



MARINER CHRONICLE



September 15, 2025 MANISTEE HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

Vol 2 Issue 1

Written by Jorren Edmondson

ADVICE FROM UPPERCLASSMAN

It can be hard to come back to school, especially if you are just starting high school or middle school. Our juniors and seniors have been in school for awhile, and know what it is like to be in your shoes the last few years. We have asked some of the upperclassmen to give some advice to their younger peers.

"Do not be afraid to ask questions. Your curiosity is a strength not a weakness." (Leia Gilliland 11)

"Challenge yourself with the classes you take and make sure to take them seriously." (Andy O'Donnell 11)

"Don't be afraid to talk to new people, help people, and make friends." (Landin Sowa 12)



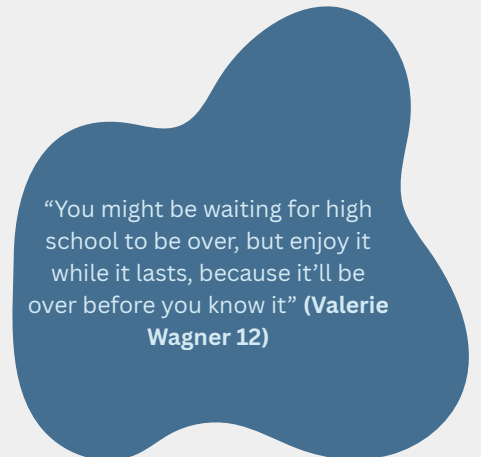
"Don't stress about figuring out the rest of your life right now, there's nothing wrong with trying things out and learning through trial and error." (Maxx Carlson 12)



"Do as many activities and fun things as you can, try new things!" (Lena Herberger 12)



"You might be waiting for high school to be over, but enjoy it while it lasts, because it'll be over before you know it" (Valerie Wagner 12)



SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

As the school year begins, we would like to reminisce on our favorite memories during summer! Here are some of your peer's summer highlights :



“Going to the UP to see my family.”
(Payden Turkett 6th)

Having pool parties.”
(Cyler Cole 8th)



Visiting my [CTE] class animals and playing with the piggies.”
(Olivia Salmon, 12)

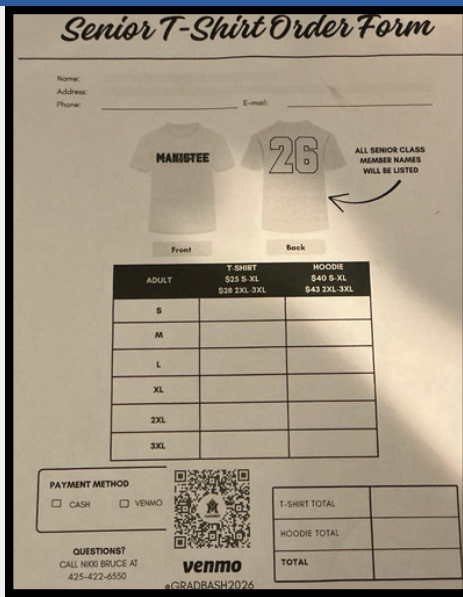


“Playing football 7on7 with all my friends and teammates.” (Braylen Zimmerman 12)

Playing football with the bros!” (Landon Cameron 8th)

STUDENT LIFE CONTINUED SENIORS, IT'S TIME TO GEAR UP!

Written by Achilles Eckerson



The form is titled "Senior T-Shirt Order Form". It includes fields for Name, Address, Phone, and E-mail. Below these are illustrations of a T-shirt (front and back) and a hoodie. The T-shirt front says "MANISTEE" and the back says "26". A note says "ALL SENIOR CLASS MEMBER NAMES WILL BE LISTED". Below the illustrations is a table for selecting size and item type.

ADULT	T-SHIRT	HOODIE
S	\$25 S-XL	\$40 S-XL
M	\$28 2XL-3XL	\$43 2XL-3XL
L		
XL		
2XL		
3XL		

Below the table is a "PAYMENT METHOD" section with checkboxes for CASH and VENMO. A QR code for Venmo is also present. At the bottom, there is a "TOTAL" section and a "QUESTIONS?" section with contact information for Nikki Bruce.

