



## The First Time For Freshmen

Kate Twomey, Freshman  
REPORTER

Last week, Marblehead High School finally returned to fully in-person school, something that a quarter of the school has never experienced at MHS. With COVID keeping us in varying remote and hybrid schedules throughout this past year, the Class of 2024 has never spent a full school day in the high school. As of last week, that changed, and freshmen finally got to experience a full day of high school.

The first big change with full in-person school is that there are no more remote classes (unless you're in the remote cohort). Personally, I love not having remote classes anymore. Finishing your morning classes in school and getting to go home, only to have to log onto the computer for another two classes was exhausting. I also found it difficult to focus and feel engaged during remote classes, so I much prefer learning in school. Even though we are now spending more time in the building than during the hybrid schedule, the days haven't felt that long, and actually being done with school when we leave the building is nice.

Another change is that we finally get to eat lunch at school. This is a first for freshmen at the high school. Coming into this week I had no idea how lunch even worked at MHS. Overall, I like the way lunch is structured, and the schedule isn't as confusing as I thought it would be. The faculty has done a good job making sure there is room for everyone to safely eat outside and inside, should the need arise. I really like eating outside though, and being able to choose pretty much anywhere on campus to eat is exciting and a freedom we didn't have at the middle school. We also get to spend time with our friends. Since we've been

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coming into school five days a week, we've been able to see and really talk to our friends in school. For the first time all year, I've talked to people I've only seen in passing for months, and I have better connected with old friends I don't see much outside of school.

One more first for freshmen is the new schedule, or what is really the old schedule. Since freshmen weren't at MHS last year, we have never used the normal schedule until this week, and while at first it seemed confusing like the lunch schedule appeared to be, it's been easy to memorize and follow. Finally getting to spend the whole day in school with the proper schedule makes it feel like we've finally started actual high school, instead of the various forms of COVID school.

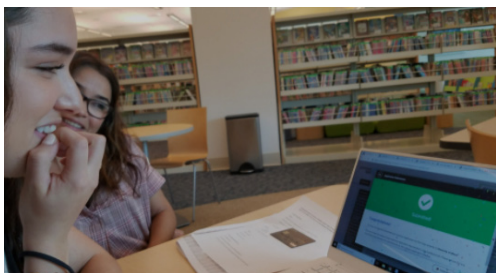
The biggest change I've noticed in only these few days from hybrid to fully in-person is how everything feels almost normal. I'd forgotten what it was like to bring lunch to school and not have remote classes. Now, aside from masks and socially distanced lunch, school is pretty much back to how it was before COVID. With more and more people getting vaccinated, and an adolescent vaccine waiting for approval, the world is hopefully on its way to returning to normal as well.

*If you were a freshman this academic year, would you feel the same way as Talia? Though online school can be seen as "easier," is it worth the sacrifice of normalcy? Let us know your opinions at @mhsheadlight on Instagram!*

## Juniors: Should College Planning Begin Earlier?

Olivia Spell, Junior  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Almost all children dream of being in high school, having a sweet sixteen, or simply feeling like a grown-up. This day has arrived for the juniors, and unfortunately, we don't know where to go next. Researching colleges and planning a future without parental figures is a relatively new part of our lives. It is extremely different from the glorified versions we saw in Disney movies as a child. Now that this once far away dream is becoming reality, it is hard to grasp, or even accept.



*Junior year normally marks the start of college admissions related work. However, it would be much less stressful to begin this process earlier.*

Olivia Gardner, a junior at Marblehead High School and a reporter for Headlight says, "I just feel like an unprepared child. That mature feeling I hoped to have this year just doesn't exist." She also feels that the school should "give more of an introduction to planning for college in freshman year in

hopes of taking away some stress when they become juniors." This planning would entail guiding students through the process of searching for colleges, and what goals to make for the remaining four years. Simple steps like this will help upcoming juniors feel less blindsided and unprepared for their future.

Starting the college application process, for those who plan to attend, is a significant step towards future success. While this process may be stress-inducing, it does not have to completely consume our lives. With the help of the school, students can begin to prepare for college earlier in the upcoming four years of high school, thus limiting the dreadful feeling of being unprepared for an independent future.

