



# Adopted living

Same age. Same grade. Not blood related.

By: Rachel Wilkey @Rachelwilkey

According to the Adoption Network there are about 135,000 children adopted every year. Each child is different, and each child comes from a different home. These children often come from families who either can't support a child, or can't even support themselves. That's what's so important about adoption: it's taking a child in an unideal situation, and turning their entire life around.

Freshman, Chandler Kesler, was adopted as a baby when living in Louisiana. Kesler was born to a family who struggled with an extreme addiction. "I was living in a meth house, and my biological parents did a lot of drugs," said Kesler.

He was eventually adopted after being found in a dumpster, and sent to an adoption agency. "They really screwed me over, I'm really glad I was adopted because now I am so much better off with my real family," said Kesler.

Kesler has known he was adopted from the age of six years old, but he doesn't let that change anything. "When I found out it was shocking, that they're not my real parents, but they are my real parents, it was just a lot to think about," said Kesler.

Another person who had to deal with the same adoption was Chandler's sister,

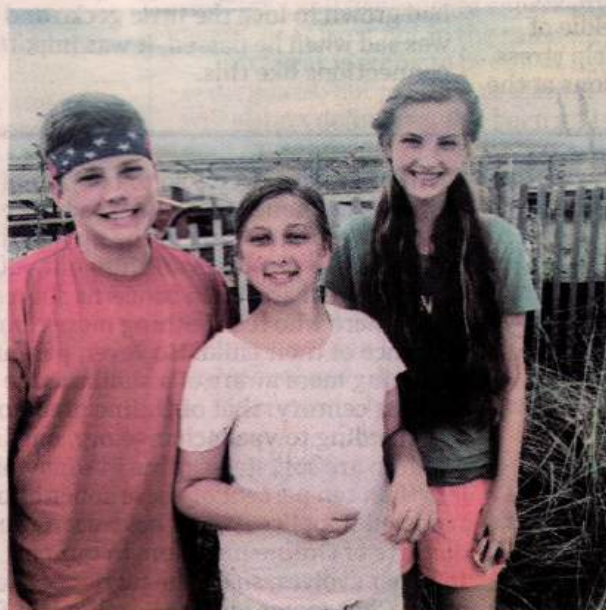
Bonnie who is the biological daughter of their parents, and is also five days younger. The two haven't let the factor of being adopted ever get in the way of their own relationship. "It's always been really natural he was adopted at such a young age, so he's always been my brother," said Bonnie. The two treat each other just as they would any other sibling, with love and a bit of teasing.

One question that is often asked to someone who is adopted, is their interest in their biological parents. However Chandler doesn't have any interest in creating a relationship with his birth parents. "They're horrible people, and I'm so much better off without them, it honestly sucks to be them because they missed out on me." Chandler has had the strong realization that the life he is living, is one that was given to him as a true gift.

Adoption is one of the most influential and life

saving acts that people can do. It is so important to not only society, but also the children. "It's so important for parents who can't have kids, and especially for the kids because if I hadn't been adopted I'd probably be dead right now," said Chandler.

Adoption is so necessary for the world we live in today. It's an expression of caring and peace like no other. As Bonnie said, "Everyone needs a family and a home."



Chandler and Bonnie Kesler, '22, pose with their younger sister Gracie while on vacation in Florida.



Go to page 2 to read about the benefits of school pets.



Head to page 12 to read about long-distance relationships.



Flip to page 7 and read about the new environmental club.

## What's been happening around Marion?



The girls' soccer team wins WaMaC for the first time in 17 years.



The band practices their music they will be performing at graduation.



Carter Martwig, '19, works in class during his last few days of school.

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# Critters in class

The perks of having pets in class.

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna\_Sackett13

Going to school can seem like an endless cycle of stress and homework assignments piling up for some students. Often times, school seems like a place filled with people who care more about the fact that you know every equation in algebra, or other information that students often think is not important, than about the students themselves.

Of course, there is the other side of this. Teachers who feel like they try to teach students every single day and feel like they are fighting a losing battle with kids who can't focus or aren't respectful.

Overall, school is just one huge brick building of stress. There are many ways to relieve stress. Exercise, meditation, screaming into a pillow, etc. Most of these are not okay to do in the middle of class, but what if there was a solution to help stress, and help with responsibility, and connections at the

same time?

Well there is! Pets are proven to help reduce stress and taking care of them is a great way to learn responsibility. Now, there definitely are some complications when it comes to having class pets, kids with allergies is a major one. If a school is to get a class pet, they can't have one that is going to make kids sneeze or stop breathing during class. There are plenty of safe and affordable animals that aren't allergy inducing that could help in a classroom.

Goldfish, mice, and other small animals can help relieve stress just by playing with them, or watching them swim around. By having a class pet, the students have something to look forward to when they get to class, as well as an opportunity to have responsibility.

Currently, the only class pet at the high school is the axolotl in Ms. Weeks room, and until recently, IO in Mrs. Tursi's room. When IO passed, a lot of people were upset about it. They had grown to love the little gecko and although it was sad when he passed, it was important to have connections like this.



The class pet in Ms. Week's room, an axolotl, stares out at the class from inside its tank.

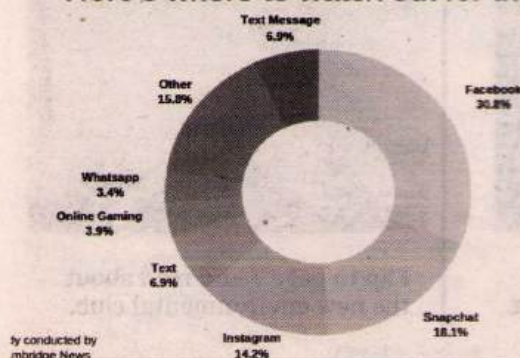
A lot of people don't have the chance to have pets at home, so having one in class is the perfect idea. Pets like IO can be relatively inexpensive with lots of great opportunities for students and stress relief. There are many positive reasons to get a class pet, so why not get one today?

## Creepers online

By: Dalton Cannon @daltoncannon99

### Predators are out there

Here's where to watch out for them



All of us have been told to be wary of strangers. From the moment we can walk, adults everywhere warn us against talking to the guy on the corner or ingrain a fear of white vans into our young minds. These are real and valid concerns shared by parents everywhere who fear nothing more than the disappearance of their child. However, parents are also becoming more aware of a similar issue sweeping the 21st century: that of Online predators.

According to ypad4change.org, one in seven children are solicited Online in some form, and less than ten percent of these solicitations will be reported to police. We all have been warned of the dangers of Online predators in our past, but as the Internet evolves, so do the tactics of these predators. Chat rooms used to be a hot bed for Online predators. While chat rooms certainly still exist, the attention brought to the potential dangers associated with the websites has caused many predators to seek out new ways of communication,

primarily video games.

Many predators have Online video game accounts disguising themselves as either children or approachable adults and utilize these accounts to approach kids. The popular battle royale game Fortnite, for instance, has seen an increase in cases of predators attempting to reach out to kids. Last year, authorities in New Jersey arrested 24 men attempting to utilize Fortnite to contact potential victims. The problem is now exclusive to Epic Games' battle royale, however. Other games such as Minecraft, League of Legends, or Roblox are also high-traffic games for potential predators and while many Online games are encoded to find predator-ask activity, the systems are not always fool proof. It is important to remember that video games are still a media platform on which we share information. It's also smart to not accept friend requests from strangers. Following these simple steps should help everyone avoid an unfortunate experience Online or in person.

## Vox Staff

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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.

# Basing opinion on fact

Trying to mend the wounds lies have created

By: Patrick Bleadorn@patty\_b0116

Having an opinion is part of what makes us unique. We form our own thoughts, feelings and narratives about personal and worldwide topics. However, in recent years, more people are forming their opinions based on blatant lies rather than facts from proven experts and trusted sources.