Attention Class of 2026—your senior year is officially here, and it's time to rep your school pride in style! The Senior T-Shirt and Hoodie Order Form has just dropped, and this is your chance to lock in the ultimate keepsake for your final year at Manistee High.

The design is clean, bold, and all about the seniors. On the front, you'll rock the Manistee name loud and proud. Flip it around, and you've got the big "26" across the back—plus something extra special: the names of every single senior in your class. It's more than just a shirt; it's a wearable yearbook.

Here's the breakdown:

T-Shirts run \$25 (sizes S-XL) and \$28 (2XL-3XL).

Hoodies run \$40 (sizes S-XL) and \$43 (2XL-3XL).

Order forms let you choose your size, and payment is simple: cash or Venmo (@GradBash2026). That way, nobody has to worry about digging for exact change in their backpack.

Why grab one? Because this is the kind of item you'll wear at games, spirit week, pep rallies, and eventually stash away as one of the best senior year souvenirs. Every time you pull it out years from now, you'll remember the faces, laughs, and memories of high school. Plus, with all your classmates' names printed on the back, it's a way to take your entire senior crew with you—wherever you go next.

Class of 2026—it's your year. Wear it well!

WRITERS NEEDED!

Written by Alayna Edmondson

We Would love to have you as part of our crew for the Mariner Chronicle.

It is an easy and fun class for anyone in 10th grade or above! Or, you could be a guest writer if you have a fun topic you'd love to share with your school!

If interested, email Alayna Edmondson (26edmala@manistee.org) or Mr. Quakkelaar (lquakkelaar@manistee.org)



FROM TIKTOK TO GLOBAL CHARTS: SOMBR'S NEW ALBUM HAS ARRIVED!

Sombr, a new rising star from TikTok has a new album that was released August 22, 2025. Shane Michael Boose, also known as Sombr, is a 20 year old singer songwriter who started making music in his bedroom at 16 during the pandemic. He would post his songs to TikTok and eventually he blew up with his first viral song in 2022, "Caroline," that now has over 40 million Spotify streams!

His new alternative indie pop album is now trending on TikTok. You may have heard the songs "12 to 12," "back to friends," and "undressed" on your *For-You* page these past couple of months. This new album is an easy 38 minute listen with themes of love, heartbreak, and growing up. Young listeners can easily connect with these elements from this new rising artist.



Along with a new album he is also currently on tour across the globe! Sombr went from being an average high school student bored in his room to now selling out shows across the whole world! He is even coming to our very own Detroit late September! He is going to Masonic Temple, which is a grand theater in downtown Detroit near Comerica Park and Ford Field. Tickets are still selling so get them while you still can!

He's not just trending on TikTok but he's also reached the sixth spot on the global two hundred billboard chart on August 25th! Which is a huge accomplishment as a new artist or even a larger artist.

Whether you're a TikTok scroller, the biggest fan, or even becoming a new fan, "I Barely Know Her" is an enjoyable new album. Sombr is one of the fastest growing stars of 2025, with 3 MTV's VMA (video music awards) nominations for best new artist, best alternative video, and the song of the summer! Those awards are huge accomplishments especially because he went from being an average high school student to then becoming a VMA nominated star!



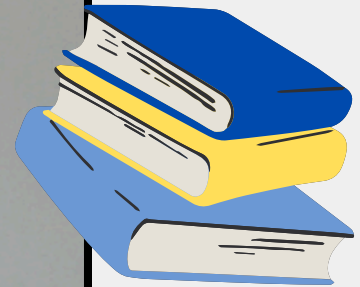
STAFF OF THE WEEK:

Written by Lilith Vela

MS.DEAN

Ms. Dean is a new middle school teacher. She teaches 6th and 7th grade ELA, "I am passionate about teaching ELA because I didn't like reading when I was younger, and I want to help make reading and ELA more enjoyable for students!" I'm sure many other students feel like this but Ms. Dean shows us that you can turn your struggles into something positive in your life with the right mindset! Along with ELA she also teaches a 7th grade exploratory class called digital designs lab. Which is one of the many interesting exploratory classes our middle school Mariners get to take!

Outside of teaching at our school she also teaches ballet at the Conservatory of Dance and is a certified yoga instructor! She loves going on walks with her dog, Koko, trying out new food, and traveling. "I was in France for two months this past summer!"



