



Take back our school

All grades are struggling to act their age.

By: Lucas Wendt @Lucaswendtt

It has become apparent over the past few years that there's a problem with the maturity level of the students who roam these very halls. Everybody is quick to throw the underclassmen under the bus, but there seems to be problems with all grades.

Bryan Crow, senior, agrees. "Behaviorally students have been more self centered due to the shift in the social atmosphere due to social media," he said.

Being an underclassmen can be hard for most students. There's a pressure to fit in and some think they need to somehow prove themselves to others. However, outbursts and rude behavior to gain attention is seen as obnoxious to others.

On the flip side, the upperclassmen are so close to being done with school that it brings a sense of new-found freedom. Senioritis is in full-force for those who just want to be done already, which may cause those students to not really care for anything and feel like they should be able to do things on their own terms.

Senior, Morgan Kunkle is irritated with the ongoing problems regarding recent misbehavior around the school.

"Some [students] can be loud, rude, obnoxious and just not really caring for those around them," she said.

Before grabbing your pitchforks and torches and placing blame, we all need to have some perspective.

Mr. Greg Semler, principal, without a doubt, loves what he does and he has seen the problem with how teachers are dealing with the behavior.

"We have seen a slight uptick in frustration among the teachers, but it is incredibly manageable and in the past couple of weeks we have seen more improvements," Semler said.

On average Semler sees around 50 students a week.

"I miss the part of students who actually want to be students. But I do like seeing the 'bad students' because I see it as a new challenge as in trying to help them become better students," Semler said.

The emotional intelligence of some of the students seems to cause most of the problems. As a school, we may need stricter consequences, but after a while the kids who are always in trouble and face these consequences often don't seem phased; it's just another restitution or suspension to them, no big deal.



Cameron Greeno, '20, and Stacy Sloan, '21 work on their schoolwork in the cafeteria.

Getting to know each other better and socializing with other grades could be a good start. Grace Hinrichs, sophomore, feels strongly about this solution.

"It's important to interact with people, you can learn something different from everyone both good and bad interactions can teach you important lessons. A lot of people think they can't change, a person has to want to change themselves," she said.

Instead of putting the blame on specific students, try putting yourself in someones shoes. We should be unified as one student body, not just individual grades.



Head to page two to see why saying "Merry Christmas" is okay.



Go to page six to see the bowling team's aspirations for the year.

Disney
MARY POPPINS RETURNS

Flip to page 16 to see Hope Failey's review on Mary Poppins.

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What's been happening around Mari-on?



The band enjoys a break before the holiday while Mr. Vander Wiel is gone



The book club is reading "The Leaving" by Tara Altebrando

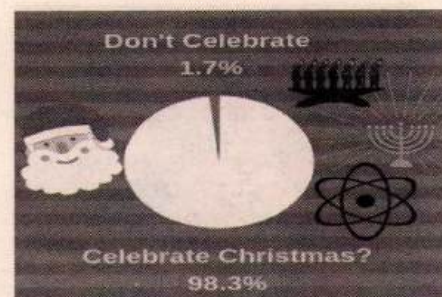


Cheerleaders help put signs on lockers for student's birthdays.

Happy December 25th

Can't we chill out in this winter weather?

Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger



How many of us celebrate Christmas? Out of a convenience poll, only 1.7% of the students polled said they don't celebrate.

Now, our country may be in a political firestorm of incoherent screaming that does nothing but make noise so loud we can't solve any issue that may come our way, because our ears are too busy bleeding to actually hear anything somewhat sensible. People choose to get mad over the smallest little details, the littlest fracture of what could be considered oppressing to some people who post angry social media about random things for a couple of likes. One of these things this holiday season is bound to be the spouting of a simple phrase: "Merry Christmas".

To some this phrase can cause an annoyance during the days of December. However, why don't we just chill out during the holiday season? We can't go for one of the only months where almost all peo-

ple have at least something to do without getting mad about random things that are only an ice cube in a titanic iceberg of intolerance? Only that this isn't really intolerance, as they are merely taking a wish of good faith and warping it into something vile.

Many schools don't allow any form of Christmas decor in class or on school grounds, as it may be considered offensive. People being offended by a couple of lights and a Santa Claus window sticker, need to get their priorities straight. We as a country have bigger fish to fry than this sardine of a problem which is literally decorating a room for a holiday. If someone wants to decorate for any holiday at all during this time, they should be able to do it.

Why should the world continue to act like a bunch of grumpy, angry people who hate each other during this time of joy and fun for most? Whether they celebrate any holiday or not, people will find some fun during this season. So instead of getting mad at someone when they say "Merry Christmas," instead we should appreciate the idea of the phrase, and have a happy December 25th, whatever they might be doing on that day. If it's tearing into a gift or preparing for tomorrow's Kwanzaa or whatever else they might be doing at that time, do it happily, and do it merrily.

Figuring out how to learn

By: Patrick Bleadorn @patty_b0116

Recently it seems that more people are struggling in school. There are countless tweets about people finding themselves in sticky situations where their homework is getting in the way of their plans to go to a party on Saturday night. Although it seems that the problem is the infinite amount of homework, people just don't know how learn correctly. Believe it or not, there is a right way to learn.

First off, learning is paying attention. Too many students are so focused on their Twitter feed and answering questions on their Instagram story that they never pay attention in class, then they wonder why they're failing the class. This is a serious problem with a simple fix. Pay attention. Put the phone down for the duration of the class, really listen to what the teacher has to say, and do the work that's given in class. Do all that, and you can start walking the path to really learning.

Another massive pointer is to do the homework, no matter how hard it may get. Homework isn't always easy, but you should not give in to the pain and suffering that homework causes way too often. Just because a problem on the worksheet looks like an insurmountable task does not mean you should just not attempt it. Try to complete the homework. Even if you doesn't finish the homework, you can learn your biggest lessons by attempting the problem and learning from their failures. It's said that failure is the greatest teacher, and that stands true. By making an attempt and pos-

sibly making failures along the way, you can learn how to do whatever they failed at better the next time they take on that problem.

At the end of it all, it's important to remember that to be able to be successful in school, you have to know how to learn properly. You have to put down the phone for even just five minutes so you can actually figure out how to do that one algebra problem instead of just guessing and throwing your hands up when you get stuck. Don't forget that even trying the problem is a good start. Success is a reminder that one is doing well and learning. Failure can teach you that you have progress left, but it also lets you know that you can go and get help from someone who knows how to solve the problem, thereby giving yourself an opportunity to not make the mistake you made previously. With these tips, put down the phone for the love of whatever you love most, stick a foot in the ground, and go really learn.

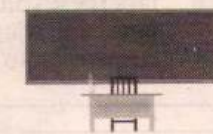
Tips on how to learn properly



Take advantage of the materials provided for you! It's given to you for a reason and that's to use it! Read the material and do the practice problems it gives you!



Talk to your teacher! It's their job to help you learn! Ask them questions, they will be more than happy to answer them!



Most importantly, pay attention! Seeing how the teacher does it will help you when you have to do it yourself!

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Editorial Policy

The Vox is a public forum student-run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934.

It's published four 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 ac-

curately, 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.

What's your New Years resolution?



"Eat less sugar."
- Taylor Johnson, '19



"Not letting people put me down."
- Colton Engel, '20



"Meet new people."
- Hannah Cochran, '22

A fresh start for 2019

Look ahead, and don't forget what's behind.

By: Teagan Miskimen @teagmisky

Why is it that people say "new year, new me?" It is repeated each year because of shame. We can't just wipe our pages, and start a new book. I think most people want to forget about their past and pretend it never happened, but then what built us?

Putting things behind us will only allow our minds to fall back on routine and repeat the year we previously had. The shame should be brought up and addressed. When things aren't addressed then how does change happen? Whether it's a simple conversation with yourself, a counselor, or a close friend, a discussion will help be one step closer to making the change that you need. Without change, there isn't growth.

We all need a reality check, your past is never hidden, but there is possibilities of going forward and creating a new version of yourself. Yes, the remains will still exist under what was built, but why continue to build worse instead of switching it up and building better? You're not changing who you are, you're changing what you do, and how you can do things differently. Life is full of changes, and change happens to be more frequently than not, scary.

Sometimes it hurts to let go of the toxic in your life, but it's what one has to do to move on. Whether that "toxic" is your friend group, activity you participate in, or even a family member at times. Toxins aren't healthy, and neither is reliving our past, and re-visiting the components involved with why we say "new year, new me."

It's time we as a whole put the social media posts in the past and

leave our Facebook memories in the past. It's time to freshly start back up where we left off. It's time to get to know yourself and stop following the crowd. Once you begin to love yourself and be okay with the life you're living in, the people who surround you, and the acceptance of flaws, life will get so much better, along with, you don't have to erase your past.