While there are other examples, right now there is no bigger culprit to this issue than politics. It's no secret that Donald Trump's election to presidency has been a major factor in stirring the political pot across not only America, but the world. It's created a serious and disappointing divide between people, and it's also created a major issue with how people are forming their opinions.

Nowadays, people from both sides of the political spectrum in America are cherry picking their information that they want to hear so that they feel like their opinion is vindicated, but that simply isn't true. It's not wrong to have an opinion, but when we're at the point where we block out whatever we don't want to hear, regardless of everyone else practically screaming that we're ignoring fact, we have begun to dig ourselves into a hole which we cannot escape from.

Take the Mueller report for example. On one hand, Trump, among some other Republicans, choose to tout that Trump is proven totally innocent of all crimes despite Mueller writing word for word, "The Special Council states that 'while this report does not conclude that the President committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.'" On the other hand, many Democrats continue to cling to the idea Trump betrayed the people and worked with Russia even though

it was determined they never worked together in full. However, this is a rather extreme, divisive example.

A smaller, more relatable example, would be rumors roaming around in the hallways at school. All it takes is one person to claim that Jenny supposedly got caught cheating on her boyfriend with a guy who is actually her cousin she hasn't seen in years and then it blows up into everyone calling her a cheater and ruining her reputation and confidence. The thing is though, that's not the truth and even sadder yet, people are far too willing to believe what they're told to believe, regardless of how truthful it is.

Either way, we shouldn't be taking information from one source, or one side and claiming it as the only right side that is truly trustworthy. Especially in this day and age of misinformation, we have to listen to both sides of an argument and form a more educated, respectable opinion so that we can begin to mend the wounds created by opinions based on lies.

AllSides

## Top Online News Media Bias Ratings

AllSides media bias ratings are based on multi-partisan, scientific analysis. All ratings are based on online content only — not TV, print, or radio content. Visit [AllSides.com](http://AllSides.com) to view over 600 media bias ratings.



Use a chart like this one provided by AllSides to help form a well rounded opinion that lacks extreme bias.

# High school's real value

By: Ally Sara @allysara05

Dropping out is a thought that goes through every high schooler's mind at least once a week, most likely more, but ultimately end up coming to their senses and realize that's a bad decision. A small few actually follow through with that idea though. That one decision will impact their entire life and the stigma of failure will forever surround them, that is unless they defy the odds.

When contemplating whether or not they wanna drop out there are a few variables they should consider including: are they going to get their G.E.D., what are their plans for the future, and if it really is the best option.

Dropping out doesn't necessarily mean a person is going to go nowhere in life, many people have done just the opposite. Some of the biggest names in Silicon Valley dropped out of school, including, Bill Gates, Steve Jobs, and Mark Zuckerberg. Even your neighbor may have dropped out, just because

they dropped out doesn't mean they got nowhere in life.

Sometimes dropping out is the only decision, many people have issues that affect their ability to make it to school. When it gets to the point where one isn't at school more than they actually are it makes sense to just get a GED. A GED works just about as well as a high school diploma and if a person gets a college diploma then employers won't even look at the fact that they got a GED.

Every year 1.2 million students drop out of high school in the U.S. and according to dropoutprevention.org, most of those students had no other option and felt that was what's best for them. Dropping out may have not been the best choice for their future, but sometimes we can't always do what's best for the future we have to fix/help the now.

Dropping out isn't always the best thing to do, but just because you did doesn't mean you won't get anywhere. As long as you remain motivated to succeed everything will fall into place.

## Dropping Out Stats

-A student drops out every 26 seconds

-80 percent of prisoners are high school dropouts

-The drop out rates are actually decreasing

-Teenage boys are more likely to drop out

# Flawed education

We're not educated enough to make a deckline

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

The American school system has extremely noticeable flaws that many choose to sweep under the rug, hiding these flaws by merely not teaching them. Students go through so much stress socially and mentally during schooling age, with school contributing such an unhealthy margin of this stress.

School is bland and stressful for some students, leading a decent handful of students to traverse more "interesting", but in many cases illegal, forms of coping with this tasteless anxiety. Numbers from the Princeton Review show that 50% of students feel stress, with 25% saying that homework is the main stressor.

Teachers themselves are put in almost as much stress economically. According to The Washington Post, nearly 1 of 5 teachers work a second job, this is because the government doesn't believe education is import-

ant enough. Sites like salary.com show that teachers make \$52,099 annually on average, but this range can go as low as \$45,000. Many teachers are given such little to teach a swarm of teenagers, who the teacher knows very well don't want to be there in most cases, that it must be even more stressful to come up with fun and interesting lessons for kids. This causes the kids to not like the class more, causing kids to blindly stress about the class, causing an endless cycle of stress and pain.

When teachers get stressed, they often turn to technology to alleviate some of that stress. Our 1:1 system has been fruitful in new ways of learning and teaching that have been opened to teachers. The problem with this is the dissociation between the teachers and students that this causes, as most teachers rely on the internet to relay almost all of their information to students.

And with the lack of transparency that comes with the internet, many students get lost and confused about what their teacher said during the day. While they can talk to the teacher later, in many cases it's too late to talk, leading to students having to spindle a web of time management to understand what is happening and to be able to finish the thing that is happening on time.

The U.S. education system is flawed, with these problems trickling down from the source at the top: the government not paying our educators enough. Paying educators more can allow for teachers to be less stress, which can help alleviate stress from students as well. All we have to do is this, but until then, we are stuck in an anxious spiral, none of us unable to escape the swirly of stress.

## The summer slide

By: Rachel Wilkey  
@Rachelwilkey

As the school begins to heat up and the humidity starts to suffocate us all, many students dream for the amazingness of summer break. A time to sit back and relax and not have to worry about school. Except constant relaxation, and mindless thinking is where it can start to damage students mind's. Many know the feeling of when they get back to school they don't remember anything from the year before. Whether it's a specific historical date, math equation, or meaning to a word, students forget ten months of education in about two and a half months. This is why those first few weeks, even months, of school will be filled with basic review. This is a well known epidemic called summer learning loss, or the summer slide.

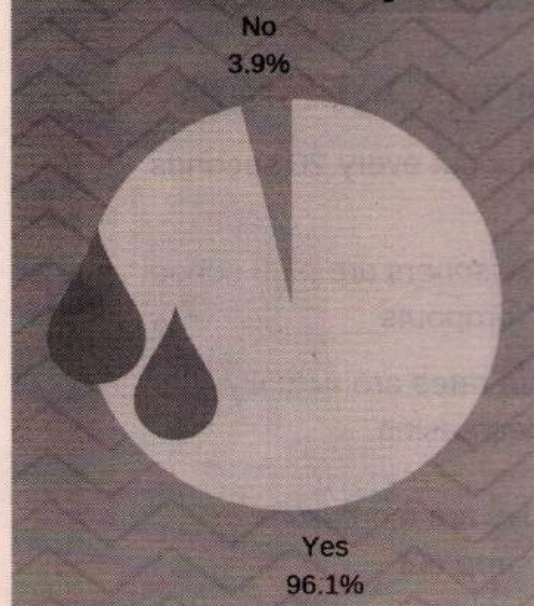
The summer slide is very common, and affects every kind of student from Kindergarten to seniors in college. This problem is very severe in specifically K-6 schools because these are the students most impressionable. While it may seem

like this is an end all threat to education, the summer slide can be prevented by a number of things.

Now not every student likes to read, but what they can't deny is how beneficial it is for the health and the ability to retain for the brain. Now this doesn't mean that during the summer, a student needs to pull out their history textbook, but at least a good chapter book to get the brain awake and occupied. Helping the brain stay engaged will ensure that basic skills that were learned stay locked inside the temporal lobe. Another solution to making information stick through the sticky weather is challenging the brain. This can be done by doing puzzles, brain games, and other things that just need a solution. It all has to do with making sure the brain stays alive and focused, and with all that time from the summer it's easy to find things to do. Free time doesn't have to be filled with mindless activities. Instead, it should be filled with things that can help retain information and even make yourself a little smarter in the process.

