of Iowa to major in Biochemistry
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Don't worry about it
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Michael Buble to La Cantina



Skye Reece

What will you miss about Marion?: How willing the teachers are to help you if you ask them and put in the effort.
 Future plans?: Attend Kirkwood for 2 years, Carlson College of Massage Therapy for 6 months, and then to Iowa to become a Physical Therapist.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "My biggest weakness is caring about everyone, simply because the opinions of absolute stranger mean a lot to me." -Myself
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Heath Ledgers & Cara Delevingne in a helicopter to Germany.



Alyssa Rose

What will you miss about Marion?: The teachers & my friends, my bowling team.
 Future plans?: Go to Kirkwood to study early education.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: None
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Callum Wagoner & La Cantina.



Logan Reeves

What will you miss about Marion?: Friends.
 Future plans?: U.S. Air Forces.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Its not the size of the boat its the motion" -Jake Anct:11
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Scarlett Johansen and Happy Joes.



Kiah Ross

What will you miss about Marion?: The teachers.
 Future plans?: Kirkwood for gen. ed. then transfer to California State.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional."
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Drake and Red Robins.



Rhys Regan

What will you miss about Marion?: Ball squad, the bros & Sem.
 Future plans?: Trap out the Hyundai in IC.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "BBB- big baller Bischoff"
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Id take Nile's sister Emma to MHS Cafeteria.



Patricia Ruiz

What will you miss about Marion?: My friends, the people and the sports.
 Future plans?: Go to college.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: N/A
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Zac Efron and Africa.



Sophie Reider

What will you miss about Marion?: Band, my friends, the leaky ceiling and the awful smell.
 Future plans?: Go to Wartburg for mass communication and journalism with a double minor in film studies and leadership.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Words in my not-so-humble opinion, are our must inexhaustible source of music" -J.K.
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Elon Musk, He would literally fly me to the moon.



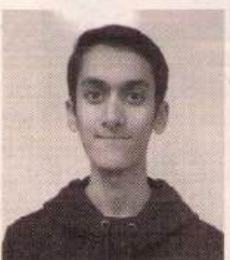
Spencer Scott

What will you miss about Marion?: Nothing.
 Future plans?: None.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Don't fall behind in class"
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Me, myself and I.



Kalista Reyes

What will you miss about Marion?: The teachers, people, everyone.
 Future plans?: Figuring out who I am.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Don't tear the world to pieces, just leave it a place for peace" -6th grade me
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 My boyfriend, Dakotah and Perkins.



Neil Sharma

What will you miss about Marion?: Tennis boys, the band my friends and the MHS environment.
 Future plans?: Aerospace engineering at Purdue.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Thin airy things extend themselves in space, things solid take up little place." -Abraham Cowley
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Anyone who is willing to go to Taco Bell.



Chloe Rice

What will you miss about Marion?: D-Rice and MGBB.
 Future plans?: Attend Saint Louis University and play basketball.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Accept what is, let go of what was, and have faith in what will be."
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Conor McGregor at Chipotle.



Alexis Smith

What will you miss about Marion?: Bowling with my teammates.
 Future plans?: Moving to Orlando, Florida and becoming the director of community and game day operator for a new MASL team joining the league.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "One of the most bitter sweet feelings has to be when you realize how much you're going to miss a moment while you're still living it."
 Who would be your dream prom date? Where would you go?:
 Troy Bolton and Disneyland.



Caitlyn Smith
 What will you miss about Marion?: The teachers, my friends, and sports.
 Future plans?: Attend Drake University to major in secondary education and play volleyball.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "Don't let yesterday take up too much of today." - Will Rogers
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Nate Holub and eat at Chick-fil-a.



Cheyenne Thompson
 What will you miss about Marion?: Some teachers and fellow students.
 Future plans?: Airforce and special forces.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "You say I dream too big. I say you think too small."
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? I would be fine going with friends to Biaggis.



Kaden Snoop
 What will you miss about Marion?: Show Choir, Band, Some Teachers.
 Future plans?: Go to college to get an Associates Degree in Air Traffic control.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Go out and Give'r
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Myself - My home.



Desirae Timmerman
 What will you miss about Marion?: Mr. Trilk and Mrs. Raemakers.
 Future plans?: Attend the University of Iowa.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "I'm here for a good time not a long time."
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Zac Efron at Olive Garden.



Hunter Stolpe
 What will you miss about Marion?: Friendliness.
 Future plans?: College.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: None
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Not sure.



Tyler Topping
 What will you miss about Marion?: Knowing each teacher.
 Future plans?: Going to Kirkwood Community College after I graduate.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Have fun and enjoy highschool.
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Paige Wieneke. Olive Garden.



Lukin Stolpe
 What will you miss about Marion?: Nothing.
 Future plans?: Go to college.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: "I don't have any."
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? I don't know.



Cappra Svoboda
 What will you miss about Marion?: Marion Poms and the girls.
 Future plans?: Move to Alabama and go to University of Montevallo to study Criminology and Psychology.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Just be yourself. People are going to talk. Let them talk.
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Julie Swarts. Carlos O' Kellys.



Julie Swarts
 What will you miss about Marion?: Being able to see my friends everyday.
 Future plans?: Attend Coe.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Be spontaneous.
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Cappra Svoboda. Carlos.



Mitchell Takes
 What will you miss about Marion?: Mr. T and Raemaker.
 Future plans?: Mechanical Engineering at Iowa State.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: It's better to challenge yourself and fail then to not have tried at all.
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Bryan Telgonhoff - 108 3rd ST W Newhall, Iowa 523157



Isis Tate
 What will you miss about Marion? Seeing my friends everyday.
 Future plans?: Polomar college in California for interior design.
 Quote/ Piece of advice?: Don't care too much about what people have to say.
 Who would be your dream prom dinner date? Where would you go? Sushi House with Drake.

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MOVE FORWARD

Iowa's helpers

MHS students help out all in places all over Iowa during the massive service learning project known as One Day in May.

