

By Students. For Students.

Tech Time

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THE AURORA



Riley Shean - MSSM '28

The Student Report

By: Sheldon Pennell - MSSM '28

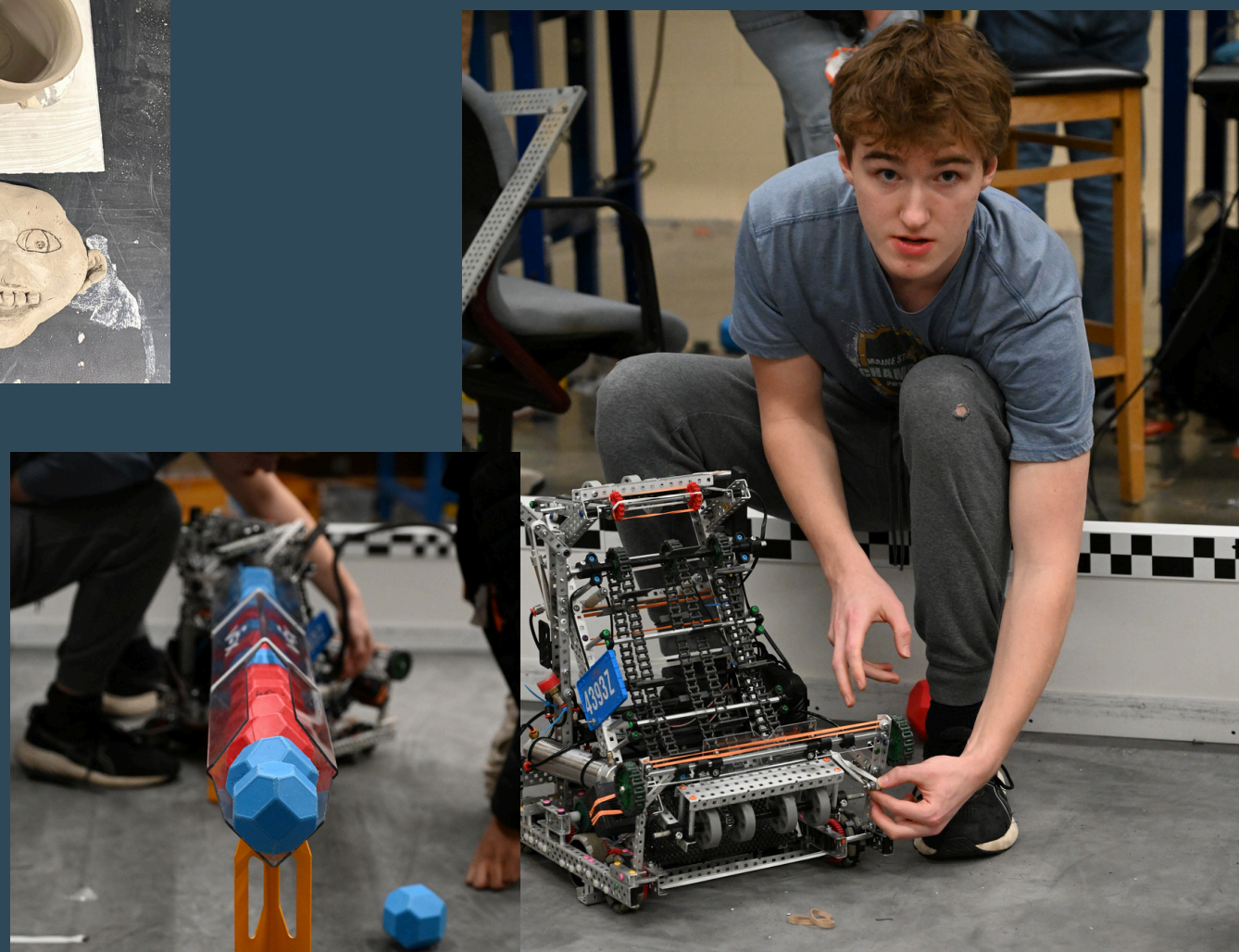
The past few weeks at MSSM have been slower than the previous month. That being said, there are still some exciting changes happening. The intramural futsal season began two Thursdays ago, with games continuing the following Sunday and the Thursday after. All the stats and highlights from those games can be found on page 7.

While campus activities have continued to pick up, the weather has been less consistent. For a few days, we were lucky enough to experience some warm weather, with temperatures reaching into the fifties, but as many of us expected, it was a false spring that ended with a vicious snowstorm this past Wednesday.