It seems for people to have forgotten the simplicity of life. The colors, shapes, and sizes of objects. There is so much of life to appreciate, and getting caught up in the past can really blind us, can trap our minds to think negative. A negative mind going into a new year is why we are constantly having to "think more positive." Why aren't we thinking in such way in the first place? There isn't time to waste, being thankful for what life has given us is something we all have forgotten. Here's to the new year, and a fresh start. Here's to getting back on track with the life we have been missing out on, and appreciating not only life, but ourselves.

Snapchat Flashback

By: Amy Noble @amy_noble12

As time goes on, some memories fade and some stick with people forever. Some have memories of a time in their life that they will want to remember and cherish for the rest of their lives, some have times and people they might not want to remember. With the Snapchat Flashback feature, the good and the bad things are being recovered in the lives of Snapchat users.

Snapchat Memories is a feature where users can save the pictures, videos, and stories they post or just want to be able to look at again. Memories has been a feature since July 2016 so some people have content from up to two years ago saved. In June of this year, Snapchat added a new feature to the memories. It's called Flashback. Flashback is like

Facebook memories and the app, Timehop. Snapchat finds all the content that was saved on any date from the past years and puts it at the top so people can see what they were up to a year or two years ago. The new feature has had some positive outcomes and also some negative.

For the most part, people love to see the things they were up to this date a year ago. Seeing a funny picture or video of a friend or family member from a year ago can bring back those happy memories and get a good laugh out of it. Or maybe a picture of the puppy that someone brought home for the first time two years ago and getting to compare it to the not so puppy sized dog sitting next to them. The Flashbacks can bring much happiness and laughter to users.

On the other hand, it can bring up some not so good memories. Like a picture or video of a past significant other that ended up not working out. It can bring back some of those emotions that a

person went through while in the relationship and when it ended. Or it may be a picture of a person that used to be your best friend, but somehow you drifted apart. Or can remind someone of a time in their life they aren't proud of. But the positives outweigh the negative.

Some think there should be a way to turn off the Flashback feature because they don't want to see those memories that they are trying to forget. It's a good thing that it can't be turned off because people can look at where they were a year ago and see how they have grown and all the things they have learned since some of those good or bad memories. The Snapchat flashbacks have been a great feature to show people where they were a year ago and how much you've grown. It also allows people to reflect on the not so good times and see how much a person or time in their life effected them and how many important lessons they were taught. Snapchat flashbak is a great feature.

Is Flashback good or bad?



"It's a good way to look at memories."
- Ella VanWeelden, '21



"It's kind of boring because I have a boring life."
- Derek Neuroth, '20



"I like to know what happened a year ago."
- Jazlyn Grosskreutz, '22

Not so bulletproof

Our safe place just became a lot less safe.

By: Anya Schobert @anyaschobert

In the past couple years the words "school shooting" have been in the news way too often. With 82 school shooting incidents and 36 deaths this year so far school safety is a controversial topic. Many people believe that the occurrence of mass shootings could be solved by a ban on guns, but focusing only on school shootings the problem could be remedied by increased school safety.

Several schools have put in place new technologies to protect students. Some have metal detectors at the front of the building and security guards, but in this district they cover the door windows to classrooms and lock all the doors other than the main entrance.

The district has upgraded as far as security per-

sonnel however, now instead of sharing a resource officer with Linn-mar, the students now have their own. One of the downsides is that there is one person for all five schools in the district so it's hard to feel protected. The resource officer is also in place to assist the administration with students misbehavior, and in this district most of the misbehavior happens in the younger schools, so the high school seems like it is not top priority for them.

In an attempt to protect the school a bit more all of the teachers went through A.L.I.C.E training, which stands for alert, lockdown, inform, counter, and evacuate. Teachers this year have been very serious about student safety and want to ensure that if something terrible we're to happen, the building would be prepared. The staff has also made it clear that they, of course, do not want anything to happen here. However that being said if it did, students need to be prepared and not assume that it could never happen to us.

Parents and guardians can help the administrators as well by telling their kids what the family plan is if something were to happen, or information they have learned from events like Columbine, one of the first mass school shootings, that changed the country as it was the most deadly school shooting

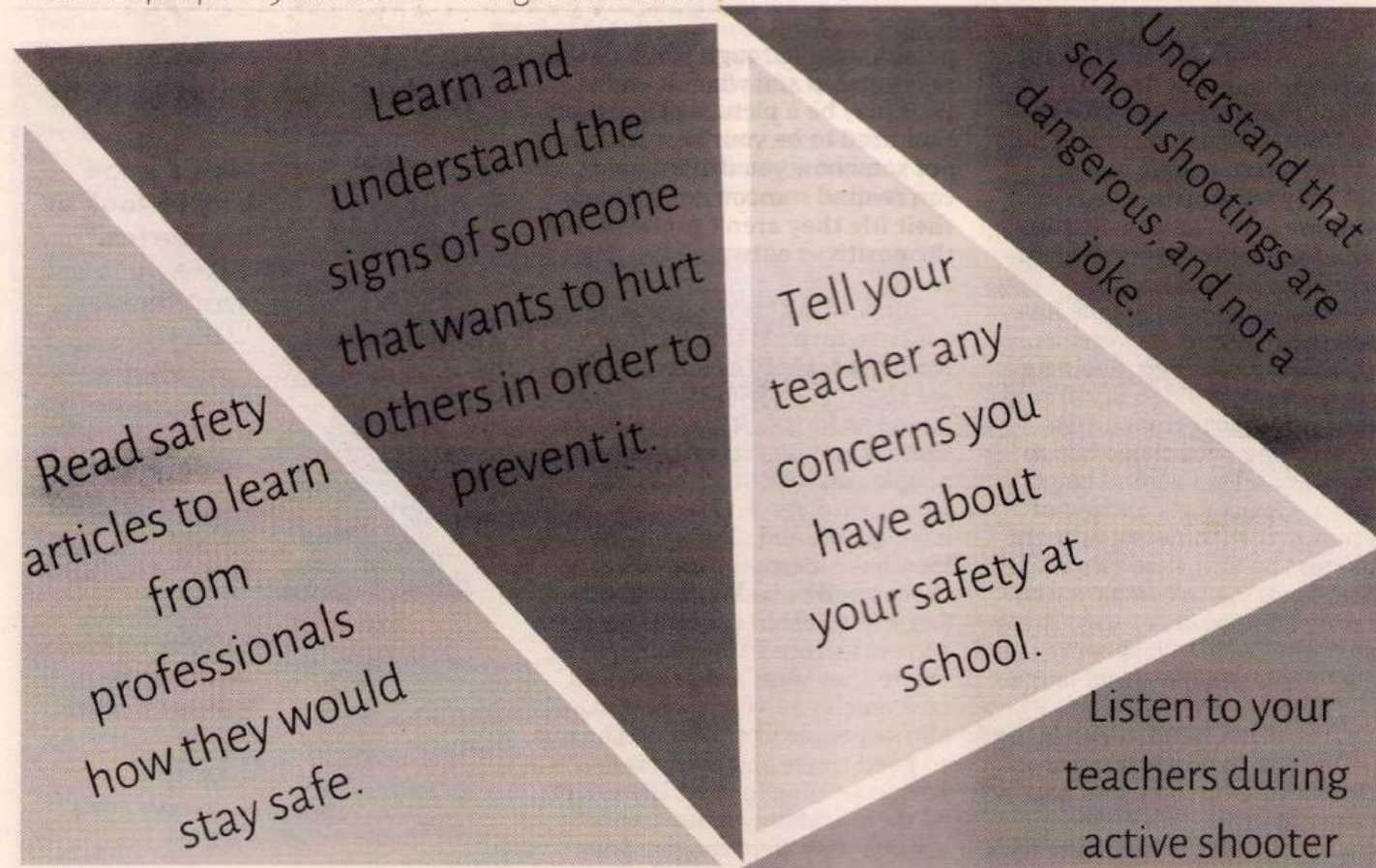
at its time. Some options are, if someone were to attack the school the student would run to their house, if its close, or a family friend's house if they live closer. Parents could inform their kids on statistics, things like how it can be dangerous to go to your car because that's exactly where they would expect you to go, and that's why people should run away, because it's statistically safer.

It seems like it could never happen to us, but after a serious threat at Vernon Middle School December 11th, the district realized that it could happen right here.

