



The High School View

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New clubs gain popularity

BY FINN ROBINSON AND TAZ STROM

New clubs are up and running at the Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS), and are in the process of attracting members. Clubs that have gained popularity include pickleball, table tennis, academic competitions, the Student-Athletes Club, and Model United Nations (Model U.N.).

Some clubs are brand-new, while others have been revived this year. While some clubs pursue major projects or initiatives, others simply offer students a chance to hang out and connect over an activity they enjoy.

One new club that has become popular is the Pickleball Club, which has accrued a membership of around 30

members. The Pickleball Club members usually meet up after school at Niantic Park or Airport Fitness to play practice games.

The co-presidents, juniors Grady McCracken and Zak Potter, started the club hoping for an activity to do after school, specifically during the wintertime. Junior Caleb Dubin, an avid pickleball player and early club member, said, "I started to play pickleball a couple of years ago with my grandparents, who introduced me to it. I picked it up pretty quickly because I play tennis and other racket sports."

The Pickleball Club is currently running a doubles tournament with a buy-in of \$10; the winning team will be rewarded with the whole pot. Grady also hopes to se-

cure time for the club to play during the school day, and utilize school equipment, in order to lower the barrier of entry into the club. "I'd love to get a Flex going, and use the gym and the school rackets, because rackets are pretty expensive," he said.

Model U.N., which is advised by education support professional Ellis Oliver, was revived this year for the first time since it shut down during the pandemic. The club meets every week after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A national club that dates back to 1927, Model U.N. offers students the opportunity to participate in scenarios with peers from other schools at conferences that simulate real-world United Nations meetings. This year, Ms. Oliver hopes to bring the club to the Yale and Boston University



Sophomore Tripp Arciaga, a member of the Chess Club, ponders his next move.

TAZ STROM

Model U.N. conferences.

Sophomore Ronan Kelly is a Model U.N. club member. He said, "I always enjoyed world history and learning about current events, but I never really felt any history class offered a more current perspective on history. Model U.N.

has allowed me to explore this perspective on history in an environment that enables me to share my views and debate them with my peers." Ronan plans to attend conferences this year, and hopes that Model U.N. remains a prominent club at MVRHS.

Some students attend new clubs for the academic opportunities offered, whereas some students are lured by other perks, such as snacks. Senior Kestutis Biskis, a member of the Innovation Club, said, "I'm really just there for the Oreos." **HSV**

Teens lead alternate lives after school hours

BY MATT DAY

When the bell rings at 2:05, the Island opens up to the students of Martha's Vineyard Regional High School (MVRHS). Along with the classic option of going home, there are plenty of opportunities for students to engage in other activities. Many work, play sports, participate in clubs, or head across the street from the high school to lift weights and socialize at the YMCA (the Y).

Aquila is a small smoothie and coffee shop located in the Y. Martha's Vineyard native and MVRHS graduate Del Araujo owns the shop, and estimates that 30 to 40 percent of his customers are students who come after school.

When Mr. Araujo set up shop in the cafe space in the Y last spring, he had hungry and thirsty students in mind. He said, "Being able to fuel your

body appropriately, especially if it's something healthy, is vital to the performance of people — no matter [if it's] education or athletics."



MATT DAY

Sophomore Harrison Lazarus spots sophomore Syius Rigali in a lift at the Y after school.

When Mr. Araujo was a student at MVRHS, the Y had yet to be established: "It would've been a great thing for me, so definitely it made sense for me [to open the cafe]. I'm happy to be here for the kids now."

Sophomore Gabriel Arado joined the workforce at Cronig's Market after school, while also balancing working out and getting homework done. "I enjoy working after school because it gives me the opportunity to make my own money," he said. He also pointed out that working after school has its challenges. "Sometimes after work, I'm too tired to go to the gym and be motivated," he said. "Other times, I need to sacrifice the gym and use my break at work in order to do my schoolwork."

Some students choose to do other activities that don't earn them money, such as socializing and going to the gym. When it's not football or baseball season, sophomore Syius Rivera Rigali spends time hanging out in the cafe at the Y. He believes that more people should try to get into the habit of doing social activities after school, in order to help them get out of their comfort zones. "I feel like there's so much time after school that people waste, where they're not really doing anything," he said. "Having an activity to do really helps people be extroverted and meet new people."

Once Syius is done socializing, he goes upstairs to the gym and lifts weights. He said, "I've been going for a

year, or a little over that, now. I've obviously had a lot of physical change, but I feel like mentally I've gotten a lot more confident in the things I do, and a lot more open to doing more things."

Freshman Eben Solway is a three-season athlete, but still finds time to hang with his buddies at the Y's Teen Center. He said, "It's something that I do in my free time to just keep me not bored."

Eben also noted that the transition from middle school to high school increases students' sense of freedom. With a wide range of clubs and elective classes to take, Eben feels that there is more of an opportunity to experiment and find things that individuals like — which applies to afterschool time as well.

"Having a life outside of just going to school and going back to your home is really important," Syius said. **HSV**

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