



# THE STALLION



Volume XIV, Issue II

November 19, 2018

## MRHS Students Become National Merit Semi-Finalists



Brice Handel  
News Editor

Every year, juniors at Marriotts Ridge participate in the PSAT/NMSQT and given their scores, have the opportunity to compete for 7,500 National Merit Scholarships totaling over \$31 million. Over 1.6 million students from 22,000 high schools across the country entered the 2019 National Merit Scholarship Program. Of those students, only 16,000 scored high enough to advanced to the semifinal round of the competition. This year, Marriotts Ridge has 5 students advancing to the next stage: Hanna Al-Kowski, Brendan Hood, Emma Liu, Luke Mann and Eric Zhu.

For these students, the next stage is applying to be a finalist which has various requirements. Students must submit a detailed scholarship application that includes their academic record, participation in school and community activities, demonstrated leadership abilities, employment, and honors and awards received. Out of the 16,000 semifinalists, nearly 15,000 are expected to advance to the finalist round.

In the spring of 2019, three types of National Merit Scholarships will be offered to the competition's finalists. Every finalist will compete for one of 2,500 National Merit Scholarships which will be awarded on a state-representational basis. Additionally, 230 corporations and businesses are contributing 1,000 corporate-sponsored scholarships. Finally, 180 colleges and universities are financing 4,000 college-sponsored Merit Scholarships for finalists that will attend the sponsor college.

Semifinalist, Emma Liu, said, "It is really great that we'll have a chance at getting the scholarship if we become finalists because any amount of money is a good amount towards college." With over \$31 million in scholarships on the table, there is a lot on the line in terms of saving on college tuition.

It certainly isn't easy for students to receive these scholarships. Only the top 1% of test takers in each

state are chosen to be semifinalists. Maryland is especially difficult since it is tied with California, DC, Massachusetts, and New Jersey for the highest cutoff at 223 which is one point higher than it was for the class of 2018. This means that only students who scored higher than 223 are entered into the competition. This is a stark contrast from states like West Virginia and Wyoming

multiplied by two to create a National Merit Selection Index Score. The resulting score determines National Merit eligibility.

For students that are preparing to take the PSAT/NMSQT in the future, there are many ways to increase your chances of being in the top 1%. Senior, Hanna Al-Kowski, said, "I'd just say to do a couple of practice tests. It never hurts and then you have an idea of what the test is going to be like and what you need to improve on." Along with completing online practice tests, Hanna also recommends that students take the time to read through SAT prep books. Although they can be tedious, it is worthwhile in the end.

If you're looking for a practice test, the College Board itself recommends that you use the Official SAT Practice test offered on Khan Academy. Khan Academy offers many additional tools to help you succeed such as giving personalized practice recommendations upon completion of the practice test. It is definitely worth checking out for students preparing to take the PSAT/NMSQT or the SAT.



National Merit semi-finalists and commended students

where the semifinalists are anyone who scored higher than a 212.

These scores are calculated based on how students score in each of the categories of the PSAT which are Math, Reading, Writing and Language. The individual scores from each category are added up and

## Board of Education Addresses Overcrowding Issues



Erin Yu  
Editor-in-Chief

The overcrowding of certain schools has been a persistent issue for the Howard County School System, especially this 2018-2019 school year. Specifically, about 300 students at Centennial High school and 450 students at Howard High School must be transferred to ease crowding.

The Board of Education had previously considered a mass redistricting last year, but this plan was opposed due to controversy and complications. In a public forum held in September, the Board introduced small-scale options to replace the large-scale redistricting plan.

These options included open enrollment, expansion of JumpStart, addition to ARL programs, temporary or permanent reassignment of one year's ninth grade class to different schools, and opening a ninth grade academy. In meetings with the Board, the Howard County community expressed discontent with reassigning an entire ninth

grade class or creating a ninth grade academy, so the Board was able to narrow down the possibilities to five choices. Three of the five options directly impact Marriotts Ridge.

One major option involves transferring students from overpopulated schools to less

Another solution regarding the JumpStart Program would benefit current Marriotts Ridge Students as well, if it has enough enrollment from overcrowded schools. JumpStart is a program that allows high school students to enroll in educational programs with

at Marriotts Ridge and create space for new students while providing opportunities for existing students.

In a similar vein to the JumpStart Program, the Board also proposes to open additional sections at the Applications and Research Laboratory in an effort to increase the number of students taking courses at the laboratory away from school. The ARL specializes in real-world experiences and internships for students in unique study areas. Increasing the number of programs at the ARL would create more opportunities for students with varying interests and free up space for students to attend less-populated schools.

The other two options involve opening new programs for crowded high schools in Howard County.

These options were approved by the Board in an October meeting. However, they are still subject to alterations as the Board wishes to test these options and evaluate results before implementing them. to make sure they are most beneficial for students and schools.

populated schools. Students attending Centennial and Howard High Schools would be permitted to voluntarily transfer to Marriotts Ridge or Glenelg. Transportation would be provided. This could greatly impact the student dynamic of the Marriotts Ridge Community as the school could welcome new students from different schools.

college credit so that they can earn credits and graduate early. With this program, students can get a head start entering college and preparing for their careers. According to the Board's agenda, JumpStart at Marriotts Ridge would focus on computer science, engineering, and health professions. Expanding this program could help control crowding



JumpStart is one solution to the overcrowding of schools.