In theory, the district could potentially hire a security guard for each building and while that may make students feel more safe, one person can only do so much. The country could ban guns, but people who want to hurt people would still find a way. Parents and guardians should tell their kids all they know to keep them safe, but the only way to stay as safe as possible at school is to be prepared in case something were to happen, and understand what to do in dangerous situations. Instead of spending money on school guards, the district should give some of the training the teachers have to students. Some may believe it is too scary of a concept for "kids" to be worried about, but it is just that: a

scary thing. Students are dying in schools, and the best way to prevent that is to prepare students for the worst. There is no perfect solution for this problem facing our country, but there are ways to decrease the amount of lives lost.

How to prepare yourself for dangerous situations in school



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New style of drumming

The band's new drums and old memories.

By: Patrick Bleadorn
@patty_b0116

It's inevitable that the old will be replaced with the new. Everyone eventually gets rid of everything that no longer works or is simply outdated. It's often a somber moment, but remembering the legacy the old leaves can be the one thing that is uplifting. For the band, the drums will be going away and will eventually be replaced with new drums costing a whopping \$16,000.

Jonathan Andreasen, senior, is hoping to end out his high school career with some new drums. "It's always exciting to get new things, especially something as big as this," said Andreasen, "But I do have some concerns about the drums coming in on time because drums like the ones we're getting are made to order which takes typically a month or two just for them to come in." Despite the concerns, the excitement to get the new drums calms Andreasen and his concerns.

Even though Andreasen is ready to move on to making new memories with new drums, he still has fond memories with the drums he and the rest of the band section have been using. "I just have good memories of

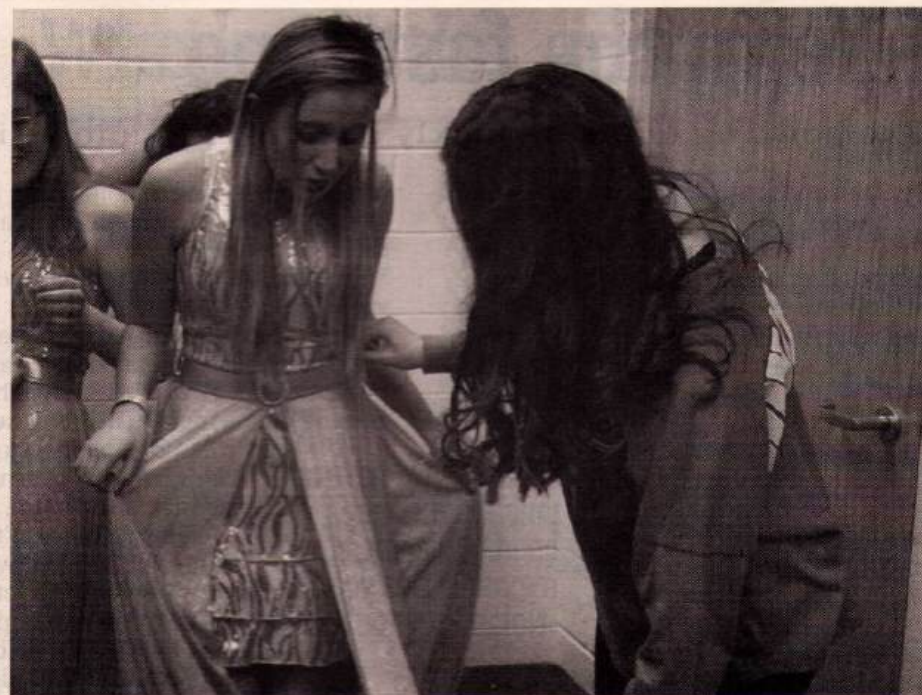
Friday nights and competition days under the lights, all of our hard work paying off for that moment," said Andreasen, "They are the drums that I learned to march on so they are important that way." Either way, Andreasen will carry fond memories with the old drums.

Their age is beginning to show. "The old drums are out of repair," said Logan VanderWiel, band director, "they're not completely broken but they're worn enough that they don't sound as good as they did when they were new." However, the old drums won't just be tossed in the trash like many things we replace. "We'll keep using the old drums for winter drumline and pep band," said VanderWiel. Despite being in a state of disrepair, the old drums will not be forgotten and will be given another chance.

When the end nears for something, we remember the fond memories we have of whatever it may be. With some things, we move on to something better, something new. Sometimes, we hang on to what we're saying goodbye to for a little while. No matter what path we take, it's important to remember the memories we've made and to look forward to the memories we'll make.



Jonathan Andreasen, '19, plays with drumline at the Homecoming parade.



Summer Williams, '19, tries on her show choir dress to prepare for alterations.

Twirling into the season

By: Teagan Miskimen
@teagmisky

Show choir season isn't too far away, before you know it, they'll be soon twirling into competition season. Show choir, ran by Jonathan and Meegan Dyrland, is divided into two groups, one being New Creation (Varsity) and the other being Revelation (JV). This is the first year Marion's show choir will perform in the 4A division.

They practice once a week on Mondays to prepare for a handful of competitions in the Winter, one being in Nebraska, others being around the area.

Members from the team encourage others to join show choir as they say it's fun. Abby Schmitz, junior, said, "Show choir is considered a sport, it's a group where everyone can fit in and belong. It's easy to fit in and have great partnership. Overall it's really fun."

Even if you have stage fright or you're afraid of dancing, or messing up, there is adjustments to be made and everyone learns together. Mar-

shall Boche, senior, said to the outsiders of show choir, "We don't dance either, we learn choreography, it's not one against another, it's unity. If you enjoy music, and love performing, I recommend it." Show choir is an extracurricular activity that anyone in choir can be involved in, the auditions are to be held in Spring.

It doesn't matter if you are a boy or girl, tall or short, the talent is within your voice and movement. Trying a new thing can be scary, but many encourage it. You'll never truly fail, if you honestly try.

Show choir doesn't involve a ball to throw or kick, but it's a sport. A sport involves competition, and that's what show choir gets involved in. Every show choir member participates in choir everyday, to strengthen their voices using diction and harmony to prepare for such big events.

It's a sport where everyone can fit in, the school is willing to work with students to help them get involved. Show choir season starts with camp in July and will close up their season in mid- February.

Life in the fast lane

The bowling team is quickly becoming a competitor.

By: Dalton Cannon @daltoncannon64

There are many high school sports that can rally communities and drive huge turnouts to events: basketball, football, and volleyball being perhaps the best known. Just as important are the plethora of other high school sports that often fly under the radar such as golf, cross country, and in the winter, bowling. Despite this lack of attention, the bowling team is on the rise. In only its eighth year of existence, the team has slowly improved each year and is now on the verge of becoming a true competitor in the Eastern Iowa bowling scene. Senior Nolan Freymark is a captain on this team, and is hopeful for its future.

The team is enthusiastic as they begin their season. Freymark said, "Considering all of the talent we had last year, we could have and should have done a lot better. Luckily, we are bringing back a bunch of varsity guys and we have a much higher likelihood of placing at regionals this year."

This certainly looks to be the case. The team consists of 20 boys and 7 girls, all of whom practice four times a week. The season consists of twelve mandatory meets

prior to beginning regional play. A placement at regionals is the ticket to a chance in the state tournament.

"I think we can put up some wins and get into State," Freymark said.

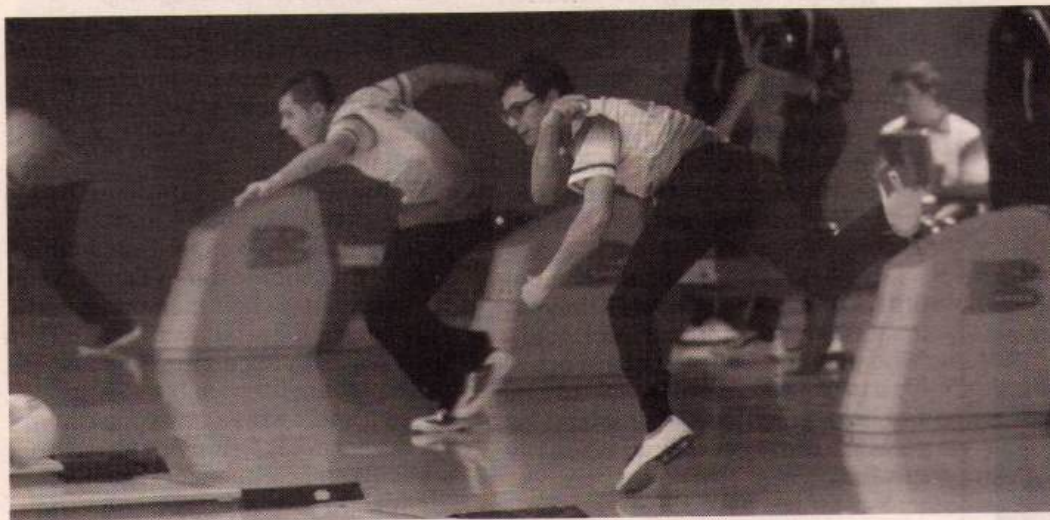
The team is hoping to improve over last year, in which they ended the season with only one win. To do this, they'll have to come out swinging early this season.

