



The High School View

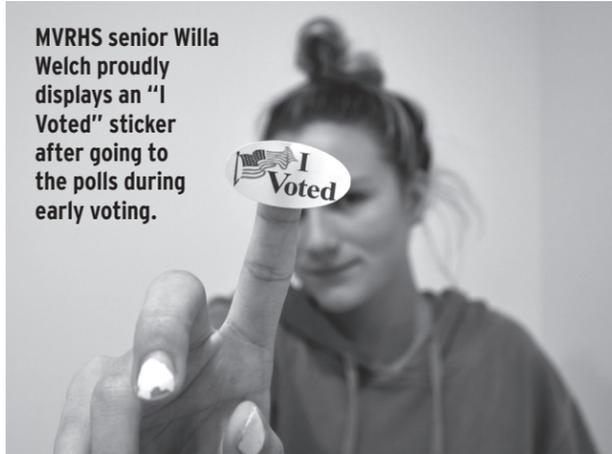
The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

First-time voters cast their ballots

BY HARDY EVILLE AND MARIN GILLIS

On Tuesday November 3, millions of Americans voted across the country. Thirty-five seniors from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) were eligible to take part in this process for the first time. Due to Covid-19, many students took advantage of the opportunity to vote early and avoid election day crowds. Others waited until election day to fill out their ballots.

First time voter and senior Willa Welch voted on election day. She stressed the importance of voting and making her voice heard: "I think it is definitely a civil duty. We get the chance to [vote] so we should really take advantage of it, because not every coun-



MVRHS senior Willa Welch proudly displays an "I Voted" sticker after going to the polls during early voting.

MAX POTTER

try's citizens get to do that." Senior Sarah Lytle also voted on election day, because she needed the extra time to research the different candidates and policies up for debate in the local ballot questions. "I felt that I wasn't prepared enough to vote

[early]," she said, "so I decided to put it off until I looked at a couple more questions and candidates."

Although political races like the presidential election get most of the attention, local questions can be very important to students. Ques-

tion 1 on this year's ballot will, if enacted, allow auto shops more access to wireless mechanical data.

"Question 1 is something that I am passionate about as an automotive student," said senior Matt D'Andrea. "I think that we should have the right to repair." Matt further explained that the right to repair will allow auto shops to thrive.

Many issues such as climate change, police reform, tax spending, and Covid-19 response drove students to the polls. The pandemic, which has impacted almost every aspect of students' lives, is an especially important factor in how students voted this year. "I hope to see some change," said senior Ellie Dolby. "I hope that we can figure out a way to contain [the virus] and watch it slowly go away."

Ellie found the time to vote early during a school lunch

break and said that it was mainly easy and efficient. However, she also thinks an electronic way to look up registered voters would have been faster than poll workers searching for her name in a packet of all Edgartown voters.

Women's reproductive rights, such as those protected under Roe v. Wade, are an especially important issue to students this year amidst rising controversy and a surge in multiple equal rights movements this past year.

"We [now] have the new supreme court justice, Amy Coney Barrett, and I do not agree with her views, particularly on reproductive rights," said Sarah. "I think it's really important that we get a president in office who can protect those rights."

While students are using this election to protect their rights, they are also using it

as an opportunity to call for change. Senior Aidan Marek, who cast his vote early, believes voting is a chance to express your opinions. "If you believe in something, there is no reason not to vote for what you believe in," he said.

Many eligible people in the United States still choose not to vote, however. According to the Office of the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives, in 2016, 45 percent of the eligible voters did not cast a ballot.

Sarah feels that not voting is a vote in itself. "Whether you want to or not, you're still making a decision that's affecting the country," she said, "so I think you might as well vote to make a more active decision based on your beliefs, rather than a more passive decision. If you're not voting this year, then you're not really thinking it through." HSV

Remote learning shapes daily routines

BY SARA CREATO AND JESSE DLABAJ

With the first quarter of the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) school year ending on November 10, remote learning has reshaped students' lives. Factors like grade level and extracurriculars have resulted in new and unique routines for students as they find balance between academics and other commitments.