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## Fall Play

Summer Phipps  
Staff Writer

The Marriotts Ridge High School Theater Departments production of the play “You Can’t Take It With You” will open today, November 15, and run through the 18th.

The play “You Can’t Take It With You” is a comedy starring an eccentric family living in New York City who lead unusual lives. When a member of the family brings home her new boyfriend turned fiancé, who is from a ‘proper’ family; however, the personalities of both their families clash and hilarity ensues.

When asked why he chose this play for the fall production, Drama Teacher Mr. Beall said, “I chose this play because it’s fun, lighthearted, and has a large cast to include a lot of students.” Mr. Beall also described the play as something audiences will want to see, saying, “It’s just such a universal human story of this quirky family, which I think many of us have in our own ways, and how different people can come together despite their differences.”

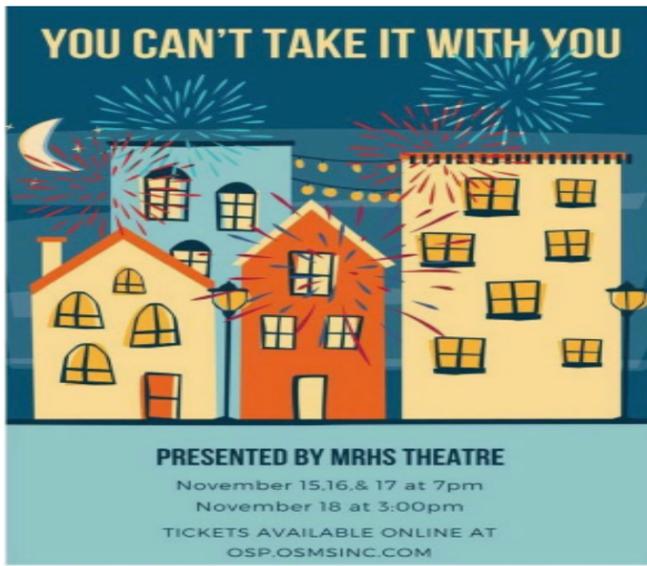
The play stars a large cast of 21 characters, playing 17 roles. With so many characters to play and roles to

fill, cast members had a lot to say, expressing their excitement, for the production. Leah Vlahov, a junior, plays the role of Alice Sycamore, her first major role in a school production. She is most looking forward to having the opportunity to explore playing her character. David Seaburg, a senior, plays Tony Kirby, the lover of Alice Sycamore. He is also looking forward to having a good time, as well as bonding with everyone and putting on an amazing show.

Several students were looking forward to tech week, the week prior to the opening of a play where technical elements such as lighting, sound, costumes, and set are present during rehearsal. Elyse Gottuk, a senior, is the assistant stage manager for the production, who has been involved in theater since freshman year. She is responsible for the backstage, running all the set changes. She said, “I’m most

excited for tech week because everyone just spends so much time together, and the show just comes together and becomes this great production that everyone gets to see.”

“You Can’t Take it With You” is a play that everybody can enjoy. It has a variety of jokes and comedy,



Come see the play starting November 15th!

so there will be something for every audience member to laugh at. There are a multitude of characters and situations with whom the audience can connect. Cast members were looking forward to audience responses, with everyone giving reasons why people should come to the fall play. Elizabeth Degenford, who

plays the role of Olga Katrina said, “It’s a lot of fun, it’s a comedy, you’re gonna go there and you’re definitely gonna laugh.” Other cast members also mentioned how funny the play is. Senior Katie Hindenach, who plays Essie Carmichael, said, “The show is absolutely hysterical, and all the characters are just amazing, and even though it’s a comedy, you still get moments in the show where it has a deep and personal message, which makes it very interesting.” The play is something that will appeal to all audiences, and Hanna Al-Kowski, who plays Penelope Sycamore, summarizes why this play will be such an enjoyable one for people to come and see. “Right now times are kind of rough. Everyone is stressed about something, but this show is wonderful. It is lighthearted, and it is touching, and it’s about the power of family and the importance of making sure that you do the things that you love.”

“You Can’t Take it With You” will run November 15th, 16th, and 17th at 7 PM with a 3 pm matinee on the 18th. Tickets are available online at [osp.osmsinc.com](http://osp.osmsinc.com) for \$8 in advance, or at the door for \$10.

## Marching Band Competition

Abby Kim  
Staff Writer

On October 20th, 2018, the Marriotts Ridge Marching Band placed first in the state of Maryland, second in the US Bands Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship, and eighth at the National Competition.

The event, which took place at Towson University, was crowded with marching bands from Virginia and Maryland, and rewarded Marriotts Ridge an overwhelming 1st place in the state and 2nd in the region. Thankful for the results, the marching band is proud of what they accomplished.

Trisha Paytas, a freshman and member of the Marriotts Ridge Marching Band, says, “I think the performance went really well on Saturday. There were definitely parts we still need to work on, but I’m proud of what we were able to accomplish in such a short time.”

