



THE STALLION



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New Additions to the MRHS Administration



Brice Handel
News Editor

This school year, the students and staff of Marriotts Ridge are excited to welcome two new assistant principals to the administration, Mr. Dorsey and Ms. Foyles. Together, they bring many years of educational leadership experience along with great ideas about how to strengthen the Marriotts Ridge community.

Mr. Dorsey has been in the school system for twenty-two years with the last twelve as an assistant principal. Before his career began, he attended the University of Maryland for his undergraduate degree and then McDaniel College for his Masters.

On coming back to Marriotts Ridge, Mr. Dorsey said, "It's a homecoming for me. I absolutely love it." He was a teacher here when the school first opened in 2005 so to be coming back as an assistant principal is a pretty rare occasion.

As an assistant principal, his main goal is to build relationships between students and faculty. One way this will be achieved is through the community circles that

will take place during Ridge Time. Students will each choose a teacher who they will be with every ridge time throughout the year. Teachers will guide their students through activities that are designed to strengthen the relationships among



Mrs. Foyles and Mr. Dorsey smiling for their new year.

students and between students and faculty. For freshmen, their ridge time teacher will remain the same throughout high school which offers a great opportunity to build a solid relationship with a teacher that they can turn to whenever they need it.

Another objective of Mr. Dorsey is to get students involved in extracurricular activities. Whether it be sports, art or whatever you're passionate about, Mr.

Dorsey values the opportunities and experiences that kids receive when they participate in clubs and activities outside of the classroom. These experiences build character attributes that benefit students in and out of the classroom.



Along with Mr. Dorsey, the students and staff are also excited to welcome Ms. Foyles who is working alongside with Mr. Dorsey as they make their transition to Marriotts Ridge.

Ms. Foyles attended UMD Eastern Shore for her undergraduate, Johns Hopkins for her masters and she is currently working on her doctorate in educational leadership at Bowie State University. Mrs. Foyles has

spent her entire career in Howard County at various other schools before joining us here at Marriotts Ridge.

Her original impression of the school was all about the students. She noted the positive energy of the students and how polite and cordial everyone has been thus far. Just like Mr. Dorsey, Mrs. Foyles is focused on getting to know the students and staff while building positive relationships.

She said, "If you can connect with the heart then you can connect with the mind." If a positive relationship can be built between students and educators then students will be more receptive to the information and a more fulfilling educational experience will result.

She also talked about the importance of her role with the rest of the staff. One of her goals as an assistant principal is to talk with teachers and learn how she can support them in the best way possible.

If teachers are happy and excited about teaching then students will be excited to learn and that's the key to a healthy school environment.

MRHS Welcomes Nine New Teachers



Erin Yu
Editor-in-Chief

The start of every school year brings new change, but this year has brought about more changes than usual. Specifically, nine new teachers have arrived at Marriotts Ridge High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

As a new teacher, it is typically challenging to adjust to new environments, but a number of the new teachers have been able to easily overcome this issue because they are already familiar with the MRHS community.

Mr. Quinn Khouri, the AP Human Geography teacher, has been coaching the school's boys varsity soccer team in past years. "I love being able to teach at the school I coach at because I already know some teachers and students."

Ms. Katherine Han, the GT US History and World History Honors teacher, was once a student at this school. She said, "I was excited to be back at the school I graduated from, teaching for the first time. A good amount of my teachers are still here,

so I feel comfortable coming back." Ms. Kaitlin Wall, the English 11 Honors teacher previously taught at Mount View Middle and is thus acquainted with some faculty members and students.

Although the school itself may not be so new to these teachers, joining the community with new roles is still a thrilling experience. Ms. Wall said, "I love the environment here. I feel like students are excited to come to school, which you can't find at all schools. I am so excited to be a part of this school."

The new teachers who were not as accustomed to the school still shared similar sentiments. Mr. Ross Rawlings, the vocal director, remarked, "There's a sense of power, a want to excel and be challenged at this school. The students are hungry for the next

level. I want to be here and continue the incredible music legacy at this school by taking it to new levels."

The pleasures of starting at a new school are also accompanied by the difficulties of adjusting in a new community. Ms. Christina

an actual teacher. There's a lot more to think about and plan. Getting in the routine is trial and error. I have to get used to how I teach and also get to know people, which is a challenge."

The teachers, however, aren't too concerned about these challenges. Dr. Pam Muniandy, the GT biology teacher, said, "My wonderful and amazing colleagues are always watching out for me and ready to help when needed."

Ms. Kirithi Thampuran, the on-grade and AP Biology teacher, and Ms. Allison Miles, Algebra II and Precalculus GT teacher, shared that their love for teaching and motivating students helps them face difficulties.

These new teachers will be a great contribution to the community. Ms. Goldeisen commented: "We have a lot of great new teachers this year who bring a lot of experience. They are very student-centered, and I think our students will benefit tremendously from these teachers. These new teachers will make a fantastic change for our students."