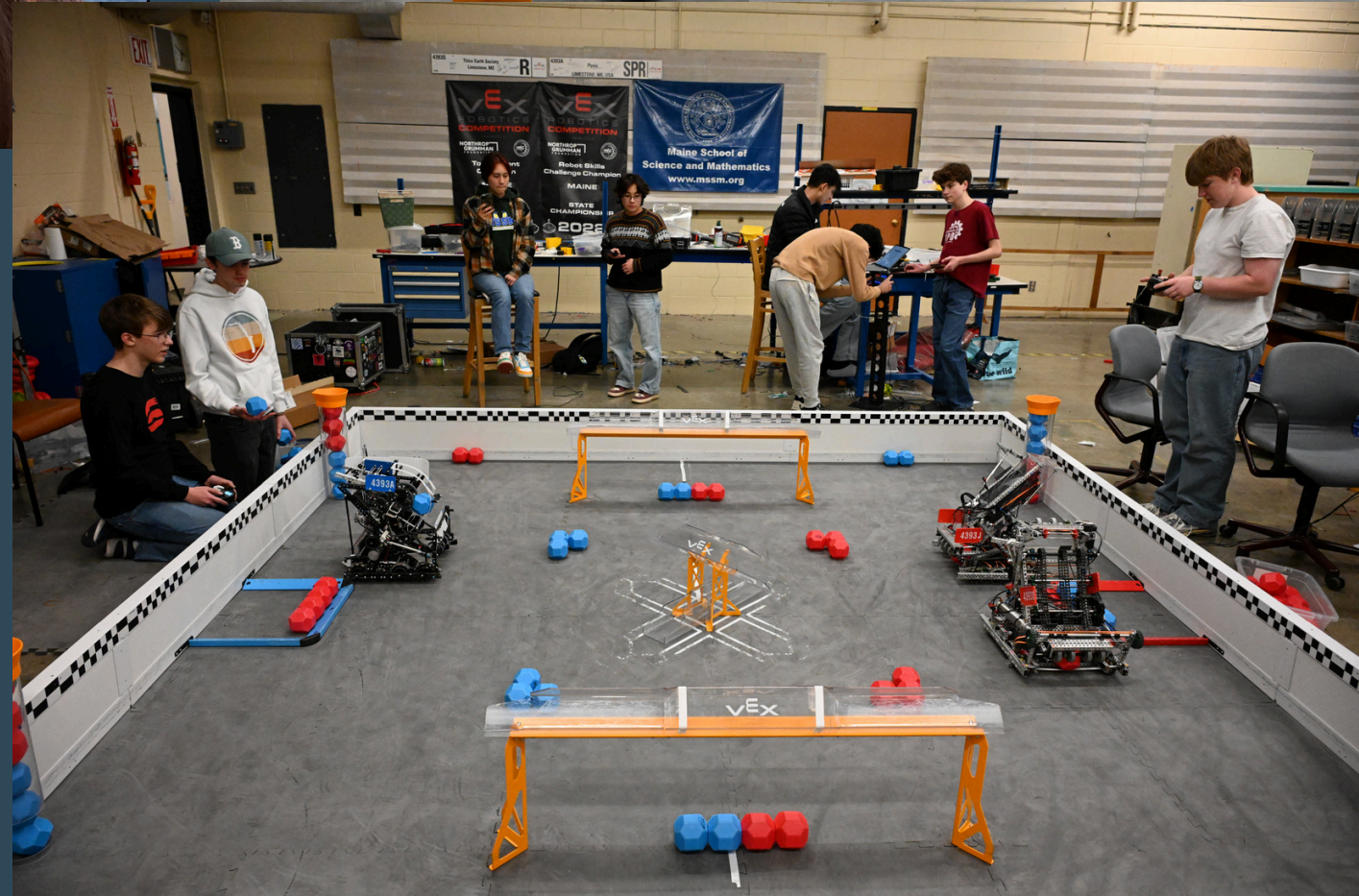
Despite the changing weather, our volleyball teams played strong games this past week. The girls beat Presque Isle, Caribou, and Van Buren, while the boys team is still fighting for their first win.

Beyond athletics, there have also been some organizational improvements around campus. The Exploratory Committee has organized all of the athletic equipment in the stage closets, and there are plans to convert these closets into lounges over the summer. Likewise, the former ball closet has been cleared out so Mr. Kinney can use it as office space.