Overall, the band did a fantastic job at the championship with very few errors in their performance. Considering the fact that the members completed the performance with the sun in their eyes, it’s splen-

did that out of all the high schools from Maryland, the Marriotts Ridge Marching Band received the highest score of 89 for their performance.

Sophomore Caroline Kahl said, “We weren’t able to win first place out of the entire region. As a whole, we got second place while a school named Laudin from Virginia beat us by 4 points.”

Caroline also explains how the band from Laudin was most likely going to win the championship due to the extensive training and practice they went through before the event.

Although the Marriotts Ridge band members were upset that they placed second at Regionals, it still meant that the band was moving up to the big finale: Nationals.

“We’ll improve as we do every practice, and we’ll most likely

place well in Nationals. I don’t at all think we’ll win, as proven at previous competitions, but I feel we’ll do well,” states Matthew Stringer, a freshman in the marching band. Nationals for the remainder of high



Marching Band members smile for a picture.

school marching bands took place on November 4th, which made the band members practice harder than ever. Focusing on improving, the band continued to train and rehearse their three movements for

the performance named “Horizon.” Olivia Brooks, a sophomore currently in the front ensemble said, “We improved a lot compared to the year before. We still won most of the local contests that took place in 2017, but our score was much higher this year than it was last year.”

The marching band has been through many previous struggles, but as a whole the band learns and improves together to make their performances truly worthwhile. Compared to the years before, the band members consider themselves in a much better stage and performance level than before.

Caroline states, “I’m very proud of the score we got. We improved so much from the last competition. I hope that we continue to improve and I think we will continue to do better in the future.”

It is a huge achievement to be first in the state and eighth in nationals and students should continue to support the marching band and congratulate them for their wins.

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### College Essay Advice for MRHS Juniors



Shay Salyer  
Staff Writer

If you or someone you know is a high schooler or first year college student struggling with the college application process or attending college, fill out our survey and stay tuned for results and resources to help you through this tough time! You can access this survey by going to the link: [bit.ly/MRHSCollegesurvey](http://bit.ly/MRHSCollegesurvey)

Students were asked two major questions: “1. What worries you most about the college application process? and 2. What concerns you most about attending college?”

Currently, the results show that seniors are the most concerned for college, with juniors coming in second.

This article will focus on the college application process. Future articles in this series will address other concerns.

As a sample, 76.7% students were most worried about college essays and 70.9% about deadlines. As far as college essays, students feel that they are worried for the quality and quantity of their essays, as well as not being prepared with the right resources to write a good essay in the word limit. Madison Taylor, a

senior, gave us a list of her worries about the resource availability that high schools provide when writing essays, “Not writing a good essay, not knowing how or where to

For deadlines, students feel that it is very stressful to complete applications while also keeping up with the school work that their teachers assign. Gracie Virden, a



*Make sure to start your essay early!*

submit it, not getting it in on time.”

Many students had responses very similar to Madison’s. When writing a good essay, keep in mind word limit. Through common app, there are a variety of prompts to help guide your essay if you are struggling with a topic that explains you as a person. Also, ask your teachers, counselors and maybe even your peers on extra tools if you’re struggling with word limit or content for your essay.

senior, explained her struggle with this, “I am very stressed because I have many upcoming deadlines, yet teachers are still assigning bundles of work for his or her class.”

As students preparing for college, it can be very hard to time manage high school work as well as trying to focus on your college work. Teachers understand that we struggle with this, but students need to understand that they have

curriculums to stick to in order to keep the job that they worked hard for. If you are struggling a little extra, don’t be afraid to talk to your teacher if you need help.

Need financial help or confused about the fees and waivers as far as applying? There is a section in Naviance that leads you to scholarship advice as well as a section that asks you if you need to apply for fee waivers. If you are using Common Application, there is a section that asks you if you will be applying for financial aid and/or fee waivers.

For transcripts, guidance handles that and your grades from previous years are available through Naviance. When using Naviance, normally if you look closely at the sheets the counselors give us, it gives you detailed directions on where to go to get everything done. You’re not alone in figuring it out. Doing applications through Naviance is new this year, so we are all slowly finding our way around the process. If you need extra help, ask a friend, counselor, teacher or state them in the survey!

## Scholarships and Financial Aid Advice



Grace Underwood  
Features Editor

Are you applying to college and lost when it comes to scholarships and financial aid? This is a quick guide to clear up any confusion on this topic.

Over the years, college has become more and more expensive which makes it harder to afford. Between 2016-2018 tuition and fees for colleges have increased by less than 2%. Tuition has increased 1.9% for private non-profit institutions, 1.3% at public 4 year colleges, and 1.1% at public 2 year colleges. However, financial aid has failed to keep up with the increasing tuition and fees, resulting in students having to pay and borrow more money in order to attend college. The student debt crisis is growing steadily over the past couple of years: as tuition rises, loan rises. Over the past 11 years, student loans have had a cumulative growth of 157% and interest rates are rising on student loans as well. In response to this rise, the U.S. Department of Education awards about \$150 billion a year to more than 13 million students and is the largest source of financial aid for students.

