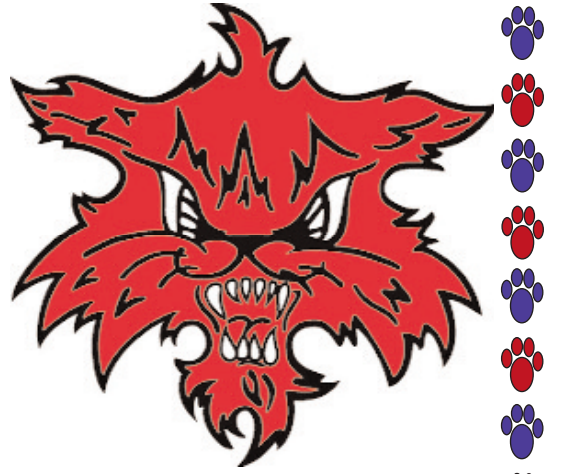


Pebbles

Marshalltown High School's Student Newspaper

Volume 107 | Issue 4 | April 13, 2018



Prom is Back in the Roundhouse for 2018

By Haley Bell

Marshalltown High School Prom has been brought back to the Roundhouse. According to Justin Boliver, Associate High School Principal, students were asked their opinions on bringing back prom to MHS, "They said that if it could be in the gym it would be awesome. Prom was brought back to MHS so students could celebrate at their school. I felt that that would bring a little more pride to the prom celebration. I also believe we now have the option to do some things we couldn't do at MCC due to space. I believe it will also be cooler with the chiller system, the higher ceilings, and just the openness of the Roundhouse."

The theme for prom this year is *Frozen in Time* with the colors of blue and silver. "Juniors who came to the first meetings were asked what they would like to have for prom. They came with a few to the group and voted," Boliver stated.

According to Boliver, we will see a big difference in decor, "I believe when students pull up and see the Roundhouse all lit up in the evening, it will make for a more prom atmosphere. There is also a new DJ this year who promises to put on a great show for prom goers. We will also have a little surprise for students who buy tickets to prom, and at prom itself."

Boliver said that parents are in charge of promenade, that will be held in the back half of the gym, opposite of the actual dance. Pictures will be located in the team room that adjoins the gym.

Boliver hopes that this tradition at MHS will continue. "My goal with this move is to make prom something all students can look forward to each year. After all, this prom is for the students."

After Prom will still be located at the Marshalltown Mall. "I do believe they will have some different, but really fun, activities for the students. I stopped by last year and it looked like a lot of fun!" Boliver concluded.

Speaking of frozen in time, have you ordered your 2018 yearbook yet?

Order yours today!
Jostens.com

MHS Mock Trial Team

Argues Their Way to State

By Emily Miller

The Marshalltown High School Mock Trial Team went to the state competition in Des Moines for the first in time 20 years. Head coach Katie Sawyer was proud of this accomplishment, saying, "We learned a lot, and we had a blast doing it. My two favorite parts of being a teacher is watching kids learn, and make sure they are having some fun along the way. We blew my goals out of the park [this year]."

Team members included attorneys Gretchen Bencoter, Emily Miller, Carissa King and Phoebe Osgood, along with witnesses Nya Gatwech, Jordan May, Dylan Rosebourough, Eli Thiesen, and Gabby Perez.

According to Sawyer, "Our strengths this year were our willingness to learn and adapt to different situations. Mock Trial is all about thinking on our feet and maintaining professionalism even in stressful situations. Our team did really well with that task. The weaknesses are the fact that we are inexperienced. As a coach, I try to explain what Mock Trial is, and what it is like to be in a competition, but the experience is the best teacher. Practicing and working together more would have also helped us go further."

As the Mock Trial season comes to a close, Sawyer is already looking to next year. "The main focus will be to build on the experiences we learned this year. We will make our attorneys more confident in what they know and help our witnesses find specific characters which will make them stand out from the others," Sawyer said. "Overall, my favorite part [of being a coach] is watching the team have fun. They built friendships and memories they won't forget. It was so much fun to see them together as a team."