By: Ella Van Weelden
@ellavanweelden

Spring is here, even if sometimes it doesn't feel like it, and spring is the light at the end of a very dark, cold, long tunnel that doesn't seem to end. To get into the spring spirit, the school has an annual community event where students from the school go out to various locations around Marion and help the community by planting trees, talking to the elderly, and cleaning up the school grounds.

One of the people that are on the One Day in May committee, which is a group of students that organize which locations to go to, where to get funding, and more, is Kelsi Huhndorf, '18. Huhndorf is looking forward to help out the community and also get out of the classroom. "The best part of this day is to be able to hang out with your friends while also helping out the community and the city at the same time," said Huhndorf.

Each year they have the same goal, to help out the Marion community. But they have a variety of new goals each year that they would like to accomplish. One of those goals is getting

to new locations. It takes a lot of planning and coordination to have a whole school district come together and help the community. "I think more schools should do days like this, but there is so much planning that goes into it that I don't think it could be anymore than just one day," said Huhndorf.

Another student who is looking forward to this day is Trey Robertson, '18. Robertson is most excited for the new locations and everyone coming out and helping together. Some of the things that we do on this day is plant new trees, shrubs, and flowers, along with other outdoor work. The students also go to retirement homes and talk to the elderly, and clean up our own grounds around the school. "One of the projects we are going to be working on this year is cleaning the athletic facilities like the tennis courts, the baseball and softball fields, and soccer fields," Robertson said.

This day not only gets students out of the classroom and doing something different than doing math worksheets, it brings them together as teams to accomplish something of the greater good. "My favorite part of this day is seeing everyone volunteering and helping the community out," said Robertson.

This might be one day of volunteering, but it doesn't have to end there. Most of the locations we help have options of individual volunteer work that students can choose to do. "You can also do the small things like pick up trash. Everything helps," Robertson said.

It might only be one day, but every small thing makes a big impact.



Photo By: Lauren Fruehling

Audrey Scheel, '20, goes to throw away the weeds she pulled from last year's One Day In May at the Marion Square.

Jobs for dogs

By: Jaffer Murphy @jaff_murff

There are many types of helpful paws in the police department. K-9 dogs are something that aids an officer in the line of duty. Many of these pets can be fierce dogs when it comes to looking for a criminal, but a lot of these dogs are just like your everyday dog, sweet and cute.

K-9 dogs have many jobs that they do in the police department, some K-9 dogs are bomb dogs. K-9 bomb dogs help sniff out bombs, and that helps the officer know where the bomb is and to immediately try and defuse the bomb. There is another type of K-9 dogs and these dogs search for drugs and sniff out people who have possession of drugs. Having K-9 dogs in the workforce is very good tool have. "We have 7 dogs which are all detection dogs, one is a bomb dog and the others are narcotic detection K9s," said Fruehling. "The K-9s are on patrol with their handlers and serve several functions. They are able to track people, find certain items that may have been used in a crime and thrown or left by a fleeing suspect; and also are able to detect the odor of several narcotics." They serve as a partner for their officers and can also be used to take down criminals who are combative with their partners or those who take off and run. "They are also able to clear a building in terms of making sure someone is not hiding somewhere much faster than it would take officers to clear the same

structure." These dogs are very fit and capable to do many inhumane such as jump big fences or go into small places to help their officer find a criminal.

K-9 dogs are a great and very helpful tool in the police department workforce. These dogs don't mess around when it comes to serious business, from either saving lives, or tracking down a mischievous criminal. When it comes to working in a police force it is helpful to have all the helping paws you can get.



Photo by: Hope Faley

Tiernan Crowley, '21, joins in with his peers to pet the canine in his business and law class taught by Mr. Scott Fruehling.

You'll be missed

By: Rachel Wilkey @RachelWilkey

When people think of Marion many might think of Zoey's Pizza, roundabouts, get togethers downtown. What people wouldn't expect is a brand new library going up in a new spot. This new Marion library will be placed in between 7th avenue and 6th. Otherwise known as the Marion Square Plaza, home of Tomaso's pizza, Anytime Fitness, Silver Nails, China King, and much more.

This ideal spot for a new library has had many skeptical and hopeful comments about the plan, one person who is slightly skeptical of the library plan is Jonathan Andreasen, '19. Andreasen has lived in Marion his whole life, and enjoys living here for the all the stereotypical, but loving small town reasons. "You know where everything is, and the people are nice," he said. Andreasen also add that's one of the joys with living in a small town is "When something new happens people get excited about it," he said.

When living in a small town tiny changes can cause big impacts, but when the ideal spot of a new library was revealed Andreasen was anything but excited. One of the disappointments Andreasen has for the new library is that it goes in the place of one of his favorite Chinese restaurants, China King.

While Andreasen may have disappointments about the restaurants, he knows that the idea of a new library for the town of Marion is

beneficial. "I'm not excited, but I'm not mad it's happening," he said. Marion has had the current library since 1996, but since the 90's the population of Marion, Iowa has nearly doubled. Now the current library is in need of a size update to make up for the population increase.

Chris Deeter, '18, has also lived in Marion for the majority of his life, but is very excited for a new library to go up. Deeter doesn't happen to see Marion as much of a small town as it once was, "I think it's more of a medium sized town," Deeter said. For Deeter the Marion Square Plaza stores and restaurants aren't a go to place for him to go anymore. "My favorite store was Battlezone Games, and they're not even there anymore," he said. Deeter also believes that the current Marion library isn't the greatest and is due for a new one.

While an exact date for a new library has not been set. The idea of a new library will fill Marion citizen's heads whether it's for good or bad.

Want to keep up with the updates of the new library?



Head to the Marion Public Library Website



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Permanent early out

Discussing whether or not graduating early is worthwhile.

