



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.

Eighth graders anticipate high school

By Annabelle Hackney, Fionnuala Howell, Sam Oslin, and Lindsay Tocik.

(Tisbury School Eighth graders Annabelle Hackney and Fionnuala Howell, Oak Bluffs School Eighth grader Sam Oslin, and West Tisbury Eighth grader Lindsay Tocik participated in a journalism internship program at the regional high school this year. The program allows eighth graders from land schools to come to the high school journalism office on Mondays and experience what goes on at a high school newspaper. The interns learn skills such as how to conduct interviews, write articles, and edit pieces for publication. Below, is their first article.)

"We're at the top of our school and we get privileges," said Tisbury Eighth grader Leah Casey. "The younger kids treat us like God and then next year we'll be at the bottom."

As Island eighth graders reach the end of their middle school years, they begin to look forward to high school.

As the beginning of their high

school days approach some students are getting excited about what's to come. "It will be bigger and there will be more class choices," said Charter School eighth grader Bella Bennett. "I'm not totally worried. I know a bunch of kids there and hopefully it will be for the better."

Some junior high students are nervous about what is to come. "I want to be successful and make it through high school without getting mixed up with the wrong kinds of people," said West Tisbury eighth grader, Jacob Oliver.

While for many, the high school symbolizes freedom, some students are nervous about what's to come. "I'm scared I'm going to be alone at lunch," said Dana Jacobs, Tisbury eighth grader. "I'm also worried about getting up early and having to make the bus."

A lot of students believe that their high school experiences will change them. "I think I will become mentally stronger and more organized," said Leah.

"The thing I'm definitely most afraid of is being the new kid in school again," said Hannah Moore, an eighth grader from the Oak Bluffs School. "Right now I can



PHOTO BY TAYLOR SMITH

Two of the eighth grade interns, Fionnuala Howell (left) and Annabelle Hackney study the art of journalism in the High School View office.

walk around school with my head held high, confident and happy, but next year I am going to have to relocate myself back to the bottom of the charts."

Katie Stewart, another eighth grader from the Oak Bluffs School, said, "I am definitely thinking about how what lies ahead of me in the high school will more or less

decide the rest of my life after that. All you can do in a situation like this is tread carefully and try your hardest, because it can only help in the long run."

"I'm going to make some stupid decisions and some good ones," said Jacob. "It happens to all of us."

For entering eighth graders, the

high school's large variety of classes is considered a plus. "I'm excited for all the different classes," said Dana. Students have already begun planning what electives they would like to participate in.

Along with new classes, comes new students with new opportunities for friendships to form. "The high school will have a variety of kids; kids that are new and fresh," said Dana. Since most students have been with the same group of kids since kindergarten, the high school often brings an interesting needed change of scenery.

Many look forward to the different challenges at the high school. "Classes could be more interesting, because I will be at my level, and not just the one level," said Lily Bick, an Eighth grader at the Tisbury School.

Future ninth-graders hear many rumors about what is to come at the high school.

Said Tisbury eighth grader Lauren Dostal, "I've heard that if you're lost when you're a freshman, seniors will tell you the wrong way to go."

**MSPCA to close
slideshow at
mvtimes.com**

Minnesingers win bronze

By Emily Mercier

This weekend the regional high school's Minnesingers sang at the Massachusetts Instrumental & Choral Conductor's Association (MICCA) festival, where they took home a bronze medal.

On Saturday April 4, the Minnesingers traveled to Algonquin Regional High School, which was one of the seven locations where the MICCA festival was held. The festival was a three-day event in which choruses and instrumental ensembles compete for medals of achievement.

This year was the first time any current Minnesinger had competed at a MICCA festival, which was a pleasant surprise for some. "I really liked competing because it was something we had never done before," said senior Diana Nash. "It was interesting to see different types of choirs at the festival. There were a lot of girls choirs, and they were really good."

Each ensemble is given 20 minutes to perform three songs, which are then judged by three adjudicators. After each performance, an adjudicator holds a short clinic

with the ensemble that just performed. The objective of the clinic is for the adjudicator to give constructive criticism and advice on how to improve their performance. "The clinic with the judge was more fun than I expected it to be," said senior Diana. "The judge gave us great ways to improve things such as tone and phrasing so next time we perform it will sound better."

The singers were pleased with the new experience and expertise that they gained from the new exposure to other performers. "I thought our first competition went really well. We had fun watching other groups perform," said senior Zach Rabin. "Some of the other groups were amazing, and I think it inspired us to do better next time."

The three songs that the Minnesingers performed were Francis Poulenc's *Quem Vidistis Pastores*, Ralph Hunter's *Five Nursery Rhymes*, and Salamon Rossi's *Elohim Hashivenu*. The group has been working on *Quem Vidistis* since November and *The Five Nursery Rhymes* and *Elohim*

Hashivenu since January.

Overall, the Minnesingers were satisfied with their first performance at the festival. "I was pleased with our first venture into that level of music and competition," said Performing Arts Department chair and Minnesingers director Janis Wightman. "We didn't aim low, but rather competed with music from the highest level in our repertoire. It was a real stretch for us."

On April 19 they will be performing at Jordan Hall with the Eastern Nazarene College Choir. The Eastern Nazarene College Choir is directed by Dr. Timothy Shetler, who has worked with the Minnesingers twice before. Dr. Shetler invited the Minnesingers to perform with his choir at the beginning of this year.

"I can't wait to sing at Jordan Hall," said junior Hannah Marlin. "It's a great honor for us to be invited, and it seems like it's going to be a lot of fun."

The Minnesingers are a busy group, but in the end it all pays off. "I know I'm becoming a better singer because of all of these opportunities," said Hannah. "I love to sing, and I'm grateful that Mrs. Wightman has brought forth all of these great things for us to do."

Students plant future



PHOTO BY CAITLYN CLARK

From l to r: President of the new gardening club called Student Roots Lisa Wilson, and members Ellie Hehre and Gretta Hehre alongside helping to remove weeds and form the raised beds. Currently the club is working to refurbish the old beds at Island Elderly Housing. They plan to plant broccoli, kale, green beans, onions, and other vegetables. Although school will end soon, the gardening club will not. They plan to continue tending the garden throughout the summer. The club has begun to plant seeds inside and will transplant them later this spring.

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