College Credit Course Options

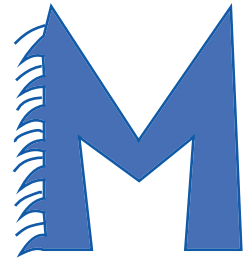
By Emily Miller

Dual credit and Advanced Placement (AP) classes can provide a benefit for Marshalltown High School students. "There are 18 dual credit courses offered on campus at MHS. There are also four AP classes offered" Principal Jacqueline Wyant said.

"One benefit of taking dual credit and AP courses is the rigor of taking a college-level class under the supervision of staff who are familiar working with high school students. Another is earning college credit while still in high school," Wyant said. "Finally, these courses are available to students at no cost." Wyant added that, although free, these courses come at another cost. "This is a reminder that students who drop dual credit classes will carry an 'F' on their high school transcript. So it is important that students choose to participate in this option carefully." Wyant added that students must score at the 'proficient' level in math, reading, and science [in Iowa Assessments] to enroll in these courses and that some courses may also have an additional requirement of passing the Accuplacer test to complete the enrollment.

AP courses carry a different requirement from dual credit courses. "Students should be aware that the number of [college] credits is determined from the university and is based on the score from an end-of-course exam. Also, be aware of the fee to take an AP exam" Wyant said.

MHS is unique from surrounding schools with the number of college credit courses offered. "We are able to offer more of these types of courses on campus. Our neighboring schools use online and on-campus [classes] with greater frequency. While this is available to MHS students as well, having that personal connection with a staff member has personalized the learning," Wyant concluded.



Girls Soccer Gains Head Start With New Players for 2018

By Haley Bell

According to Girls Soccer Head Coach Stacy Galema, the team was able to gain a head start offensively compared to last year with new and inexperienced players. "We have girls that better understand their role and what we are asking them to do. Defensively, we also brought back some experience. We're working with different combinations to fill Aspen Chadderdon's role as the anchor of our defense."

The team has 11 returning players with varsity experience this season. "We have seven returning varsity seniors – Vanessa Armas, Olivia Arneson, Naomi Boland, Victoria Johnson, McKenna Major, Trinity See and Liz Tacconi. McKenna Major will be vital for us as she plays in the middle and not only distributing but taking advantage of her own opportunities on the field. Victoria Johnson has been our starting goalkeeper for three seasons now and looks to build upon her success in goal."

Galema explained that the team will be most competitive when they recognize that transitioning quickly and looking for opportunities early on as these will remain part of their focus. "In soccer, a lot of times it comes down to a one-goal game. Can you hold off a team? Can you discipline enough to force them to take a tough shot? We need all 11 players on the field to play and shift and pass and defend as one. We're not a team with a star that we can rely on. We're a team that needs everyone to step up and play their role in order to succeed," Galema stated.

Bobcat Girls Tennis Makes Gains in Preparation for Season

By Emily Miller

The Bobcat Girls' Tennis Team is looking forward to progress this season. "My goals this year are that every player improves their skill, learn more about tennis, want to continue playing tennis after the season is over, and as always have fun," coach John Fiscus said.

Key returners this year include Emily Miller, Kaitlyn Martin, Maggie Grimm, and Sarah Jacobs. All were varsity players last year and earned a letter. Key losses from last year will be Immaculate Edwin and Sarah Taylor, both varsity players.

A new addition to the team this year is a change in the coaching staff. John Fiscus, who coached the girls' tennis team from 1991-2000, is prepared to take on the role of head coach for the 2018 season. "I believe that the girls need to play many matches to become great tennis players. Practice on strokes and serves is a must [this season], and mental toughness and sportsmanship are also our main focuses this year," said Fiscus.

New goals for this season are also being put into place. "Being prepared for matches and the want to play, as well as the desire to win will make us competitive. The extra time you put into your game is done outside of practice time. The team needs to get out on the courts on weekends, and play points and rally," Fiscus said. "The more experience you have, the better chance you have at being successful. Every match may be played differently, and I [plan on] helping the players with identifying when to do what. Still, there is no substitute for match experience."