The summer slide is a common problem that affects many people still involved in any type of education, but it's easily solved by using the complex brain. So don't let the summer be wasted away, challenge yourself to challenge your brain.

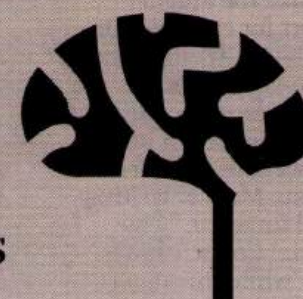
### Does School Stress you Out?



Out of a convenience poll of 50 students, 3.9% said school didn't stress them out.

### Quick tips to exercise the brain over the summer

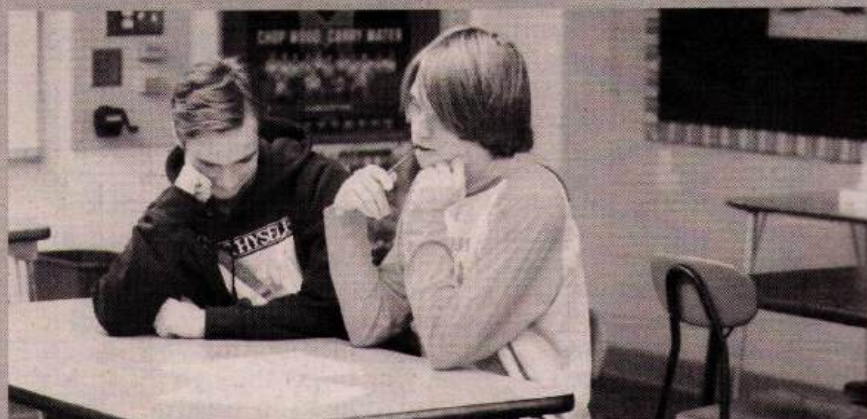
- Read a good book
- A Word-search
- Sudoku
- Crossword Puzzles
- A 1000 piece puzzle
- Metal Brain Teaser



Want to make sure you retain your information from the school year? Try a couple of these tips to make sure that info sticks.

# Studying re-imagined

Students try to put together a better way to study for the big tests.



Harrison Vanderlinden, '19, studies with a Ryan Willimack, '19, to prepare himself for the AP Calculus Exam.

By: Patrick Bleadorn  
@patty\_b0116

As the school year winds down, tests begin to fill the school days more and more. With all the tests that are nagging at students mind, and the school year nearly over, it gets tougher to stay focused on school and preparing for tests. Some students even decide to challenge themselves even more than most would ever consider by taking AP (Advanced Placement) tests for a chance at college credit. To try to help students stay on track to succeed on AP exams in the coming years, Harrison Vanderlinden, senior, is kick-starting a plan.

"The foundation being set is to create a structured study for students to enhance studying for the AP courses," said Vanderlinden, "It didn't work this year due to time crunches and setting schedules properly, though."

Despite not being able to jump start the program this year, by setting the groundwork now, he can give students a better option, a more secure option as they prepare for their AP exams. "The

purpose of these is to help motivate those who find it harder to study and to provide structure and teacher-student time to all kids who study," said Vanderlinden.

Some students may just decide to study on their own as well, being able to structure personal studies so that they don't need the program Vanderlinden is hoping will follow through in the coming years. "The best tip I can give is repetition and studying based on what works for you," said Vanderlinden, "If you have a certain way to study, do that and you'll see yourself smarter in no time."

Another senior, Danielle Hooker, is the only one taking the AP chemistry exam this year. "Study with the teacher as much as possible," said Hooker. "Do the stuff they give out to help study, and at least skim over it so it's still fresh."

Finding what works best for you, whether it be studying on your own or taking advantage of structured study sessions, can help you get that A or if you take on the extra challenge, it could save you a few extra bucks and who doesn't like saving money?

# The last high school party

By: Ally Sara @AllySara05

Graduation is near, and with graduation comes post grad. "This year's post grad is going to be bigger and better than ever," said Nolan Freymark, Senior. Freymark was one of the few students who helped plan this year's project grad. Students weren't the only one who helped, the parents of many seniors played a huge part in the process. The process of planning for post grad was started sooner than normal and that is a major reason behind why this year is gonna be better. Freymark said, "Starting sooner than later helps, the more effort people put into the process the bigger and better it will be."

This year project grad is going to be held at the Collins' recreational center. Every once and awhile this event is held at the rec center, because the high school just won't suffice. "We decided to use the rec center this year because we'll need more space for all of the stuff, said Freymark" This year's party is going to have many activities to occupy

the time of the event (10pm-4am) a few of the activities include: Basketball, volleyball, and bags tournaments, an inflatable obstacle course, board games, a hypnotist and many other fun things to do. These activities cost money and it took a lot of fundraising to get the money.

Starting in around September the fundraising began, the students and parents took trips to local business. Many local companies and business donated to the project. Another very big fundraiser was done using Urban Pie. "People could go in and buy their food, then a chunk of the profits were given back to use towards the event," said Freymark. The fundraiser help run this entire thing and without them there would be no project grad.

Most people only go to project graduation once, but Amy Noble, Senior, has had the opportunity to go twice to take pictures for the yearbook. "I've gone to take pictures the past two years and it seemed pretty boring, but this year I'm super excited." This is a great experience to make some final memories with your graduating class.



JD Grawe, 2018 graduate, enjoys a blow-up obstacle course at post grad. Seniors this year can expect something similar to this and much more.

# Playing greener pastures

Seniors who ran track try something new.

By: Dalton Cannon  
@daltoncannon99

The decision to leave a sport can be challenging. In many cases, it is as though athletes must tell their families that they have decided to move on. It can involve talks, late nights, and disappointment, but it normally all works out in the end. It is especially interesting if players are leaving on sport for another. In the case of the reigning state champion boys track team, departures such as these hit unexpectedly as a number of key athletes left the program for seemingly greener pastures: the sport of golf.

The track team has seen much success over the past two seasons, coming home with back-to-back state championships in class 3A. Because of this success, it brought about a lot of surprises at the beginning of the season when many athletes on that championship team decided not to return to the track

and instead decided to pick up their putters. Senior Mason Rahe is one such student who made the decision. "I wanted to do something for fun my senior year," Rahe said. Rahe, a short distance runner and hurdler, had been running track for five years before deciding to make the switch.

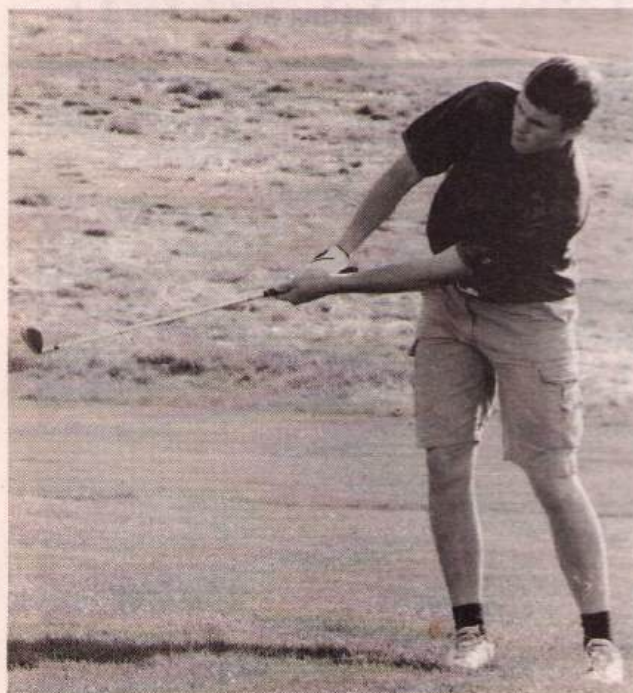
Mark Horcher, a four-year varsity golfer, is one of many golfers excited by the new arrivals. "Having a few of the track guys from last year transfer to this year's golf team gives us great depth," Horcher said. "We're all very competitive and we can help guys improve their scores," Rahe said about his impact on the program.