By: Patrick Bleadorn @p_bleadorn

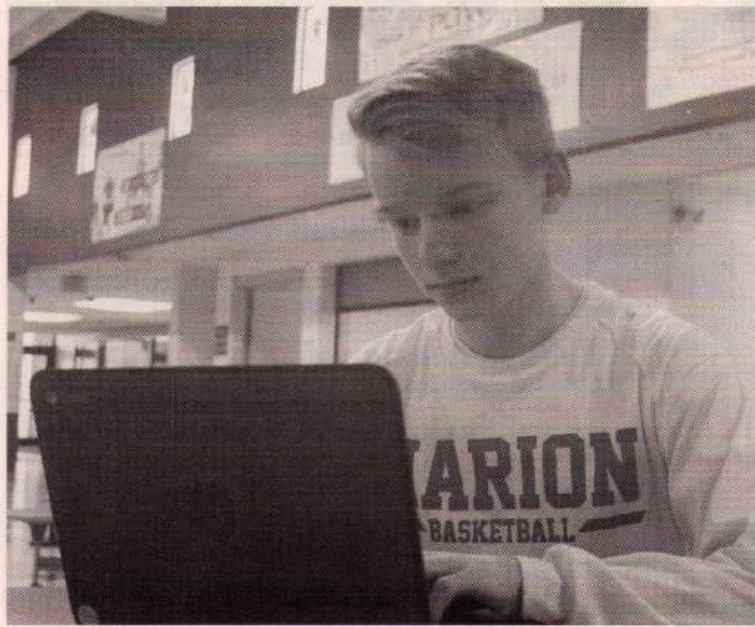


Photo by: Patrick Bleadorn

Ryan Hall, '20, works on one of his online classes.

There are many points throughout a student's high school career where dropping out looks more appealing than staying. Rather than not finishing school some students work hard and earn the ability to graduate early. Doing so allows a student to officially graduate just like their fellow classmates, but it allows them to do it months beforehand. This can open the door to many opportunities and also many hardships. Early graduate, Abe Joyce, got the chance to take that on.

Graduating early does take work. For Joyce, that was prevalent because he finished in December. "The way I got myself to the point of graduating early was through Kirkwood," said Joyce. "When I took classes through Kirkwood, I not only got credit hours for high school, but I also got college credits... With that, I was basically knocking out two high school classes and one college class for every Kirkwood class I took in high school," added Joyce. After

Joyce earned his credits to graduate high school, life would become what many teenagers hear about from their parents and dread.

"Once I graduated, it's really just been a typical adult life minus going to college," said Joyce. "I've really mainly just been working and going to class every other day ever since I graduated." Not only does Joyce

"Simple answer: I want to get out of here."

-Ryan Hall, '20

face the life that many dread, he also gets to suf-

fer through lack of free-time and he gets to enjoy the splendors of working. "I stop seeing my friends as much, which really sucks, and I kinda lose connections with a few of them," said Joyce. "But the plus side is that I'm making a lot of money, and I mean a lot." Another plus side is that his weekends are more free. "Weekends are a lot more fun now because I can do whatever I want without worrying about projects or homework," said Joyce. While Joyce

has already left the high school scene, another student is working towards that goal.

Ryan Hall, sophomore, is hoping to finish his high school career his junior year. "I'm taking two online classes every quarter," said Hall. "I also talk with Kettman constantly." For many teenagers, the reason Hall is trying to finish early could be considered surprising. "Simple answer: I want to get out of here," said Hall. "I also want to get to my job sooner."

At the end of the day, graduating early might seem like a door to a path towards living like an adult. And to many teenagers, the life of an adult is an idea better left forgotten. However, with the problems students would face like reduced free time and more working, they can look forward to making more money and being able to spend more free time doing what they love. So, if a student is at the point where dropping out is the most appealing option, they should stop and look at the much more optimistic option of graduating early.

Sneezin' season

By: Jacob Shaffer @jacobshaffer_18

Spring time has finally rolled around this year, which can only mean one thing; allergy season. Some people are affected by allergies more than others, and this year is no exception. Samantha Sorenson, '21, is one such case where they are badly affected by seasonal allergies spring brings.

Sorenson is allergic to every type of tree, grass, mold, and cockroaches, and has had her allergies since she was born. They usually start acting up in the spring and end in the fall. "I have seasonal allergies which are common, but I don't know anyone who is as badly affected as I am," Sorenson said.

On the other hand, Jace Dougherty, '19, has constant allergies and isn't as badly affected as Sorenson is. Dougherty has mild food allergies and is allergic to milk, egg whites, and tomatoes. "There's some things I can't eat as often as I would like to, and most of the things I can't eat are in pizza, which is my favorite food," Dougherty said.

While Sorenson still has allergies, they don't affect her as much as they did when she was younger. "When I was younger I would have super chapped lips and itchy eyes but then I started taking allergy shots once a week for three years," Sorenson said. Sorenson's allergies may be better now, but just a few years ago it was a much different story.

Before taking allergy shots Sorenson would take over the counter medicines to alleviate her allergies, but being as

serious as they were it didn't help much. "I would take Claritin but that didn't help so my mom took me to the doctor," Sorenson said. While Dougherty's allergies remain throughout the year, he has never had to take medicine or get allergy shots to suppress them. "I just try to avoid foods that contain that contain them as often as I can," Dougherty said.

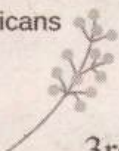
Sorenson's allergies haven't been life threatening before, but they have seriously affected her health. "In the sixth grade I got this huge allergic reaction on my face. They never figured out what it was and they had to put me on steroids," Sorenson said.

The allergic reaction in the sixth grade was the biggest reaction Sorenson ever experienced, and even with a reaction as big as that her allergies are getting better. "They're slowly getting better from the allergy shots. They're not as bad as when I was eleven and I can actually go outside now," Sorenson said. Seasonal allergies may get better, but for Dougherty his food allergies aren't getting any better. "They'll stay as bad, I've had them since I was eight, but I think my milk allergy has gotten worse so I try to avoid milk as much as possible," Dougherty said.

