



## Where Has All the Coral Gone?

Madison Morris, Junior  
Reporter

Snorkelling above coral reefs has become a lot less colorful. Coral reefs are known as some of the most beautiful places on Earth, filled with 25 percent of the ocean's biodiversity. In addition to housing vast numbers of animals, coral reefs help support the economies of many coastal communities by supporting tourism, jobs, and fisheries. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the goods and services provided by coral reefs are worth approximately 375 billion dollars every year. Unfortunately, the benefits provided by coral reefs may cease due to the rapid death of coral reefs by coral bleaching.



Unbleached Coral

Coral bleaching occurs when photosynthetic algae known as Zooxanthellae, which are vital for the survival of coral polyps, are expelled from the reefs due to abnormally high water temperatures. These photosynthetic algae have a mutualistic relationship with coral polyps in which the zooxanthellae provide coral with nutrients, and coral provides the zooxanthellae with carbon dioxide and ammonium needed for photosynthesis to occur. The algae also give coral its vibrant color. When the zooxanthellae leave coral behind, the reefs are left to decay and lose their color, becoming bleached. This event is all too common, leaving few coral reefs alive.

Although the future for coral reefs and the animals that make up a coral reef ecosystem looks unfavorable, coral bleaching is one of the few events caused primarily by climate change and can actually be reversed if the necessary action is taken. Zooxanthellae will actually return to coral reefs if there is a major decrease in ocean temperature. Currently, many efforts such as pumping zooxanthellae onto dying coral reefs have helped reduce coral bleaching, but these measures will not preserve coral reefs forever. Major actions must be taken in order to restore coral reefs before there are none left. Yet again, here is a reminder to adopt environmentally friendly practices, because although coral reefs may be far from Marblehead, they are a natural wonder that people all over the world should pride themselves in protecting.



Bleached Coral

The information in this article was compiled from the following sources:  
<https://www.noaa.gov/>  
<https://floridakeys.noaa.gov/corals/economy.html>

## MHS Faculty Members Volunteer at Lifebridge



A contingent of Marblehead High School Faculty, Staff, and their children gathered on Sunday, May 19, to prepare and serve lunch at Lifebridge in Salem. This is the group's second year of community service in an outreach effort led by MHS Foreign Language teacher Holly Grose.

## The SAT Adversity Score: What is it, and What Will it Do?

Sophia Piper, Sophomore  
Reporter

It's no secret that the SAT is deeply flawed. In case you don't remember, the big item in the news a month ago was how corrupt the whole system is (people paid proctors to give their kids the answers). Recently, the College Board has been under fire for a new proposition: the "Adversity Score." Students who take the SAT are assigned a separate "score," 0-100, based on "adversity" – basically, it scores how privileged you are. The score takes into account neighborhood, familial, and high school environments. For neighborhood: crime rate, poverty rate, average housing cost, and vacancy rate. For family: median income of the area, single parent or not, education levels, and English as a second language. For high school: curricular rigor, free lunch rate, and AP opportunities. Scores over 50 are disadvantaged, and those under 50 are privileged. The score is sent to colleges, and the student is unable to see where they fall on the privilege scale. Just by living in Marblehead (which has a median income of 100,000 dollars compared to the national average of 28,000 dollars, extremely low crime rates, and a pretty good school system), the majority of MHS students are going to fall under the "privileged" category. But what does this mean for Marblehead college applicants – will they be at a severe disadvantage when applying to colleges?



The answer is mostly unknown for now. After all, some colleges are making the SAT optional, so some applicants may skip over this entire process. However, showing your SAT score does improve acceptance chances, and most competitive colleges still require it. As far as actual results: Florida State University reported a 5 percent increase in nonwhite enrollment thanks to the Adversity Score. However, there are still doubts about how much more racially diverse the program will actually make college campuses, and if it will even be allowed by the public. In the 1990s, a similar idea called the Strivers Program was so unpopular that the College Board quickly withdrew it. There is also the whole controversy over Harvard possibly holding students applying from Asia to a higher standard – since English is a second language for many of these families, will international students get priority over United States citizens?

Since the public was made aware of the Adversity Score, it has been heavily criticized by people of all backgrounds who believe that sorting students by privilege is not the way to go. The SAT is skewed towards wealthier people because test prep is expensive and doesn't match with what we learn during the school day. Some students can hire SAT tutors and receive many hours of SAT-specific practice for a hefty price. Poorer families cannot do this, and so they are left on their own for test prep. Since the SAT does not line up with the



Common Core curriculum, students who just learn what they learned in school are at a disadvantage. Instead of creating a privilege score, which excludes many factors and may put hardworking students at a disadvantage, why not redo the SAT and make it relevant to the current high school curriculum? That way, most students would be able to prep for the SAT by studying what they actually learned in class, not from a over 50-dollar-per-hour tutor.

Although everyone can agree that the current SAT is not what it should be, I'm sure that many people would also agree that the Adversity Score is not the right solution. Hopefully, this dilemma can be resolved while keeping all hard working students in mind.

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