

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.

Student perspectives on current learning model

BY CHLOE COMBRA AND RUBY REIMANN

After the transition to remote learning took place at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) last spring, students had to adapt to a variety of challenges and disruptions to their learning. As school has remained online this fall, students continue to face some challenges, but are maintaining a healthy perspective for the most part. With a hybrid model proposed by MVRHS to begin November 30th, most students are looking forward to going back to in-person learning — especially freshmen.

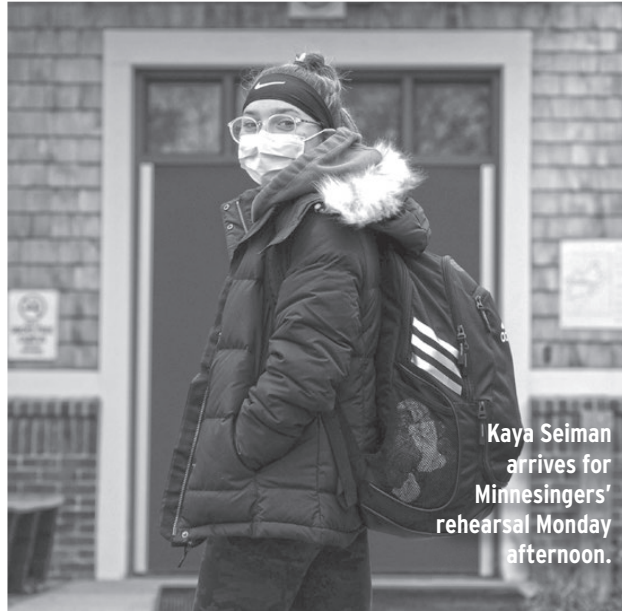
"When COVID-19 first hit last spring, our [middle] school didn't have much of a schedule," said freshman Emma Burt. "This schedule [up at the high school] feels a

lot more regimented." The current remote schedule runs from 8 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. with five classes per day and each class meeting three times a week. This is a shift from last spring, when students had two classes per day. Some students say it gives them a better sense of normalcy, as it is similar to the typical school days.

Others are feeling overwhelmed. "Five classes per day creates a workload that is 'abysmal,'" said senior Eric Reubens.

Many students feel that teachers and administration have done a good job of handling a very difficult situation, but many also commented that students should have been more involved in the decision-making regarding their remote learning this fall.

Principal Sara Dingley



Kaya Seiman arrives for Minnesingers' rehearsal Monday afternoon.

KLARA REIMANN

conceded that initially there was limited weigh-in by students, but explained that it didn't seem like the time to democratize it. Input from health and safety

and nurses was prioritized. "Now we're going to get some student feedback on the model," she said. "A survey was distributed and there will be additional stu-

dent input on the schedule." In addition to some frustration over not having much of a say, students have struggled to connect with each other and their teachers.

Freshman Sophie Cutrer said, "I haven't gotten to see a lot of people, and I've become a lot less social."

"I haven't really gotten to know my teachers," said Emma. "The social aspect gets removed from [class]. Over Zoom you don't talk to [teachers] before or after class, you just leave when class is over."

Some students have had the opportunity to attend their classes over Zoom while in the school building, which has allowed them easier access to teachers and additional help. Freshman Shaun Thomas is one of these students. "My experience in the building [with] remote learning has been amazing," he said. "I've gotten to meet my teachers and see my friends. You get more help in the building instead of stay-

ing at home, [and] it's easier to focus in the school." Despite the struggles students are currently facing, there have been positive impacts as a result of remote learning: more time to spend with family and new perspectives on the importance of friendship and community.

"There's more time for me to do things that I don't normally get to do in the day," said Eric, noting more time to take yoga classes and spend time with his family. "[Remote learning] has let me focus on different areas, especially community service [and] figure out different ways to help the community through this situation."

"We've all been struggling, [but we'll] come out stronger as a community," said senior Kaya Seiman. "We need to realize that everyone is hurting and everyone wants to go back to school, but we have to do it safely for everybody." **HSV**

New enrollees adjust to life on Island

BY BROOKE CROCKER AND AVA MAGGI

At least two new students at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) have found themselves here as a result of a last-minute decision to enroll as a result of the pandemic. Neither sophomore Violette Wetterhahn nor junior Millie Hege would have predicted at the start of summer that they'd be switching schools, but so far they're adjusting well.

Violette Wetterhahn, who moved here from the suburbs of New York City, was already quarantining here on the Vineyard when her family made the decision to stay in mid-August. "We like it a lot better than New York," she said.

Millie and her family are from Baltimore, MD. "I just rent a house here during

the summer," she said. "My parents were in the car one day, and it was like the end of July or beginning of August. We were talking about how the house was going to be up at the end of the month. I was like, 'Why don't we just stay?' It all happened in the matter of a week or so."

"I didn't know anyone at all," said Violette, "but everyone has been so friendly that it hasn't been difficult to make friends. Breakout rooms have helped me a lot."

Millie knew some students prior to moving here full time. "If I noticed someone I thought I would get along well with I would just add them on Snapchat. It was definitely more difficult when I went into my class, but luckily I had [a friend in junior] Ava Vought," she said.

Despite the challenges of moving, the new students are enjoying the Island.

"The beaches are amazing," said Violette. "The only thing is that you have to shop online for most things and the post office is always crowded. The main difference between MV and NY is that the Vineyard is more tight knit. In NY, everybody minds their own business and stays in their own little group. I guess what I'm saying is there's a community here."

"I love living on the Vineyard," said Millie. "I just like being able to walk and go places. I can't go anywhere in Baltimore. I miss my friends I guess, but I'm not too [upset] about it."

She added, "Even though it does seem scary to just pick up and move in a short period of time, it's helped me deal with change and opening up to a new environment and being comfortable in a new environment so quickly." **HSV**

An atypical Senior Day



MAX POTTER

Senior field hockey player Avery Simmons takes the ball down field during Saturday's Senior Day, a day when each team traditionally honors its senior athletes. It was the only time all season that seniors were able to dress for a game, experience playing before a (small) crowd, and have their game officiated by referees. Field hockey and both soccer teams played on the main fields and the cross-country teams raced on their home course. Two weeks remain in the sports season, during which time athletes will continue intramural scrimmages.

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