Senior Andrew Klostermann, another returning member of the team, said, "Well last year wasn't the best year we've had, but we are definitely improving a lot already this year. We can improve our score by working on being more accurate and hitting our

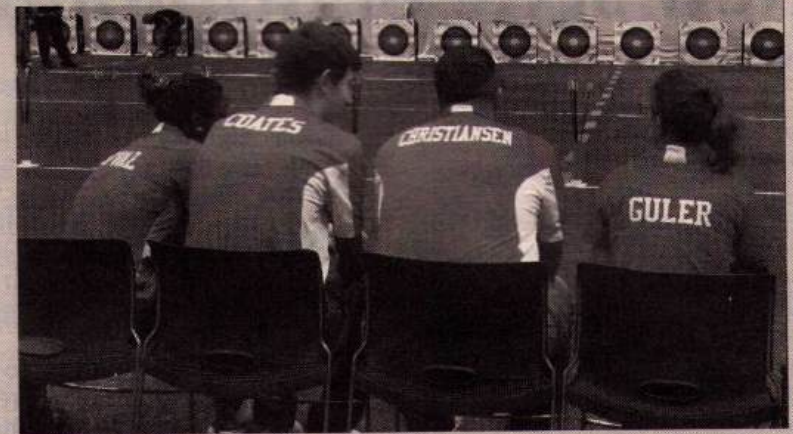
marks. We have been working on hitting marks and shooting spares a lot this year." Freymark said that he hopes to contribute and help to improve the team by being more vocal about the bowling team than past captains. "Hopefully I can set an example for this team and future captains."

The team will have an exciting season ahead of them as they look to make the most of their talents and take the next step to becoming a top competitor in Iowa high school bowling. Meet schedules can always be viewed on the MISD website, so don't be afraid to stop by a meet to support the team on their way to the top!

"Luckily...we have a much higher likelihood of placing at regionals this year."
-Nolan Freymark, '19



Andrew Klostermann, '19, bowls alongside his teammate, Nolan Freymark, '19, at a home bowling meet against Central DeWitt on November 26th.



Patience Duval '21, Reid Coates '20, Tristen Christiansen '20, and Alicia Guler '19, sit and watch as they get ready to shoot.

Shooting for state

By: Anya Schobert
@anyaschobert

Many activities started their season this winter, such as show choir, winter guard, as well as the archery club. There are around 40 archers in the archery club this year, and practice started November 6th. Trace Whitlock, senior, has been on the archery team for two years, and on and off before for 6 years. There are many new people involved in this early starting team. "There are a lot of new faces, so we're trying to help underclassmen and younger shots do their best," Whitlock said. "My favorite thing about archery is how your performance and score is directly correlated to how much you practice," Whitlock said. His personal best score is a 276, and 300 is the highest someone can get. "We hope to improve as a team over the season, and see improvement in every archer," said Whitlock. One new aspect of this season

is that the team got to host their own tournament. The tournament was December 1st, with Springville being ranked 1st at the end of the tournament.

Alicia Guler, senior, has been on the team for all four years of high school. Guler said that the best part about archery is that "It's an individual sport, but also your score goes toward the team's score to help them do better too." Last year several archers as well as the team qualified for the state tournament and "everyone who qualified last year definitely can go back again, and hopefully we will qualify as a team again this year" Whitlock said. Guler said a personal goal for her is "I would love to qualify for state individually." The archery team is putting in extra work with "more practices than last year," said Guler. "If anyone is thinking about archery it's a great time, and you get to have a lot of fun," said Whitlock. The team's next tournament is January 5th, at Solon, and they hope you'll come out and support them this season.



Jeremy Kearns, '21, Emilie Smith-Mees, '19, Patience Duval, '20, and Madie Scott, '21, lead prayer during an FCA meeting.

Friendly Christian athletes

Jesus is letting go of the wheel and picking up the ball

By: Gabe Larios @Gabe47365039

When people think of school clubs and activities, they mostly think along the lines of book club or robotics club, but to Levi Murphy, '21, there are far more groups than just that. Namely, the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

Despite its name, being an athlete is not a prerequisite to joining and anybody is allowed to attend regardless of race, gender, or even religion, "The FCA is accepting of anybody. Your background doesn't matter, there is no judging or labeling, and anybody can come," Murphy said.

"The FCA has different groups in all sorts of schools across the country," Murphy said. The FCA has been around on a national level since 1954, but locally has only been around in eastern Iowa since the last decade or so.

Despite this, they have already garnered quite the following and are already beginning to branch out into other activities and events. "The FCA has a summer camp they do for both members and non-members, but they're hoping

to be more involved with the community further on down the line," Murphy said.

So what exactly does the FCA do? Well according to Murphy, "It's a time where a bunch of Christians can meet with others, eat food, talk about God, and other stuff happening in life." Usually, the group starts off with eating some food while waiting for the rest of the members to gather, then they divide into smaller groups where they play games, pray, discuss life issues, or listen to a guest speaker.

The FCA is currently very active at the school in terms of marketing, as evidenced by the numerous informational posters located around the school. They're always welcoming new members and can be found meeting on Tuesdays in either gyms at 7:30 a.m.

One of the most unique aspects of the FCA is that despite its name, one doesn't need to be an athlete or even Christian to join and anybody is welcome regardless of their beliefs or athletic skills. So whether you're Christian, Jewish, Muslim, or any other religion or belief, why not try out the FCA?

GSA: a safe place for everyone

By: Rachel Wilkey @Rachelwilkey

For every student they have their safe place, somewhere where they can feel welcome and supported. These safe places are different for almost everyone, but each do the same job. Now there is one very special safe-place that has created a loving environment for anyone. GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) is a fairly new club at the high school, and it has provided a haven for those who don't always feel like they belong.

For Sophomore, Charlie Nelson-Moser, he has been calling the GSA club a home since 5th Grade. He has found it to be one of the most comforting places and somewhere he can be himself. "It's a group where anybody can come together and be supported no matter how you identify," said Nelson-Moser. Many believe that to be in GSA you must be part of the LGBTQ+ community, but that is not the case. "Anyone can join," said Nelson-Moser. So whether someone identifies as gay, straight, or one of the other sexualities, all are welcome with open arms.

GSA is a club that helps students who are struggling to belong, express what they are feeling to other caring individuals. "Each meeting involves talking about social problems about each other, sexual identities, issues in the school and the world," said Nelson-Moser. While it does talk about the issues the LGBTQ+ community faces, GSA provides a place for people to go when they may not feel like they fit in.

While GSA is a place to feel safe, it does have its difficulties. Many people have taken it upon themselves to make members of GSA to feel belittled or like they don't belong. "It's hard getting the publicity out, and the people who don't want to accept the group and try to make fun of us through the group," said Nelson-Moser. The group meets to provide a solution for many of these problems by spreading awareness and reminding those people who don't want to accept them, that on the surface nobody is that different.

GSA has also made itself a home for new members, and always provides an open door to those who would like to want to join. One of these newest members is Freshman Grace Richards. Richards decided to join GSA to have the support after coming out as bisexual. "It's like a second home for me," said Richards. Even though she hasn't been in GSA for very long she has enjoyed every second and hopes for others to join. "The best part is the way the rest of the group comforts you and just tells you it's okay to be who you are," said Richards.

GSA is a place for anyone to feel loved, or just cared about. It's a place where anyone can go to be without judgment. It's a place to go regardless of race, gender, and sexuality. GSA is much more than just a club that meets every Wednesday. GSA is a place where you can learn who you truly are. GSA is a family.



Grace Richards, '22, hangs up a GSA poster in the hallway to support the club.

What brings us together

The thing that makes us human.

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna_Sackett13

Sometimes it's hard to make everyone feel like they fit in, especially since everyone is so different. Maybe a new kid starts school here, midway through the year. How do they get included? Most of the time different friend groups invite the new kids over to their lunch table or ask them if they want to be in their group for a school project, but not everyone gets included.

There are many different ways we could solve this problem. One way could be hosting school events where people can bond, but after students were talked to, it became clear this was not a good idea.

Garret Wagner, sophomore, thinks that students can become closer with some changes. "At the beginning of class, we could have a team bonding thing," said Wagner. However, Wagner himself doesn't particularly wish the students were closer. He thinks it's fine the way it is now, with the students divided into their own little groups.