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## History Bounding: A Hobby for the Ages

Kate Gardner, Senior  
OPINION EDITOR

Hey! Hey you! Are you a Gen Z'er looking for a hobby? How about one that's stylish, sustainable, and allows you to unleash your inner wench? All you need are some curtains and a sewing machine!

For the uninitiated, History Bounding is the practice of emulating or recreating historical clothes for modern wear. This can be as simple as wearing a pleated skirt, or as far as a Tudor court gown out to do one's errands. Over the pandemic, I've taken to making my own clothes, with historical patterns from different eras as inspiration. Here are some reasons why I love it so much:

### It makes me a better consumer:

According to some estimates, the average American buys upwards of 68 items of clothing a year. A significant percentage of that clothing will go unworn, much of it ending up in a landfill. There's even a documented practice of shipping garments to the developing world, where they pile up to be burned. According to the EPA, America generates 17 million tons of textile waste annually.

The waste of clothing contributes not only to pollution, but also to carbon emissions and wage slavery. Fast fashion generates cheap products at a high volume through cheap synthetic textiles and exploitative labor practices. Synthetic textiles are not biodegradable, but they do break down, lasting for very little time and leaking plastics into the water supply. At every level of the major supply chain of clothing in America, there is abuse and environmental destruction. But these are industrial problems. What can an individual do?

Prior to the post WWII consumer boom, the average person owned fewer household items. Those objects one had were well made and repeatedly repaired. Clothing in particular was expensive to produce, even after the advent of industrial textile manufacturing. In general (and I am speaking very generally), people owned fewer clothes and valued them more.

For me, History Bounding is about consumption as much as it is about aesthetics. I am learning to value the objects I live with and the labor that goes into their production more highly. In order to stop climate change, we need to not only buy sustainable products, but to buy less, and reuse things when possible.

### It challenges the way I view history, and historical women:

We like to assume that because of the conveniences offered by modern technology, the objects we use everyday are superior, and by extension the objects of our ancestors were wholly impractical.

Period women's clothing in particular is characterized as frivolous and inconvenient. Sure it is, if you're Marie Antoinette sandwiched between meter wide panniers. But the reality is that before and during early industrializa-

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tion, a majority of the population still labored on farms, or performed other menial tasks. Their clothing had to be durable and practical.

But what about corsets! I hear you cry. Well, corsets allowed the wearer to distribute the weight of the layers of clothing worn at the time, and kept one warm before the advent of central heating. Furthermore, there's evidence that supportive garments such as stays served a practical function, as when professional lifters wear a belt to work out. If properly constructed, these garments can support the lower back, making manual labor easier.

Growing up, we're taught that corsets are oppressive torture devices, and that aristocratic fashions were designed by men out of spite. In reality, extreme female fashions such as large skirts, protective hat pins (please Google this one), and elongated bonnets allowed women to reclaim physical space. These fashions were subject to the hatred of many men, as evidenced by extant political cartoons mocking them.

Traditionally, female labor has been devalued, and this extends to the perception of crafts and labor performed largely by women. When you learn a skill, you gain an understanding of the time, labor, and training that skill requires.

### It's fun and satisfying:

MHS has some practical classes. You can take Woodworking or Cooking. But what self-respecting high school nowadays offers Home Ec? Indeed, where in our lives are we taught the practical skills related to maintaining a home and repairing everyday objects?

BooksMarts aren't the only kind of intelligence. My Grammie can knit a sweater from scratch. My dad has a Master's in Bioinformatics, but he can also fix all sorts of household appliances. Guess which skillset gets more use around the house.

This is not to say that academic learning isn't important or useful, but practical skills are so undervalued in our education. It feels good to make something with my hands. It feels good to use something that I made every day.

Sewing is calming. There's a rhythm to making a seam. I can watch a show while I pin a row of pleats. I can listen to music. Not only does the end product make me feel fancy, but ladies, I have pockets!

So, do you have a clothing swap bridesmaid's dress and a ripped bedsheet lying around your home? Make a big ol' skirt with some big ol' pockets. Of course, not everyone exults in dressing like Baba Yaga, but the lessons of period clothing can apply to modern sewing and modern habits. Learn to fix the things you have. Turn them into things you want. Be a (sus)tainable bog witch!



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Last Week's Meeting!