Pettit, the new ESOL teacher, explained, "It's always hard being new. There's a lot of new people to meet, and I'm a part of the English team but I'm also sort of in a department by myself so it took some time getting used to that."

Ms. Han tackles more problems than just getting to know the community because she is also new at teaching. She said, "Coming from student teaching, it's different being



Some of the new teachers at MRHS.

October 17, 2018

THE STALLION

Is it Time to Say Goodbye to Old Ellicott City?

Summer Phipps
Staff Writer

On August 23, Howard County officials announced a proposal recommending the demolition of multiple buildings in Old Ellicott City to mitigate future flood waters.

The Ellicott City Flood Mitigation Plan, proposed by Howard County Executive Allan Kittleman and County Councilman Jonathan Weinstein, comes after the second major flooding of Old Ellicott City in May of 2018, which cost several million in damages.

The plan is meant to address the immediate threat to public safety caused by the frequent intense flooding Old Ellicott City is susceptible to. The proposal prioritizes the safety of residents, visitors and businesses, and prevention of future loss of life. In addition, the proposed plan will work to preserve the historic integrity and the surrounding natural environment of Ellicott City.

The new plan is estimated to cost up to \$50 million, and would be implemented over five years. A total of 19 buildings would be

demolished and relocated, 10 of which are located on lower Main Street. The removal of these 10 buildings, which include businesses such as The Phoenix Emporium, Bean Hollow, Portalli's, and Tea on the Tiber, is shown to have the most immediate and effective impact on reducing flood waters.

In addition to these 10 buildings,



Construction has started after flooding.

7 residential buildings would be removed on the west side of the historic district, as well as two more buildings on Main Street in order to expand stream channels.

In place of the buildings removed from lower Main Street would be an open community space and a wider, deeper channel.

Widening the stream channel and expanding the floodplain would have the most dramatic effect on reducing the water velocity and

depth of future floods, according to hydrologic and hydraulic analysis of the Main Street area. The July 2016 flood had a water velocity of 11.1 feet per second, and this proposal would reduce that water velocity to 4.5 feet per second.

In addition to these measures, several upstream stormwater

retention facilities will be built. The plan will also continue with community outreach aimed at improving stormwater management on residential and commercial properties across the Tiber-Hudson Watershed. These measures include increasing the number of rain barrels and improving the stormwater capacity of existing retention facilities.

The proposal has not been without criticism, however. Advocacy

group Preservation Maryland has condemned the plan, saying the demolition could potentially cause The Ellicott City Historic District to be removed from the National Register of Historic Places, losing tax benefits.

Others are in support of the plan. When asked if they believed the flood plan would have a positive effect on making Ellicott City more able to withstand intense flooding, Environmental Science teacher Mrs. Kol said, "I do believe that would help Ellicott City. I know it would be sad to see those buildings and businesses go, and hope that they could rehouse them someplace in Old Ellicott City, but the fact is that the river is flowing through". Mrs. Kol also said that the entire watershed needed to be addressed, not just that surrounding Ellicott City, by reducing impervious surface, and adding more pervious area.

The Howard County Council will meet in October to vote on the plan, where it would need a majority vote from the council, approval from the Howard County Historic Preservation Commission, and approval from the county executive.

New Security Measures at MRHS

Olivia Brooks
Staff Writer

If you have had the pleasure, or the misfortune depending on the situation, to arrive at school after hours, you might have noticed a different setup with security. The doors are locked and require a visitor to be buzzed in before entering the building. Or perhaps you noticed the abundance of drills during the first week of school. All of these changes are part of a statewide initiative during the 2018-2019 year to make safer all elementary, middle, and high schools, especially after the overwhelming number of school shootings over the past few years.

According to Assistant Principal Martin Vandenberg, "Everything revolves around keeping students safe." The actions taken to promote safety include making sure the staff is trained, so they each have different roles in an emergency, and more drills, both routine and new.

Another key component of school safety is effective communication, particularly in such a large building

with so many students. If a serious threat emerges, Principal Goldeisen asserted that, "Within 30 seconds, information is sent out, and the school only deals with the hazard for first half hour, then emergency first responders take over."

However, the safety of students does not rely solely on teachers and administrators. Installing state of



The new buzzer located at the door by the front office.

the art security devices is useless if students do not understand how to protect themselves. Officer Willingham made clear that safety is the responsibility of each individual, and that while "safety is a big deal, everyone has an equal part."

Safety truly starts in the

community, and boils down to the homes in the community, the families in those homes, and finally, the kids. At school, students can be taught how to respond to drills and where they should be in an emergency, but there is much more to safety than that. Safety starts with parents being aware of what's going on and keeping firearms or other weapons carefully stored away from children.

In a more broader context, Howard County has dedicated significant funds to integrating new protocols and systems for various threats, such as weather or an intruder, or risks arising from students inside the building. In his "The State of our School System" message in September, Superintendent Michael J. Martirano lauded the progress made in Howard County, citing that they, "enhanced student and school safety, strengthened student supports."