If the school was to have activities for all the students to go to, Wagner isn't sure it would work. "You could have them, but I don't know how many people would show up," said Wagner. He himself doesn't think he'd go to them unless his friends were going, and it was something that interested

"If you are new to the school you could fill out a survey to find people with your interests. Like Match.com, but not for dating,"
- Garret Wagner, '21.

him.

Instead of these events, Wagner has a different idea to bring new and old students together. "If you are new to the school you could fill out a survey to find people with your interests. Like Match.com, but not for dating," said Wagner.

Alana Finley, junior, feels like the students are bonded the same way Wagner did. She doesn't think we are bonded as a whole. "I mean, I guess we are bonded in like smaller groups, but not together really. Kids are in a bunch of different things and it's decently diverse," said Finley. Finley believes students could be brought closer together if they were more encouraged to get into after school activities, clubs, etc.

Finley also agrees with Wagner on that the school shouldn't have school bonding events.



Alana Finley, junior, sits at lunch and listens to her friends.

"I don't know, it sounds like it would be a lot of responsibility for the school. The teachers would have to worry about everyone's safety," said Finley.

Overall, these two seem to agree that having school events to bring people together, isn't the best way to bring them closer. They do both think that bonding is important. "It's how you make friends. It's things you will remember ten years from now," said Finley. "It's important so you can trust, so you can know if they (other students) are reliable," said Wagner.

What can be determined by these two is the fact that it is very important to create bonds, especially in school, but forcing it on students isn't the way to achieve togetherness.

No one wants to be alone. Everyone wants a friend. The students here are pretty good about making people feel welcome, but we aren't perfect, we're just kids. Even as adults we make these mistakes. We don't stop to think about other people enough. We care. We love. We make mistakes. We create bonds as adolescents and after that shape who we become. We invite people to sit with us at lunch, and sometimes it sparks friendships that last a lifetime. It makes us who we are. It's what makes us human.

Throwback to 2008



Obama was elected president



Single Ladies by Beyoncé was the most popular song



The most popular movie was The Dark Knight



Britney Spears had her iconic meltdown



Netflix was still on DVD and only testing streaming

2018 Memes

January



February



March



April



May



June



July



August



September



October

September 30 vs. October 1



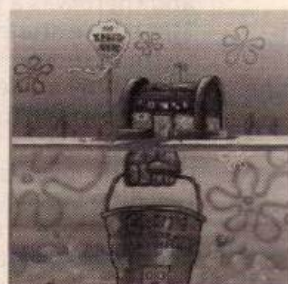
November



December



Honorable Mentions



who run the world?
goris



2018's five top-five

Thank you, next 2018

By: Hope Faley @hopefaley21

Every year, there seem to be a lot of lists. Lists for gifts, resolutions, and lists of the best and worst for the year. Every year has different trends that go in and out of style. This is my personal five top five:

My top 5 movies of 2018 are- Love Simon, Bohemian Rhapsody, The Hate You Give, Mamma Mia! Here We Go again, and To All the Boys I've Loved Before. All are rated pg-13.

Bohemian Rhapsody, my top pick for movies follows Freddie Mercury and the band Queen on their rise to fame and all the struggles that came with it. It shows how fortune favors the bold and will have you driving around with Queen blasting through

the speakers.

My top 5 albums/songs are- Magic In the Hamptons by Social House, Thank you, Next by Ariana Grande; Saturday Nights by Khalid, The Greatest Showman by various artists, and The Nights, by Avicii

My top pick for 2018 is The Nights, by Avicii. While the song was released in 2014 in an EP called The Days/Nights, Avicii died this past spring, and this song in my opinion, is his best song he ever released. The song sparks the spirit in others to live life to the fullest, a message lots of teens forget to remember when they're caught up in the difference between an A- and A.

Top 5 TV shows- Riverdale, The Haunting of Hill House, On My Block, Grey's Anatomy, and Queer Eye.

On My Block, my top pick for TV shows this year, follows the lives of four freshmen from a rough neighbor-

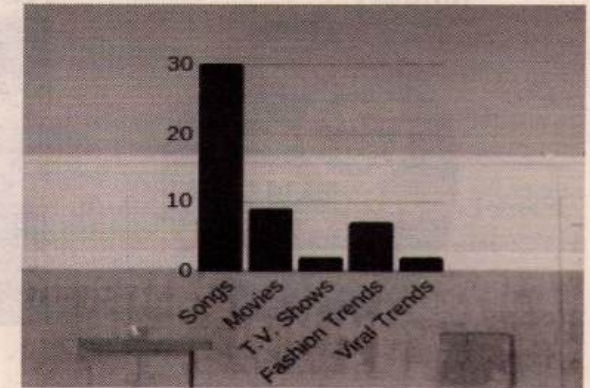
hood navigating their way through high school with a couple twists that provide insight for watchers into just how complicated life can get.

Top 5 fashion/aesthetic trends- Decades, Yellow, Succulents, Fur coats, Designer

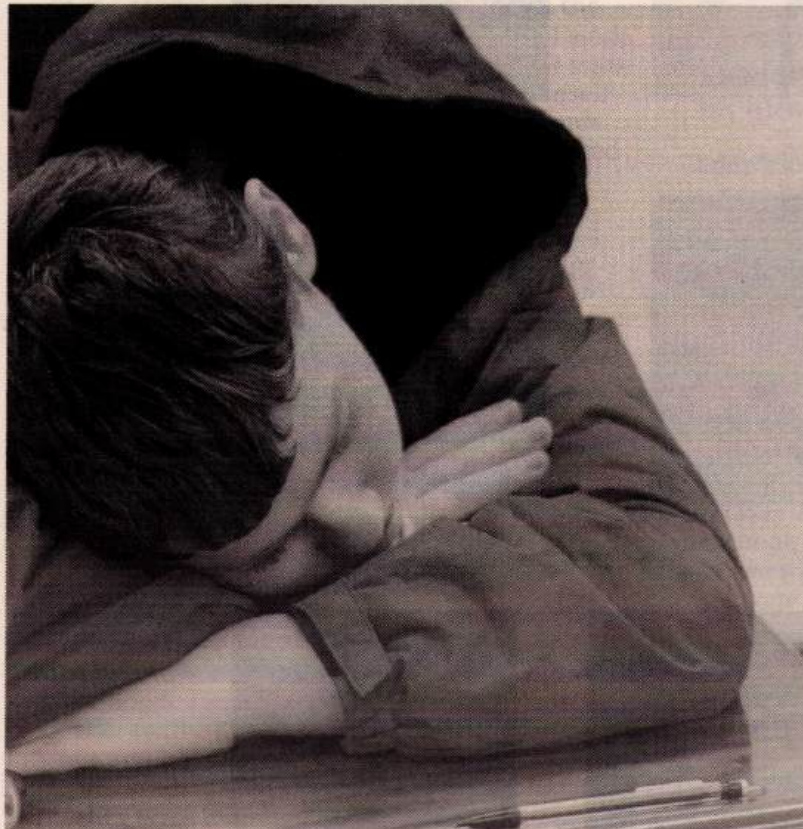
You used to see them in magazines, but now designer brands have swept high school hallways. Gucci and Supreme specifically have become a brand people are striving to afford.

Top 5 Viral Trends- "kiki" challenge, from the song In My Feelings by Drake, the new dance move The Shoot, Tide Pods, Conspiracy theories continuing to trend past 2017, and the finger challenge; the challenge where one tries to bend their fingers in a way that looks easy but turns out to be harder than it seems.

Conspiracy Theories, my top pick, have filled the internet for nearly two years now. More and more become unraveled monthly, challenging nearly everybody to take a new look at the world.



We took a convenience poll, and found that 60% of students think that songs did the best this year.



Gavin Schwartz, '21, spends his time sleeping in the classroom after several classes in the morning.

We need to make school more fun

By: Cory Fairbanks @cory_7558

-Commentary-

The time spent at school can be truly tiring and exhausting. Think about it, most students don't wake up until seven in the morning. That is really early! Teens brains are not ready to start class an hour after waking up.

According to the American Academy of Sleep Medicine, if school is pushed back to where it starts at 10am instead of 8am, students and teachers would be more awake and ready for school which would increase productivity. It is even proven that if school starts at ten instead of eight, it improves out academic performance and even it halves our chances of catching an illness.

Most teachers say that our academic performance influences what happens in the real world. But a real world problem is knowing how to fix a flat tire after popping it going over a pothole.

Another thing is that the classes just aren't interesting to some. This school provides so many classes yet only a handful seem interesting because the material is just not something students enjoy.

