



# The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

## A new perspective in administration

BY HENRY HITCHINGS AND EMMA SEARLE

Dhakir Warren is bringing a wealth of knowledge and motivation from his background in education and anti-sex trafficking to his new position as administrator of student affairs at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) this year.

Before his recent move to the Island, Mr. Warren oversaw 12 cities, including Boston, Atlanta, and San Diego, through his work as the co-coordinator with CEASE (Cities Empowered Against Sexual Exploitation), an organization that works to reduce domestic sex buying. Typically, victims return to their victimizers because they are unable to find support from communities or the government after their initial rescue. Victims can be seen as unreliable witnesses, which allows sex traffickers to avoid conviction.

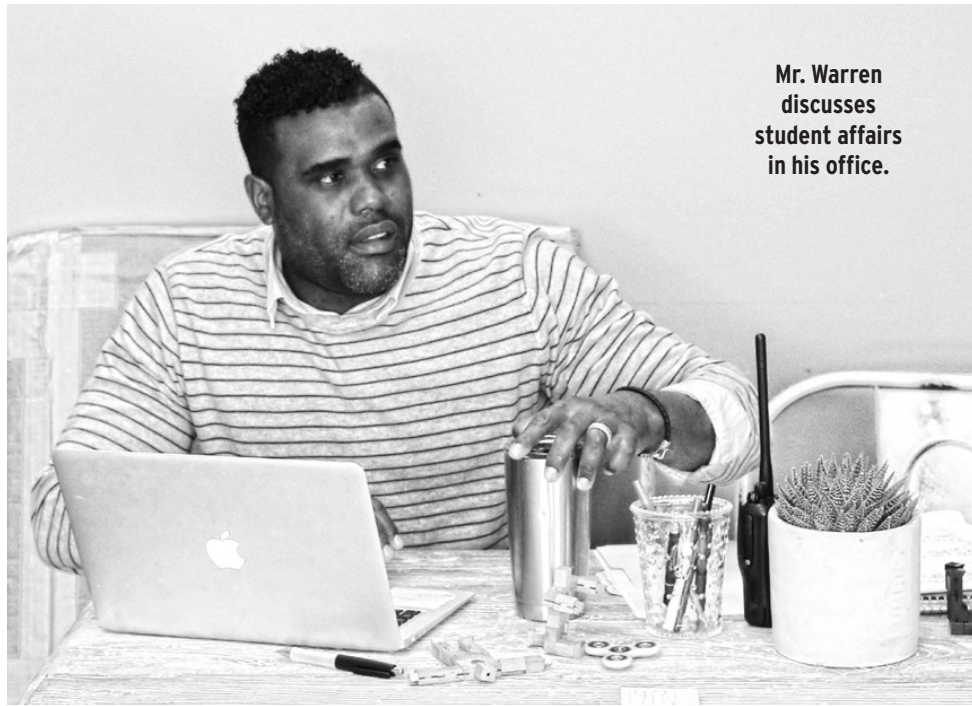
Mr. Warren took a unique approach in helping the situation. "We know most people are coerced into the sex trade, and to penalize those individuals is not right, so instead we engaged in initiatives that would target the buyers instead," he said. "The victims are then taken to places where they are able to get social resources. It was really exciting because of how this issue disproportionately affects the youth, and we were able to support them."

After years of working bi-coastally in Los Angeles and Boston, Mr. Warren decided to stay on the Island with his wife, Sophia, after the birth of their daughter, Sloane, last October. "After a few months of being out, I just kind of thought about what I would miss if I continued to work remotely in Boston and D.C. and continued to travel so much," said Mr. Warren.

In his new role, Mr. Warren is tasked with enforcing

the student code of conduct, conducting investigations into disciplinary infractions,

Warren's responsibilities do not solely include taking disciplinary action. He also



Mr. Warren discusses student affairs in his office.

COLIN HENKE

and communicating with parents of students facing punishment. However, Mr.

works in student affairs, and offers support to students facing difficulties.

contact, and will talk directly to a student."

In addition to his back-

ground working against sex trafficking, Mr. Warren taught in the Boston public school system. He feels both experiences have been formative in how he operates as an educator today. "There are a lot of elements of education that really are aligned with issues of social justice," he said. "The sum of all my previous work has really helped me to come here and apply the learning and skills I've developed in a way that helps students."

Mr. Warren intends to share with students opportunities beyond what the Island has to offer. "I think identifying more opportunities for access to outside experiences is something I'm really looking forward to exploring, whether it be workforce opportunities that might not be represented here, or other educational or trade opportunities," he said. "More importantly, I'm interested in the opportunity for intercultural exchange, the ability to see different parts of the country and the world. Expanding and removing barriers is something I really want to focus on." **HSV**

## Open campus proves a success

BY ALEXIS CONDON

Now that open campus is in full swing, seniors with a free period have the luxury of choice: to sleep in, grab breakfast, or catch up on work before heading into school. If their free block falls at the end of the day, all they have to do to leave is sign themselves out at the front office.