Some students have struggled more than others to adjust to remote learning. Freshman Alexa Schroeder, who runs cross country and takes all honors classes, said, "I like the remote schedule. Zoom is definitely less awkward now and it feels like we are all getting used to [it]."

With remote classes starting at 8:00 A.M., and transportation unnecessary for most, students are able to sleep in more than they did last year when school started

at 7:40 A.M. Alexa, who considers herself organized and productive, starts her day around 7:15 A.M. and focuses on completing her schoolwork during the extended lunch period called 'Flex' and in study hall. After school, she attends cross country practice where she is able to interact with others. "Since we are able to see each other in person everyday it's easier to make new friends and be social," she said.

For students who are taking challenging courses, remote learning can be time-consuming from the assignments. Junior Ed Cherry is taking honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes. "Taking six hours of classes on a screen and then doing six hours of homework is not my favorite," he said. If it wasn't for COVID-19, Ed says he would prefer in-person schooling over remote learning.

Alison agrees that remote learning has presented difficulties for students with a

large workload. "It's a very long time to be looking at a screen and that can be very detrimental in terms of energy," said Alison. "I think it would definitely be beneficial for me, at least, to go back to school in a hybrid mode safely."

Typically, Alison has three and a half hours of homework, meaning she sometimes gets up at 6:00 A.M. to finish. Alison said, "I am as organized as I have to be to preserve my mental health."

Students may soon be transitioning into a new hybrid model, allowing some to come into the school for two days a week. Although this schedule will likely work for most people, it excludes students with medical conditions, including Ed. "The hybrid idea seems pretty okay. I will not be able to do it because I have certain health conditions, but for those who are willing to take a chance, I believe [the hybrid model] is the best of the best." HSV

Student Spotlight: Ryan Giordano

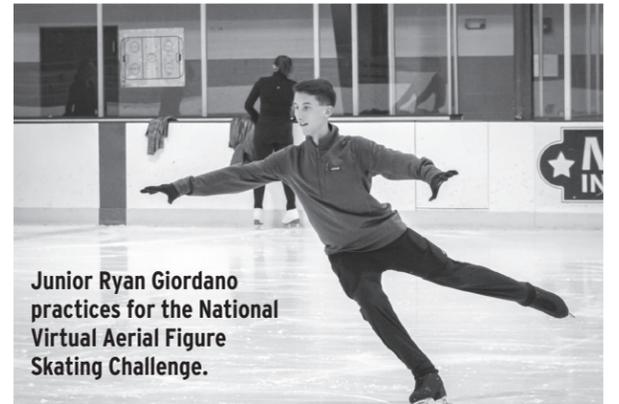
BY HILARY RODRIGUES

Junior Ryan Giordano participated in the National Virtual Aerial Figure Skating Challenge on October 9, placing third in the off-ice jump and first in the on-ice category. His placement also meant that he received constructive feedback from celebrity judges.

"The experience was life changing and unexpected," he said. "I didn't know I would place that well."

Ryan's figure skating challenge required submitting a video doing a simple jump and a combination jump, both on and off the ice. The on-ice jump is typically easier for skaters and more in their comfort zone. The ice provides not only more support than off-ice, but also constant movement which makes balance control easier.

Ryan first entered the skating scene through hockey when he was three years



Junior Ryan Giordano practices for the National Virtual Aerial Figure Skating Challenge.

PHOTO BY PARKER BRADLEE

old, and at age eight he made the switch to figure skating. "What inspired me was that I would be different from other people. Figure skating was something new."

After many years of hard work, Ryan hopes to become an influential figure skater like his role model, Adam Rippon, and to pursue figure skating in a college like the University of California at Los Angeles, which offers an intensive program.

As in any other sport, ice skating requires much effort

and dedication. Ryan, like all serious athletes, has experienced times throughout his career where things don't always go as planned. "If there is a time where I didn't do so well, I just say, 'Oh I can do better,'" he said. "I [try to] move on from that and not think about it so much."

For Ryan, figure skating is not only his passion but something he hopes to pursue as a potential job in the future. "I feel like it's a part of my life now, and I could never leave it." HSV

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