



The High School View

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Sports teams get excited for spring

BY CAMDEN TOWNES AND NICK CARPENTER

There has been growth in participation in spring sports at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). Now that practices are underway, teams are making the most of the preseason.

Track and field and girls

tennis have seen the largest increase in participation. Senior tennis captain Sofia Balsas said, "We had 38 girls try out, and could only keep 14. We have seven freshmen on the team this year, and only two seniors, so it's a pretty young team."

The track and field team, however, did not have to make any cuts due to their

increase of players. "It's definitely exciting [having more athletes]," senior and captain Alexa Schroeder said. "In the past, we haven't been able to cover all of the events, which makes us lose points. So it's a positive."

The girls' lacrosse team welcomes new Head Coach Lauren Pineau this year. "She's very positive and optimistic

about the season," said senior and captain Brooke Ward.

The boys' lacrosse team has also had a positive experience with new Assistant Coach Michael Morris. "He's a nice guy," said senior and captain Aiden Conley. "He knows how to fire us up, and teach us what we need to know in order to succeed."

The boys lacrosse program has moved up into a new league this season; from the Cape and Islands League Lighthouse division to the Cape and Islands League Atlantic Division. "The competition is going to be a lot more difficult [compared with last year], so it all comes down to whether or not we can work well together, especially with the newer players who have less experience," Aiden said.

The softball team is welcoming new leadership this season, as freshman Kelly Pacheco steps up as captain. Kelly addressed her unique position as a captain this early on in her high school career. "I've been playing since seventh grade [...] As a captain, I'm just super-positive, trying to tell new players to not give up, because it's a really hard sport, and [getting better at it] comes with time," she said.

In the past few years, the softball team has struggled to recruit enough players for a full team. This year, they will only run a varsity team, as opposed to varsity and junior varsity. "There were 23 girls who tried out this year, and we are going with 20," Kelly said.

The boys' tennis team is hoping to make a successful run following last year's winning season, where they ended with a record of 16-2 and made it to the final four in playoffs. "The energy is great," said junior and captain

Zak Potter. "We show up to practice in a good mood, ready to get work done. The regular season will be pretty good for us, and we should win most of those games."

The boys baseball team is looking forward to their season as they embrace their team chemistry and positive relationship with coaches. Senior and captain Nate Story said, "The team morale is great. Our coaches have done a great job of preparing us for the beginning of the season."

Despite their confidence going into this year's season, Nate added that there is still plenty of opportunity for growth. "I think everything needs to be improved. We're not hitting the ceiling in anything. Throughout the season, we are going to get better at everything," he said.

While baseball secured its first win of the season against Nantucket 10-0, both boys and girls lacrosse fell to the Whalers with scores of 17-1. **HSV**



Sophomore Eli Bryant takes a swing during batting practice.

BRADY VOUGHT

Amy Crawford imparts a love for language and theater

BY NATALIE WAMBUI AND LULU WHITE

Latin teacher Amy Crawford has added teaching in the Performing Arts Department to her résumé this year at Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), which has allowed her to share even more of what she's passionate about with her students.

Ms. Crawford — who encourages students to call her Amy — now teaches Latin I and II, Theater Production, Intro to Classical Theater, and Movement for Actors.

She discovered a passion for Latin at the age of 12. "I grew up in New Haven, Conn., and the school I went to offered Latin beginning in seventh grade, so I studied Latin in

middle school. I went to high school and continued Latin," she said. "The reason why I love it so much is because of my teachers. I had a teacher in eighth grade who told me, 'If you don't become a Latin teacher, I really don't know who else should.' She kind of pointed me in that direction."

After majoring in classics in college, Ms. Crawford moved to Martha's Vineyard, where she had spent summers as a kid. As she was job-searching, she saw a post for a pilot course that involved co-teaching Latin with a teacher from Nauset High School. "That was the very first job I had teaching here, when I was right out of college at age 22," she said.

While she took some time away from MVRHS to focus

on raising her two children, Jack ('23) and Molly ('26), she continued to teach throughout the Island community.

In addition to working at the West Tisbury School and instructing in fitness at the YMCA, Ms. Crawford tutored

individual students in Latin. She returned to MVRHS during the 2021-22 school year, working as an education support professional until a long-term substitute teacher position opened up in the World Language Department later that year.

Ms. Crawford's expertise in stage management led to her interest in teaching in the Performing Arts Department. "I went back to school to get a master's in theater education, but I have a background in professional stage management, which is what I worked on professionally in the years before I was a parent," she said. "Basically, before I became a mom ... theater was my life."

Beyond the classroom, Ms. Crawford is in the prelimi-

nary stages of planning a student trip to Rome, which will be open to students in the school's Latin and culinary programs. "When I was a junior in college, I did a study in Rome at the Intercollegiate Center for Classical Studies," she said. "I have been wanting to take students back to Rome, where I got my original education, so I am offering it to my [Latin III] students next year."

As the only Latin teacher at MVRHS, Ms. Crawford has the opportunity to see students develop a connection to the language across their years of study. She said, "I come to work to see the kids ... I really adore so many of the students [at MVRHS], and I'm so lucky to work with them year after year." **HSV**



Ms. Crawford splits her teaching time between the theater and world language departments.

BRAYLIN HATTINGH

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