

Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

www.mhsheadlight.weebly.com

September 18, MMXIV

A Word To The Class of 2018

Joanna Rosen, Senior Editors' Assistant

Congratulations! You've successfully survived your first few weeks at MHS. Now that you've assimilated yourselves into the community you'll be a part of for the next four years, I'd like to offer a few pieces of advice to help you adjust more efficiently.

Keep in mind we were all freshmen once. Whether at MHS or elsewhere, we all know what it's like to be totally lost in a new school, or to be overwhelmed by the amount of work high school entails, or to be excited to finally locate your friends in the hallways. This is why you should not hesitate to ask for help. So far I've come across at least three groups of freshmen who were loudly lamenting how they couldn't find their next classes. Each time I waited for them to ask someone for help. They never did, so I simply volunteered the information they were in need of. But you shouldn't stand around and wait for help; just ask an upperclassman! Most of us are very friendly and would gladly help you. Like I said, we all know what it's like to get lost—sometimes I still get confused trying to navigate through the crowded hallways. So please ask someone the next time you can't find the lecture hall or A103 or wherever it is you're headed. We know how you feel; we really do want to help!

As you've been adjusting to life at MHS you may not have realized that your work

load is incredibly small. Please take a moment to appreciate the minimal amount of work with which you freshmen are endowed. It doesn't last. So enjoy it while you can, because it only gets worse. As sophomores the homework will pile up, and as juniors you probably won't have time for much else. Most seniors have copious amounts of papers and assignments due in the first semester. This year may seem overwhelming for you, but simply look at how stressed the sophomores and upperclassmen are and be happy that you are not yet one of them.

And here's a word of advice regarding the cafeteria: if you buy lunch, memorize your student ID number. Yes, you do need to punch in your number to buy lunch. In the first week of school, I noticed scores of freshmen who had to step out of line at the register to retrieve their schedules in order to locate their ID. Trust me, you don't want to have to carry your schedule with you when you go get lunch. The sooner you can get that eight-digit number memorized, the easier buying lunch will be.

Studies are another issue I would like to address. A study is a block in which you can talk with your friends, finish homework, or actually study. If you're going to use a study to talk with friends, I'm begging you to speak quietly. Not because it's distracting or annoying, but because often you can't help but overhear what people near you are saying. Last week I sat in front of a group of freshmen who were discussing a friend's various relationships. It was actually pretty entertaining, but I don't think these kids

wanted my friends and I to hear every word that was spoken. Due to their loud and very detailed dialogue, however, we did hear everything. And I can honestly say I wish I hadn't. So please keep your voices down when discussing personal problems. It makes everyone uncomfortable when half the room can hear about how your boyfriend broke up with you.

But possibly the most important issue is that of the hallways: the hallways are here so that we can travel from class to class. Not so that we can stop in the middle of them and talk to our friends. I understand that it's easy to get overwhelmed or even lost in the huge crowds that fill the hallways each day; we've all been there. If you find yourself in this situation, please don't stand in the middle and wait as people attempt to maneuver their way around you. Make your way to the side of the hallway as quickly as you can and then stop. Once there, you can chat with friends or try to find your next class. As long as you aren't blocking the way, you'll be fine.

I hope this list of advice can help you as you embark on the insane journey that is freshman year. You'll likely have some fantastic experiences, as well as some absolutely awful ones this year, but remember that everything ends at some point: enjoy the good times and remember that the horrible aspects of being a freshman will eventually fade away. Keep moving in the hallways, talk quietly in studies, memorize your ID, don't complain about your workload (because it's nowhere near as enormous as the upperclassmen's), and please ask for help when you need it! Good luck!

cause you can't just hit snooze. Invest in computer and phone apps (yes, they have these!) that block certain programs for a certain amount of time. Even ask your parents to make you get up, or have them take your phone. Find whatever works and take advantage of it! As a recovering procrastinator, I can truly say that time management has changed my life. I get more sleep (so I'm not as completely exhausted), I'm mostly on time, and my work is better quality because I'm not scrambling at the last minute. But before you do anything, the first step is to admit you have a problem.