School safety is also a concern at a larger scale: the entire state of Maryland. At a legislative forum hosted by Jack and Jill of America, Inc, Columbia MD Chapter, a panel of candidates for State's Attorney and Sheriff, among other positions, shared their thoughts on safety in the community. Rich Gibson, who is campaigning for State's Attorney, noted that, "In order to have a safe society, we need common sense gun laws that keep guns in the hands of those who should actually have them, one, and two, contain guns in a way that's safe for others."

Safety outside of school is just as important as safety within institutions, whether the focus is on gun violence or any other type of threat that could arise in Howard County. Everyone who takes the time to acknowledge and understand what they can do as part of the community can apply that knowledge to school, whether by following the instructions from teachers and officers or paying attention to the drills. Statistically, schools have been the safest place to be, and if everyone does their part, they will stay that way.

October 17, 2018

THE STALLION

MRHS October Spirit Week Events



Grace Underwood
Features Editor

Did you enjoy one of the best weeks of school, full of fun and school spirit? MRHS students dressed up and participated in school activities in preparation for the Homecoming dance and football game at the end of the week.

Students had a lot to look forward to throughout the week before Homecoming on the 20th. SGA planned many exciting events that took place during break and after school everyday of the week. During every break there were games students could participate in such as musical chairs, a dance contest, a wing eating contest, and a sing off.

After school there were events such as the annual Crab Feast, class wall decorating, Powder-Puff game, and a pre-game dinner in the cafeteria. One of the most exciting parts of spirit week was dressing up for each spirit day with the assigned themes. The first day of spirit week was pajama day; the one day we have every year. The second day was toga day. Next was decades day where you could pick and dress up as your favorite decade or time period. Next is

seasons day; each grade dressed up as a different season. The Freshmen are spring, the Sophomores are fall, the Juniors are summer, and the Seniors are winter. Finally, the last about then it's great to participate," says senior Megan Blackman on the subject of costumes. Even if students don't make elaborate costumes, it's still a fun way to show

October 12th through October 18th. The Dance ticket is twenty dollars, the class shirts are fifteen dollars, and the pre-game dinner is ten dollars. If you are planning on buying tickets for both events and the class shirt the school is offering a Homecoming Package worth forty dollars, but only the first three hundred customers can take advantage of this offer.

All the main events of that week occur at the end of the week; all the games and costumes will be leading up to some exciting events that will end our week to show our school spirit with a bang. "The pep rally is worth all the hype because on the day that it's finally here, everyone is so pumped from the week that they let loose and have a lot of fun," states junior Tess Dandridge enthusiastically. The Pep Rally is the final event where the classes can show school spirit and compete against each other in fun games in the gym.

This week may end with a competition between the classes, but don't forget to just have fun!

<p>Bell Schedule for Friday, 10/12-Wednesday, 10/17</p> <p>Period 1 7:25-8:15 Period 2 8:20-9:00 Break: 9:00-9:25 Period 3 9:30-10:25 Period 4 10:30-12:30 Period 5 12:35-1:20 Period 6 1:25-2:10</p>	<p>Bell Schedule for Thursday, 10/18</p> <p>NO BREAK</p> <p>Period 1 7:25 - 8:00 Period 2 8:05 - 8:40 Period 3 8:45 - 9:20 Period 5 9:25 - 10:00 Period 4B 10:05 - 12:05 Period 6 12:10 - 12:45 Pep Rally 12:45 - 2:05 Return to 6th period 2:05 Dismissal 2:10</p>
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Dress Up Days
ALL HCPSS dress code policies apply for all dress-up days

- Season Assignments:

Freshmen: Spring	Juniors: Summer
Sophomores: Fall	Seniors: Winter

Hallway Decorating, Tuesday, 10/16

- Classes will compete for the best decorated hallway using their assigned themes..
- Class Councils will share information about needed materials and meeting times.
- Hallway Assignments:

Freshmen: 3rd floor media/commons hallway
Sophomores: 2nd floor media/science hallway
Juniors: 2nd floor media/commons hallway
Seniors: Athletic Hallway

A part of the spirit week schedule.

day of spirit week everyone will dress up in their class shirts for the pep rally that occurs that afternoon.

"I'm going all out this year, depending on the theme, if it's a theme that everyone is excited

school spirit as well as have fun with your friends and classmates. Tickets for the Homecoming dance, class shirts, and the Homecoming Football games pre-dinner will be sold during all lunch shifts from

Go to the Field of Screams this October



Shay Salyer
Staff Writer

As the fall season comes at full speed, the Marriotts Ridge community begins to think about the best fall activities. Are you ready to get spooky?

There are many family-friendly activities that families all across the county can partake in during the autumn season. These include pumpkin picking, apple picking, and hayrides. Personal favorites also include decorating and shopping for fall holidays, such as Halloween.

Brad Filigenzi, senior, explains his family's traditions, "Every year still, I go with my family to a pumpkin patch and pick pumpkins out. We used to carve them, but my brother and I are too old for that now. Even so, it's still a super fun family tradition."