Boys Tennis is Ready for Competition

By Emily Miller

The Bobcat Boys Tennis Team has big shoes to fill from last season, according to head coach James Christensen. "Losing Jacob Rauchy, Sean McWilliams, Sam Britnall, Brennin Davis, Ben Snyder and Austin Tullis, all who played in multiple varsity meets last year, was not easy. We've had to fill in a lot of depth this year" Christensen said.

However, Christensen added that many players have already stepped up to the challenge. "Our captains are Luke McKibben, Luke Smith, and Jack Gruening, but Kadin Skala and Jacob Smith have both stepped into leadership roles as well this year. Reed Fricke, Joe Kennedy, and Jacob Eberle all contributed on the varsity squad last year" Christensen said. With new leaders, the team is ready to compete this season. "To be competitive, we will need to finish. Finish each point, each game, each set. We can't give away points," Christensen said.

Christensen said he has high hopes for the year as well. "It's great having Luke, Luke, and Jack back playing singles again this year. Their experience last year will really make things easier. We expect to send a singles player or a doubles team to the state meet in advance in team competition [this season]."

Girls Track Looks Forward to Season

By Emily Miller

The Marshalltown High School Girl's Track Team is looking forward to the 2018 season. Top returners for the Bobcats include seniors Regan Mazour, Grace Metzger and Jill Podhajsky, as well as Junior Alyivia Chadderdon and Sophomores Sarah Trowbridge in the sprints and Kaci Uhde and Mia Barajas in distance events.

"Overall, our coaches are very pleased with the work ethic and positive attitude of the girls so far. We have been training for seven weeks and have not had a meet yet. That is a lot of work without competing, and the girls have handled it very well," said Chad Pietig. "Our strengths this year are going to be the depth of the team. We have 40 girls and a lot of them can contribute to a varsity meet. We do not have any holes in the lineup unlike years past. With the number of girls we have, we can move people around and not sacrifice or give up an event. I also think we have a very balanced team. We should be able to score points in the field events, the sprinting events, the hurdling events, and the distance events," Pietig said. When asked about anything he'd like to add, Pietig said "we are excited for the season to get underway. [I am] very happy with the work the girls have done and now it is time to start competing and see that hard work pay off."

Boys Track Improving Despite Challenging Weather Conditions

By Haley Bell

According to Marshalltown High School Boys Track Coach Doug Bacon, the season has been going well despite the challenging weather. "Hurdles have been pretty good, everyone else is better than last year and still improving."

Bacon states that of this point of the season the boys will continue to work on better conditioning and skills such as hurdles, hand offs, etc. "It's a little easier to continue doing work at practice when you continue to improve."

Although there have been multiple injuries throughout the season, Bacon concludes that all athletes are on the same page.

Girls Golf Rolls into New Season

By Emily Miller

The Girl's Golf Team is swinging into a new season. Top returners include seniors Emily Hass, Ciara Feldman, Bella Russell and Kassy Vest, a previous state qualifier.

According to head coach Lucas Johnson, "Our biggest goal is to improve every year. We had a 54-27 record last year. With so many seniors returning, I plan to improve that this year."

Johnson also has high hopes for the team. "I hope to get a team spot at the state competition this season. With the experience we have, I think that is possible."



April 13, 2018

Lifestyle



April Horoscopes

Aries

Your hot temper might get you in trouble this month. Make sure to pay attention to your surroundings.

Taurus

Get ready for a whirlwind of emotions this month, Taurus. Be prepared.

Gemini

This month brings many challenges. Make sure to stay organized.

Cancer

Slow it down, Cancer, your cells are multiplying at a rate way too high this month! Try to take some time for yourself.

Leo

Get ready for a great month, Leo! Great successes come your way.

Virgo

Work seems to just keep piling up this month. Be sure to stay organized, and stay on top of it.

Libra

The planets point in your favor this month, Libra. Make sure to use this newfound confidence to your advantage.

Scorpio

The last month brought you a large amount of stress, but this month will give you a positive outlook. Push on; the finish line is almost there.