Rahe was a member of both the 2017 and 2018 state championship track teams. The departure of athletes such as Rahe brought with it some early questions as to the team's ability to reach the state tournament again. The track boys have rose to the challenge however, having success all throughout the season and even going on to place first at

the WaMaC track meet already this season.

Track is no longer the only sport contending for a shot at a title.

"We were a solid team [last year] but unfortunately didn't end up where we wanted," Horcher said of last year's golf team. "All my friends are really good so it is very frustrating that I can't shoot as well as them, but I have improved a lot. Luckily our varsity team is looking to make a state appearance," Rahe said. With two high performing squads with possible trophies in the cross-hairs, it may even be possible for both teams to come home with the gold.



Former track runner, Trevor Paulsen, '19, uses his pitching wedge to hit the golf ball.

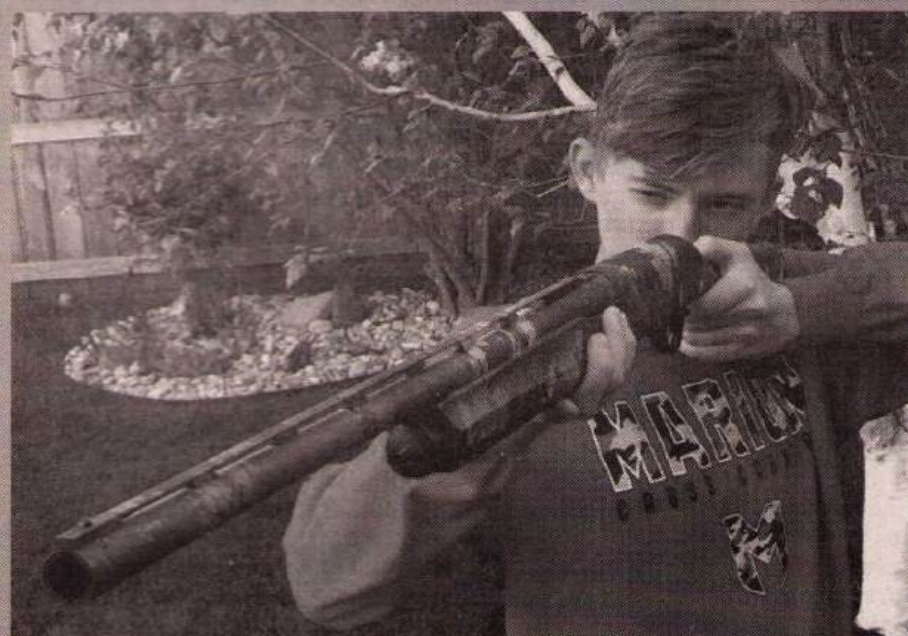
# Activities outside of MHS

By: Cory Fairbanks @cory\_7558

Around marion there are many things people can do to fill up their free time. We have the main sports like baseball, basketball, football, and volleyball, but there are also have many activities such as archery and golf, along with old clubs like the DnD club, and the newer E-sports and environmental club. However, some people they want to do different things. Gunner Lacy, sophomore, enjoys an activity that is more dangerous than most, trap shooting. We don't have a trap team but schools like Jefferson, Kennedy, Washington, and Xavier do. To shoot trap, Lacy has to travel to Jefferson to shoot, but he isn't the only one. Jace Burmeister, sophomore, and Grant Schwartz, junior, also travel to shoot. Trap might not be for everyone, but Lacy enjoys it partially because it isn't a physical sport. "I feel like trap isn't an athletic sport, it's more in your head. You don't have to have a lot of strength, you have to be

mentally focused," said Lacy. And it truly is, besides holding a shotgun, it is mostly in your head. Lacy said, "In trap there are five posts in a half circle around the trap house, each person shoots five [clay disks] from each station, one round is 25 minutes." According to Lacy, each competition can last about four to five hours because each person has to go through two rounds at least.

Even if it might be a little complicated, several people believe it to be helpful and fun. Burmeister said, "It gives me a chance to practice for duck hunting." Shooting a moving target through the air is a hard thing to do, especially when it's the size of a small plate. It can help prepare a person if they want to go hunting, so they don't have to buy food, or for self defense. But even so, it's fun to just destroy things and let out some anger. He said, "It's a fun sport that many people have a big misconception on how fun trap and shooting guns are."



Jace Burmeister, '21, with his own 12 gauge Franchi Affinity 3.5 semi-automatic shotgun which he uses to shoot trap for Washington.



Cory Fairbanks, '21, and Tristen Christiansen, '20, canoe on Lake McBride during a get together for boy scouts.

## Summer fun in Iowa

Read about the fun and mostly affordable things to do in our "boring" state.

By: Lucas Wendt @lucaswendtt

Summer is the time of year that almost every student looks forward to. The beginning is usually action packed with lots of stuff to do with friends or family, like going on vacation or small excursions. As July and August roll around what is there left to do? Maybe sit inside in the nice air conditioning binge watching a new show that just came out, or sit on the phone and complain about how there is absolutely nothing to do in the rural state of Iowa.

'Rural' could be a good thing, because that means more space for campgrounds, trails, and other fun outdoor activities. For example, located in Marion, there is a lovely 2.4 mile trail called the Boyson Trail, that is mostly shaded and it takes you by some of Marion's finest parks. For more exclusive and or more entertaining activities, maybe try one of the 142 summer camps located in Iowa. Sydney Nielsen, senior, has been to a couple of summer camps in her lifetime. "When I was in middle school I liked horse riding a lot, so my parents let me go to a few camps," she said.

If camp really isn't your forte, then you may be more like Michael Cady, freshman, who has never been to a summer camp. Cady likes to stay in town for the most part of the summer, because that is where his friends are. "When me and my friends get bored we like to walk

around and do parkour, not seriously though, just for fun," he said.

If you are looking to relax lakeside or do other activities like, paddle boarding or paddle boating

with a friend, Lake McBride is the poster child of summer lakes, located in Solo. With being able to rent all of those accessories and having a nice sandy beach, Lake McBride makes the perfect summer spot.

Whether it be being in the water or just being outside, the summer should be made the most of, especially for the seniors. This is the last summer that they have with the people they grew up with, most since kindergarten. "I want this summer to be one to remember forever. One that I can look back on and think, 'Man that was a good summer,'" Nielsen said. No matter the class, summer should be well spent.

For more summer hangout spots check out page 13.

## Be-leaf in the environment

By: Kyle Mehlberger @kmehlberger

The sheer state of the environment has been talked about a lot as of late. Trash litters all corners of the Earth, and everything in between. People throw trash on the ground like it means nothing, when it really just contributing to the snowball that will roll our world into extinction. Groups around the world are trying to stop this, with here being no exception. Shaely Odean, '21, has started a club to add another squadron to the fight against our planet's soon demise, in the form of the Environmental Club.

Odean participates in Band and Volleyball, but has taken it upon herself as of late to help out the environment in the form of the Environmental Club. She had to write out a proposal with the help of Ms. Weeks, who acts as a supervisor for the club, and send it to Semler to get the club approved and official. "It wasn't difficult," She said, "It was more stressful because you want everyone to care about it as much as you."

Environmental Club has very few members right now, and with that, all of the members care just as much as Odean. "The reason I wanted to start this club is because I'm passionate about the environment," Odean said, "I've taken opinions on what others want and my vision for the club." Connor Murphy, '21, also helps run the club.

"I'm supposedly Shaely's assistant, I help plan ideas in general and that stuff," He said. Murphy is a large help, and believes in this large cause. "I would recommend promoting the Environmental Club to make sure our plant doesn't last till 2050," He said.