Allergies are just one of the many things this time of year brings, but now with the allergy shots Sorenson took she can actually go outside and enjoy Spring. "I'm better now, and it doesn't affect me as much as it used to," Sorenson said. Allergies are just one thing people have to deal with to enjoy the beautiful Spring weather. For most people, pollen related sneezing is worth it to enjoy the season.

The 5 most common allergens in the U.S

1st Pollen affects about 20% of Americans



2nd 10% of Americans are sensitive to dust mites



3rd 10% of Americans are allergic to mold



4th Around 12% of Americans are sensitive to cockroaches



5th Insect stings affects 5% of the population

Info provided by www.AAFA.org



TWO FACED

By: Kyle Mehlberger
@KMehlberger

The internet is a wonderfully crazy place where everyone can be what they want, but this freedom may cause a split in personality, compared to how they act in real life. These fake personas are not good for the person, and the people around them, on the internet and in real life. Students were asked whether or not they think people do act differently and why, and here's what they said:



"Yes I do, because they don't have to put up with the initial consequences of their actions."
-Dawn Sloan, '21



"Yes, because people are to scared to say stuff in real life."
-Nate Turner '19



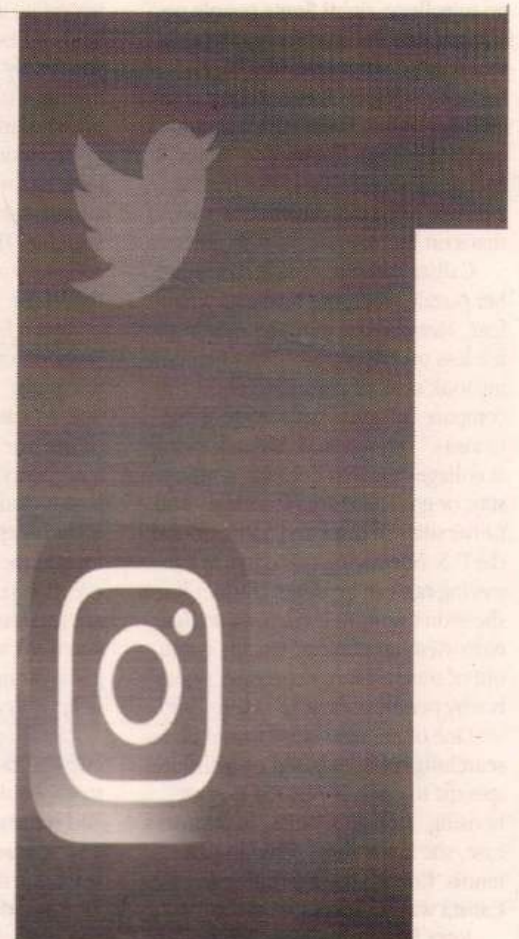
"Yes, because they think they can get away with it, because they make aliases, and get away with stuff, like bullying."
-Wyatt Juhl, '21



"Yes, some people might, because it's a mask that they can hide behind."
-Anna Overmann, '20



"Yes, I guess it kind of depends on the person and how they are raised."
-Carson Webster, '18



The decision to serve

There are other choices than going to college right after high school.

Jaffer Murphy @jaffer_murphy

Time to sign and embark on a life changing journey. The military, it is where heroes are born. Many people are involved or active with serving our country. Many students all around the globe sign up to get up to get involved with the military. The military is a great option for kids looking to do something after high school instead of college.

Junior, Bailey Ashbaugh has signed up to be involved with the military. First she plans to go to Iowa state after high school, then going into the military services. "I've always wanted to join the military since I can remember, I have some relatives that are in the military so that also had some impact on my decisions," said Ashbaugh. It can be a struggle for some to decide how long they will be involved, or what they want to do in the future with the military. "Honestly I'm not sure, I just want to get the feel of things and see what it's like for the years that I will be in the National Guard." She will be going through boot camp this summer, and is ready for whatever comes. "I'm leaving June 13th for boot camp in South Carolina, it's a 10 week training," said Ashbaugh. One interesting fact Ashbaugh had said was, "It took

"It took me months to get the courage to actually talk about the military with my mom, but once I started talking to her she was really supportive of my decision and helped me make the next step to join."

-Bailey Ashbaugh, '19

me months to get the courage to actually talk about the military with my mom, but once I started talking to her she was really supportive of my decision and helped me make the next step to join." Joining the military can be a very serious thing, it is a big career decision in your life. "I honestly don't think it really hit

me yet what it's going to be like in future for me but I'm excited and a little nervous," said Ashbaugh.

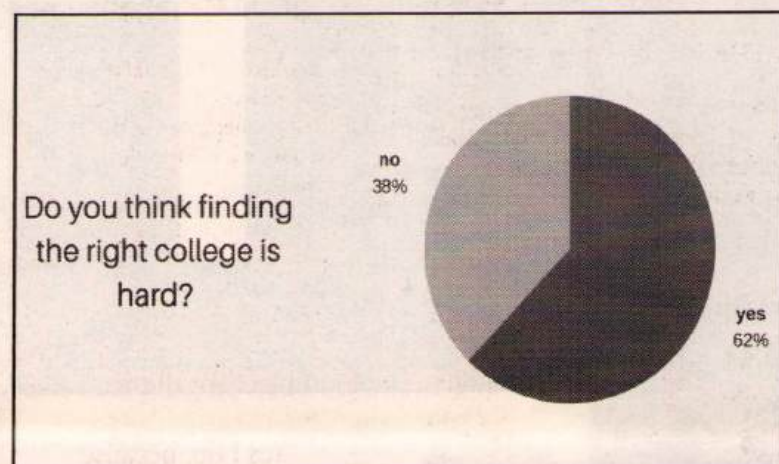
It is a good idea to have in mind ones plan on what they are doing after graduation. If one doesn't have many ideas on what to do, consider looking into the military and see what they may enjoy doing. With the help and support and many websites

online dealing with military you can decide on what you may be interested in doing. There are also many people and places in the community who are willing to talk about their positions and get students on the right track for a successful future in military.