I know I'm not the only one dealing with procrastination, so the purpose of this article is not only to help myself, but also to help those who need to make a change in how they manage their time (just in time for school!). Set alarms on the other side of the house, so if you're binge-watching while you should be working, you actually have to separate yourself from the television be-

Worth the Wait

Meredith Piela, Senior Editor-in-Chief

Recently, I was listening to the song "On Top of the World" by one of my favorite bands, Imagine Dragons. Although I've listened to the song many times before, the lyrics never spoke to me as much as they did this time. In the chorus of the song, the lead singer says, "I'm on top of the world... Been waiting on this for a while now... been dreaming of this since a child." As I was listening to the song, I started to think about how accurately these lyrics represent my current situation.

After years of dreaming about my senior year and watching my sister experience hers, it's finally my turn. In addition to that, I just turned 18, which I have also looked forward to for as long as I can remember. To top it all off, I am now a co-Editor-in-Chief of Headlight, which means I get to work with some of the greatest people at MHS every Monday after school.

One would think that being a senior and adult feels amazing. Trust me, it does. However, it also feels weird. I keep asking myself, "How did this happen? Where did the time go?" I've spent the last three years watching the seniors take part in their senior activities, such as Powderpuff, and now I get to do it all. Even though I haven't fully wrapped my mind around all of this, I know I have to enjoy every moment of this year, because it will fly by. To all the underclassmen at Marblehead High School, enjoy the next couple of years and try to manage, because when you finally get to senior year and all the excitement it brings, it's worth the wait.

Good luck to everyone at MHS – We can do this! And here's to another amazing year of Headlight!

Summertime Sadness

Alex Kerai, Senior Editor-in-Chief

So it's September 18. We're three weeks into the school year. Homework has been assigned, tests have been taken, essays turned in, and a few assemblies have already been held at MHS. And now, sadly, we can say, summer's gone. Each year it seems that summer flies by and those haunting "Back to School" signs pop up even earlier than usual. And, to be honest, it's not fair. What ever happened to summer vacation where kids could relax on the beach for days on end like in the movies? What happened to those cross-country summer vacations to Walley World theme park we kids all looked forward to? Now it seems that by the time we've finished planning summer trips, it's already August 20th and time to start summer work with no time left to enjoy the shark-infested beaches of Amity Island.

Also, during the time when students have the opportunity to take a break and rest from their busy school year, many teachers add summer work for the students to complete during their vacation. This diminishes the effect of summer vacation on students and instead of coming back to school well-rested and ready to work, many students are already stressed out from summer work and the pressures of the coming year. I am not advocating for an elimination of summer work entirely (for I do see the benefit of it in most classes) and I am not advocating for the extension of summer vacation (for that would be impractical), rather I am hoping that students take advantage of their vacation time and don't wish at the end that they'd spent it any other way. Get summer work done early so you can enjoy the benefits of sleeping in and laying out in the sun at the beach all day. Summer is a time to do things that you love, so don't waste that time. Find something you love and do it all summer to escape the stress of school. Isn't that what summer's all about?

And now we resume the grind of the school year, with a countdown on our phones until the day summer vacation begins again...

"..take advantage of vacation time and don't wish at the end that you'd spent it any other way."

Procrastination is Not Key

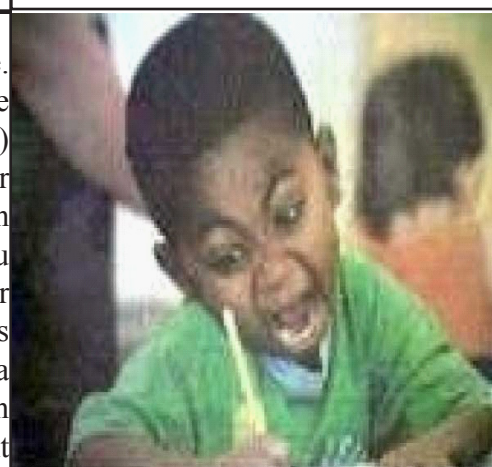
Riley Sugarman, Senior Reporter in the Field

Hi I'm Riley, and I have a problem.

Anyone who knows me is fully aware of my time management problem. It means hitting snooze ten too many times, finishing an essay the block before it's due, starting homework at 7 p.m., and frequently being—as Spongebob once said—fashionably late. After I left most (don't worry, not all) of my summer work until the last four days prior to school, I realized it was time for a change. Instead of coming home and indulging in my

addiction of Law in Order: SVU before a cat-nap, and then starting on my homework, I come home and immediately get to work. Part of the reason is that I am taking some major time-consuming courses this year, and partly that I already have enough stress in my life, and staying up into all hours of the night simply adds to it.

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Then join HEADLIGHT!**

We meet every Monday after school in A303.

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