The teachers try to make it interesting,

but at what point does a 30-minute lecture completely suppress boredom? While some will complain that school isn't meant to be fun and that it is supposed to prepare you for life, for younger generations to learn the material it has to be something we can understand, and what worked in the past most likely won't work now.

One enjoyable class for many is foreign language. No matter what language students are taking, Français or Español, many enjoy learning another way to communicate. Most students love speaking foreign languages but, there are only two to choose from. It doesn't make sense because Mrs. Knepper is not only able to speak English and French, but also Spanish, German, and a little bit of Italian. Also, in the 1980s, students could have taken Russian here and there was a partnership with Linn-Mar where students could leave to go take German there. Foreign languages are something students enjoy, and having more options would make school a little more unique.

While teachers have different ways of teaching and everyone enjoys different classes, there are things that should be changed. To learn the material it should be something understandable and fun to learn.

Sloan family Christmas

This time is for family, especially for the Sloan's.

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

Winter break is a time for people to shovel up the snow, or stay inside and not let frostbite claim your fingers and toes. Winter break isn't all about fun and games though, it is about family to the many people who go and see any or all family they might have for any or all holidays they might celebrate during the time. Whether it is for the day of Christmas, the week of Hanukkah, or any other holiday someone might be celebrating during this season, most people will have something fun to do with their kin in front of a kindling fire. One of these people is Dawn Sloan, sophomore.

During normal no-school days, Sloan usually sleeps and does homework. "Just because there's no school doesn't mean there's no school," Sloan said. But during the entire holiday season, she and her family are Christmas fanatics. Her family's Christmas celebrations start on Thanksgiving weekend when the day before or after Thanksgiving, they all Christmas-ify their house, with many people coming over to visit during this time. "We call it 'Thanksmas'," Sloan said.

During the winter break, her family almost have to many traditions to list. On Christmas Eve, most of their large extended family comes together and celebrates the holiday. "We all talk

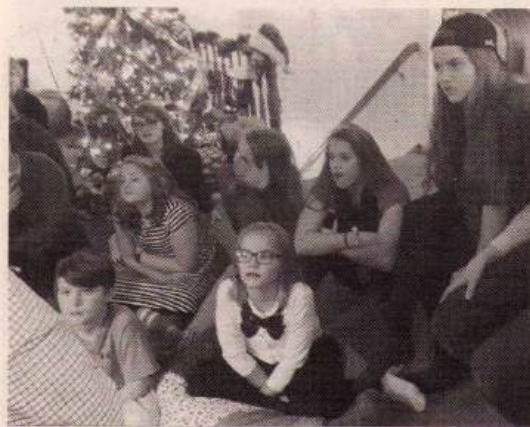
about all the things we've done this year like all the ways we've developed," she said. They exchange gifts and read *The Grinch*, and watch a multitude of Christmas films old and new.

One of the people she does this with is her cousin, Bri Fentress, junior. Fentress celebrates with Sloan and the rest of their family, and loves Christmas just as much as all of them. "Christmas is my favorite time of the year, and I love being able to spend it with my cousins," Fentress said. Their family have also started a new tradition of caroling, which they started last year.

Then, the fun of that strangely magical night of Christmas Eve kicks in. Sloan and her one sister and three brothers all open one present under the tree. While this present is a pair of Christmas pajamas, it still adds to the tradition of the holiday. "Then we all put them on and say 'We love them!'," Sloan said. Then they all go to bed, and wait for a rotund trespasser to put gifts under a tree. She and her siblings then wake up to the smell of omelettes. "My dad makes really good omelettes," she said, and they all run down in their newly gifted pajamas to see the presents that the rotund home intruder left for them.

On the 26th, the fun doesn't stop. Fentress and Sloan both go to their grandmother's house, and they have more fun while they are there. "We have a talent show and we open gifts," Fentress said, "We go to either a Star Wars movie or the newest movie on the 26th."

The Sloan family Christmas is truly a unique one, with much warm fun and celebration to fill the December air during this time of chilly weather. "We are all just humans and we are all flawed but we come together during Christmas, and it's great," Sloan said. So gather around family this holiday time, and have a bit of fun during this magical time.



Dawn Sloan, '21, sits with her family as her uncle reads *The Grinch*.

Where did the spirit go?

By: Lucas Wendt
@Lucaswendtt

December is a magical time of year for those who celebrate the holidays. From decorating the Christmas tree, lighting the Menorah and Kinara or just spending time with family can bring joy to people's hearts. But as a kid wasn't there something more to it?

School festivities seemed to fill the entire last half of December during elementary school, but when students reach middle school they seem to stray further away from the holidays. Maybe that's better because the school thinks that students are too old to believe in certain stuff and would rather have them focused on their academic studies.

Although learning is important, would it harm anyone to celebrate the holidays for the last day before break? Just to have a day where students can wear their PJ's, drink hot chocolate and watch holiday classics? A day like that may spark a little holiday spirit back in all of us.

It may not be the schools fault, maybe it's society. "I used to be festive, but I hate hearing the same Christmas songs over and over for the whole month every year," Layne Cook, junior, said.

Cook once did enjoy the holidays, but he thinks that society and social media just shoves it down our throats by the continuous advertisement of the holiday season the minute Halloween is over.

"I just like drinking eggnog now," he said.

Elizabeth Andreasen, sophomore, celebrates Christmas with her family every year in Florida. She also agrees that she doesn't



The choir works on one of their Christmas carols in class.

feel the joyous holiday spirit as she did as a kid.

"I was five years old when I learned that Santa wasn't real, and really after that I haven't felt as excited for Christmas," she said.

The main premise behind all the holidays besides religion is giving back to loved ones. At a younger age there wasn't a pressure to give anyone a gift besides maybe giving relatives a hug, but as students get older there is a heavy pressure to buy people

gifts now that the majority of people have jobs.

There are a handful of people who haven't lost that holiday spirit. Some people love spending their money on loved ones because the reactions on their faces when they receive a present that was specially picked out for them can give someone enough spirit till the next holiday season to come.

But during this holiday season, just be kind to everyone no matter what holiday they celebrate. Perhaps giving back to friends and family, whether that be presents or just spending time with them, may just bring back the holiday spirit back in all of us.

I used to be festive,
but I hate hearing
the same Christmas
songs over and
over...
- Layne Cook, '20

Tya Skay and Antonio Cayler, both '21, sit in Skay's car getting ready to leave the parking lot. Skay drives the two to and from school.



Car-schooling

The parking lot may be a mess, but some people have a solution.

By: Rachel Wilkey @RachelWilkey

As more and more student begin to start driving, the parking lot starts fill up faster and faster. Solutions have been tossed around student council to the school board, but the question is what is the best way to remove the parking problem? Obviously students aren't going to start riding the bus again, but there is a solution that many students have adopted that is similar: Carpooling. Carpooling is when people going to the same place ride together to save space and the environment.

Sophomore Tya Skay is an avid carpooler who does this problem solving every school day. By carpooling Skay removes 3 potential parking spots from the lot and does this by just picking up her friends. "It's an easy way to get to school and it's just a good thing to do for a friend," said Skay. Not only is it a respectable thing to do for a friend, but it's a respectable thing to do for the school. Saving 10 spots in a parking lot can

just be done by picking up, or being picked up by a friend.

For the driver they often have to wake up earlier than the other passengers to be able to make it to their house on time. One of the friends Skay carools with is fellow sophomore Antonio Cayler. Cayler has enjoyed riding in the morning with Skay and has stayed safer by doing so. "By carpooling I don't have to walk in the winter and it's fun because I get to drive to school with my friends," said Cayler. Cayler also appreciates the way carpooling makes the school parking lot much safer by reducing the crowding of cars. "It opens more parking spots for people who can't carpool," said Cayler. Whether it's to be a good friend, or to minimize the harmfulness of the parking lot Cayler and Skay stand by the impact of carpooling.

Carpooling is much more than just driving to school in the morning with others. "It's a fun experience and it makes memories," Cayler said. Carpooling has already been proven to help the parking lot, and it's only a matter of time to see who will adopt this act to make the parking problem into a parking solution.

Parking lot problems

By: Gabe Larios:
@Gabe47365039

Nowadays, having a car is practically a requirement to be able to get around, and a lot of people live too far from their job or school to walk. So the obvious question is, "Where do we put all of our cars?" Well, build a parking lot of course! So why are the numerous issues with the current parking lot, which is practically prescribed in this day and age, not being addressed?

"There's never really enough space available and a lot of people park on the edges of parking spots to try and squeeze into a spot," Garrett Schwartz, senior, said. Schwartz has many gripes with the parking lot even when he can find an open spot.