A huge fan favorite is haunted houses. In the Maryland/Pennsylvania community, we are lucky enough to have some of the largest haunted house attractions available to us in the country: Field of Screams.

Year after year, Field of Screams of Maryland has the most thrilling

chills in the industry. Each year, three of the four attractions remain the same. There is the least scary attraction: the Hades Hayride. For many, even this is a super scary

for this attraction is a crazy factory owner who slaughtered his own employees and is still haunting to this day. Many students express much excitement for this new attraction.



The wooden sign at the Field of Screams where people often take pictures.

thing to experience. The ride takes you through paths in the corn field as well as some of the scariest buildings. In some parts of the ride, such as the clown section, you get trapped inside of the section.

The second scariest attraction is the newest one this year, called the Slaughter House. The background

Hailey Stringer, senior, explains, "I love going to Field of Screams. Being scared in the fall is, for some reason, super fun. I'm really excited for the new attraction this year. It sounds like walking through a butchering factory is where I'm going to be this weekend."

Tied for most scary are the park's

last two attractions: The Haunted Trail and the Trail of Terror. Each of these attractions have thirteen houses and paths through the woods that consumers walk through for 30 minutes. While walking, there are actors following, touching, and scaring people. Each house along the trails have different themes.

Autumn Anderson, junior, gives some insight as to the theme of one house, "One year when I went, the first house on the trail was a house of horrors with a man above screaming at me, a lady with a chainsaw coming at me, and it was pitch black. There also were zombies and radioactive patients following me around the trail. 10/10 would recommend, I go every year."

Another fun thing to do at Field of Screams is sit around a bonfire. The theme park has 15 bonfires around the grounds, as well as gift shops and food. Can't forget, the scary clowns walking around scaring people and following them.

Put it in your plans to visit Field of Screams, the movies, haunted houses, and go pumpkin picking!

THE STALLION

October 17, 2018

Trends to Consider for Your Homecoming Outfit

Kay Yan
Staff Writer

It's already been a month since school began. The Homecoming dance will be held on October 20th from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the gym. Homecoming is the tradition of welcoming back former students and members and celebrating an organization's existence. To have a great time, some students previously start the preparation for this annual activity. Essentially, choosing wonderful clothing is one of the first steps of the preparation.

For high schools, Homecoming is often held on campus either in the gymnasium or on a field. Large colleges and universities find it impossible to have one single homecoming dance for the whole student population. In this case, the population is broken down into smaller groups where student organizations, sororities, and fraternities are given jurisdiction to organize their own version of the homecoming dance. In some ways, it is the fall version of the spring prom. The difference lies in the attire. Homecoming dresses are in many cases less formal compared to prom dresses. In the former, short dress are the usual norm with hair worn down,

while the boys just wear tucked long-sleeves over trousers. Prom by comparison, in some cases, requires full-length gowns with matching

should not take a toll on you. There is a time to be with friends and do or agree on the same things together, but bringing your individual

Most girls usually wear short and simple dresses, while boys typically wear button-up shirts with dress pants. "Short dresses but not lace dresses," Senior Claire Ahn responded when I asked her what style she prefers for the homecoming. Just as the Senior Julia Kim said, "The clothing in homecoming is usually very pretty and adorable."

Some girls take deciding a hairstyle very seriously. "I would curl my hair with a curling iron," Senior Stephanie Choi said. For sure, hair fashion is also an important topic for the students to think about. There are lots of choices such as up-do, braid, bun, french twist, ponytail and so on. "It's kinda interesting to choose what type of hairstyle is suitable for students' clothing," Senior

Ariel Wang told, "because if you do a wrong hairstyle, that will be embarrassing like everyone doesn't want to make a mistake."

The 2018 Homecoming in Marriotts Ridge High School will be a fantastic and relaxing dance party. Hope every students can join and enjoy it.

*Some popular homecoming dresses this season.*

more formal hairstyles for the girls.

The Homecoming dance is the first dance of the year, so you can just imagine the excitement of students' for this. Realistically, it can be a cause of joy or a cause for concern. Anyone would want to put their best foot forward by looking their best. Peer pressure can be horrible, and the pressure to conform or of gaining approval

fashion style to the fore for this event is something that should make you feel good about yourself.

Compared to other formal dances, Homecoming is usually considered the most casual as far as dress wear because the Homecoming dance tends to have more leeway. Students wear various fashion trends that otherwise may not have appeared at other school dances.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Elizabeth Ottenritter
Staff Writer

Everyone is starting to dress in fall colors like orange, brown, and -pink. October is here, which means it is Breast Cancer Awareness Month once again. Along with Halloween and Homecoming, the students and staff at Marriotts Ridge are getting ready to celebrate all month long. Breast Cancer Awareness is a worldwide, annual campaign that involves organizations and fundraisers to support research and education for a cure.

According to Breastcancer.org, there are more than 3.1 million women with a history of breast cancer in the U.S., including finished and unfinished treatment as of January this year. About 2,550 new cases of breast cancer are expected to be diagnosed to men in 2018. People around the world are creating fundraisers, races, and many other events to raise money for foundations.