Open campus, a joint effort of the administration and student council, is a senior privilege that serves to boost morale and reward positive behavior. To remain eligible, a student must be "in good standing." Once a student not in good standing serves the consequences on time and demonstrates a willingness to comply with the reasonable

requests of adults, he or she is again eligible. Any student who cuts class, or is on social probation as a result of a suspension or safety concern to the community, will have the privilege revoked.

Senior class representative Owen Engler was one of the students who saw the implementation of open campus through from idea to reality. "Last year, seniors didn't like how they couldn't leave when they had study hall," he said, "especially when they didn't have work to do. Student council wanted to change that. A lot of schools in the country utilize open campus. It was super-common in the '70s and '80s, and is now gaining popularity again."

The planning phase of open

campus required extensive collaboration between the administration and student council members. Owen said, "A big question was how kids were going to leave. Was signing out going to put too much weight on [administrative assistant Inez Montanile]? But after the pilot week at the end of last year, we saw it actually worked pretty well."

Seniors Mackenzie Condon, Katie Morse, Ian Trance, and Alley Estrella also played an important role in the effort. "They were instrumental in planning the proposition and implementing it," Owen said. "Without them, it would have been impossible to do it."

Principal Sara Dinglely supports open campus on the principle of it incentiv-

izing good behavior. She said, "Our fear of what kids are out doing in the world shouldn't stop us from allowing kids to see what it's like to sleep in till nine o'clock."

While no tweaks to the policy itself have been made, Ms. Dinglely has pulled open campus away from a small number of kids. She said, "If someone has abused the privilege, we will put them back on a study-hall roster and revisit it second quarter, using their academic standing and behavior record to evaluate whether they should be back in good standing."

Julie Meader, an administrative support, is responsible for checking open campus students in and out. "The only thing that I'm finding is that students staying on campus aren't necessarily coming to check in and say, 'Hey, I'm just over at the library,' or,

'Hey, I'll be in the cafeteria.' If there was ever a fire, I would need to know where those students are," she said.

Student Hollis Kelly waves to grab Ms. Meader's attention as he checks in at the front desk, and she gives him an "All set," taking his attendance on her computer. Looking rested, he has arrived a couple of minutes early for his first class of the day.

Sophie Combra has open-campus H block, which falls first or last on most days. "Open campus makes my mornings easier, especially because I play sports," she said. "If I'm on a late boat the night before, or just tired, I can catch up on my sleep or get my work done in the morning before class. I also like that we can't leave in the middle of the day, because it forces me to get my work done."

Varsity hockey captain Ian

Trance takes full advantage of open campus. "I've found the days when I have it to be much more enjoyable," he said. "I can either sleep in or go get breakfast. Sometimes if I have it at the end of the day, I'll go over to the rink with friends and just hang out and do homework. I grew up in the rink, so it's a comfortable spot for me to be."

Ms. Dinglely said, "I sense more positivity, which is also attributed to the students themselves. The senior class is a go-getter one, with lots of goals. My relationship with these kids is a little less about me enforcing rules and more about creating a dialogue of how we can work to improve the school."

"In real life, privileges are earned and privileges are taken away," said Owen. "It's not just freedom, it's freedom with accountability." **HSV**

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Alexis Condon, Mackenzie Condon, Henry Hitchings • ASSISTANT EDITORS IN CHIEF: Addy Hayman, Emma Searle • ART EDITORS: Astoria Hall  
PHOTOGRAPHY EDITORS: Colin Henke, Davin Tackabury • MASTHEAD ART: Astoria Hall • FACULTY ADVISER: Kate Hennigan

**George A. Santos, Jr. O.D.**  
Adult & Children Vision Care, Vision Therapy Contact Lenses  
638 Main St., Vineyard Haven  
508-693-7222

**MARTHA'S VINEYARD BANK**  
Banking that's Vineyard Sound  
508.627.4266  
www.mvbank.com  
Member FDIC • Member DIF

**BRUSH, FLANDERS & MORIARTY**  
ATTORNEYS AT LAW  
Local Knowledge  
459 State Road, West Tisbury  
508.693.7733 BFMLEGAL.COM

**SUPPORT THE HIGH SCHOOL VIEW**  
Get recognition for your public support  
**MVTimes**  
To advertise call 508-693-6100 • Press 2

**JOHN KEENE EXCAVATION**  
Mon.-Fri., 7:30am-5pm • Sat., 8am-12noon • Old Stage Road, across from Takemmy Farm in West Tisbury • 508-693-5975 or 508-693-0025