If you’re worried about your need for financial aid interfering with your acceptance into a college, you shouldn’t be. Most colleges

‘need-blind’. However, need-blind admissions do not mean colleges will provide enough financial aid to cover a student’s full need. Only

affects 5% of admitted students as a whole. Only 10% of private colleges and 2% of public colleges are ‘need-aware’ or ‘need-sensitive’.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is the primary way a student can get help with paying for college, but students can also apply for scholarships to earn money for fees and tuition. While scholarships don’t offer as much money as financial aid can every little bit can help when paying for college. However, scholarships are less advertised than financial aid because a student has to find and apply for that scholarships that they want on their own, but school will inform students about financial aid. “Often times they [scholarships] are posted in the counselor’s office, but we don’t have a chance in go in very often,” says senior Japneet Singh.

Scholarships are a good way to get some extra money for college, but most people don’t apply for scholarships. Furthermore, that is one of the main reasons you should apply for a scholarship: you have a better chance of getting the scholarship if only a few people apply. However, keep in mind that any outside scholarships may affect your school’s financial aid package.

### Prestigious Scholarships

- [Banneker/Key Scholarship](#)
- [Dean's Scholarship](#)
- [President's Scholarship](#)
- [President's Transfer Scholarship](#)
- [Frederick Douglass Scholarship](#)
- [Maryland Transfer Scholarship](#)

*Some of the scholarships that University of Maryland offers.*

practice ‘need-blind’ admissions, which means they don’t consider a student’s financial need when deciding to grant admissions to the college. A 2008 study by NACAC (National Association for College Admissions) found that 98% of public colleges are ‘need-blind’ and 81% of private colleges are

a few colleges are completely ‘need-blind’ because it affects the admissions of wait-listed, international, and transfer students. These students are ‘need-aware’ or ‘need-sensitive’ which means the college will factor a student’s ability to pay into whether they will be accepted or not. This typically only

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# Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade



Elizabeth Ottenritter  
Staff Writer

What's your favorite Thanksgiving tradition? Many of us share the same one. The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will return to New York City on Thursday, November 22nd at 9am for its 94th anniversary. According to CBS News, more than 50 million people watch the parade and another 3.5 million experience it in person on the streets of New York City. The Thanksgiving phenomenon has brought joy and wonder to many homes throughout the country since 1924, but how special is it to students' Thanksgiving routines and what can we expect this year?

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade was founded in 1924 to showcase the 'World's Largest Store' and start the holiday shopping season. Floats and balloons crowded the streets of New York and joined in the 6 mile march from Broadway to Seventh Avenue along 34th street. From then on, it became a New York tradition and is considered an early Christmas celebration.

Even though the march is only two and a half miles now, the parade is anything but short and does not disappoint. There are many balloons, bands, singers, floats, and dance groups that keep the celebration lively.

It wouldn't be the parade without the iconic inflatables! According to Time Out New York, some balloons that will be making an appearance this year include the Pillsbury Doughboy, Pikachu,

Grants Pass High School Marching Band, Keller High School Marching Band, etc. Performers that will star in the parade this year include Jaleel White, Jim Cummings, Frank Welker, Ben

really the gateway to Christmas," says Amelia Koenig, Sophomore.

There are so many events to look forward to in this year's Thanksgiving Parade. The line up is packed with balloons, floats, singers, bands, and dancers. There is so much to look forward to and the definitely something for everyone! People love this parade because it has brought wonder and amazement into the homes of many across America since 1924, and have entertained millions.

There are many different traditions taking place on this holiday, but it is safe to say that the parade remains one of the most popular and well known tradition every morning of Thanksgiving. Who could forget the special appearance made by Santa Claus in the end? This event will not leave you bored, but excited for the upcoming holidays. It is truly an experience all Americans can bond over no matter where you are from or what you celebrate.

"I make sure to watch it every year. Santa Claus coming in the end was my favorite part as a kid and my family comes together and gathers in one room to watch it," says Caroline Kahl, Sophomore.



The large turkey decorations on display at Macy's Thanksgiving Parade.

Ronald McDonald, Charlie Brown, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, the Nutcracker, *The Grinch*, and many more. "The balloons are the coolest! They were always my favorite part of the parade," says Rona Okojje, Sophomore. Usually, the Rockettes and multiple bands play and perform during the march. Some bands that will be performing include the Riverside City College Marching Tigers,

Stiller, Chris Rock, and Jack Angel.

"I love watching it! The people singing Christmas music on floats are so good. I would love to go to the actual parade someday," says Kristen Lee, Sophomore. Three performance groups will take part this year: The Fred Astaire, Spirit of America, and Spirit of America Cheer Performance Group. "It's so festive and that's why I watch it. The parade is

## Black Friday, The Holiday of Deals



Himaja Mallampally  
Staff Writer

Black Friday is an event that everyone is anticipating. On November 23rd, malls and shops open their doors for the thousands of people that come to take advantage of the huge sale. But what is Black Friday really, and how was it started?