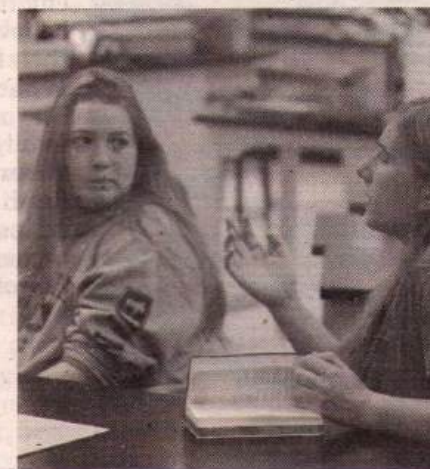
The club is partially intertwined with Garden- ing Club in some ways, due to them having very similar agendas. "They talked about doing a couple collaborations with us, picking up trash, planting trees," Odean said.

Along with that, the

club has come up with a whole slew of different fundraisers and programs, all to sustain and help our planet. Ideas like a "Bake sale, obviously," a spelling bee to help bees, and a recycling program for milk cartons, and a movement to use sporks instead of spoons and forks have all been discussed, along with sticker sales and plant sales.

The club meets on Thursdays at 3:10 to 3:30, and meets in Ms. Weeks' room. "We understand not everyone can make it with sports and other things to do," Odean said, "I also wanna say a huge thanks to Ms. Weeks who is leaving this year."

Our local community is one piece of a large puzzle, a puzzle that will one day, hopefully fix or broken world. Each piece must be there, no matter how small to give a final solution, and anyone of us could be the final piece that clicks it all together.



Shaely Odean and April Lawyer, both '21, discuss how the environmental club will function.

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# A goodbye to our educators



## Kiley Chihak

### Future Plans:

I am going to be teaching Special Education in the Cedar Rapids Community School District, where my daughter will be attending.

### What will you miss the most?

The students and how inclusive they all are.

### Favorite Memory:

When everyone joined in Alec in singing "I like to Move It" during a Pep Assembly!



## Sarah Doyle

### Future Plans:

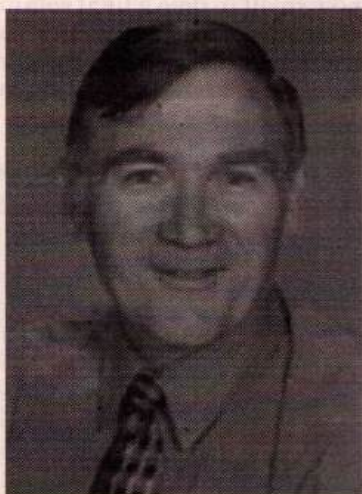
I'll be working to shape the future in my own home with my own littles. By the start of next school year I'll have a 4 1/2 year-old son, a 2 1/2 year-old daughter, and a newborn baby son.

### What will you miss the most?

I'll miss dominating the staff Fantasy Football League! Doylinator rules!

### Favorite Memory:

I will never forget Mrs. Gerdemann walking through the "Narnia closet" connecting our classrooms and watching my students' faces in complete shock as if she'd been hanging out in there the whole time!



## Chris Dyer

### Future Plans:

Watching MISD continue to grow as an environment where "All Learners believe in their power to excel and own their future!"

### What will you miss the most?

The outstanding students and the family atmosphere they share!

### Favorite Memory:

Reading to the Kindergarten students (is just slightly ahead of watching the archery club participants enjoy this season).



## Sarah Eicher

### Future Plans:

I'll be working from home as a health and wellness coach which will also allow me to spend more time with my girls who are 8 and 4.

### What will you miss the most?

I will sincerely miss the staff and students (special shout out to my English peeps and Journo kids!!). Marion really has been a great place to be!

### Favorite Memory:

For sure winning the state volleyball tournament in 2008. I was the assistant coach to Mrs. Paulson and we had so much fun that entire season! The moment we scored the tournament-winning point was indescribable.



## Terri Keeney

### Future Plans:

I will be teaching math at Monticello high school next year. I will be teaching all of the Geometry classes as well as any other sections of Algebra needed.

### What will you miss the most?

I will miss them dearly. However, I will miss the cross country program, runners, and parents the most.

### Favorite Memory:

As a coach it would be all of our success within the cross country program - both JV and varsity!



## Ben Peiffer

### Future Plans:

I will be working on R&D at Collins Aerospace.

### What will you miss the most?

I will miss the students and my fellow math teachers.

### Favorite Memory:

My favorite memory is our cross country team finishing 3rd at the state meet last fall.



## Amanda Weeks

### Future Plans:

Program Developer for the Continuing Education Department at Kirkwood

### What will you miss the most?

I will miss my students and my co-workers. I've developed some really good friendships over the years.

### Favorite Memory:

Having a fish thrown at me to get my attention, students swimming around in the creek with their mud boots on because it was so hot, taking bets on who is going fall first in the creek, seeing their faces when students caught small mammals and handled them for the first time, the list goes on...

# We're in the endgame now

**\*Spoiler Warning\***

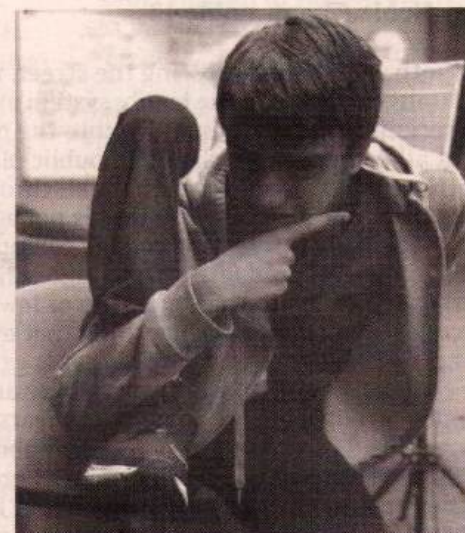
By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

All the years of Marvel movies have led up to this. 22 films spanning over a decade have a cataclysmically combined into one movie, the endgame, Avengers: Endgame. These films have built up like a television show, where all episodes are high production blockbusters, each adding more to the story. This season has ended, with more still yet to come, and boy, was Avengers: Endgame an ending to something so gripping that many have enjoyed for so long.

As there is 22 movies, explaining them all in full would need another newspaper. So to summarize: Purple Man wants magic rocks. Avengers: Endgame starts off where the previous film, Avengers: Infinity War left off. In Infinity War, Purple Man (who is named Thanos) gets all of the magic rocks, and uses them to wipe out half of all life in the universe with a snap, including a large portion of the supporting cast of superheroes. Now, what superheroes remain need to find a way to bring everyone back. They try to get the magic rocks (The Infinity Stones) back from Thanos, but learn that he has destroyed them all, and have no way to return their dusty friends.

After the superhero Ant-Man, a guy who can be really big or really small, pops up out of nowhere 5 years after The Snap, he shows the remaining Avengers that his rinky-dink-shrinky-dink suit can possibly be the key to time travel. After a quick failure, they almost immediately crack time travel, and go back in time to gather the Infinity Stones from different points in time. Hilarity, action, and sorrow ensues.