"If there was one thing I could change it would be to make the parking lot much bigger," Schwartz said. The main problem is over crowdedness and this issue is only exacerbated by the construction of the commentator booth which blocks precious parking spaces.

The problems with the parking lot have progressed to the point where teacher parking spaces are being raffled away to people. Some people, such as Keegan Hertensen, junior, do un-

derstand the reasoning behind these decisions but still believes that, "They need to add more parking spots and paint new lines in some places." But it's not just lack of parking space that people are upset about.

"I would say that about once a month there's a new rumor of some sort of suspicious activity taking place in the parking lot," Schwartz said. That's right, there are people doing things against not only the rules but even the law, including but not limited to PDA, smoking, vaping, and more.

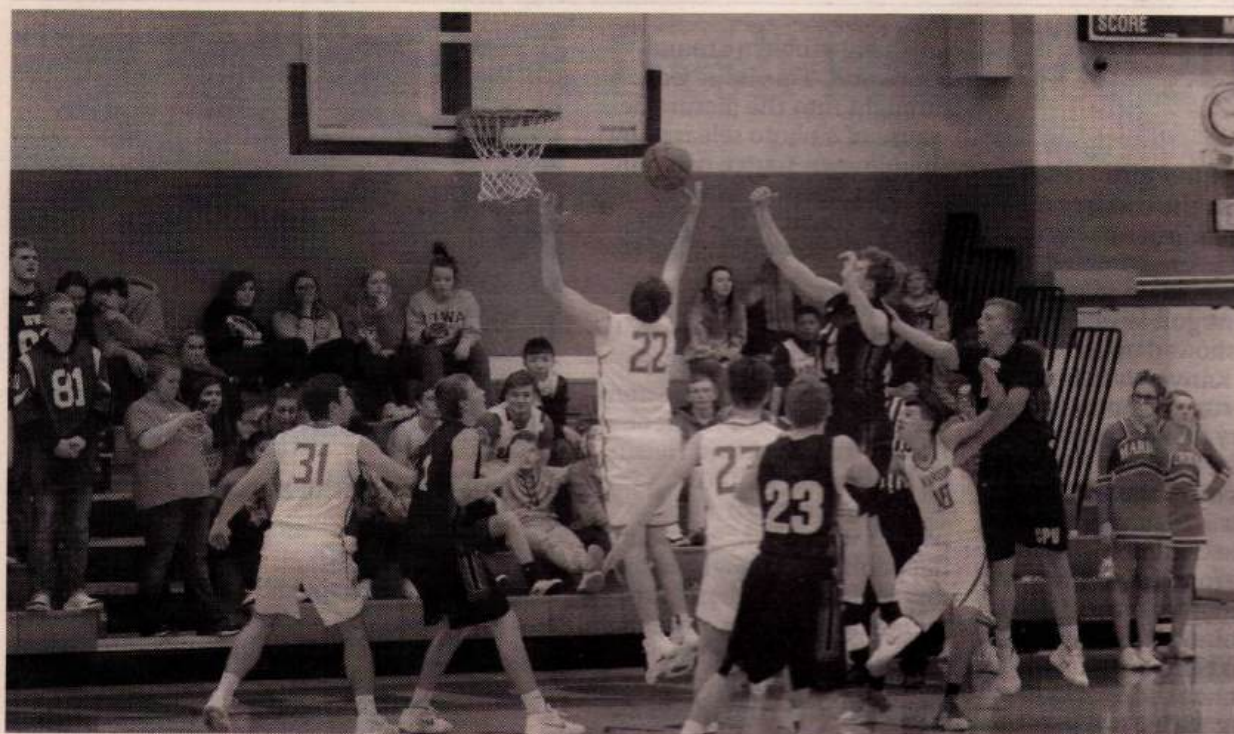
So what course of action should be made regarding this precarious predicament? Well firstly, more parking spaces, and secondly, the parking lot could benefit from improved security, such as cameras watching for and cracking down on illicit activities.

Another way of helping out, without spending money, could be to carpool. Some people already carpool, such as Schwartz who gives his younger siblings a ride, but if everybody were to carpool parking lot usage could be reduced greatly.

Regardless of students' opinions and actions that could be or are being taken, something must be done about the issue before it reaches a critical point.



Keegan Hertensen, '20, looks on in annoyance at a car parked outside the lines.



Trevor Paulsen, '19, goes for a layup at their matchup against Center Point-Urbana.

Ballin' to the top

The boys' basketball team is going for gold.

By: Dalton Cannon @daltoncannon64

There has always been a special relationship between the students, staff, and community at Marion, and every student knows of the basketball program. Whether they love it because of the sport, school spirit, or that the seats in the Wells Fargo Arena are more comfortable than the desks at the high school, most every student supports the boys and girls basketball teams in some way.

Often times students hear about the girl's team and their success as they have made several runs in the state tournament these past few years. However, we often fail to look at the boys team and their endeavors. The boys made the journey to the state tournament last year before being beat in the first round by the number one seeded Xavier. This year, these team hopes to match that playoff bid and hopefully even surpass it as senior Trevor Paulsen said. Trevor plays post on the team and is a three year varsity player coming into this season.

When asked about last year, Paulsen said "I thought it was a good year. We came together when we needed to and had a lot of fun." Paulsen said the goal this year is to come out strong and win games early, so as to avoid digging a hole for

themselves late in the season. When asked if this year would be more difficult than last season, he said "It'll definitely be tougher this year, but that isn't a necessarily a bad thing." In respect to opponents that he believes will prove the biggest obstacle, he said "either Maquoketa or West Delaware. Maquoketa was a good team last year. West Delaware has a big guy who is good and some other guys to go with him."

Last year the Indians finished the 2017-2018 season with a record of 14-11. Paulsen said that the focus this year is to "try to cut down on turnovers and get off to a better start and play better throughout the year" in order to improve on last year's record.

Despite the harder schedule, things appear to be looking up for the team. Senior Brandon Hamilton, a former player turned Red Nation leader, said "I think the team has a lot of potential. Me being on the outside looking in and used to playing on the team with some of the guys, I think a run at state is very possible," said Hamilton.

"Just come out each night and support us. Make the gym as loud as you can," Paulsen said to those in the stands. With this new plan and a hopeful attitude, the sky's the limit for this year's boys basketball team.

Winter sports preview

By: Cory Fairbanks @cory_7558

Girls' Basketball

Even with less varsity players Kayba Laube says the girls basketball team has plenty of potential. With their numbers down and the loss of several key players this year won't be easy. "Our toughest game is going to be against Prairie or Iowa City West," Laube said, "But we have the drive to win and achieve." They will need to work hard and rely on each other to beat their opponents and reach their goals.



Kayba Laube
'20

Boys' Basketball

This years Boys basketball team is the team to watch this year. With only one player out for injuries and experienced players like Gage Frank on their side. They plan on not only winning the conference but going all the way to Des Moines, Iowa to chase the big win.



Gage Franck
'21

Wrestling

"The toughest opponents will be ourselves," said Mr. Telgenhoff. Wrestling is a sport where only the mentally and physically strong can succeed, if you don't have the drive and the discipline, you aren't going anywhere, and this year's wrestlers have what it takes. "More often than not it's not the opponent who beats you, it's yourself."



Mr. Brian Telgenhoff, Wrestling coach

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Look back at it

A month-by-month recap of 2018.

By: Lucas Wendt @Lucaswendtt

This year has been a rollercoaster of emotions. Not just from Ariana Grande and Pete Davidson breaking up or several rap artists passing away, but the truly big events that will go down in history. Most of the news that high schoolers hear is from social media. Around 45% of people get their news from twitter or another social media platform according to wired.com

Starting off in January, the infamous Stormy Daniels and Donald Trump controversy happened. Allegedly Michael Cohen, Trump's lawyer, had offered Daniels \$130,000 in October 2016 to keep their affair that they had in 2006 quiet. And on February 14, seventeen people were shot and killed at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, 14 of which were students. This was the biggest school shooting since Columbine, sparking the debate of stricter gun laws which people are still talking and protesting about to this day.

March was the month to march. The March For Our Lives event

happened all across the country on March 24, but the largest one was in Washington DC. An estimated 800,000 people showed up to protest against our current gun laws. Even A-list celebrities showed up including Kim Kardashian, Kanye West, Ariana Grande, Miley Cyrus and many more.

April was a very mellow month. Gun control was still a really big topic two months after the Parkland shootings. On April 20, on the 19th anniversary of the Columbine shootings, people all across the country walked out of school for either the whole day or 17 minutes to honor the lives of those who were lost due to gun violence at school.