Photo From: Bailey Ashbaugh

Bailey Ashbaugh, '19 poses for a picture after getting sworn into The National Guard.



Infographic from: Sophie Reider

Students were polled on whether or not finding the right college was hard, and if knowing their major before hand was helpful.

College: the hardest decision

By: Sophie Reider
@sophdispenser

"What do you want to be when you grow up?" Such an innocent question with such cunning results. The question that used to be met with just as innocent answers is now a haunting and ever looming presence surrounding a high schooler. At least one thing is for certain. College. Everyone has to go to college, right? Some people go straight into the workforce, pioneers in a very persistent world where a bachelor's degree seems to be a golden ticket, while some stick with the complex path of finding the "Right" college. A search that is like finding a puzzle piece in a haystack factory, that's on fire.

Calista Dittmer, senior, has found her puzzle piece, but it was no small feat. Her parents were the reason she felt less overwhelmed. "They helped me look at all of the information and compare colleges. And they took me to visits," Dittmer said. When looking at colleges the first decision is always stay, or go. There are 60 colleges and universities in Iowa and 5300 around the U.S. Narrowing this down is harrowing but can be done. Dittmer knew she didn't want to leave Iowa so that narrowed her choices. Usually going out of state is more expensive, which is why people choose to stay in Iowa.

One of the next steps would be researching colleges based on attributes specific to oneself. Such as majors, housing, dining, or clubs. In Dittmer's case, she knew she wanted to play tennis. Cornell has a tennis team, so Calista was set there.

Iowa Private college week is a

great way to visit as many colleges as possible. Dittmer participated and this is where she found Cornell, her future home. "I liked it because they have a good student to teacher ratio, and they have a good education program" Dittmer said.

Picking a college all comes down to a feeling though. If you feel you belong on that campus, you know it. It's a smile that won't go away, or when the nerves go away. Plus deciding a college helps relieve the stress and makes you finally exhale. Sometimes when finding a future path there seems to be pressure to go to college.

Harmon Steen, junior is also looking for a college. He want to be an artist and has started his college search. "The public says if you go to college, you're going to get a job, but that's false."

Steen feels as though there is a pressure on high school students to go to college. Steen believes that college doesn't have to be in everyone's future, for some people college is not a necessity. Other options besides college include going into the trades, this includes apprenticeships. If that isn't for you there is Kirkwood, or Hawk-eye, two year community colleges, that are less structured than a college. If you don't want to pursue education, going straight into the work force helps everyone and is a great option.

Finding the right college is difficult and takes time, if it is your choice to go. Look at every option you have, and remember: Its okay to get help. The counselors are there to talk, and teacher will always talk about college. Plus friends and family will support you no matter what.

Post Grad party plan

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna32818873

Post-grad parties have been a thing since before most of us can remember, and this year's junior student council wants to make theirs special. Most of them want to start now, like at large Rep., Patrick Bleadorn, '19. "We haven't really discussed it, but we probably should," said Bleadorn. He isn't sure exactly what he wants post-grad to be like, but he has had some ideas for the perfect post-grad. "I'm not sure yet of specifics, but something memorable," said Bleadorn.

If this dream is going to become a reality they will need to start fundraising now. "I don't want to have to worry about it last minute," said Bleadorn. "That would be bad." He wants to start selling things at sporting events, as well as go out into the community to get donations. Bleadorn says that he's excited for post-grad, but also stressed, since he will be partially in charge of setting it up. "It's just another part of highschool," said Bleadorn. "But, it's also an experience you won't forget." Bleadorn believes that the student council will be successful with next year's post-grad. According to Bleadorn the only thing that's really necessary at post-grad is only one syllable long. "Food," said Bleadorn. "Definitely food. If there's not food it isn't a party," he said.

Secretary, Nolan Freymark, '19, also thinks its a good idea to start fundraising now. He isn't sure what he wants his post-grad to be like. "I haven't thought about it that much," said Freymark. He thinks that the student council needs to talk more about post-grad. "I don't even know if student council is included with post-grad at all, except maybe the seniors. It never gets brought up," said Freymark.

Class president, Dalton Cannon, '19, has been in student council for the past two years. He thinks that the juniors should start fundraising very soon. Cannon explains that they haven't talked about it much at all. "We've been helping the seniors with theirs," said Cannon. He says that they will need to fundraise a lot so that they can have the best post-grad they can. He thinks they should have t-shirts for the class, and some dodgeball tournaments to raise money. To have the perfect post-grad party Cannon believes that it will need to involve more than just the student council. "We need to get as many peoples opinions as we can, so we can get something for everyone to enjoy," said Cannon. He wants everyone to have a good time since it's kind of like the last experience of high school. Cannon is extremely excited for post grad. "I think we're going to have something special," said Cannon.

Out of the three interviewed, they all agreed that they need to start planning. They will need to work hard to get everything done, so they can have a good time. It's important not to leave things until the last minute. When something is left until the last minute, it causes stress, and as high schoolers, we don't need anymore of that. If you think that you would be good at helping plan for post-grad, you should run for student council. If you're a junior, next year will be your last chance.

Although the student council is mainly in charge of this, they aren't going to be able to make a great post-grad without the help of their classmates. If you can, make sure to give them donations, and participate in future fundraisers. In the end it's up to you to whether or not you have a good time at post-grad. If you are negative about everything then you will not have a good time. If you just relax and try to have a good time, you will.



Photo by: Jenna Sackett

Nolan Freymark, '19 meets with other members of student senate to talk about post grad on a Wednesday morning before school.

Protect the kids

What can be done to protect students?

By: Patrick Bleadorn @p_bleadorn

As of late schools are becoming the preferred victims of attacks. Only months ago, Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School became another tragic statistic of school shootings. Because of the actions of Nikolas Cruz, Marjory Stoneman Douglas would become the 22nd school to experience a shooting in which two or more individuals were killed, according to USA Today. In the wake of this shooting, discussions of school safety have swept the nation. While survivors of the shooting lead the charge in this vehement debate, students here are contributing to the movement through their voices and their actions.