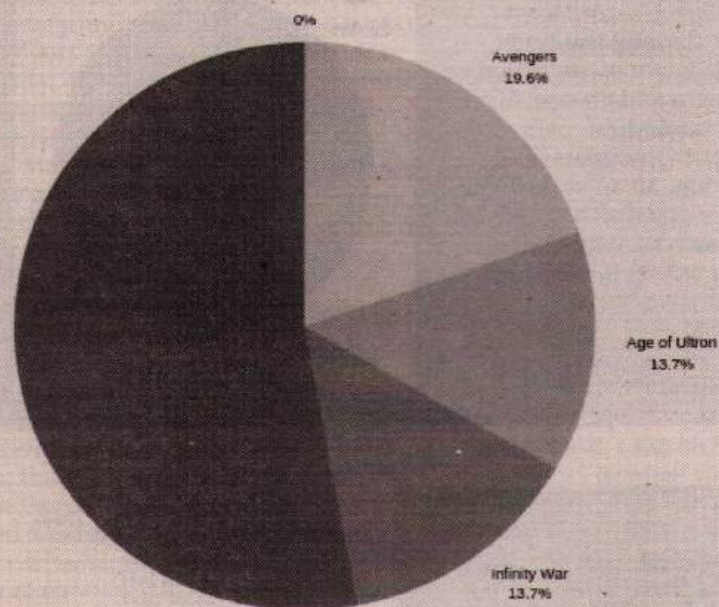
Avengers: Endgame has "snapped" its way up the list of highest grossing



movies, only being beat by Gone with the Wind (1939) if inflation is accounted for. It is quite possibly the most hyped of the decade, and delivers fully on the hype, that is if you're looking for an action packed end to a 22 movie long story. There are some flaws that have been pointed out, but most "time travel" stories have flaws due to the massive headache time travel is. But many things, like the fact that one of the Infinity Stones is a Time Stone, are other things that irked people. However, many people looked past these flaws and merely enjoyed the story they were given, which to many is enough.

Avengers: Endgame is a film like no other, being the climax of 22 films. While this column will not spoil the very ending, it is a sure tear jerker for those who have grown up watching these films for so long. Endgame is the climax so many have been waiting for, and it isn't even the end, as many more films are planned afterwards. Endgame is a true example of how people can love a beautiful series of films, and how people can love a film times 3000.

## WHAT AVENGER'S MOVIE IS YOUR FAVORITE?



# College Prep

Post-secondary safety.

By: Amy Noble @amy\_noble 12

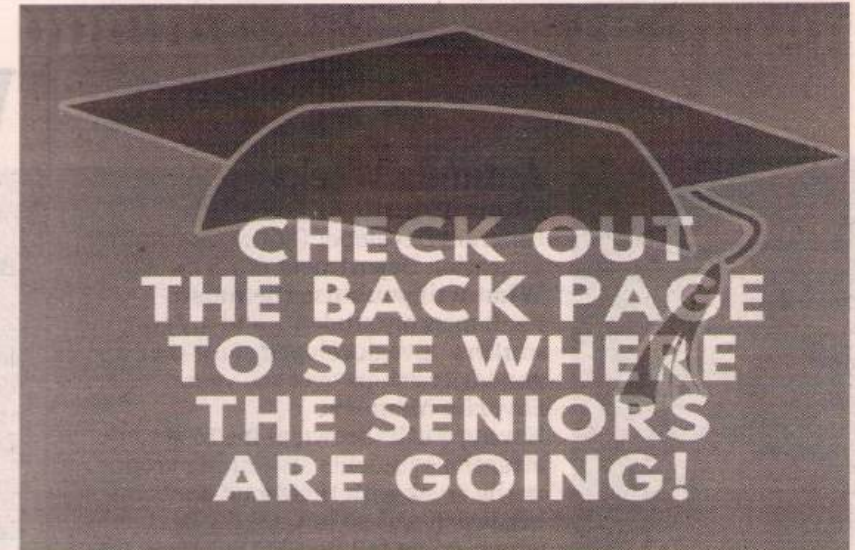
Look both ways before crossing the street, never talk to strangers, and use the buddy system are safety precautions that are instilled into the minds of almost all young people. Safety in public places is something that students are taught all throughout school, but one side of safety that is not addressed specifically is safety on college campuses. Ryan Hall, junior, is graduating from high school a year early and headed to the University of Iowa.

The college experience is something that everyone wants to experience and part of that is exploring the campus, having to walk everywhere and independence, but there are some safety fears that come with this. "Guys don't have to worry about not being with someone. If they go somewhere alone, they're fine. Girls have to worry about it. I'm not saying they're helpless, they are just more targeted," said Hall. There is a stigma that girls are targeted more than guys, but it's important for all people to take safety precautions.

Colleges have been trying to take steps to advance their campus safety. One thing that many schools are considering and some are even trying out is tracking their students through their campus identification cards. "It would be very expensive but for certain colleges, it might work. It depends on the location of the campus," said Hall. In bigger and higher crime areas, something like this might work, but for a small school, the cost might outweigh the good possibilities.

"Having friends on Find my Friends is a smart idea. That way you are giving the right to someone instead of being forced" explained Hall. Find my Friends and other friend tracking devices are becoming more and more popular and might be something college students should try.

Mrs. Ann Grant has advice for anyone that is going to college or for anyone in general. "Just always watch your back, especially at night. Just get stuff done during the day and never walk alone.



There is strength in numbers, the bigger the group the better," explained Grant. Both Hall and Grant see that people are more at risk when alone, especially at night.

## Popular school food

By: Cory Fairbanks @Cory\_7558



All around our school everyone has their own Favorite and least favorite lunch. Among the least favorite of all lunches were Italian Dunkers, hot ham and cheese, Mr. Ribb, lasagna, tenderloin, pepperoni sub, shrimp poppers, and chicken sandwich. Meanwhile some people, nearly a quarter, preferred to bring their own sack lunch instead of eating school lunch.



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Thursday 9:00am - 8:00pm  
Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - 3:00pm  
Sunday Closed

# Changing plans

The aftermath of the harsh winter is effecting summer vacation.

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna\_Sackett13

All across the state of Iowa, and most the midwest, kids were waking up in joy as they found out they got the day off school due to weather. But after about a month or more of not having a full school week, it got to be annoying. Part of what made it not so fun was the fact that these snow days had to be made up. It wasn't just adding an extra day or two, it was adding 15 minutes to each school day, getting rid of a lot of early outs and no school days, and of course cutting deeper into summer vacation to get the final hours made up.

Although, the school tried to fix the problems that the harsh snow made, it didn't work out for everyone. Megan Minks, freshman, enjoyed the snow days in the moment, but isn't looking forward to the repercussions that she'll face because of them. "They were nice as a little break but now it's kind of sad we don't get to enjoy as much summer," said Minks.

Besides just missing out on a few summer days Minks has also run into some scheduling issues. "They affect dance dress rehearsals and family vacations," said Minks. Minks has been dancing for a long time at The Pointe School of Dance, and recital was planned to be the week after school got out way back before this school year even started. Dress rehearsals were planned to be throughout the day June 3rd through 6th, which doesn't work now with the new extended school year.

Although the new schedule doesn't work with Minks she's not too upset with how the school board corrected the problems. "They're doing the best they can," said Minks.

Bryce Soenksen, sophomore, was also impacted negatively by the snow days. Soenksen en-

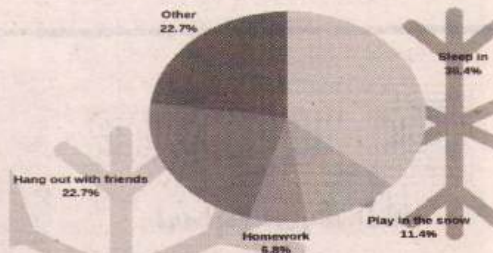
joyed sleeping in on the days off, but is disappointed with how the make up days are impacting his summer. "Certain days we have to be at school I could be spending in my hometown," said

Soenksen. Soenksen is excited to go back to Clinton this summer, but with the extra days he has to postpone his trip a bit.

There were definitely some snow days were necessary, but Soenksen doesn't agree with all of them. "The only reason some days were cancelled was the cold, and I feel like we could have come to school," said Soenksen.

These two can both agree that the snow days were an enjoyable break, but caused more trouble than they were worth in the long run. The snowdays messed up something up for everyone, but at least it's over now. The only thing Minks and Soenksen can do is hope that there aren't as many snow days next year.

## What did you do during the snow days?



Out of a convience poll of 50 student it was established that most students spent their snow days sleeping in.

# 1:1 with Chromebooks

By: Kyle Mehlberger  
@KMe1berger

Being able to have Chromebooks available for each student is a great acheivement, but it doesn't come without some negatives. This year the school has been adjusting to the new style of learning.