So what are people around the school doing in spirit of awareness

month? Alitza Ooman, sophomore, felt strongly about the cause, "It's a great thing to do, spreading awareness and helping men and women

who were diagnosed out. I always buy the pencils and bracelets, also my family donates to the foundation every year". The sports teams and extracurriculars are also participating in the action. "I know a dance teacher in Howard County passed away maybe three or four years ago.

In honor, we are doing a dance to spread awareness", says sophomore Carleigh Olive who dances for the school. The volleyball team will be playing a game for the cause dressed- in pink. "Our team will be wearing pink, we're getting shirts that say 'Dig Pink' on them with a breast cancer sign and we're playing a game in honor", says

sophomore Alexandra Liberto who is on the JV volleyball team.

What can you do to celebrate? There are many activities in Marriottsville

competitive 3-5 mile walk that raises money to fund research and provide free information to those who want to be informed of their risk. The walk was on Sunday, October 14th at the Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Center YMCA in Baltimore. Also, the American Cancer Society in Baltimore is dedicated to educating the public and funding research. They also have programs that help people who are in the treatment and recovery process. They encourage everyone to become active in the fight by making contribution, which could be donating or volunteering to spread the information and knowledge about cancer. There are many other ways to be involved! Even just wearing pink a few times shows your support. This October, remember those who were diagnosed with breast cancer, and do your part by spreading awareness any way you can!

*The breast cancer symbol that raises awareness.*

that support the cause. The 2018 Komen 'Race for the Cure' was on Saturday, October 13 of this year, at Columbia Gateway Drive. When you registered for the race, you automatically received your own fundraising website that can be personalized. The "American Cancer Society Making Strides Against Breast Cancer" is a non-

THE STALLION

October 17, 2018

It's Not Just Fall, It's Also College Application Season



Mark Antico
Staff Writer

Whether it's frantically trying to come up with a new and unique essay topic, or completing the seemingly endless documents and online surveys needed, the process of submitting college applications is a milestone in the lives of many here at Marriotts Ridge that can be daunting for those who aren't prepared for it.

As high school juniors and first semester seniors sit down to begin the process of submitting their college applications, one question always seems to pop into the heads of many: where do I start? This is the hardest part for many, as just the idea of beginning the extensive process seems like a very do - it - tomorrow sort of thing. That being said, the faculty and staff here at Marriotts Ridge do make it a point to remind those who should be getting started that they are here to help. Tools provided to all students, such as a college application checklist and in-class guidance from counselors are extremely beneficial for those that simply feel lost. But if so many students still feel significantly overwhelmed and

stressed out throughout the process, is it really enough? Is there anything else the school could be doing to help? These are the questions being asked of the students here with the hope of improving the system, and with that the lives of the students themselves.

When asked about the topic, those who were willing to share had

challenge for him lied in knowing when to do certain portions of the workload, saying, "It's very beneficial for you to submit things like your teacher recommendation forms during the summer, but some people don't know that because the school doesn't really emphasize it." Some, however feel that this isn't the case, like senior Cooper Stepke

Although Howard County has a reputation for their students being the organized, determined type, blame cannot be placed on anyone for feeling bombarded by the work involved in college applications. The discussion of what the schools could do to help their students is one that leaves both the students and the staff without answers.

A counselor here at Marriotts Ridge, Jodi Dubbs, explained that a lot of the complications involved in the process are out of their hands, saying, "Every college or university chooses to use their own application...and all of them are a little bit different, so everything is in each college or university's hands. We try to make the process as seamless and easy as possible...but we have to do what the colleges are asking us to do." So, the conclusion made by all of this is one not too clear-cut. However, many agree with one thing, and it is that whether it's more in-class time to work on the applications, or simply more consistent reminders regarding certain parts of the process that should be done at a specific time; the schools should realize that for the sake of the well being of the students, action should be taken towards better communications between the staff and students.

Student Type	Priority	Priority	Regular	Regular	Enrollment Confirmation Deadline
	Deadline ¹	Deadline Decision Release	Deadline ²	Deadline Release	

University of Maryland is a popular college for MRHS students.

plenty to say on both sides of the argument. Being a member of the boys varsity football team, senior Jake Canfield expressed his struggle with balancing athletics and the application work, explaining, "[The school] should probably give us a little time in school [to work on applications]. Maybe twenty minutes in english class a week." Another member of the senior class, Eli Shillman, shared that the real

who claimed, "[The process] is much easier if you're passionate about what you're writing." Even still, Stepke did sympathize with those stressed out by applications, as, "...it determines futures and one small mistake could make or break what you do for the rest of your life." It's safe to say that those on both sides of the discussion agree that the task at hand is one of some significance.

MRHS Students' Favorite Disney Halloween Episodes



Madi Costigan
Staff Writer

Popular Disney shows have aired special Halloween episodes in October, and students at Marriotts Ridge are familiar with many of them, but the favorites (and least favorites) are yet to be decided.