Sagittarius

People are talking, but you are not listening, Sagittarius. Make sure to take time for the relationships that you cherish the most.

Capricorn

Stop worrying, Capricorn! It will all work out in the end.

Aquarius

Life seems to be going at a fast pace right now, but don't worry, things will slow down, giving you time to practice self-care.

Pisces

A new situation may seem a little fishy to you, Pisces. Remember to not judge a book by its cover.

Compiled by Emily Miller

Recipes of the Month

Strawberry Spinach Salad

Ingredients:

Poppy Seed Dressing

- 2 tbsp. sesame seeds
- 1 tbsp. poppy seeds
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 1/4 cup distilled white vinegar
- 1/4 tsp. paprika
- 1/4 tsp. Worcestershire sauce

- 1 tbsp. minced onion

Spinach Salad

- 10 oz. fresh spinach - rinsed, dried and torn into bite-sized pieces
- 1 qt. strawberries - cleaned, hulled and sliced
- 1/4 cup almonds - blanched and slivered

Instructions:

- In a medium bowl, whisk together the sesame seeds, poppy seeds, sugar, olive oil, vinegar, paprika, Worcestershire sauce and onion. Cover and chill for one hour.
- In a large bowl, combine the spinach, strawberries and almonds. Pour dressing over salad, and toss. Refrigerate 10 to 15 minutes before serving.

Dirt Cake

Ingredients:

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 (8 oz.) package cream cheese, softened
- 1/2 cup confectioners sugar
- 2 (3.5 oz.) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 3 1/2 cups milk
- 1 (12 oz.) container frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 32 oz. package of chocolate sandwich cookies with cream filling

Instructions:

- Chop cookies very fine in food processor. The white cream will disappear.
- Mix butter, cream cheese, and sugar in bowl.
- In a large bowl, mix the milk, pudding and whipped topping together.
- Combine pudding mixture and cream mixture together.
- Layer in a food-safe flower pot, starting with cookies, then cream mixture. Repeat layers.
- Chill until ready to serve.
- Add gummy worms, or candy flowers for garnish before serving.

Pebbles Twitter Poll



Marshalltown Pebbles

@MHSpebbles

Following

What is your favorite spring sport?

33% Tennis

13% Golf

33% Soccer

21% Track

15 votes • Final results

Pebbles is Now on Twitter!

Follow us to keep up to date on current issues

@MHSpebbles





Senioritis: A Crippling Disease That Strikes High School Students

By Haley Bell

If sweatpants have become the wardrobe of choice, skipping class a new routine, and homework being a thing of the past, then senioritis might be to blame.

The first inclination of many parents, school staff, and students may be to laugh off the symptoms of senioritis and assume that the only cure is graduation. However, if the onset and continuation of the made-up condition is not dealt with, graduation may not happen.

The Urban Dictionary defines senioritis as, "A crippling disease that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts, and sweatshirts. Also features a lack of studying, repeated absences, and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation."

It is not hard to understand why many seniors crash second semester - or maybe even first semester - because after months of going through the college admission process, hitting the "submit" on that last college application can feel like all you want to do is collapse across a huge finish line and then relax. However, what many students might not realize is that completing applications and awaiting answers is not the end of the journey - it is just the beginning.

So, what's the cure for senioritis? While scare tactics like the threat of failing and not graduating is compelling, another possibility might be that college acceptances may be rescinded and perhaps financial aid lost due to a once stellar GPA now reflecting a lack of caring. It is important to remember that the spring semester of senior year is not a sprint; it is a marathon.

That being said, completing a marathon requires planning and follow-through. The temptation to slack off is huge and the consequences of doing so are well known. So then what small, consistent steps can seniors take to make sure they cross the finish line and graduate? Like any good plan, set small, attainable goals. Once that goal has been met, set another one, and another and before you know it, you've succeeded. Improve your study habits if they have fallen off and make sure to take time to relax and be in the moment these last months of high school.