There were some set backs, like

slow WiFi and blocked websites, but overall it's been a pretty positive expeirce for most.

It's definitely been a change though. Remembering to charge them and bring them to school everyday was difficult for some students.

## "After this year, how do you feel about the ChromeBooks?"



"Block less stuff, but pretty good,"  
-Seth Olsen,  
'21



"I think they're great for personal and school use,"  
-Macy Macinnis, '22



"I like 'em, but LanSchool sucks, unblock Tetris,"  
-Caden Merrifield, '22



"They die too way quickly,"  
-Trenton King, '20



# Long distance relationships

All relationships can be are hard, but these may take the cake.

By: Lucas Wendt @lucaswendtt

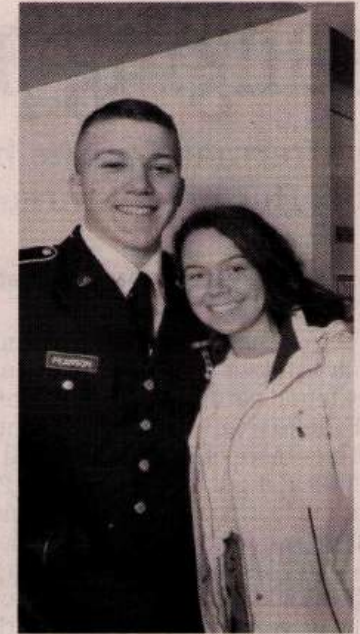
Distance is defined as the space between two objects. And for two couples distance is all they have. In a typical teenage relationship, the two teens could spend countless hours together, from walking the halls in school, going on dates, driving around listening to music etc. Sadly, that is not the case for Bethany Foster, junior. Foster has been dating Joey Pearson, MHS graduate, for a little over two years now. They met in her Intro to Engineering class when she was a freshman, and he was a junior. After a couple of months they started dating, and the rest is history. Going into the relationship she knew there

were going to be some repercussions due to his career choice after school. Pearson wanted to enlist in the Army, and so he did, and so he left. "After he left I cried for a couple of days of course, but we started writing letters to each other, [only way of communication], and as time went on it just got better," she said. When Pearson does come home, he and Foster like to go on a lot of ice cream dates, and they like to make the occasional trip to Collins Road Theater, where he used to work. Foster is thanking her lucky stars that she had the support from family and friends. "My family thought that we were both mature enough for it, and my friends just let me talk about it whenever I wanted and those things really helped me in the beginning," she said. Currently, Pearson is stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii, 4,050 miles away as the crow flies.

One student, Gracie Cook, soph-

omore, is fortunate enough that her boyfriend lives in state. Currently he resides in Ankeny, which is 106 miles away. Nearly not as far as Foster's relationship, but they still have the same difficulties. "The fact that you can't see them is what is most challenging. It's just way easier in person," she said. Having the advantage of living in the same state, Cook does get to see him every or every other weekend. With the technological advances we have made, it has made it one million times easier to communicate with one another, like through video chat, text, and call.

At the beginning of a long distance relationship, it will be very tough and lonely. As time passes, and one is still committed to the relationship, it gets easier not seeing them on the regular. There are two factors that Foster thinks are important in maintaining a long distance relationship, "Do not give up on it because they are gone, don't assume you're going to break up, and if you have loyalty and confidence it won't make it as difficult," Foster said. These relationships prove that love really has no distance.



Bethany Foster, '20, smiles for a photo with boyfriend Joey Pearson. Pearson is currently stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.

## The best places to get senior pictures taken:

1. Squaw Creek Park
2. NewBo Area
3. Palisades-Kepler State Park
4. Marion Art Alley
5. Lake McBride Spillway
6. Cedar Rapids Public Library
7. Merrill Gardens

By: Jenna Sackett @Jenna\_Sackett13

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# The most selfless act

By: Amy Noble @amy\_noble12

Sports related injuries are something many athletes have to deal with. According to Stanford Children's Health, more than 3.5 million sports injuries occur every year. Carter Scott, sophomore is one of the 3.5 million that was injured this year.

Scott is involved in football, wrestling, and track. During his football season this year, he got hit wrong during a game. He was taken to the hospital and doctors determined he had a broken neck. He made a miraculous come back and was cleared to wrestle this year. Wrestling season didn't go as planned though.

At one of the meets this year, Scott suffered another sports injury. "We were warming up and my leg was locked out and there were two other teammates warming up next to us. They rolled into my knee and there was a loud pop. My leg looked like a V and when I fell it popped again and it was straight," explained Scott. Scott was taken back to the hospital again just to find out that both his MCL and MPFL were torn.



Carter Scott, '21, lays in a hospital bed awaiting the doctors and test results.

Scott needed surgery to repair his knee. His initial surgery was scheduled for December 23 and have a 6 month recovery time, but that did not go as planned. Angie Seastrom, his mother could tell that there was something wrong. "His incision was still open after four months," said Seastrom. One could say that is just a mother's intuition.

After returning to the doctors, Scott found out he needed yet another surgery. "The surgery was March 15. The cleaned out the bottom incision. It was supposed to be a three to four month recovery," said Scott.

One may think that after two surgeries that everything would be fine and healing properly. This was not the case for Scott. A little over a month after the first surgery, Scott was back at the hospital for another surgery. This would be a very worrisome time for anyone, Scott included. "I was just wondering if they will find out what's wrong," said Scott.

The surgical area had been infected and gotten down to the bone. Having an infection in a bone can lead to very serious issues. "My biggest fear was having MRSA and losing my leg or life," said Scott.

Seeing anyone go through something like this would be very difficult, especially your child. The hardest part for Scott's mother was "Seeing him in pain and not able to play sports," said Seastrom, "I had to keep believing that we will be okay."

Scott was able to stay motivated and positive through all the this due to the support he got from loved ones. "My friends and family just kept me distracted from it," said Scott. Scott was a trooper through all of this and is finally, fingers crossed, on the road to recovery. He should be back in full health by the next football season.

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## Patty B is out

By: Patrick Bleadorn  
@patty\_b0116

We're approaching the end, it's almost time to say goodbye to the teachers that taught us just about everything we know. It's almost time to say goodbye to a lot of classmates we called friends as their paths start to drift away from our own.

It's somewhat difficult to reflect on senior year. On one hand, it's exciting to move on, to get out of high school and try something new, but on the other hand it means that we'll see those people we were kind of friends with, you know, the ones we never ignored but didn't try to be best friends with less and less until they're not even a thought in our minds.

Not only is it hard to think about that, it's even harder to think about all the teachers that watched us grow up and helped shape us into the people we are now, even if they only helped minimally. They taught us about how imaginary numbers are a thing, how to write in a form that we only use for signatures, and how you should avoid downtown Chicago at night otherwise a crackhead will

chase you down as you try to go back to your hotel. They taught us about the stupid things we swear we'll never use, but they also taught us some of the greatest lessons of our lives: responsibility, work ethic and so on. They taught us some of the most random things we'll pray we never remember, and some of the funniest things we'll always carry with us in the back of our minds.

Everyone says you need to have the high school experience. They tell you to go to all the events, don't skip out on anything. There is some truth to that, you should try to go to just about everything: prom, homecoming, football games, basketball games, and everything in between. However, high school isn't all about the places you go and the experiences you have. High school is about the people you experience it with.

At the end, when we take that final walk across the stage to receive our shiny diploma that says we survived, we'll remember the people and memories we made with them that made high school worthwhile, and those memories have more than earned their place in memory.

## Amy says goodbye

By: Amy Noble @amy\_noble12

"What a long, strange trip it's been" has been the class motto of many senior classes and used as a graduation cap decoration all over the country. And this statement could not be more true. High school is nothing more than just a four year long crazy rollercoaster ride of experiences. As incoming freshman, many kids in our class had the mindset that high school was going to be like it was in the TV shows and movies we watched growing up. Like "High School Musical." Those shows are nothing like the real high school experience. High school was full of ups, downs, lefts, rights, and loop-dee-loops. But, it's been real.