Harmon Steen, junior, feels as though the safety of students in school is changing. "I feel safe to a point just because you never know what's going to happen," said Steen. "I don't feel safe at school whatsoever... There's some people that I don't know if I can trust and nowadays schools are a big target, plus it doesn't feel safe to leave your own house," adds Steen. Having a younger sibling going to the same school only adds to Steen's concern. His younger brother, Micah Steen, '21, also goes here. "What worries me is I won't know where he'll be if something happens," said Steen. Much to his comfort, the teachers here have his trust. "I

trust most, if not all the teachers here," said Steen. However, not everyone feels as though that schools are becoming less and less safe.

Bryan Telgenhoff, teacher, has a differing opinion on how safe we are at school. "I think, in particular, Marion is safe," said Telgenhoff. "I think that Marion is very accepting of people from different backgrounds." His opinion about the safety here resonates across the schools all over America. "I think what prevents school violence is the empathy between students and teachers," said Telgenhoff. "And if you look at schools with violence issues, the empathy tends to not be there and neither is the acceptance of people from other backgrounds." This issue with schools lacking empathy between the students and the teachers has been going on for years now. "School shootings have been happening in America since the 1700's," Telgenhoff said. However, with the far reach of social media, the entire country is dialed in on the issue unlike it would be back then. With the safety of a students being the biggest topic of discussion comes the debate over how to create change.

Even though students advocating for safety is the focus, that doesn't mean everyone can't contribute to making students safer. Students are the most important pieces to this complicated puzzle. "Use your voice," said Steen. "People might think what you say is ridiculous, but we have to work together and trust each other." Not only can students take the lead, parents can, too. "Make sure kids feel safe," said Steen. "Make sure kids feel safe at school but make sure they recognize that the world is a dangerous place." The ones who have the power to make the voice of the people turn

into action are the legislators. "They shouldn't just put people's suggestions on a sticky note and leave it on the board no one looks at," said Steen.

In today's world, schools are becoming the target of people who have an abhorrent desire to cause harm on students, students that are just kids. And to end this catastrophe sweeping the nation, everyone has to come together. Students have to speak up, parents have to remind their children of the nature of the world they live in, and legislators have to listen to the people they represent. And as Steen preaches, "The first step in making schools safe is to use your voice."

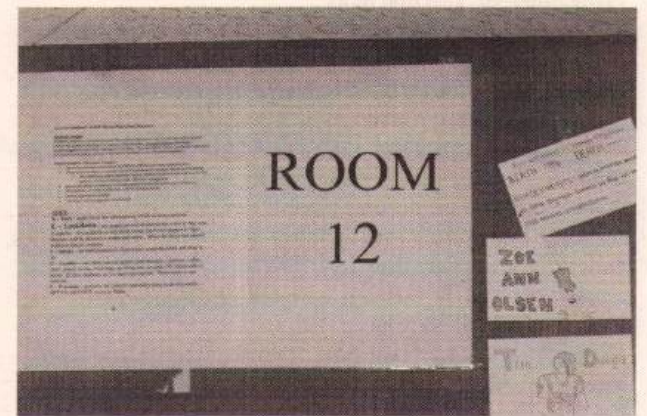


Photo taken by Patrick Bleadorn

ALICE training guidelines and room numbers like this are one part of making Marion safer.

Forget everything and runaway

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna32818873

When your legs feel like lead, or your breathing quickens, and you can feel your heartbeat in your ears, there is an overwhelming feeling in your chest that something terrible is going to happen, like nothing is going to be okay. This is fear.

We've all been scared before, maybe a friend pops out of nowhere and you jump back or flinch. Sometimes you miss a step on the way down the stairs and you lose your breath for a second. Sometimes your biggest fear can be created by past experience with the fear, like being afraid of getting cancer again once you're in remission.

Different things can trigger these fears. It's different for everyone. Maybe a victim of physical abuse, or rape, flinches when you touch them unexpectedly, or maybe the victim of a school shooting can be triggered by loud noises or the sound of a gun being shot at a track meet.

Cloee Kraft, '20, admits that she can be easily scared, but it's her biggest fears that really make an impact on her life. Kraft's biggest fears are heights and throwing up. She has been afraid of both since she was very young. She mostly fears throwing up because of the way it feels. Her fear of heights began when she started seeing other people getting scared, hurt and dying from falling from heights. This taught her brain to fear it.

Fears can be a hard thing to face but sometimes it's the only way to get past a difficult obstacle. "I try to face them as much as I can," says Kraft. Her fear of heights impacts her when her friends go to amusement parks. She doesn't like to go up high and go fast, so she doesn't participate with friends on the rides.

To some, her fears might seem stupid, silly, and not real, but she couldn't care less what people think. "I don't really let them bother me because it's what I

believe," says Kraft. Although her fears have gotten more manageable over time she still doesn't plan on going on any roller coasters any time soon, which is understandable.

She still gets a knot in her stomach and panics whenever one of her fears is present, but she gets through it with the help of the people she's closest to. "I like having my mom and friends with me to help me get through it," Kraft says.

No matter how much help and support she gets from her friends and family she doesn't think that her fear of heights will go away. "Throwing up might go away," says Kraft, "its irrational and its bound to happen." She wishes that she knew other people that had her fears.

Spencer Seral, '21, has a fear that is not uncommon. He says he has always been afraid of spiders. "They're fast!" said Seral. Seral handles his fear of spiders by just staying away from them. When Seral is near a spider, he has admitted he will runaway. If someone told Seral this he would laugh and

say, "Yeah right."

Not everyone can be as public with talking about their fears as Kraft and Seral were. What's important is that you know that you have the right to be afraid of whatever you're afraid of. There are different ways to deal with, and conquer fears, most of which can simply be researched online, but everyone's different. It will get better with time don't worry. It will all be okay one day.