Personally, I can self-diagnose myself with senioritis. I don't want to come to school, I don't have as much motivation as I should, and I can't remember the last time I actually made an attempt to look nice at school. Through all of this reflection, I realize that I only have a month left of high school and I'm done.

I may not be done with school, but I'm done with the obligations of high school. I realize that after graduation, life doesn't end, it doesn't get easier, life takes a turn and it's up to me whether or not I want to succeed. One day, I might not even remember what high school was like, but it is this last semester that could have a lasting affect on how my life turns out, so I need to make the effort now.

Once you are out of high school you can make your own decisions; nothing is required anymore. It is scary knowing that everyone in my class, including myself, are now adults and we will all be taking different paths from one another.

I have enjoyed following this path with everyone, but honestly, I'm ready to get out of here.



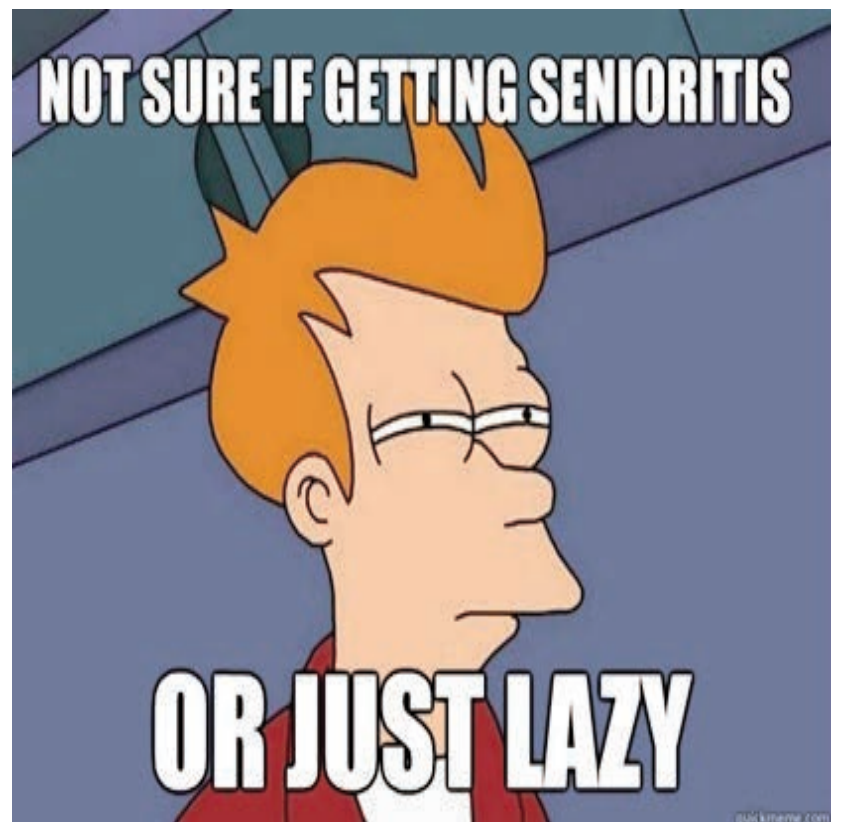
Willard's
Furs and Fashions
Plus... Tuxedo Rentals & Sales

36 West Main Street
Marshalltown, IA 50158
Ph: (641) 753-3751
www.willardsfursandfashions.com

Prom Saver
\$50 OFF
Prom Tuxedo Rental

Like us on Facebook

Contact Willard's Fur & Tuxedo Rental for details. Not valid with other specials.



www.jstudentboard.com/reporter/community-andschool/is-senioritis-real/

PEBBLES
1602 S. 2ND AVE.
MARSHALLTOWN, IA 50158
754-1130 EXT. 1212

Letters to the editor are welcomed, and should be delivered to room 212 or mailed to MHS in care of the Publications department. Letters should be signed, but anonymity may be granted on case by case basis. The Pebbles Staff reserves the right to edit all letters. Unsigned editorials represent the majority opinion of the Pebbles staff. Signed commentaries represent the opinions of the writer and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Pebbles Staff.

Adviser:
Suanne Willman

Staff:
Haley Bell
Emily Miller