Although she now lives in Manistee, she is originally from Metro, Detroit. She grew up moving around a lot growing up and ended up moving to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Eventually she would graduate from high school there. Then she trained at a ballet program also in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania! Next in her journey, she came back to Michigan to go to college at MSU and minor in psychology. "I never thought I would go there, but I loved it! I started college during Covid, so my first year was online. Because of that, I never stayed in the dorms. I loved MSU's teacher program and I still talk to all of the ELA teachers I graduated with."

Ms. Dean is a positive addition to our middle school! We are happy and excited to welcome her to our school! So if you see her upstairs don't be shy, say hello, and spread positivity just like her.



NOW SHOWING:

MOVIE REVIEWS WITH ACHILLES ECKERSON

Written by Achilles Eckerson

Sssh! The movie is starting.

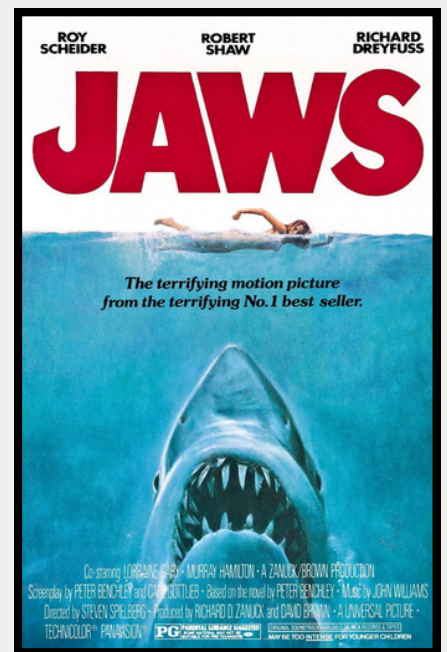
Manistee's Vogue Theatre was playing **Jaws**, **Sketch**, and **Nobody 2** last week and the following week.

Jaws, directed by Steven Spielberg, is a classic thriller that has captivated audiences for nearly 50 years. Released in 1975, the film became a cultural phenomenon and set the standard for the modern summer blockbuster. Its terrifying story left many viewers afraid of sharks and swimming in the ocean, proving how strongly movies can shape public perception. Financially, **Jaws** was groundbreaking, earning \$470 million worldwide during its initial run. The film was based on Peter Benchley's 1974 novel, itself inspired by the 1916 New Jersey shark attacks, and it continues to influence both cinema and society today.

Sketch, directed by Seth Worley, is a much newer release that premiered nationwide in September 2025. Aimed at children, teens, and families, the movie is inspired by Worley's personal life. As a child, his sister coped with bullying by drawing frightening figures of her tormentors, an experience that partly shaped the story. Worley also drew from his own parenting and his children's creative drawings. Since its debut, **Sketch** has earned over \$8 million at the box office and continues to grow in popularity. It's a heartfelt film that, as critics say, "draws its audience together."

Nobody 2, directed by Timo Tjahjanto, is the explosive sequel to **Nobody** (2021), which earned \$57.5 million in theaters. The sequel delivers action, drama, and high-stakes thrills for fans of fast-paced storytelling. The original film was inspired by Bob Odenkirk's real-life home invasion and the style of the John Wick movies. Odenkirk even trained with the John Wick stunt team to prepare for both films. As of 2025, **Nobody 2** has already earned \$37 million worldwide—and, fittingly, nobody expected the first film would even spark a sequel.

Manistee Vogue Theatre website linked [here](#)



FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS ARE BACK

Written by Alayna Edmondson

Photo courtesy to Kristina Protasiewicz

The Mariner football team started their season and are 2-1 so far. They beat Remus Chip Hills and Fremont, but fell short to Oakridge.



Their first home game was against Fremont, and they came out with a score of 36-24. **Wyatt Protasiewicz (11)** scored the first touchdown for the mariners to put the Mariners on the board. **Davion Neal-Berry (11)** found **Chaos Davis (11)** in the end zone for a 2-point conversion. This tied the game with a score of 8-8. Although, they got another touchdown due to **Neal-Berry** and **Braylen Zimmerman (12)** connection for a 53-yard touchdown pass. With a great half time buzzer beater catch, **Zimmerman** scored another touchdown to end the first half. **Protasiewicz** finished the play with the 2-point conversion. After halftime, **Neal-Berry** found **Zimmerman**, once again, for another touchdown. **Protasiewicz** finished the play, once again, for an additional 2-points. Then, **Protasiewicz** scored for the last touchdown.



