



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.

Never too early to start at the high school

BY SARA CREATO, ARIANNA EDELMAN AND SYLVIE CARROLL

The Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) is home to a preschool that few are aware of. As the most recent Project Headway addition on the Island, the play-based preschool program serves children ages 3-5 with and without disabilities.

The high school is responsible for managing the classroom space and facilities used by Project Headway, while program jurisdiction falls under the district's shared services department.

Principal Sara Dingley explained the rationale behind setting up Project Headway in the high school:



Project Headway students Alice and Ethan play with a bin of uncooked rice.

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"The vision is that the high school does its part to support shared services — all other schools also host a program — and that our early childhood education stu-

dents can use the classroom as a learning lab. We also think it's a nice dynamic to have little ones in the high school," she said.

Lead Project Headway

teacher Becki Fontaine said that being at the high school helps with the preschool students' transition into the public school system. "Being in a public school helps

these children understand what school means. [From] watching the older students, they've learned a lot."

Assistant teacher Dwi Grandison adds that being in the high school creates an opportunity for the students to practice good behavior. "It's really good for [the little kids] when we're going around the hallways and saying things like: the teenagers are learning, we have to be quiet," she said. "It's good to have kids that are older and bigger than them, so that [MVRHS students] can set an example."

Assistant teacher Lauren Averill said, "I really like having [the preschool] in the high school community. I feel like older kids are really responsive to the little ones, and it makes you feel happy when you see them in the hallways because it makes you think about when you

were younger and maybe feel a little bit more carefree. It's fun for the little kids to see the big kids as well."

As for what the preschoolers' favorite part of school is, they seem to arrive at similar conclusions: playtime and restime.

Along with restime, Jemma enjoys arts and crafts. "I like cutting and rest time," she said.

Jace prefers "playing", as does Valentina, whose favorite part of the day is "playing with toys and friends."

"I think little kids are adorable and they are just little bundles of joy that are floating around in the high school," says freshman Josie Power. "Project Headway is new this year at the school, but we and many of the other students would love to have the joy they bring to the school for many years to come." **HSV**

Dual enrollment program offers taste of college

BY OLIVIA MACPHERSON AND NIKEYA TANKARD

Since 2018, the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) has been working with Cape Cod Community College (CCCC) to offer a dual enrollment program in which students can take courses for academic credit both at the high school and college levels. This year, the school is offering three classes: General Psychology, Criminal Law, and Child Growth and Development.

CCCC previously offered courses in writing and world history, which students would take during "Flex Block" — a 40-minute block during the morning when students can meet with their teachers or collaborate with other students. Now, the dual enrollment courses are being offered during specific class blocks.

Professor Deborah Maher, CCCC's outreach counselor and coordinator, helps plan and facilitate the dual enrollment courses. "It's an opportunity for students while they're still in high school to get a taste of what it's like to take college courses," she said. "Especially for students who in the past hadn't thought they were headed to college. It's an opportunity for everyone to see that you can take college courses and build a career path for yourself."

Junior Kayla Dow, who is taking the General Psychology dual enrollment course, appreciates that CCCC's courses are providing her with new opportunities and introducing her to possible career choices.

"The CCCC's class gave me a new perspective on learning and is already showing me how college works," she said after her first few weeks

of class. "I like how independent you feel, since your grades or anything to do with the course isn't shared with your parents."

For others, like sophomore Marin Gillis who is also taking General Psychology, the subjects these courses cover are what draws them to the CCCC dual enrollment program.

"It's not my first choice to be taking a class over Zoom again, and I don't think I would have taken the course if I wasn't excited about learning psychology," she said. "If I decide to major in psychology, it will be beneficial to have already taken a course to have a general knowledge of the topic."

Students currently enrolled in dual enrollment courses aren't the only ones excited. Professor Dot McCarthy, who is the instructor for the Child Growth and Development course, explained that



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Some students, including Madison Packish and Emma Toomey, are back on Zoom to take dual enrollment courses with Cape Cod Community College.

the course is popular among CCCC professors.

"We have lots of people on our faculty who want to teach dual enrollment courses," Ms. McCarthy said. "[Students who enroll] are good students, bring a different perspective, and are sponges for knowledge."

Tara Riley, who works with both MVRHS and CCCC as

the main dual enrollment coordinator, sees dual enrollment as a benefit not just for the two schools, but for the community as a whole. "It's in our best interest as a community to have educated citizens," she said. "I think we all take it pretty seriously."

The remoteness of Martha's Vineyard means fewer accessible upper-level

courses, and the CCCC program provides important exposure for students considering college.

"We are aware of the isolation of the Vineyard and we want to provide a service," Ms. Riley said. "We want [the Vineyard] to have the same chances as the other students in the Cape and Islands who are completing [dual enrollment programs] as well."

Junior Paige Alley, who has been in the CCCC's dual enrollment program since last year and is currently taking the Child Growth and Development course, has noticed the increased expectations and workload but has appreciated the independence the courses require.

"It has given me the option to start my college education before I finish high school, and allows me to experience learning in a new way," Paige said. "I would recommend it to anyone who wants to see what their future education might look like." **HSV**

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