The Gallery



Penguin Pottery - Lucianne Jones (MSSM '27)



VEX Scrimmage - Riley Shean (MSSM '28)



Volleyball - Riley Shean (MSSM '28)

Tech Time

By: Greyson
Walker - MSSM '28

Whether you like Apple or Android, it's been a crazy couple of weeks for tech. We got new phones, new laptops, and some AI government deals that could potentially raise concerns for human safety.

To start off, Samsung released their new flagship phone which has new features such as a built-in privacy display, as well as a new "horizon lock" feature to take steady footage. We also got a minor spec upgrade, and a couple new AI features.



Gabriel Kirmani - MSSM '26

"As someone firmly locked behind Apple's walled garden—with Stockholm syndrome—the S26 has made me consider what I value in a tech company.

The ability to innovate with features like the built in privacy display, alongside the fact that the display is 120hz + thinner bezels & a hole punch notch has started to convince me that iOS might not be worth the physical experience I've gotten so far. Those blue texts and MacBook integration might keep me though!"

In other news, Apple had a massive week, announcing three huge products. Probably the least notable of the three is the release of the newest MacBook Pro, which received some minor improvements, such as a longer battery and a more efficient chip. Next they announced the release of the iPhone 17e, a sequel to last year's 16e. While the 16e wasn't received well last year, the 17e made a couple major improvements, cementing it as the best budget iPhone to buy right now. Finally, the biggest announcement of the event, the release of the new MacBook Neo. This budget laptop comes in at 500\$ (for students), and is the best value laptop that Apple has ever produced. The MacBook Neo is perfect for students that don't want to spend a ton, and still get multi-day battery life, as well as a reliable system that will receive updates for years to come.

Finally, the department of war wants to develop an "AI-First" force, so they offered Anthropic (The company behind Claude AI) a \$200 million deal to be able to use their systems, to which Anthropic declined. Suddenly out of nowhere, the pentagon labeled Claude as a "supply-chain risk". Shortly after, the same offer was made to OpenAI (Who owns ChatGPT), and they accepted the deal. Afterwards, OpenAI released a vague statement about the deal where they said "This language makes explicit that our tools will not be used to conduct domestic surveillance of U.S. persons, including through the procurement or use of commercially acquired personal or identifiable information." Over the course of the following week there has been a mass movement across the internet where a reported 1M+ users have switched from ChatGPT to Claude. Claude is currently ranked #1 on the Apple App Store.

Recent Music Releases

Denver Nazworth ('28)



HELP (2) - War Child Records

Indie Rock, Indie Folk, Art Rock

Released: March 6th, 2026

The roster of artists assembled over the course of *HELP (2)*'s tracklist is nothing short of inspired. They collectively bridge the gap between older acts as well as new and upcoming faces seamlessly. To me, this compilation emphasizes one of the greatest abilities music can offer, being bringing people together in a time of crisis, done to fantastic effect here.

Clear standouts in performances for me are from Cameron Winter, Beth Gibbons, Despeche Mode, Fontaines D.C., and Black Country, New Road. However, I feel confident everyone can find something on here they enjoy, as all the artists bring their own unique flair to their showings, with fairly infrequent lulls.

Judson Smith ('28)



Nothing's About to Happen to Me - Mitski **Singer-Songwriter, Americana, Indie Rock**

Released: February 27th, 2026

Nothing's About to Happen to Me comes off as a very rock-based album. Mitski said in an interview about this album that she wanted it to be heavily influenced by her older projects from 10 years ago and have certain undertones from her past. The tracks on this album feel as if they tell their own individual stories about Mitski's experiences. She reminisces on her past when singing about missing people or places or experiences, but also becomes angry and resentful as some tracks progress: particularly the track "If I Leave".

Each track feels different but interlinked in a way due to the underlying mood of regret and remembrance. The album feels like a period of estrangement from those whom you care about or places you used to visit that you miss dearly. To wrap things up, *Nothing's About to Happen to Me* is a project about remembrance and emotional attachment. Would recommend.

Judson Smith ('28)



Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally - Harry Styles

Dance-Pop, Alt-Pop, Synthpop

Released: March 6th, 2026

One Direction alum, Harry Styles, came back from a 4 year hiatus of music releases and dropped a very quality album. *Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally* starts as an album that sounds like a Daft Punk story track with its synth-heavy instrumentals, but still keeps a vibrant pop aspect seen within Styles' music before. As the LP progresses, it keeps its expected Dance-Pop and Disco-like feel but also incorporates an emotional spectrum to the tracks within.