Students were asked to share their opinions on the Halloween episodes that they remembered from their favorite childhood shows, such as Wizards of Waverly Place, Jessie, Hannah Montana, and more. After posing the question of what the students preferred, it became clear that the majority of students favored the iconic Wizards of Waverly Place episode. To summarize, the Russo family was at risk of getting their haunted house taken away, so they allowed Alex to be in charge because she had the best ideas on how to make their haunted house truly scary. Junior Clare Hinds recalled that in the episode, the Russo's "Got a real ghost to scare people in their haunted house, and the decorations were really cool." Alex ventures into the ghost world, and encounters some scary, and not-so-scary, ghosts, whom she brings

up to the human world. Freshman Lauren Tolle also said this episode was her favorite "because it was the most memorable and it was the best show." One particular ghost ends up being far too frightening for little kids, causing their haunted house

where twins Zack and Cody live, they find out there is haunted room with the ghost of an angry woman inside. When the characters go into the room, they start experiencing supernatural activity. Senior Emma Meredith shared her opinion on the

retrieve something they forgot, they encounter the real ghost of suite 613. This twist at the end, as well as the comedic portion of Esteban pretending to be possessed by a woman, made this episode truly memorable.

As much as students appreciated all Disney Halloween episodes, some had thoughts on which were the worst. In Marriotts Ridge student interviews, Hannah Montana's episode got bad reviews. Junior Paige Hockensmith shared that she thought "the Hannah Montana episode didn't really have a Halloween theme, people just dressed up as her." The plot of the supposed special episode was Miley's evil cousin, Luanne, coming to visit, and threatening to expose Miley's big secret of being Hannah Montana, while at a party surrounded by everyone dressed as her. Although a good episode to watch, it did not have much of the Halloween spirit. With no monsters, good costumes, or a scary plot, Hannah Montana fell short of delivering a pleasing Halloween episode.



MRHS students watching Disney Halloween movies.

to be taken away. The episode was a classic episode of Alex Russo messing something up, but with fun, supernatural additions. Watching the episode again, or for the first time, will definitely get you into the Halloween mood.

In a close second, students said they enjoyed The Suite Life of Zack and Cody's episode, "The Ghost of Suite 613." In the hotel

episode, by saying, "The Zack and Cody episode was so good; it was scary, and Esteban [the bellhop] got possessed by a woman." It's revealed that all of the frightening activity in the room was actually the characters scaring Zack, whom often pulled pranks on the others. They came to the conclusion that the room was not truly haunted, but when Zack and Cody go back to

October 17, 2018

THE STALLION

Safe Driving for Students at MRHS

Claire Giannino
Opinion Editor

Have you ever felt unsafe coming out of school? Too much clutter? Everyone going too fast? It's time to talk about the surroundings young drivers face here at MRHS.

It's really exciting when you finally pass your drivers test and hopefully your mom will let you take her car every once in a while to school, but it's even better knowing that you won't have to get up extra early to catch the bus. All this excitement can be a little overwhelming, right? Before you know it you're in the MRHS parking lot and people are driving like crazy people. Blinkers? Forget them. Stop sign? Those are all the sudden optional. There's a chance you might get hit, or backed into, or side swiped. So, how can we prevent that and make it safer to drive to and from school everyday? We can't eliminate distracted drivers off the road, so we'll have to dig deeper.

Know the rules of the road! I know it seems obvious, but clearly for some of us it isn't. We need to familiarize ourselves with traffic laws so that we can prevent the unnecessary accidents people seem to be getting into. Senior, Clare Reynolds, says "Sometimes

when coming out of the parking lot everyone forgets to stop at the stop sign which is seriously dangerous and can obviously lead to a full on collision." Another worried driver, Christina Molinaro says "You have to use your blinker when getting out of the parking lot and pulling



This damaged car shows why students should drive safely.

into spots! If you don't I have no idea where you're going and could easily run into you." If everyone can remember to stop at stop signs, stop at red lights, go when it's green, and use their blinkers it would make a huge difference.

Get off your phone! It's finally the end of the school day and you get to go on your phone, put some music on, and bolt out of there, but you can't be looking down while you're driving. There are so many reasons why you shouldn't be on your phone while you're

driving, but for whatever reason we completely forget all of them when we are coming in and out of school. Did you know that in the state of Maryland if you get pulled over for texting while driving the fine is \$500. Yes, \$500 you read that correctly. The University of Utah

can wait!

Slow down! Route 99 is 50 mph and does not change once you are in the school zone. It's extremely fast considering there is a high school and a middle school where tons of kids are coming out of everyday, but just because the speed limit is 50 mph does NOT mean you need to be going that fast. The traffic going in and out of school is almost bumper to bumper everyday so it almost seems ridiculous to be going that fast just to be stopped immediately by the car in front of you. Reaction time is really important while driving and if you don't give yourself enough time to stop you are going to run right into somebody. Senior, Lilly Grant, says "It's hard to even get to 50 mph when you're coming into school with all the people. There is no point in trying to hit 50 because it's unsafe and everyone is going to the same place anyway."