There are 600 some people in this school. We are all facing things, and we are all terrified of something. Some people hide it better than others, but fear is always there. In our darkest times it threatens to destroy us. It won't go away, but we can learn from it. Try not to let your fears shut you down and conquer you, rise above, let your fears be your strengths. We all have them, so lets band together, and help each other be stronger than our fears.

How to cut bucks for the tux

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley21

Spring is here, and with spring season comes prom season. While prom is a place to make wonderful memories, the work it takes leading up to it can

be very stressful. Especially when it comes to spending money, on top of organizing other parts of the magical night, so here are some tips on saving a few pennies.



"Go to a fast food place for dinner."
-Joey Pearson, '18



"Do your own makeup, and pedicures are very unnecessary."
-Chloe Trca, '19



"Don't buy anything."
-Blair Brooks, '18



"Find obscure websites for cheap dresses, but make sure you look at reviews first."
-Mia Laube, '18



"Save any money that your parents give you."
-Brooke Glasbrenner, '20



Infographic By: Jenna Sackett

The five most popular fears among the students at Marion High School.

Why do we watch bad movies?

-Commentary-

By: Sophie Reider @sophdispenser

Movies are art. It's hard to judge what is bad, and what is good. But then people watch the Star Wars prequels and then it's clear. Movies can be bad. We keep watching bad movies. We shun the different too. Movies like *The Lobster*, *The Florida Project*, or *500 Days of Summer*, are unique and hold vastly different, amazing plots.

These movies won't get the same attention or praise as *Anchorman Two*, or *Grown Ups*, but they are way more complex and vast. A movie like *The Darjeeling Limited* only get 35 million in the box office while movies like *27 Dresses* get 160 million. Why is it that Hollywood has started becoming a machine, spitting out the same plot for us to choke on.

Moviegoers have become passive viewers. Going to go see the same exact movie over and over again with different titles, and it's time for a change.

Movies these days usually have one of three plots. One, the fairytale: Boy meets girl, they fall in love, there is some sort of self sabotage (love triangle, parents hate their significant other, they are moving away, etc.), they break up, but then they realize they can't live without each other, the camera pans up and it shows some beautiful scenery. This is

your average romcom, teen dystopia or drama.

Two, the Disney channel "Original": The main character is not popular for a variety of reasons, they get popular, for a variety of reasons, and then they lose it, for a variety of reasons. They don't care because "they learned who they 'truly are'". (This could also be followed by a redemption arc, where everyone realizes the main character is great and boom they become the new god or something). Movies like these appear on Disney a lot, but it can also take shape in movies like *Spiderman*, they also work very well and closely with the fairytale storyline.

And the third, rags to riches: Main character comes from the slums and works their way slowly up the ladder. Does something stupid that almost knocks them down, they keep climbing. Eventually they excel, and become the head of Apple, or whatever.

Its movies and plots like these that have made us all passive viewers. It isn't that these movies are bad, sometimes it's good to watch *Clueless* for the 28th time, but these movies have made us refuse to open our eyes to the peculiar. It's time to actively seek out different movies it's time to and demand change. As a movie goer, you deserve better.

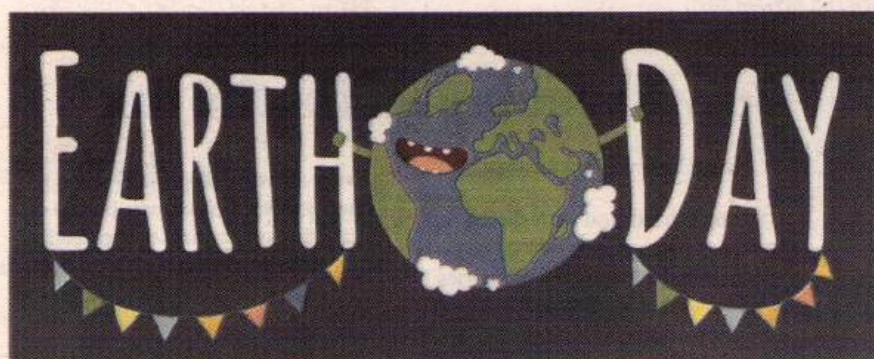
Look for the unique plot lines, support the strange movies, because that is what we deserve. It's time to look at a movie and say, "I did not expect that". Why should Hollywood make

us settle for a movie like *Horrible Bosses*, when we can raise our expectations and get movies like *Dope*?

Not every movie that is popular follows these views. Christopher Nolan's *Dark Knight*, which is phenomenal for the acting, script, and all around uniqueness of the movie. Or Frank Darabont's *Shawshank Redemption*, who's score and redemption arc bring a grown man to tears. There is a reason these movies, among many others are famous. They break the mold, and they show what true movies could be.

This doesn't mean that you should go out and watch every weird indie that appeared at Sundance, not every movie is made for every audience, take horror movies for example, some people refuse to even look at the poster, while others have seen every single one, from *Rubber* to *Saw 12*. If Oscar-worthy pics aren't your cup of tea, don't watch them. Take your favorite movies, or movies that you plan on seeing soon, and give them more scrutiny. Look at them under a different lens, see if they deserve the second viewing.

When you are watching a movie, from now on, remind yourself that you are looking at a piece of art. Remember that and know it is your job to expect greatness.



Planting tips

things to plant this spring season

- Radishes
- Kale
- Broccoli
- Zucchini
- Cucumber
- Virginia Blue Bells
- Pansy
- Snowdrop Anemone
- Summer Snowflake
- Double Rock Rose



Photo by: Rachel Wilkey

Samantha Garbers, 18, cares for the plants in the school garden.

Garbers' garden

As the days become the longer, nights become shorter, and the weather becomes warmer the season of growing commences. When the picture of springtime is displayed in people's heads the phrase of April showers brings May flowers is thought of at least once. Except flowers aren't the only thing that grow from spring rain. Full gardens begin to flourish and everything starts to become more vibrant. For Samantha Garbers, '18, her spring is filled with buying flower, vegetable, and fruit seeds to begin an expansive home garden.