Protasiewicz lead the way with 18 carries for 128 yards and two touchdowns. **Josh Weiss (12)** had 20 yards on six carries, while **Landin Sowa (12)** had seven carries for 37 yards. **Davis** had four carries for 41 yards. **Neal-Berry** completed seven of his nine passes for 162 yards and three touchdowns. **Zimmerman** caught three passes for 124 yards and three touchdowns. **Ean Guenthardt (11)** had one catch for 31 yards. Defensively, **Sowa** racked up 11 tackles with a sack, while **Guenthardt** had 17 tackles and a sack. **Travis Newenhouse (11)** put up 5 tackles and a forced fumble. Lastly, **Neal-Berry** had six tackles. Their next home game is the **26th of September** against Whitehall at 7pm.

BOYS SOCCER START THE SEASON STRONG

Written by Alayna Edmondson

The Manistee boys soccer team is having a great season so far. They played long-time rivals, Ludington, and came up short with a last-second goal by the Orioles. The overall score was 3-2. To start the game, Mariners got on the board by a counterattack led by **James Murray (11)**. **Murray** put in a cross that found **Felipe Saiz Pardo Alvarez (10)** who scored less than three minutes into the game.



Photo courtesy to Luke Morey of Manistee News Advocate



Nolan Dalke (12) scored on a breakaway in the second half. This put the Mariner's in the lead 2-1. The Mariner's goalkeeper, **Layne Piper (10)** saved several shots destined for the back of the net.

CROSS COUNTRY OVERVIEW

Written by Alayna Edmondson

Boys & girls cross country has been going great! The girls have come out on top of rivals, Ludington, a couple times now. This win being the first time in many years.

Kaden Worch (12) won a race, and many runners have already had personal records despite it still being early in the season!



Worch had a PR of 17:01! **Eddie Huizinga (10)** also ran a personal best with the time of 17:44. **Alayna Edmondson (12)** ran a 20:23 to set a new PR. **Hattie Driver (10)** started cross country this year and set a personal best of 21:54. That is just a few of the runners that are crushing the season, but with many more races to come, there is bound to be more records set! The Mariners have their first conference jamboree Tuesday, September 16th at Oakridge High School!

MARINER VOLLEYBALL

Written by Alayna Edmondson

The Lady Mariners have kickstarted their volleyball season and have a record of 7-5. Despite a small team, they have found a way to work hard every game and fulfill their role on the team.



Photo courtesy to Madison Richards

In terms of hitting, **Lindsey Gardner (12)** led the team with 16 kills! She was followed by **Maya Godspeed (10)** who contributed 7 kills, and **Abby Kolk (11)** and **Madalyn Wayward (12)** both added 5 for the team. **Wayward** also chimed in 28 assists, and **Annabelle Kiezkowski (11)** followed with 8! **Kiezkowski** also helped the team with 21 digs, and **Wayward** had 15.



The Mariners play at home this Thursday, **September 18th**. Make sure to come support them, varsity will start at 7pm.



Written by Andy O'Donnell

The new school year is underway, and with it comes one of the most exciting parts of fall; Friday night football games. But the action on the field isn't the only reason fans pack the stands. The Mariner Marching Band is back, filling the stadium with music, spirit, and energy that make game nights unforgettable.

The band has been hard at work long before the first days of school, practicing formations, memorizing music, and preparing for a new tradition of halftime shows. Their first performance was September 5th, when our Mariners defeated the Packers 36-24.



Band Director, **Mr. Biller** shared his excitement for the upcoming season: "The marching band has been working extremely hard since band camp during the first week of August. All of the students and I are proud of the work they have put in and are very excited to present our show this year!"

Whether it's hyping up the crowd with stand tunes or wowing the audience with intricate halftime routines, the marching band continues to be one of the best reasons to come out and support the Mariners. With more home games on the way, students and community members can look forward to a season full of music, energy, and tradition!

Written by Gabby Senters

SENIOR SUNRISE!

