



# The High School View

The High School View is staffed and prepared entirely by students from the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School, and published on their behalf by The Martha's Vineyard Times, with the generous assistance of the sponsors whose names appear below.

## For Minnesingers, rehearsal sets the tone

BY JULIA SAYRE AND THEO FAIRCHILD-COPPOLETTI

Last Friday and Saturday, the Minnesingers performed their holiday show to sold-out yet socially distanced audiences at the Whaling Church in Edgartown. The shows, which have long been a staple of Christmas in Edgartown, also marked the first time the Minnesingers have performed live indoors since the holiday show in 2019.

The Minnesingers have been a pillar of the Island community since 1968. Director Abigail Chandler leads the choral group, assisted by pianist Nancy Rogers.

Leading up to their performances, the Minnesingers were faced with many

strenuous practices. The week before the holiday show — known to students as “hell week” — is the most demanding week of the year. Similar to fall athletes’ experience during their own hell weeks in August, the Minnesingers practice for four hours every night from Monday to Thursday.

A typical hell week practice consists of rehearsing all 13 songs to be performed, spot-checking them (practicing a specific measure or section of a song), and rehearsing in costumes at the church prior to opening night.

By contrast, standard rehearsals are one day a week, and last two and a half hours. During these rehearsals, Minnesingers warm up to scales played by Nancy, listen to

input from Ms. Chandler, and perfect each song.

Junior and third year Minnesinger Jack Crawford looks forward to the concert despite the fact that the rehearsal week is physically draining. “You’re singing every day, and your voice can get strained easily, which is really painful,” he said. “It’s cool to be in the Whaling Church, though, since it’s a whole new space [for me], and the acoustics in there are cool as well.”

For Jack, the long hours of practice are beneficial. “This week I was able to memorize a ton of the music [we’re singing in the show], which is definitely helpful because you can watch [Ms. Chandler] conduct, which is really important,” he said.

Senior Ella Buchert agrees.

“We definitely need hell week before the show. If we just had one practice this weekend and then went right into the show, we would definitely not be as together and on top of everything.”

Ella thinks that singing with the Minnesingers has been an important experience for her. “I’ve really made a lot of great friends through ‘Minnes,’ and it’s been really nice getting to know Nancy and Ms. Chandler really closely,” she said. “Overall, it’s made me appreciate hard work and collaboration.”

Junior Isa Merriam coordinates costumes for the Minnesingers’ performances, and thinks there are pros and cons to the hell week experience. “I don’t have to invest as much time since I’m not sing-



The Minnesingers warm up for their holiday concert after a long week of preparation.

PARKER BRADLEE

ing, but it’s stressful for me because people lose costume pieces all the time, and things break,” she said, adding that she enjoys working with so many people.

For Emma Burt, becoming a Minnesinger and all the practicing that comes along with it has been a dream come true. “I’ve been going to

the Christmas concerts for so many years, and every time I went I was like, ‘I cannot wait to be on that stage and be a Minnesinger!’”

“Everyone scared me so much about hell week,” Emma added, “but I’m not actually disliking any of it. Getting to sing everyday is really enjoyable.” HSV

## Athletes race into winter sports

BY LILA MIKOS, SILAS ABRAMS AND TRISTAN SCOTT

After a brief respite following the fall sports season, the seasons for boys and girls basketball, hockey, swimming, and indoor track are now underway at Martha’s Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS).

Both varsity girls basketball and varsity girls hockey are being led by new head coaches this year. Math teacher Melissa Braillard is now the head coach of girls varsity basketball, having coached junior varsity basketball in 2013 and again last year.

“I’m really excited to have [Ms. Braillard],” said junior basketball captain Josie Welch. “She works so hard for us, and brings really good ideas to the team.”

Geoghan Coogan has taken over the role of girls hockey head coach. Varsity sophomore Clara Mikos also

feels optimistic about the season ahead. “[Our coaches] have so much knowledge about hockey, and always give us new ways to look at situations, both on and off the ice,” she said.

Swim team captain Ruairi Mullin is looking forward to building a strong relay team, and hopefully making it to states. Last year, Ruairi

beat his own school record in the 200-yard freestyle, and was the first MVRHS swimmer to place first in a league meet. For other swimmers, joining the team is their first experience with competitive swimming.

“Our new swimmers are excited to be introduced to the sport and the races,” Ruairi said.

Some difficulties will be faced along the way, however. “A challenge is that the team is small, and even if we win the races, we might not win the meets because of our small team size,” Ruairi said.

Senior boys basketball captain Nico Arroyo is excited about the promise of a fresh start this season. “I love basketball,” he said. “Our team this year is really young, but they’re all showing a lot of promise. I’m anticipating a great season.”

The indoor track team is led by Head Coach Joe Schroeder, who also coaches cross-country and outdoor track and field. The team includes many athletes who contributed to the success of the cross-country team this fall, when the boys’ team won the Massachusetts Division 2C title and the girls’ team had numerous runners qualify for states.

Senior Borja Toley is ready to race in “official meets” this year, rather than travel to individual schools, as the team was forced to do during the height of COVID.

“Hopefully we can get our 4 x 800 meter team to go to nationals,” said Borja, citing the fact that he, along with runners Zack Utz, Daniel Da Silva, Jonathan Norton, and Daniel Serpa, could all potentially contribute to a qualifying squad.

For senior assistant boys hockey captain Finn Lewis, the status of the team this year seemed daunting at first.

“We lost a good chunk of seniors last year that played a big role on this team. And

we also lost two solid younger players that went off to play on other hockey teams,” he said, adding that he was worried early on about the team’s offensive abilities. “But we came back this year with big hearts. After our first couple scrimmages, a couple of young kids and some new kids came through and showed that we can score goals.”

Finn attributes this success to the team’s unusual camaraderie.

“In past years on the hockey team, there’s been a pretty clear divide from upperclassmen and lowerclassmen, but this year things have been different,” he said. “It really feels like one solid team in the locker room. Everyone likes everyone and it shows on the ice. There’s chemistry going even this early in the season.”

Though Finn is a leader on the team, he feels that everyone on the team is an equal and has a part to play. “Every day each player has the same role,” he said. “Go out there, play hard, get pucks in the net, and have fun.” HSV



Junior Nick Rego maneuvers the puck across the rink during tryouts.

PARKER BRADLEE

EDITORS IN CHIEF: Hardy Eville ('22), Sara Creato ('22) • ASSISTANT EDITORS: Julia Sayre ('23), Theodore Fairchild-Coppoletti ('22) • PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Parker Bradlee ('24)  
ART EDITOR: Madeleine Bengtsson ('23) • MASTHEAD ART: Nikeya Tankard ('24) • FACULTY ADVISERS: Kate Hennigan, Rachel Schubert

**SUPPORT**  
**The High School View**  
...and local news

**MVTimes**  
**Ads start at just \$50 per issue!**  
Email [adsales@mvtimes.com](mailto:adsales@mvtimes.com)  
to learn more

LOVE INSTAGRAM?  
US TOO!

@MARTHASVINEYARDTIMES

MARTHAS VINEYARD BANK  
110 YEARS

MVBank.com  
Member FDIC | Member DIF

Island Proofreading

**Irene E. Ziebarth**

3 Tennis Lane  
Chilmark, MA 02535

202-680-8076  
[irenieziebarth@gmail.com](mailto:irenieziebarth@gmail.com)