Black Friday is a shopping event where tens of thousands of people everywhere take a break from their Thanksgiving festivities and rush out the door to catch the best deals of the season. It is always on a Friday, the malls and shops that participate are usually ransacked by eager customers waiting to get their hands on the items they wanted most, for the best price. Black Friday is also the day when many people start their holiday shopping, especially for Christmas gifts that they can get at half the price. "I get most of my Christmas shopping done!" says Louis Reynolds, Junior.

There are many pros and cons of Black Friday, but not many people know when or how this shopping

holiday started. People have been shopping for the Black Friday sale since 1952, however the term 'Black Friday' wasn't used until

Thanksgiving, and a full cart from the sale," says Janiyah Thompson, Sophomore. People of all ages participate in this holiday, making

will be at the stores for Black Friday.

This shopping bonanza has also turned into a week full of deals instead of just one day. Last year shops were opening their stores to show off Black Friday deals all of Thanksgiving Week, which people are now calling 'Black Friday Week'.

This holiday is special in other ways as well. Many people see Black Friday as a tradition, hoping to get the best deals every year. Mariana Jackson, Sophomore, says, "I love shopping, and Black Friday just makes it better." Black Friday may seem like just a shopping holiday to many, but for some

people it's also a time to spend with family and friends, while shopping for the perfect gift. "Black Friday is bomb. I always shop with friends and family," says Nevaeh Parish, Sophomore. Some Black Friday shoppers shop all through till midnight of Thanksgiving, and even in the morning hours of the next day. So kick back, relax and shop all day!



Get ready for this year's Black Friday deals.

the early 2000s. In 1869, President Ulysses S. Grant released the government's gold for sale causing gold prices to plummet, and people to go crazy over the extremely low prices of gold; which is the main idea of Black Friday today as well.

Many people look forward to Black Friday, because you can get the best trends for the lowest prices. "Black Friday is so nice because you have a full stomach from

it famous everywhere not only in the United States. An astonishing 41 percent of the nation plan to shop on Black Friday, while 15 percent plan to shop on Thanksgiving day. 32 percent of the nation plan to shop on Cyber Monday as well, the online shopping bonanza following Black Friday. The National Retail Federation says, that of the 164 million people expected to shop on Thanksgiving weekend, 114 million



Madi Costigan  
Staff Writer

During the fall, staff and students at Marriotts Ridge enjoy a variety of fun, seasonal activities. With the temperature dropping and the leaves falling, many people like to get into the autumn spirit in their own ways.

To prepare for the colder temperatures, look at stores that often release new fall lines of clothing fit for the time of year, like history teacher, Ms. Han, whom enjoys “shopping for fall clothes and apple picking” during this season. Being able to wear fall clothes, such as boots, jackets, and sweaters, gets many girls and guys excited for the season to come.

Students also agreed with Ms. Han’s appreciation of apple picking, like sophomore Sophia Eby and senior Megan Blackman. Autumn is harvesting season for these fruits, and orchards hold fresh, ripe apples for picking. The fun that comes with picking out your own apples, as well as the pleasure of eating them, makes apple picking a great way to spend any fall day.

Along with picking apples, students have a good time going to pumpkin patches and finding the perfect pumpkin. This is a

great family or friend event, and everybody can choose their own pumpkin to take home and show off.

After selecting a pumpkin, some people then decide to carve them into jack-o-lanterns for Halloween. Junior Caroline Crawford stated that she enjoys both “going to pumpkin patches and carving pumpkins.” Carving pumpkins allows people

But something can be done with those insides once you are finished carving your pumpkin! You can use them to bake pumpkin-flavored foods, such as pumpkin pie, pumpkin bread, and even pumpkin waffles. There are many fun ideas and recipes that anyone can try. Attempting to create a new food for your family and friends, or just

favorite thing about the season. This holiday is notorious for being many people’s biggest and best meal of the year. Turkey, mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, and stuffing are just a few traditional dishes served during Thanksgiving. This large, delicious meal is looked forward to by many, and with good reason.

Activities with food involved may not be how you want to spend your fall day. Another suggestion by students is to watch and play fall sports. Freshmen Ethan Berry and Abdul Idowu said they like “watching football” and “playing basketball.” You can do these with your friends and family. Try hosting a party to watch a big football game, and during halftime you can go outside and play a game of your own!

Getting out in the cool, autumn weather can be entertaining if you are active and having fun. If you want to stay warm in the cooler temperatures, set up a fire pit, like physical education and health teacher, Fred Talentino. He says that he likes to “sit outside and have a nice bonfire” in his backyard.

During the season, get out and try some of these activities to get into the fall spirit and have a little fun!



*Going to a pumpkin patch is a great activity for the fall.*

to express their creativity through designing the face of their jack-o-lantern, though it is a tedious task, as all of the insides and seeds of the pumpkin need to be removed before carving the face can begin.

yourself, to eat is a fun pastime, even if it does not turn out perfect.