It's really important to keep know the rules of the road, keep your eyes up, and slow down because if you don't accidents will happen and someone will get seriously hurt.

conducted a study showing that people are as impaired when they drive and talk on a cell phone as they are when they drive intoxicated at the legal blood-alcohol limit of 0.08%. Junior, Gaby Jantac, says "I see people using their phones all the time when they are driving and they look so dumb. You're putting not only yourself, but everyone else at risk when you do that." It's not worth getting pulled over and getting a \$500 ticket or getting yourself and someone else into a possibly fatal accident. Your text

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THE STALLION

October 17, 2018

This Year's Boys Varsity Soccer is Stronger Than Ever



Matt Hendershot
Sports Editor

8: that is the number of players the Boys soccer team at Marriotts Ridge graduated last year, and they look to regroup and put together another successful season on the pitch.

Although the team graduated several key players like Chase Crable, Brady Trenchard, and Tommy Groman last year, the team is not lacking confidence because there are 10 seniors in the starting XI (Starting lineup), and 13 seniors overall. The head coach, Coach Khouri, elaborated on this by saying, "We have a lot more experience this year with 10 seniors starting, which is the main difference from last year's team to this years."

Experience on any kind of team is key for a successful season, but there are many definitions for "success." Captain Matt Voland defined it as, "Having a good attitude at practice, having trust in your teammates and winning games." Winning games is obviously important for any team, but there are more things that can lead to a successful season. whether it is building bonds with everyone on the team or earning the trust of others. These additional factors go hand in hand and eventually lead to results on the field.

With there being 13 seniors on this

team and only one captain, some seniors do not feel the need to be named captain to be a leader for the team. Senior Sahil Raina stated, "At practice it's all our jobs to generally just organize the team and make sure everybody stays focused so we

needed for these seniors to still try and lead the team in any way they can.

The goal for this team is to win the state championship, but that starts with the practice field, Coach Khouri elaborated, "Playing as much as we can, practicing games like situations

team chemistry, Schalge said this could be done by, "supporting your teammates in any situation even if they make a mistake." Knowing your teammates will always have your back is comforting to know and builds the relationship between the players.

The path to reaching the state title is very challenging as boys soccer in the county has increased in competition over the years. Schalge said, "Our biggest competitors this year are Mount Hebron, River Hill, and Centennial." The Mustangs play all three of those teams in the regular season this year, and it will be difficult to get positive results from all three of them, but this team is not afraid of the challenge. The team will look to prepare for these games in every way they can to avoid losing in the regular season and, more importantly, in the playoffs when their season is on the line.

This team has the experience of losing heartbreakers in the playoffs, the motivation to not let that happen again, and a coach who will do everything in his power to make sure the kids succeed. These are the three very important factors necessary for a team that would like to raise the program's 5th state championship trophy come November.



This year's boys varsity soccer team posing for a team picture.

are ready for the upcoming game."

Senior Cameron Schalge added, "The armband does not signify whether you can be a leader or not." The captain wears an armband signifying that he is the captain, but it is not

as much as possible." With doing this they hope to be prepared for anything to come during the game and handled it with confidence and composure.

Another hurdle on the road to a state championship is building a strong

Girls Soccer Team Meets New Changes



Emma Miller
Staff Writer

A new coach brings many changes and the 2018 MRHS girls soccer team is responding well. Feeling more confident than ever, the team has raised its expectations.

"His passion is soccer," says senior co-captain Jenna Kohler, speaking about the new head coach for the lady mustangs soccer team, Darius Qualls. "He excites us," Kohler continues, "he drives an hour and a half to the practices every single day, one way, so the dedication he has is amazing." He also coaches three other soccer teams besides having the head coach position at Marriotts Ridge High School. His dedication to the sport and to each team that he coaches is prodigious.

Coach Qualls is highly respected by the girls because of his great stature, and because of the respect he gives his players. "He is always there for us if we need anything," states junior defender Lindsay Hockensmith. The coach is

constantly speaking separately with certain players to go over anything that they need, or to just reiterate something that they learned or worked on in practice that day.

Qualls has brought a much different

According to Kohler, the team is also more conditioned, more skilled, and has better possession skills when controlling the ball, due to tougher and more specific training at practices. Their expectations

hope to win the county title. They plan to reach these goals by using different strategies when going up against tough opponents. The team is going to change formations depending on what kind of team they are facing.

Overall, the girls soccer team wants to utilize the midfield and athleticism, but also using their tactical part of the game with a big offense. Senior captain Victoria Hensh says that the team is "working on [their] passing game and having good combinations." There are many new members to the team this year, most of which are seniors. There are also two freshman, Megan Wagner, sister of senior captain Aly Wagner, and Sydney Brewer,

that are on varsity this year, both excited about the challenges the season brings. Therefore, finding good combinations and working well together becomes even harder with the lack of team chemistry.

Through the struggles, the team hopes to capitalize when their season is on the line, pushing them in practices, and driving them to succeed.