I might not necessarily miss Marion itself. I won't miss sitting in class sweating my buns off because we have not been blessed with the luxury of air conditioning. I won't miss pulling into the parking lot at 8:20 every day, give or take 15 minutes, just to find that there is not a single parking spot open due to the fact that there are about 15 cars parked straddling a line. I won't miss nearly wiping out in the middle of the hallways on a rainy day due to the fact the ceiling has sprung a new

leak. What I will miss are the people that walk the halls with me and all the lessons that I've learned.

I'll miss all the teachers that went the extra mile to make education fun. Like Mr. Mitchell's authentic learning. Or watching "Cops" almost daily in Freuhlings class for a more realistic look into what being a police officer is like. Or a teacher that will remain unnamed that would let me go to the "bathroom" with my keys and wallet and not be surprised when I came back half an hour later with Starbucks and breakfast. Or Mrs. Johnson giving out candy and a motivational play on words before the AP Calc Semester final. Teacher's like all of the ones in the district are what have helped shape me into the person I am today. I will forever be grateful for everything all of my teachers have done for me.

The thing that I will miss the most is my Journalism class, well family. We are exactly like a family. We argue and get sassy with each other, but we always get over it and manage to produce great content. All of our food day Friday trips and countless class periods of just spilling all the tea we have. My journo family is something that I will greatly miss about Marion.

### Where I'm off to next year:

I'm off to the University of Iowa to study Accounting or Business Finance. You can catch me and Caleb Frost down there any time... maybe.



### Where I'm off to next year:

I'm going to University of Iowa and rooming with my best friend Maddie, and I'm not sure what else.



# What are they gonna do?

By: Rachel Wilkey @Rachelwilkey

My time of being a Marion student has been such a rollercoaster. It's been a ride of ups and downs. However, I couldn't have asked for anything more. While I'm not a full born Iowa citizen, I have always known that Marion has been a home for me. That's exactly what Marion is. A home. I have lived in Washington, Nebraska, and the Chicago area of Illinois. Even with all of these places to remember, this city and school has been where I have truly discovered who I am supposed to be.

Marion has been a place for me to express who I am. Even if it's not completely perfect this school has been a welcoming world. From the frigid temperature of the science wing, the faint breeze of any rooms on the north side, or the frustration of finding a parking lot, the new batch of complaints for underclassmen, this school has created such a network of community that it makes it a real home.

I have spent every year watching a new group of people come into this home, just I have watched people

move on to their next chapter. It's an ongoing cycle, but I never actually thought it'd ever catch up to me. It's been surreal to think that everything I have learned and gotten accustomed to will eventually be over. No more 5 minute drives to school, no more after school speech practices, no more show choir rehearsals on Monday night, no more hearing the booming voices of the social studies department, no more days of laughing in journalism, no more Marion. It's a chapter of my life that will be hard to live without, but like every good book, the chapter has to end. It's surely something I will never forget. All the laughs, the frustrations, and all of the beautiful memories.

I am forever thankful for the experiences that I have had from this small, crazy school. I'm thankful for the snow days, I am thankful for humid building, I am thankful for the people I have met and said goodbye to. I am thankful for Marion letting me be who I am. I am thankful for my last curtain call. I am thankful for this home.

## Where I'm off to next year:

Next year, I will be attending University of Northern Iowa and will be getting my major in Secondary English Education.



# Not let me graduate?

By: Dalton Cannon @daltoncannon99

That's a wrap. Four years of friends, laughs, Friday night lights, and mountains of homework are all coming to an end. As I walk through to halls of this school for what I know is the last time, I can't help but think of all of the memories I have made within these walls. Appearing as an insignificant character in my first musical all the way up to the lead. Stepping onto the field at Thomas Park for my first varsity game to hugging life long friends on senior night. Spending countless hours laughing with teachers and friends in class. These are feelings I will likely never experience again, or at least not in the same way.

Next year is going to be full of new experiences, but my time at Marion will always define me. I've been an Indian for nearly my whole life. I started football in 1st grade as an Indian, attended home games before I could walk, and have lived in town since I was four. I've grown up here. I've made lifelong friendships here. I've seen the good and bad of Marion and done everything I can to help improve our school and community.

Involvement has always defined

my time here. Class president, football captain, National Honor Society member, choir member, actor, and journalist. I have friends from all walks of life and from every corner of the school. Being an active part of Marion has strengthened my love for the district and the school, and has allowed me to push myself as a student and as a person.

I'll never forget the things I learned here. How to properly create chemical clocks, the quadratic formula, T.J. Eckleburg's neverending gaze, and the unfortunate fate of Anne-kicked-in-the-can-Hutchinson. The many lessons taught to me both inside the classroom and out will stick with me wherever I go in life.

If you're reading this, I'm very likely already out of those doors for the last time. To my teachers, thank you for all of the time you have invested in me and my success in life. To my friends, hopefully we'll see each other in the future, even if it's just occasionally. And to everyone else, I just hope Marion has treated you as well as it has me. Hard work pays off in the end whether you see it or not, and that is no different within these walls.

## Where I'm off to next year:

Next year, I will be going to Upper Iowa University to play football and study History.



# Hey, where they going?

By: Kyle Mehlberger @KMehlberger

**Kirkwood COMMUNITY COLLEGE**

Carter Lantermans	Avery Manderscheid	Blair Swales
Brandon Hamilton	Madison Pflughaupt	Nate Turner
Chloe Cechota	Jakob Coghlan	Cole Horak
Maddie Haugen	Chase Coblenz	Jenna Gudel
Caleb Janssen	Jacob Eraz	Chloe Quinn
Avery Patterson	Naah Jordan	Austin Prier
Miranda Beck	Lindsay Gaffey	Amelia Gamm
Morgan Kunkle	Leah Krav	Kelly Fowler
Logan Bruns	Megan Vanetta	Garrett Hansen
Nick Loesel	Lyndsey Wheeler	Isiah Helms
Lesi Woode	Bailey Ashbaugh	Sarah Schilling
Kristin Saba	Emily Burkhite	

**Central College** Sophie Willette

**STATE** Nicholas Ryan  
Jonathan Andreasen

**MOUNT MERCY UNIVERSITY**

Addie Shindelar Elizabeth Lang  
Sarah McGuire Randi Wright  
Natalie Triplett

**UNI**

Carissa Freese  
Austin Prier  
Maleah Ford-Mehaffy  
Rachel Wilkey  
Carter Klauer  
Summer Williams

**COE COLLEGE**

Trace Whitlock  
Kaitlyn Sennett-Heims  
Anyia Schobert  
Nate Miller  
Kayla Berry  
Owen Eichhorn

**CAPRI college**

Emma Brandt  
Allie Mettler

**MORNINGSIDE MUSTANGS**

Livvy Draves  
Braden Garringer

**Trade School:**

Brody Wilcox	Jacob Young
Noah Talbot	Devon Parrott
Brady Merrifield	Nick Cole

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Patrick Bleadorn	Madigan Crowley
Mitchell McAllister	Cayla Attwood
Mark Horcher	Halle Medland
Sierra Cochran	Marshall Boche
Chloe Trca	Mason Rahe
Ryan Hall	Amy Noble
Maddie Knapp	

**Andrew Klostermann (Combat Engineer)**

Ethan Goodwin (Marines)  
Taylor Johnson (Navy)  
Carter Martwig (Navy)  
Erin Reeves (Air Force)  
Andrew Bryant (Marines)  
Harmon Steen (Army)  
Spencer Hood (Marines)  
Kobey Hyatt (Army)  
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Leah Van-Weelden (Baker University)  
Rick Atkins (South Dakota State)  
Trevor Paulsen (Winona State Uni.)  
Braeden Svoboda (Uni. of Memphis)

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