And who can forget about one of the best fall holidays: Thanksgiving. Junior Demcy Grill says that “eating fall and Thanksgiving foods” is her

## The Message and Founding of Thanksgiving



Jack Liparini  
Staff Writer

Every year, families gather around the table many times celebrating their favorite holidays, but the holiday with the most wholesome message has got to be Thanksgiving. The founding of Thanksgiving is a story that we have all heard, after the Pilgrims came over to the new world they had their first harvest in 1621. This first harvest was commemorated by a feast that lasted three days. According to one attendee, Edward Winslow there were 53 Pilgrims and 90 Native Americans that attended. It was a true show of thanks for what they had.

Something that is wholesome is something that promotes the moral well-being of people. Thanksgiving is one of the best examples of this in today’s culture. Everything about it is there to make people morally better and thankful for things we have. Everybody who celebrates the holiday appreciates this part about it.

What is Thanksgiving supposed to be about? According to the original story it’s about being thankful for the blessing of the harvest,

but today we use it to take some time to appreciate everything we have to be thankful for. As Junior Alex Steadman puts it, “You’re at a table surrounded by people that

of thanksgiving, Senior Lauren Cumberland, had this to say, “You take time to really think about what you already have in your life, not what’s coming next. You don’t

apart. Senior Dylan Lawn really appreciates that about the holiday and had this to say, “It’s not about any religion in particular. It’s about two of the most important things in general, the family that you have and giving thanks to what you have.” Even Senior Tyler Vandenberg had this to tell us, “Most holidays are just about getting more for ourselves, but Thanksgiving is the most wholesome by far. We love each other to love each other, not because of the things we get from them on the holiday.” The message of Thanksgiving is definitely one that I can get behind, and it is definitely wholesome.

With all of the craziness in this day and age, it’s very nice to take a day to slow down and think about what you have. Family is so important, and I am really glad that we have such a wholesome holiday such as thanksgiving. It seems like really taking time to think about the things we have in our lives we tend to appreciate them a lot more.



*Dinner with the entire family around a table is a Thanksgiving tradition.*

you appreciate and are thankful for, eating food that you’re thankful for, talking about the things that are important in your lives.” It seems like people, even if we still go shopping the next day, take the time at the table to appreciate what they have. A huge supporter

always take the time to think about that.” Even the way that the holiday was founded had nothing to do with any holy holiday. There were Native Americans and the Christian Pilgrims were both there, making Thanksgiving a holiday that is about coming together, not spreading

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# How Do MRHS Students Feel About Black Friday?



Mark Antico  
Staff Writer

It happens every year; while friends and family prepare for the holiday to gather and reflect on all they are thankful for, the major stores and commercial competitors begin their tactics to get those same people in their stores, pepper spray in hand, ready to brawl for the product of their choice.

As Thanksgiving nears and the spirit of the holidays begin to slowly take over the minds of many, we must not forget the woes of the past during this time of year. Almost all can agree that Thanksgiving is a great opportunity to meet with friends and family and spend some time remembering just how much they have to be grateful for. But what many forget about this is the threatening tradition that comes along with it; Black Friday shopping. Every year, millions mindlessly drive to their local mall and, as if brainwashed by the smell of the roasted turkey from the night prior, brawl with those around them with the goal of buying their flat screen TV, computer, or tablet for a few bucks less than the typical asking price. To this point, the question can be asked, is the tradition of

Black Friday shopping one that should continue? Or, for the sake of safety and extending the values of the holiday season, should people be discouraged from going to the stores on this day and instead use

this does not mean that their actions don't have an affect on the value of Thanksgiving.

While many find the topic to be one that shows the hypocritical nature of American culture, many

may not be as deadly and high-risk everywhere you go. That being said, the presence of even a slight safety concern in combination with a depreciation in traditional values should be enough to turn many away from the idea of shopping the day after Thanksgiving. MRHS Media Assistant Deborah Derwart had some strong words in relation to this idea, stating, "Nobody's time is valued anymore. It's all product and it's not people. We've lost the compassion and Thanksgiving was a holiday to give thanks and to be with our family. And I think we've lost that." Clearly, to many here at Marriotts Ridge, Thanksgiving serves as an important time of reconnection, and is being tainted by the presence of Black Friday sales.

Despite personal involvement, or lack there of, in the festivities of Black Friday, almost everyone could and should have a say on the topic. Considering the danger levels seen around the country each and every year on this day as well as the impact it has on Thanksgiving and its values, the idea that Black Friday is an event to look down upon is one to stand behind.



Shoppers enter stores looking for good deals early on Black Friday.

the time to digest their full stomachs and spend time with those around them? The irony surrounding this issue is one not lost on many, such as Senior Dylan Lawn, who simply stated, "It's [Black Friday] right after Thanksgiving, the day that we give thanks to what we have. We give thanks to what we have and then we rush out to the store and trample each other to death trying to get a new TV." Obviously the intention of those who partake in the day of the deals is not to undermine the holiday itself, but

others have a simpler outlook on it, viewing it as nothing more than a good time to shop. When asked about her experience with Black Friday, Senior Sheri Rouse, said, "Black Friday is definitely worth it for the sales alone, plain and simple. You just have to be careful sometimes." Rouse's friend, Emma Meredith, agreed saying, "I think the danger of Black Friday depends on where you're shopping and if you're in a safe, calm store." So, as heard through the words of some around school, Black Friday

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## THE STALLION

November 19, 2018

## MRHS Golf Team Has Another Amazing Season



Matt Hendershot  
Sports Editor

7; yes you read that right, the Marriotts Ridge Golf team has won their 7th consecutive state championship at the University of Maryland on Wednesday.

