



# The High School View

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## Winter sports resume, with restrictions

BY HARDY EVILLE AND CHLOE COMBRA

After the intramural fall sports season was cut short due to rising coronavirus cases, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) sports are back for a shorter winter season, with games starting on January 11. With a new sports season comes new regulations, but also the first chance since last winter for athletes to compete against other schools.

"The MIAA, at the beginning of each season, will produce a series of modifications for each sport," said athletic director Mark McCarthy. "There are specific ones for basketball, specific ones for ice hockey, specific ones for swimming, those being the three sports that we're going to sponsor."

Winter sports usually include indoor track, but an MIAA ruling moved it to the Fall 2 season, starting in February, where it will join football, unified basketball, and cheerleading.

The general regulations that apply to all participating sports include social distancing, no locker room use, hand sanitizing, and mask wearing at all times.

Boys varsity basketball captain and senior Mike Trusty is excited for the upcoming season but has concerns about the impact of masks.

"Wearing a mask is definitely going to affect how well we play and our endurance during the game," he said. "It's going to cause everyone to get a lot more fatigued."

Head basketball coach Mike Joyce agrees that getting used to masks may be difficult. "I

like to play fast, I like to press, I like to run," he said. "I may have to look at not doing some of that because I don't want kids passing out."

Half time has been shortened from fifteen minutes to two and a half minutes and breaks between quarters have been lengthened from one minute to two and a half minutes.

Masks are also a challenge for hockey players, but students are looking into purchasing specially designed helmets that may make playing easier.

"We have to wear masks, obviously," said coach John Fiorito. "But there are some big hockey providers that sell masks built into the helmet. It's part of their chin wrap and attached to their cage."

An auxiliary penalty box has also been added to assist

with social distancing.

Swimmers won't be wearing masks while they compete, since the nature of their sport makes it impossible, but they will have to deal with different challenges. The team will compete virtually, meaning that each team will swim their races in separate pools and compare times online.

Senior captain Gabby Carr thinks this could impact her swim times.

"I know I do better when I'm trying to keep up with someone or trying to stay ahead of them," she said. "You're not going to have that to push against."

Once out of the pool, swimmers must be masked and socially distant from each other. The YMCA has installed a new air filtration system as well.

"I would count swimming



PARKER BRADLEE

Senior basketball captain Mike Trusty goes for a lay-up at tryouts on Monday night.

as one of the safer sports despite it being inside," Gabby said.

She thinks the current environment may benefit new students on the team.

"I think this is going to be a year that's less stressful, more low key," Gabby said. "It's a very good year for newer

swimmers who want to do some sort of sport."

Students will also be playing in front of smaller, sometimes nonexistent crowds.

Basketball and hockey have a set amount of fans allowed at games and will be limited to parents. Swimming will not have any spectators due to YMCA limitations.

Even with all the challenges, coaches and athletes are confident the season will be successful and be an opportunity for authentic competition.

"We have been hopeful [about having a season] but we weren't going to believe it until we actually saw it happen," Mr. Fiorito said. "Indoor sports are a different animal from outdoor sports, and we knew there would be a lot of challenging logistics. We are just happy to give the kids an opportunity to practice and also have some sort of league schedule." **HEV**

## Curiosity fuels senior capstone course

BY SARA CREATO

Although seniors at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) can choose to enroll in a traditional English course, they also have the option of a more independent, project-based class called Capstone. Capstone, which has been offered at MVRHS for the past four years, differs from a regular English class because it emphasizes self-guided learning and culminates with the presentation of an independent project at the end of the semester.

English department chair Christine Ferrone co-teaches the course with school librarian Kevin McGrath.

"Students essentially come to the class with a curiosity or a passion that they want to develop," Ms. Ferrone said. In order

to guide students towards the completion of their projects, the course is divided into three phases: discover, design, and deliver.

Senior Zach Ward is developing the fly-tying business he started with a friend in the summer. "We loved to tie flies and we were selling them to our friends," Zach said. "We're friends with the people who own the fly tackle shops and they were like 'we'll buy them, sure.' So we decided to tie more and create a company."

Currently, Zach has created his website with a logo, pages about himself, and a photo gallery. He also has five types of flies for sale and is still selling to the local tackle shops. His goal is to have his website completed with the addition of a blog, videos, and photographs of all of his flies.

For senior Leo Neville, Capstone is a way to transition into

a bioengineering career. "I took Capstone as a segway to college, and I really wanted to do something that I could see [myself] doing in the future as a job when I'm an adult," said Leo.

He is designing a prosthetic arm using 3D printing and a website called e-NABLE, a non-profit organization that helps people in need get 3D printed prosthetics shipped to them free of costs. The goal of his project is not only to manufacture his own prosthetic but to investigate the quality of 3D printed prosthetics already on the market as well.

Some students, like senior Ana Clara Ribeiro, entered the course before committing to a project idea. When her friend and fellow senior Hemilly Nascimento introduced the idea of starting an American Sign Language (ASL) club, Ana Clara was interested. She credits her enthusiasm for languages with motivating her to participate in the project.

"I really became interested because I'm bilingual. I love languages. I really want to learn more languages, so that's really what interested me about that

was being able to accomplish this and in the future, learn sign language and being able to communicate with that culture," she said. As of now, Ana Clara and Hemilly are continuing to learn sign language using videos and are in the process of organizing their first club meeting.

Keeping students engaged during remote learning can pose a challenge, but Mr. McGrath believes Capstone is easier to teach remotely than other courses.

"From the teacher's perspective, it's been a class that is probably easier to translate into remote than other classes because it's so individually driven, so a lot of the work you can do from home," he said.

"It's also a great opportunity to network and connect and to see the Island as a resource or even outside the Island," said Ms. Ferrone. "The real thrust here is about authentic work, about doing real world projects that actually aren't for a teacher or for a grade, but because you have something you want to share." **HEV**

## Photography club returns after a two-year hiatus



PHOTO BY KRISTIN PERZANOWSKI

Juniors Kristin Perzanowski and Kayleigh Bollin have re-established MVRHS' Photography Club as a space where students can practice photography. "The goal is to better strengthen a community of photographers because there aren't as many resources [due to the pandemic]," said Kristin. They are welcoming new members and planning a photography exhibition for June 2021. Meetings are held on Wednesdays at 3 pm via Zoom.

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