Garbers grew up growing gardens every spring/summer, for it was now a tradition and pastime that literally grew on her. "My family always does one every year, and now it's a hobby I love, and my family is obsessed with vegetables," Garbers said.

There are many things that are important when growing a home garden, and Garbers explains that one of the most important is truly wanting the garden. "It takes a lot of time and effort, and you can't neglect it after you've started," Garbers explained. Growing a garden may sound complicated to start, but as time goes on it get easier because all it takes is time and water. It can take only 30 minutes to an hour everyday to keep a garden thriving. If you choose to continue to grow plants past the usual growing season it can take even less time. "In the winter it only takes me about 30 seconds to care for my winter flowers," said Garbers.

The steps to a simple at home garden are simple it requires the space, the plant, and effort. "I usually get my supplies at Menards, Home Depot, and Culvers, but if you want a specific plant you may have to go somewhere especially for that item," said Garbers. When all the supplies are gathered Garbers explains that the best thing is just to keep things moving forward for the plants, and putting in the work for them.

The best part of gardening for Garbers is

the end product. "My family grows spinach, tomatoes, jalapeños, cucumber, and every kind of squash," Garbers said. Not only is the food a fulfilling end reward, but so is seeing that all the hard work that was put in is finally pay off.

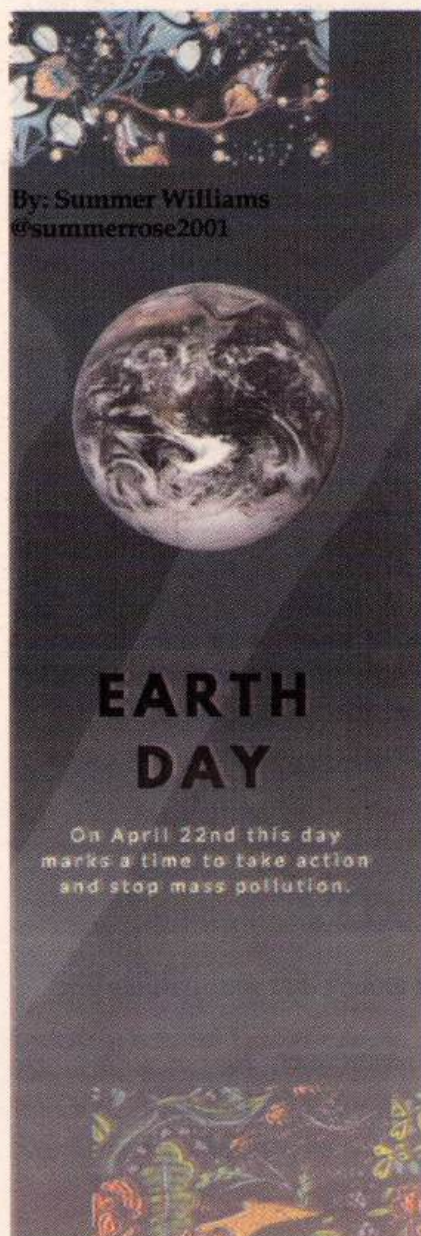
Gardening is not just a hobby for Garbers, it's also a hobby for teachers. Mrs. Knepper, French teacher, also enjoys to garden in her free-time. "It's really rewarding, you get to see the fruits of your labor," Knepper said. Gardening also isn't just for flowers and foods, it's can account for reducing stress. "It's also relaxing, it (gardening) is a great stress reliever," Knepper explained.

When starting your garden it's a good idea to pay attention to weather patterns and nighttime temperatures. If the plants are planted to early they run the risk of getting killed off by cold frost over the night. If they are planted too late the vegetables, or fruits will be too late for

harvesting season. Planting in the month of may usually will give you the best harvest season.

Gardening is one of the most beneficial hobbies for the earth for two reasons. It's inexpensive, and it teaches great lesson. "You can pay \$2.50 for one pack of seeds, then get \$25 worth of groceries that were homegrown, so more bang for your buck," Garbers explained. Gardening also makes a great teacher. "It's important to know where your food comes from, and when it's homemade it so much more fulfilling," said Garber. Mrs. Knepper also likes to grow foods, for the money saving factor, "I grow things that are expensive in store, like raspberries, blackberries, and tomatoes plus they're all organic," Knepper said.

So as the showers of the month of April begin, the seeds of flowers (and vegetables) will be beginning to sprout and bring a new season of growing along with them.



WHAT'S THE POINT?

The purpose of Earth Day is to bring awareness to the damage that people are making on the Earth everyday. In past years the topic of global warming and using clean energy have been the direct focus. This year ending plastic pollution is their campaign of choice.

JOINING A CAMPAIGN

It's one thing to say that we shouldn't pollute or that we should recycle. Making the choice to partake in a campaign constructed by EarthDay.org is not something everyone is expected to do. Although, some are looking to take that extra step and are being welcomed with open arms to take action.

PREVENTION

LAND POLLUTION -

It's caused by careless acts of littering, oil spills in land, illegal dumping and pretty much anything else that finds its way onto the Earth's surface that doesn't belong there. Throwing away trash in the right containers helps prevent it from reaching natural parks and forests.

WATER POLLUTION -

80% of the oceans pollution is solely caused by disposal of trash by littering. STOP IT! Buying biodegradable products are a big help too. They're just as effective and break down much faster than plastic.

AIR POLLUTION -

Using fossil fuels is the major cause towards the pollution of air. Switching to clean energy sources can cut down air pollution massively. Two ways are solar and wind. Wind turbines and solar panels are perfect alternatives as an energy source.

FINDING YOUR GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

Your ecological footprint can be tracked on this website, the main goal is to show the said person how much of an impact they have on the Earth. At the end you're given what your footprint is and the choice to explore solutions and ways to change.

<https://www.earthday.org/take-action/footprint-calculator/>