7 years is a very long time and no team has won this many years in a row in the entire state. What is Marriotts Ridge doing differently? According to Coach Dubbs, he states, "The depth of our team has contributed to our success over the years." Having a large group of players that can perform when their name is called is huge and has been the largest factor in success over the years minus the extraordinary talent that comes through the school.

This season was younger than teams in the past but the younger players have taken their game to the next level. Coach Dubbs pointed out that Sophomores Justin Allen and Akash Marakath have shown amazing performances. With that comes hard work and Justin Allen did not shy away from that. He explained, "I was super determined after my disappointing season last

year to step up and be a big part of our team." Akash adds, "Each day not playing golf is a missed opportunity to get better at it." The younger guys have adapted to the hard working mindset and the results speak for themselves as Justin Allen was the Boys Howard County Champion.

But it was far from easy, this was all the result of continuous practice and hard work. She says, "The key for me winning the state title this year was just putting in the practice everyday." Practicing everyday will lead you in the right direction and the success that she has had is the

a steady contributor to this years team and had a very important role. He was always there for the team when they needed to be picked up or needed tips on how to improve their golf game. A strong captain is always someone that the team can look to when distraught and receive answers. Isaac established this role throughout the season. "If players were struggling with a certain aspect of their game, I would give suggestions and tips for them to practice on their own time." This team was young and inexperienced at times but with the leadership from Isaac the team never looked lost this season.

To be as successful as the team has been, the players need to understand what this program is about and Coach Dubbs accomplishes this every year. The former players stay involved and help the current ones out with whatever they need. This program will go down as one of the best dynasties to ever go through this county, this region, and this state.



Seven pictures of the victorious MRHS Golf Team.

The team's star player this year was Junior, Faith McIlvain. She won the Girls County Title, the Girls District Title, and closed the season as the Girls State Champion; She had a clean sweep of postseason titles, and she made it look easy.

result of all of her work. She also credited her success to her coaches, friends, parents, friends, and family because of their continuous support and motivation to get better.

The captain of this year's team was Senior, Isaac Kim. Isaac was

## MRHS Volleyball Season Wrap-Up



Emma Miller  
Staff Writer

The Marriotts Ridge 2018 Varsity Volleyball team's season ended with a first round playoff loss to River Hill.

The Mustangs finished up the regular season with the record of 5-6-1 in the county and an overall record of 8-7-2. The team was primarily young, with only three seniors to pave the way. So the players had to quickly acquire the chemistry needed to succeed. Senior captain Claire Meininger stated, "we were a really young team, but we had a lot to work with." This being said, Coach Jamie Bullock pushed them hard in preparation for the season ahead. "She knows what we're capable of and wants what's best for us as a team," said junior Lily Albertsen. Through many different drills and much conditioning, the players were ready to take on their first competition, Southern High School. After three quick sets, the Mustangs had won 3-0 against their opponent at home and the crowd was ecstatic. "The games are electric," says junior, spectator Patrick Greene. And the Mustangs got ready for their next competitor.

Many injuries and illnesses

interrupted the flow of the lady Mustangs' games. Sophomore Gabby Tsyetlin had a very serious illness that kept her from being able to play, along with Sophomore Rachel George's ankle injury during a game that dampened the spirits of the team. Also Junior captain Rheign Davis's knee injury and sophomore Julia Mano's pulled hamstring. None as upsetting as sophomore

for the Mustangs was upsetting. The team had lost the first set 25-12, due to lack of defense. Albertsen said, "if we lose a few points, we're not that great at getting out of the hole we made." This was evident as the Hawks took set one away from the Mustangs. The second set meant a new opportunity for the Mustangs, and with the motivation from the student section, the outcome was

their energy flowed into the Lady Mustangs, as they won the second set 25-21. Lead, of course, by none other than our principal, Mrs. Goldeisen, with her navy blue and silver colored pom-poms. The energy from the crowd fueled the players as they took on the third set. All was tied at 20-20, when the River Hill coach took a timeout. After the timeout, the team had lost some of their excitement and the set began to slip away. After a serve out of bounds, a hit into the net, and a few other careless mistakes, the Hawks had won the third set 25-20. The fourth and final set of the game was won 25-17 in favor of the River Hill lady Hawks. The season was tragically over.

Though not advancing as far into the postseason as the Lady Mustangs hoped their season was an improvement on the previous year. They overcame injuries, added new faces, and encountered a tough schedule and still increased their win total from last season. Through hard work, a loud student section, and a good fight, the MRHS Varsity Volleyball team ended with a bang.



Senior Claire Meininger serves during a game.

Emily Lim's hyperextended finger in the team's final game against River Hill, making it difficult for her to perform at her very best. These setbacks hurt the team's chances of showing their true potential.