The first day of school the MHS seniors decided to participate in the trend of having a senior sunrise. During the sunrise they took pictures, had breakfast, and spent time with their classmates. This all happened with the glow of the first light on the senior's last year. There was a great turn out of the graduating class with most of the class coming out to start their senior year right. One senior, **Owen Madsen**, tells us his favorite part of the sunrise was, "the donuts and chocolate milk", as did many of the seniors. Another senior, **Maddy Wayward**, told us that her favorite part was, "seeing our class come together and get ready for our senior year!!" These are some truly inspirational words from the class of 2026.



The sunrise took place in the student parking lot of MHS. This is where there was a table with snacks and drinks for all the seniors to enjoy. If any underclassmen were thinking about ways to make their senior year memorable in the future; I would take note of this tradition, so that when their class reaches senior year, they could take part in the experience as well.



The use of "senior sunrise" signs were also a big part of the experience. Many of the students were able to get the perfect aesthetic pictures that they can enjoy for years to come. The graduating class also took a class picture to commemorate the experience. I know that for many this will be a moment to remember.

For the seniors, this will be the start to many lasts. These would be things like the last homecoming, winter carnival, prom, and more. We want to make this a memorable last year for the seniors, so let's show our support for these "lasts" that the seniors will be experiencing in the upcoming year.





MIDDLE SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT:

ALEX SLAWINSKI

Meet an outstanding middle school student! This is **Alex Slawinski**, an 8th grader this year at MMHS. He was suggested as a star student by Mrs. Olson, who said, "" I've had Alex for 6th grade Science and he is currently in my 8th grade Science section. He is a kind young man who gets along well with others. He is very involved in many aspects of school. I can always count on him and he is a good example to others of what it means to be a Manistee Mariner.

Do you have a favorite subject or teacher?

- His favorite subject is Science, because he likes learning about the world and nature, with his favorite teacher right now being Mrs. Olson.

Are you involved in any extracurriculars?

- Alex is currently involved in theatre and middle school cross country! His time outside of school is spent running or playing video games, specifically Minecraft.

Do you have pets?

- He has two guinea pigs named nibbles and Murphy along with a dog and cat.

What do you want to be when you grow up?

- As of right now, he isn't sure what he wants to do when he grows up, but he's got plenty of time to figure it out!

We asked if Alex had any advice for the incoming 6th grade class, he said "Take notes" so middle schoolers, make sure you pay attention!

Written by Macaela Bruce

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS!!

We have some upcoming events and gradbash fundraising opportunities:

Look for a Grad bash table at home football games, they'll have face paint, hair tinsel, raffles and more available the following dates:

- **Sept 26**
- **Oct 3**
- **Oct 24**

We also have an ongoing can drive which is open to anyone. Bring any recyclable cans and bottles to the **Sowa residence** or contact **Nikki Bruce** at (425) 422-6550 for a can pickup. Every can counts!!

Save the date! Gradbash will be hosting a Pizza Hut fundraiser **October 13th**, leading with a bake sale starting on **October 9th**. Get yourself a sweet treat and enjoy some pizza!

MHS Gradbash

@Gradbash2026



venmo



@26CLASSMHS

What is Grad bash?

Grad Bash is a special end-of-year celebration for graduating seniors. It's supposed to be a fun, safe way for seniors to spend time together after graduation. Students get to enjoy the entertainment, music, and atmosphere while making lasting memories with their class. Lets make this year's Gradbash the best it can be by raising as much money as we can!!

Reminder: senior shirt forms are due by halloween, for more info see the Senior T-Shirt article.

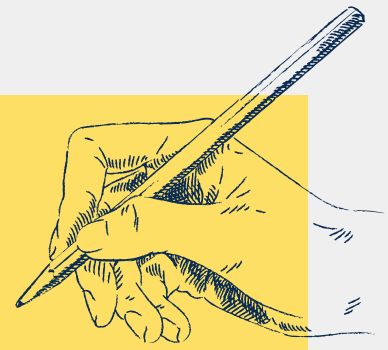
If you want Senior event updates in the future follow the 2026 MHS Senior Instagram:

@26classmhs

Help support your 2026 seniors and fellow classmates!



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Mr. Quakkelaar
Advisor
"You've got to be kind"

