



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.

Seniors hammer away at scholarships

BY JULIA SAYRE, PICKLE EVILLE, & CHLOE NICOTERA

Over the past few months, Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS) students have opened email inboxes to find college acceptance, rejection, and waitlist letters. Many students have been accepted by their dream schools, only to discover that the true obstacle can be affording to attend.

"The pressure kids and families are under to come up with whatever the dollar amount is for college is daunting," said guidance director John Fiorito.

With May 1 looming as Decision Day, the deadline for most students to make a decision about which school they will attend, the challenge of paying for college is on everyone's mind. Many students will be making a decision without knowing the full extent of any scholarship assistance they might receive, as Island scholarship



Juniors Hannah Costa and Emma Burt check in for SATs.

ISA MERRIAM

recipients are announced and awarded annually on Class Night, the Friday before graduation in June. "In general, students' main concern is 'How do I pay for college?'" said guidance counselor Erika Mulvey. "When you go through the whole process of applying and trying to find that perfect school, unfortunately, sometimes people fail to keep in mind the cost."

In order to help alleviate some stress surrounding college debt, the Guidance Department strongly recommends applying for scholarships. For months, seniors have been hard at work on applications for local, regional, state, and even national scholarships. Last year, the class of 2022 was collectively awarded 428 scholarships on Class Night, and the total aid

topped \$1.2 million. Mr. Fiorito, who has facilitated the scholarship program for the past four years, said, "The program has really exploded over the last few years. Even through the pandemic, we were actually helped, not hurt," he said. Guidance provides seniors with a booklet in January that gives them access to the local and regional scholarship opportunities avail-

able to them. Scholarships vary — some organizations announce award totals up front, while students will apply for others without knowing the dollar amount they might receive. Most applications require students to write essays, which senior Maggie Best felt was the most difficult aspect of the application process. "I think the hardest part of the process was writing for some of the prompts, considering several of them were not super-relevant to high schoolers' lives, such as, 'What does the American flag mean to you?'" she said. Senior Jack Walsh sought options outside of the scholarship booklet to maximize the potential aid he might receive. "I had to spend a lot of time searching for different regional and niche scholarships I could apply for," he said. His research paid off: Jack got word in January that

he has received the Evans Caddie Scholarship, which will cover the full cost of his tuition and housing for four years if he attends an Evans Scholar partner school. Other students have received scholarships from the schools they applied to, and are crossing their fingers that other awards will come through. "We're encouraging students to take advantage of every opportunity to get scholarships," Ms. Mulvey said. "I always gently remind students they could be getting thousands of dollars for a few hours of writing essays and filling out their information, so it is absolutely worth it to put in the time." Jack advises future applicants to utilize research skills to find more scholarship opportunities specific to them. "Finding an area where you excel and then finding the scholarships associated with that area is important," he said. "There are scholarships for almost every area, so students should have no problem finding a scholarship unique to them." **HSV**

Volunteers assist at Food Pantry

BY JULIET MORSE AND ELLA KEENE

The Martha's Vineyard Food Pantry, located at the Portuguese-American Club in Oak Bluffs, is not only a place that gives to those in need, but also to those who volunteer. The diverse community of employees and volunteers share the goal of supporting the Island community and addressing food insecurity. At the end of March, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is set to phase out its supplemental allotments, which



Senior Andrea Morse breaks down boxes at the Island Food Pantry.

ELLA KEENE

were put in place during the COVID-19 pandemic. As federal funding to address food insecurity changes, the local community is trying its best to adapt and fill in the resulting gaps. Volunteering is one way that people can help. Mary Stycos, assistant manager of the Food Pantry, explained how the pantry functions on a weekly basis. "We are open to the public four days a week. Two other days a week, we're open for other things like unloading our truck or loading bags for deliveries," she said.

Due to the high costs of living on-Island, the affordable housing crisis, and seasonal shifts in employment, the pantry sees a fluctuating population throughout the year. Mary noted that the pantry is open year-round. "People need help at different times of the year. That's why we try to be so constant, allowing people to come in and out as they need. We try to give that extra help so that people can also use their limited resources in other places," she said. Although there are paid positions at the pantry, the

predominant population of workers are volunteers. More than 130 people volunteer at the pantry weekly, unloading trucks, aiding shoppers, stocking shelves, packing bags, and helping with everything in between to keep the pantry open and able to serve clients. Martha's Vineyard Regional High School students comprise a contingent of these pantry volunteers, who help out both by organizing food drives at the high school and volunteering directly at the pantry. Freshman Teagan D'Arcy has been volunteering at the Food Pantry for about a year. "Volunteering allows me to connect with a wider community of people. It's a very prominent organization and

impacts so many people on the Island," she said. Senior Hannah Murphy appreciates the fact that volunteering gives her a different perspective of life on-Island and the challenges that people face in order to feed their families. "It's really important to get [different] perspectives on living here, because sometimes your perspective can get warped if you're not seeing how other people are living their lives," she said. Stycos emphasized the key role that volunteers play in operating the Food Pantry. "We literally would not open if it wasn't for volunteers. There's no way that I, or any of us in the food equity team, could do our job without the volunteers," she said. **HSV**

EDITOR IN CHIEF: Julia Sayre ('23) • ASSISTANT EDITORS: Olivia MacPherson ('24), Nikeya Tankard ('24) • PHOTOGRAPHY EDITOR: Isa Merriam ('23) • ART EDITOR: Madeleine Bengtsson ('23) MASTHEAD ART: Madeleine Bengtsson ('23) • FACULTY ADVISERS: Kate Hennigan, Rachel Schubert

The High School View is back on Instagram!



THEHIGHSCHOOLVIEW



High School View



SCAN QR CODE for new story updates, articles, illustrations and photos.

For more than 30 years The MV Times has published

The High School View

It's one of the few high school publications in the U.S. that is circulated throughout the community.

MVTimes

To become a sponsor email adsales@mvtimes.com or call 508-693-6100