The first and final playoff game

much different than the first set. Caroline Meininger, little sister to Senior captain Claire Meininger said, "the games are very fun and interesting to watch, especially when all of the students come."

The crowd proved to be effective,

November 19, 2018

## THE STALLION

## MRHS Football Season Ends On a Hopeful Note

Ira Snell  
Staff Writer

Even with the Marriotts Ridge Football team not making the playoffs, the season was hard fought and they gave it their all every Friday night.

The Mustangs finished the season with a 4-6 record and failing to reach the postseason, they have confidence in the coming years to build a dominant program. Jumping out to a 3-0 record and looking dominant the injuries started to pile up. "We came out strong in the beginning and then lost a lot of players that we needed to win those key games" said Senior Amari Little. Losing big time players like Nick Plummer, Kam Young, Tj Delmonte, and Donte Cain really hurt them during the heart of their schedule. As great as those 3 games were, they needed players to step up and overcome adversity. Quickly after being 3-0, the injuries caught up and they were quickly 3-3. Losing players from injuries, backups had to do as best they could to help the team. "By losing key players, sophomore and junior back-ups got extra experiences to prepare for next year." said Junior

Dayo Togun. The back-ups were pumped as it was finally their time to shine. They worked their hardest in practice to fight for open positions. "It made me stronger, I had to work hard every day in practice to achieve the goal of



Sophomore Kameron Young celebrating a win.

starting. It wasn't easy, the grind was real." said Junior Jericho Garvin.

Going into an away game after losing 3 straight isn't easy on a team, especially on their Homecoming day. The Mustangs put the past behind them and focused on what was in front of them. They achieved that and played spoilers to Atholton's

homecoming. Some key plays were Junior Cole Rosenthal's 40 yard touchdown run and Junior Jalen Moore's game saving interception. "I felt like I could do anything. Getting a game winning interception really pumped me up to just get

better." said Junior Jalen Moore. Winning the game 14-7 pushed the Mustangs record to 4-3 and gave them the confidence they needed.

The rest of the season did not go as planned and the Mustangs finished the season 0-3 with a total record of 4-6, equivalent to last year. The season obviously didn't

end the way the Mustangs wanted, there are still positives they can take away from the season overall. "My favorite moment of the season was when I caught the pick six against Hebron. I loved seeing my team rejoice as we picked up the win" said Senior Robinson Davis.

When Talking to freshman Kam Young about what improved from previous years and what to expect next year he said, "The run game improved dramatically and next year I expect to finish undefeated."

Overall the season was very exciting. There was ups and downs but they came to play every game. Despite not making it to the playoffs there is reason to believe they improved from last year because of more points scored and closer games. We will never know how the season would have ended if there weren't as much

injuries, but those injuries made the team stronger and forced the team to trust some new faces. Congratulations to the Marriotts Ridge Football team on a solid season and expect the Mustangs to learn from their mistakes and be successful next season.

## Girls Soccer Season Ends After Second Round of Playoffs

Chad Stukes  
Staff Writer

The girls soccer team lost in the second round of the playoffs this season, but the coaching staff looked great and the team came together like never before.

Although the team did not go as far as they wanted their confidence never stalled. Senior Sabrina Amaral said, "We are proud of our losses, because we played as hard as we could." Sabrina isn't the only one that thought the team played well this season. "The team looked really good this season, and I'm excited to see what they can do next year" said JV sophomore Caralyne Delmonte." Despite losing to rival River Hill on a last second goal, the team came together and are proud of what they accomplished.

The team is losing a heavy dose of seniors this year, but they are still confident they can do great things next season. Sophomore Morgan Lee says, "We are losing a lot of good talent in our seniors, but I'm looking forward to improving and playing hard next year." The players also believe the coaching staff was a big

part of their success this year. "The coaching staff was very refreshing, and helped our team in many different ways this season." Said Senior Isabella Duroseau. Nadia Bensarghin added, "Even though we are losing the seniors I believe



Senior Aly Wagner kicks the ball during a game.

the juniors can do just as good, if not better than what we did this season." Encouraging words from key players, people should believe the mustangs will only get better.

The team believes they had a lot of success this year, but are aware of the things they need to

work on. Morgan Lee says, "We need to improve on finishing our good opportunities to score, and making our wide open shots." Senior Nadia Bensarghin states, "We need to be consistent with every team, we can't play up or down

to the level of our competition."

The team has built something special in the past years and that is not going unnoticed. Nadia Bensarghin said, "I've seen improvement from these passed three years thanks to the new coaching staff." Caralyne Delmonte agrees adding, "From

watching the games this season, the varsity team has had a much stronger defense then the passed couple years, they also have had a great combination of passes this season." Morgan Lee also adds, "We passed extremely well and got each other the open shots, our defense also shutout many teams and didn't let them get open shots."

This season went great for the girls soccer team. They kept their confidence up even when losing games. They continued to fight hard day in and day out whether it be at practice or in games. They moved, played great defense, and held a lot of teams scoreless this year. All of this together made a great team. Despite the seniors leaving next year the team still believes that the players returning will pick up where they left off and continue this successful culture. It was a great hard fought season for the girls this year, and the Mustangs are expecting to see more of that next season.