Overall, this new album from Harry Styles brings much to desire for any music fan. It has a very broad spectrum of genres, but comes off as a primarily slow disco album. If I could describe *Kiss All the Time. Disco, Occasionally*, I would express it as the dance floor of Prom night, with colored lights still lit and people cleaning up with music still playing in the background. Would recommend to most.

Denver Nazworth ('28)



The Mountain - Gorillaz

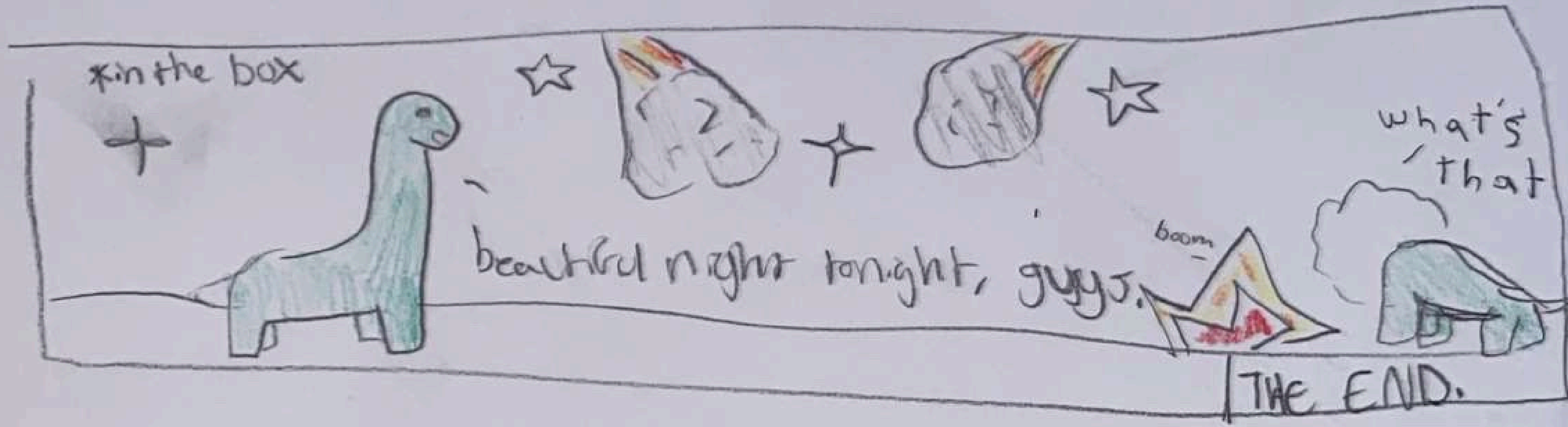
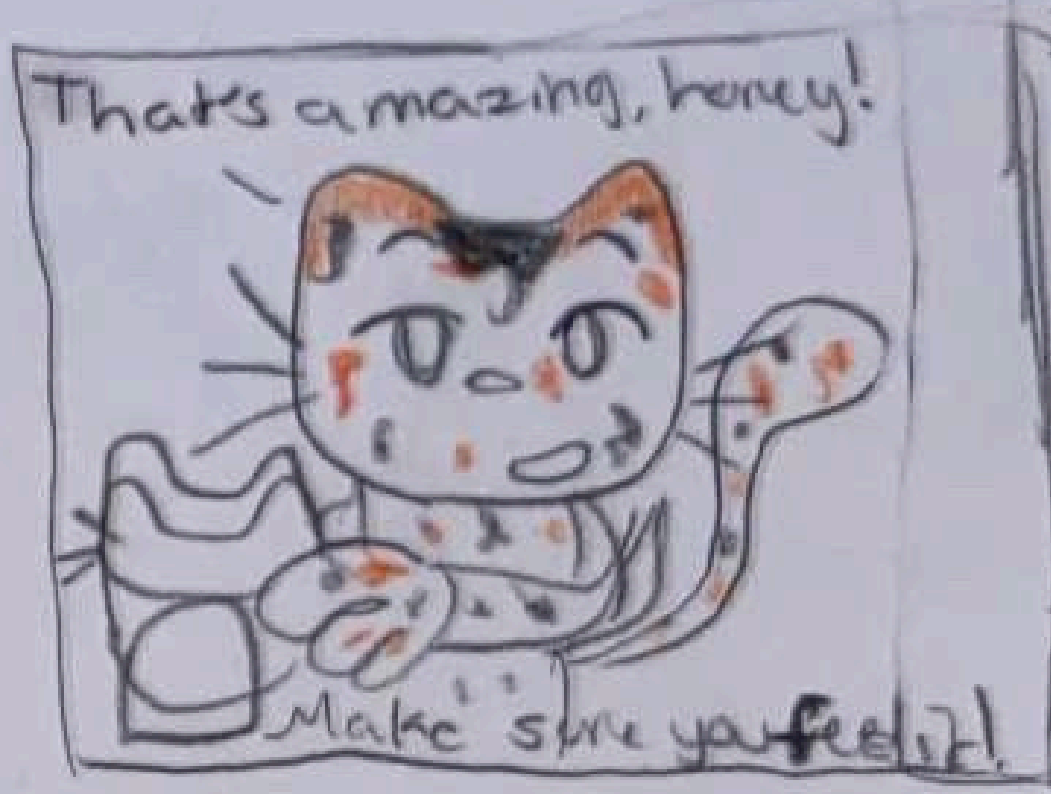
Art Pop, Neo-Psychadelia, Synthpop