May went along with April in terms of being a mellow month. The only major event that happened was the Royal Wedding of the American actress Meghan Markle and Prince Harry on May 19th. The wedding had a total of 600 attendants, but 1.9 billion people viewed all across the world making it the second most watched royal wedding in history.

June came to fill the news with immigration detention center stories. Detention centers were and still

are a big problem around the world. This issue was brought into the picture because of a photo released by an unknown source depicting children sleeping in sleeping bags on concrete floors surrounded by metal fencing to form a cage.

A summit between two powerful world leaders happened in July. President Vladimir Putin of Russia and the United States President Donald Trump met in Helsinki, Finland on July 16.

August came strolling past us with no major events happening. Although we did lose an American hero, former Senator of Arizona and military officer, John McCain. McCain is most famous for running against Barack Obama in the 2008 elections.

In September Brett Kavanaugh (then Supreme Court nominee) was under fire for sexual and physical assault allegations against Christine Blasey Ford while they were high school. A question kept popping up all over social media, "Why did she stay quiet all these years?" and in response people all around the world started to use the hashtag #whydidntreport.

October didn't have much go on as



A montage of some of the events that occurred during 2018.

well, with the only major event that happened is Kavanaugh being confirmed onto the Supreme Court.

And this brings us to our last month, November. The midterm elections swept the nation, everyone from celebrities, politicians and even young adults who can't vote yet were encouraging people to vote in the upcoming midterm elections. Also, two major fires burned across California burning up around 876,12 acres so far.

What a year we have had, from major political movements to natural disasters. Let all of us do better in 2019, by disposing of our trash properly and being kind to one another.

S.A.D. awareness

By: Hope Faley @Hopefaley21

This time of the year, as Andy Williams would say, is the most wonderful time of the year. It brings cookies, decorations, music, movies, and people together. It also brings cold weather, short days, and the dead of the school year. This is the time of the year when it feels like every day is a month long.

For people like Madison Young, who suffer from seasonal affective disorder, or S.A.D. for short, the winter is a dreadful time. Young is a junior at Marion and is diagnosed with S.A.D.

"I get help from my parents, people who aren't related will leave you, so lean on your family always," Young said. This season, to help fight her S.A.D., she purchased a membership to Total Eclipse to get the vitamin D from the tanning beds,

but she isn't the only one who struggles with SAD. Tawny Schafbuch, a social worker therapist who works through Tanager and visits the high school, currently meets with 25 students, and about 3 have or show symptoms of S.A.D.

"I have mixed feelings about seasonal depression because it's one of those mental illnesses that people do genuinely struggle with, but could also become a hot topic," Schafbuch said, "I think anyone that struggles with S.A.D. needs to get creative in trying to come up with ways to still have fun in the winter," Schafbuch added. Keeping color and buying real plants is recommended as well. Being that it seems in every aspect of life in the winter, colors are very dull and basic. Along with that, everything seems to be dead in the winter, so having a plant that is alive and having something to take care of is known to help.

Samantha Sorenson, sophomore, struggles with S.A.D. Sorenson was diagnosed in 7th grade.

"I had been hospitalized three times in one

month, and that is when they ran a whole evaluation and diagnosed me," Sorenson said. To cope, Sorenson takes medicine and attends therapy.

"My advice to others struggling is that it does get better," Sorenson said. The weather and the days can be hard to trudge through for anyone, especially those fighting S.A.D. every year, but that doesn't mean winter isn't a time for fun and joy. It's also the perfect time to focus on what one is thankful for.



Madison Young, junior, checks in to Total Eclipse Tanning Studio.

Helping others

There's always more we can do.

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna_sackett13

It's that time of year again when people in the community seem to be more connected than ever, and when people are giving back. Although people give back and help the community all year round, it seems like people are more into giving around the holidays.

Julia Funck, sophomore, volunteers, but wishes she did more. "With cheer, I do a lot of work with doing locker signs, and I've helped people out. I've made blankets in Girl Scouts," said Funck. She wants to help more though. "Well, I could maybe volunteer more at actual places, I usually just help

people in need. I could find other people to volunteer with me," said Funck. When volunteering or giving back people often say they get a warm fuzzy feeling, and Funck feels the same. "It's a great feeling because you feel like you're making a big impact on the world," said Funck. She wishes it was easier to volunteer though. "I feel like there need to be more organizations that people join for volunteering," said Funck.

Alyssa Janssen, freshman, donates clothes to Goodwill year-round, but she says she could be doing more. "Um, I could donate more often than I actually do," said Janssen. Janssen also gets a nice feeling when helping. "It makes me feel good that I'm doing something that could help people," said Janssen. Janssen does think people help more around the holidays. "So they can give back. They wanna give back to the people who don't get a lot for Christmas, or don't get a lot," said Janssen.

Both of these caring Marion students want to help more and here are some ways to do so.

Adopt a family. Adopting a family is when you provide gifts and necessary items to a specific family who needs help. For more information and to sign up, you can go to christmasfamilyadoption.com.

Have a food drive. Churches and schools often have their own food drives which you can donate to, or you can have one of your own. If you don't have the time or capability to have a food drive, you can always buy food yourself and bring it to a local food pantry.

Also along the line of a food drive is a clothing drive. If you have clothes you no longer want that are in good condition, why not donate them? Goodwill takes

donations year round. Some schools and churches have clothing drives

that let people who can't afford clothes have some for free. If there isn't a clothing drive near you, you could always try to set one up yourself.

A few other just quick things you can do are around the community are picking up trash, shovel for a neighbor that might not be able to, give some money when you see bell ringers, and much more. These are just tiny things that can be done that might make a huge impact on someone else.

This season is all about giving back and making others feel good. No matter what you celebrate, or if you don't celebrate, it can be agreed that helping others is a good thing. So why not help?

"It's a great feeling because you feel like you're making a big impact on the world."
-Julia Funck, '21

How do you help during holidays?



"My family and I ring the Salvation Army bell." - Corrina Dittmer, junior



"Donating food to the homeless shelter." - Samuel Murphy, sophomore



"I bought something for the families we have for mentor." - Mackenzie Tumilty, freshman



Student volunteers help with the annual Holiday Giving Project in the auditorium.

Winter in Cedar Rapids

FUN THINGS TO DO THIS WINTER

- Christmas Wonderland- A fun filled Christmas journey with all your favorite songs, on Dec. 22 @ 8pm
- Holiday mansion tours- A tour of the Brucemore mansion decked out for Christmas through 31st.
- Cedar Memorial- Check out the lights, trees and other decorations at the Cedar Memorial through Jan. 1st



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By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

Breaking news! A _____ has _____ and people are feeling _____ about it. While we have many of these, this one has _____.

We interviewed _____ and their opinion on this is very _____.

They are a _____ who participates in _____, and they think that _____ are _____. "I like that it is _____, but hope it doesn't _____ because that would be _____," they said. Many other people seem to feel _____ about it. "It makes _____ seem _____ because of its _____, which is why it is _____. "We should have a _____ with a _____ so it doesn't _____," _____ said.

In response, _____ said that "we do _____ the people's _____, but we will not _____ it, because it needs to _____ the _____ so it can _____ our _____." Many students are _____ in response to this.

Just today _____ people _____ using _____.

While _____ said that, "the _____ needs to _____ because if we don't then _____ will start _____." But many people are saying that this is not true, because _____ will _____ before the _____.

"We need to _____ these _____ because _____ are _____," _____ said.

While the _____ will not _____ until _____ according to _____, some people _____ in response to this, even though it is fact. After the _____ of _____, it was confirmed that _____ do not _____. So if the _____ goes and _____ we might _____ but at least we won't _____.

Poppins is popping into 2018

By: Hope Faley
@hopefaley21

-Commentary-



In 1964, Mary Poppins shocked the world with her charm, magic, and optimism. The timeless tale followed the children of Mr and Mrs. Banks, who wanted nothing more than attention from their parents, so they resisted all nannies the parents hired. Mary Poppins, played by Julie

Andrews, comes along and shows the kids all sorts of fun, but is able to put the children into shape. The mystical musical made by Walt Disney becomes a classic that is fun for any age to watch. Today, a sequel to Mary Poppins, Mary Poppins Returns, is coming out. Many are skeptical on how well the movie will turn out, and if it will live up to the first film.

The film appears to revisit the Banks children when they are all grown up. Mary Poppins Returns is an ode to the inner child in all of us that just wants to have fun, as it seems that Mary Poppins only has fun.

Mary Poppins will forever be a childhood classic, as it seems that it can relate to just about anybody. It relates to the child whose parents put work first, the child that could not sit still, and the child whose imagination got the best of them. While Mary Poppins Returns has a lot to live up to, I urge you all to go out and see it. Let your inner child run free for a couple hours.



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