The girls' soccer team is excited for their season.

coaching style than in past years, and the players are appreciating the shift. The practices are more intense in order to get ready for games. Hockensmith believes that the team is much stronger this year than last because "Coach Qualls has taken the time to go over formations and shooting, so [they are] a lot stronger and more prepared for the season."

for the season have skyrocketed after seeing the effort that Qualls is putting in. Some of their main goals include having a better record than last year, to have at least six shutouts, and no overtimes. Their hope, like many teams, is to make it to, as Jenna Kohler says, "the state championship game." But before making it all the way to states, they

October 17, 2018

THE STALLION

Homecoming Football Game

Chad Stukes
Staff Writer

Marriotts Ridge hits the field on homecoming night, as they try to add another win in the record book. The Homecoming football game is always a very fun and exciting event for Marriotts Ridge, not only for the players but for the students as well.

When interviewing students about the game, they seemed very excited about the game and the team in general. Sophomore Charlie Reynolds said, “the team is doing very well so far, and I’m excited to see them play.” With students excited about the game should give the team energy to go out and perform on the big stage.

The students along with the players have lots of confidence in their team to win in the big game. With the players being confident, the team should be ready to play come game time,” said junior Ryan Reeling. “The team looks good, we won by a total of 68 points in our first two games. If that’s not good football, I don’t know what is,”

said, Junior Adedayo Togun. These wins took place against Hebron and Centennial to start off the season. The Mustangs schedule has increased in competition though, as they face Howard, Oakland Mills and Glenelg for three straight



MRHS football players tackle a player on the opposing team.

weeks. They hope to win these tough games but if not use it as a learning experience to prepare them week in, week out.

The team will still need a game plan for every opponent this year and still stay focused every week

in practice to make sure they put out their best every Friday night. When asked what the team needs to do offensively the answer pretty much stayed the same throughout all the players. Junior Cole Rosenthal said, “right now our

running game is doing super well, so I think we should continue doing what we’re best at.” The team is lead by Kameron Young, who is currently second in the county with 575 rushing yards through 5 games, giving him the ball seems to

working for the mustangs and they look focused on what is successful for them. Exploiting a strength of a team is one key to building a winning program for the future.

The players were also asked what they need to do defensively to win the game. “We need to hold them to fourth down, and force a lot of turnovers”, said Adedayo Togun. Coach Lewis added “don’t allow them to score points, and we need to tackle and know our assignments.”

The whole school is very excited for the homecoming game. Offensively they said they need to keep the ball on the ground, defensively they said they need to make tackles and force lots of turnovers. What they have been doing so far is working so this homecoming game could set the tone for the rest season. In addition Coach Lewis said, “homecoming game is always an Hxciting and special game for the students and players”. If the Mustangs win it will be a great look for our school, and it would , make a great Homecoming for the Mustangs.

Field Hockey

Ira Snell
Staff Writer

After losing seniors like Shay Clevenger, Sarah Bengermينو, and Emily Talentino, the Marriotts Ridge field hockey team looks to show the county who is in charge.

Coach Gado has led the field hockey team to consecutive winning seasons and is excited for the upcoming season. Losing big name players is no surprise for the Mustangs, but Coach Gado believes her players are up for the challenge. “Every year there is going to be another challenge, having to move people around and filling in past senior gaps. The players should always be ready,” says Coach Gado.

When talking to the players about the upcoming season it sounded like they are all on the same page. Forward, Eloise Clevenger, says that her main focus is, “To beat Glenelg and win the county championship.” Everyone on the team feels the same way and believes this year is the year for great things to come.

The team sounds like they have the chemistry, as Captain Acadia Noll says, “I think we have a very talented team this year, and we have been working very well together.”

With team chemistry high, they look to work and win together as a team

Returning player Emma Gladstein thinks they need minor adjustments to be on top of their game. “We need

my teammates to play their hardest” says Acadia Noll. With everything in check on the offensive side of the ball, Eloise Clevenger believes that the defense needs to get better, “ We

the county. Two games you need to make sure you put on your calendar is the October 4th and October 16th game versus River Hill and the biggest game of the year, versus Glenelg on October 16th.

The team is set to compete for a Howard county championship against Glenelg in the season finale . The team won last year against them but lost to them in the playoffs 3-1, this adds a little more to the game making it very important for the team. Glenelg is also the defending state champion and wants to make sure that does not happen again this year.

During a sports season there will always be ups and downs, but it’s how you overcome the adversity to really show what kind of team you will be throughout. The team has the players to compete for championships in the postseason, but the only way they will show this if they work together to their fullest potential and clean up the little things.



The field hockey team smiles for a picture with Coach Talentino.

to keep our sticks down low and finish more in the offensive circle.” With these minor adjustments the team looks to take the next step forward.

“My role on the team is to push the ball up the field and encourage

need to defend the ball better to set our offense up for the goal.” With a lot of new faces on the team this year, no one really knows how the season is going to play out, but do not have the Mustangs’ name left out of the conversation for best in