Released: February 27th, 2026

After some more recent drops in quality in their output, *The Mountain* marks a true return to form for the duo. While I find this release to lack any clear commercial hit, their strength in synthesizing genres is prominently showcased in greater spectacle than their 2000s and late-2010s albums.

Following the loss of their fathers, both Gorillaz band members travelled to India, resulting in a spiritually defining journey that bleeds into every aspect of the sonic palette. Each track here feels like a strange, yet serene amalgam of world influences that form into a melancholic and lush collective sum.

Would recommend yo.



Unbiased Sports Reporting

By: Samuel Pike - MSSM '27

The intramural futsal season is underway, and we've already had 3 amazing games so far. Game 1 highlighted an amazing offensive showing from Team India against Team France. Ben Uhlenhake scored the first goal of the season, and India would score 3 more goals, 1 coming from Rafi Halpern (also the only shot on goal he took), and 2 from Roshan Roberts (assists from Saketh Adabala). Gabbie Johnson would score France's only goal of the game on the only shot she took. MVP of the game went to Annalise Roderick (15 Saves, 1 Goal Allowed) and Top Performer went to Roshan Roberts (2 Goals, 7 Shots on Goal, 1 missed wide open net).



Game 2 featured amazing defense from both Vatican City and Germany, leading to a low scoring game. Scoring started on a penalty kick by Finn Dedek, and it wouldn't be until the second half until the game-tying goal was scored by Easton Allen. The game was filled with many blocks and saves from both sides, and there was a total of 28 shots on goal from both teams. MVP went to Easton Allen (1 Goal, 13 Shots on Goal) and Top Performer went to Ben Largay (12 Saves, 1 Goal Allowed).

Game 3 was another quiet scoring night between France and Germany. Scoring started on a shot by Abhi Reddy 6 minutes into the game, and Silas Ociekpa would quickly tack on with another goal for France. Mr. Kinney blocked 6 shots in the first half, allowing France to hold their 2-0 lead going into halftime. Halfway through the second period, Easton Allen would score Germany's lone goal. MVP went to Mr. Kinney (13 Saves, 1 Goal Allowed) and Top Performer went to Easton Allen (1 Goal, 12 Shots on Goal).



Future games for futsal will be Vatican City vs. India (March 15th), Germany vs. India (March 19th), and Vatican City vs. France (March 26th).

For MSSM's volleyball season over the past 2 weeks, the Girls Volleyball Team recently beat Presque Isle 4-2 (defending Class A champions). They also beat Caribou and Van Buren with scores of 4-1 for both. Thanks to Santi for submitting scores!

The boys remain motivated to find their first win of the season.

The girls team will travel to Houlton this Thursday and the boys will travel to Caribou this Friday.



MAINE
Advantage Prep

Co-founded by Finn Dedek (MSSM '26)
and Wendy Huo (MSSM '26)

Maine Advantage Prep is a student-led SAT prep program. We offer low-barrier, high quality SAT instruction through group bootcamps and 1:1 tutoring designed to build confidence and real results. Spots are filling up quick for our low cost beta round through the link in our bio. Our official launch begins this summer, and students who apply to the beta round will be eligible for a discount even if they are not selected.

Apply using this link:

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