



Manasquan High School

The Blue & Gray

CHAMPS! Girls Lax Defeats Allentown 14-2



Choir Celebrates Another Wonderful, Winning School Year

**May 2026:
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The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2025-2026 Issue FIVE

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The Great Student Council Showdown

By: Olive O'Reilly

Every May, students face one of the toughest decisions: who should represent them on Student Council. While some candidates promise change, others promise more school spirit. As election season begins, it becomes time to hear from the candidates, consider their ideas, and choose the leaders who will help make our school an even better place.

Manasquan High School's Student Council was prepped and prepared for the big election on May 22nd. Along with Squan Unplugged, the whole school was asked to vote for the new Student Council Officers during their third period class. Each representative whipped up a video explaining how their leadership would benefit the school and what changes they would make for future of Manasquan



Pictured Above: President
Findleigh Tuite

High School.

Although she ran unopposed, Findleigh Tuite had a winning campaign from the start. Findleigh was seen all over school plastered on posters featuring your favorite memes

and passing out pins on Election Day. She showed her true dedication to the school and is widely thought to be an amazing choice for Manasquan High School's Class President.

However, selecting a Vice President was not as easy. John Visceglia and Morgan Feeney went head-to-head for the spot with both of them having very compelling campaigns. While John spoke about wanting to create a tight knit community between all grades, Morgan focused on the importance of shining a light on all extracurriculars, not just Manasquan's sports programs. Although both of their speeches had gripping ideas, John Visceglia won the vote

Below: VP John Visceglia



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A Night They Will Never Forget

At 12:06 p.m., the final bell rang and MHS seniors rushed out the doors to begin getting ready for one of the most anticipated events of the year. Girls headed to hair appointments, started their makeup, or grabbed a coffee for an extra boost of energy. Boys prepared their suits, fixed their hair, or took a quick nap before the big night.

All of the preparation was for senior prom, which took place from 6 to 10 at Jumping Brook Country Club. Throughout the night, seniors danced, posed for photos, and enjoyed a delicious dinner with their classmates.

"It was a really beautiful day, such nice weather and a lot of great photo opportunities that people took advantage of," said MHS dance

By: Amelia Steger

everyone danced and sang along with the DJ's playlist.

"The highlight of the night was just everyone dancing. There were a lot of random but fun songs, and I loved the dance circles," said senior Shannon Looney.

The DJ played songs like "Crank That" by Soulja Boy, along with a mix of current favorites that had students on their feet all night long.

Another highlight of the evening was the food. Students enjoyed a variety of options, including penne alla vodka, potatoes, vegetables, and fresh bread. To top it all off, there was a sundae station where seniors could create their own ice cream desserts.

As the night came to a close, seniors were treated to

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Pictured Above: Senior girls dressed and ready for a night of fun
Pictured Below: Seniors posing in front of Prom



Pictured Above: Seniors Sophia Covert and Owen Murphy

teacher Mrs. Galano, who served as a teacher chaperone at the prom.

Many teachers volunteered as chaperones and had the opportunity to celebrate alongside the senior class before graduation. Chaperoning with Mrs. Galano were Ms. Galizio, Ms. Schille, Mr. Chiang, Dr. Onorato, Mr. Craig, and Mrs. Choma.

When students weren't taking pictures outside, they were filling the dance floor. From the first song to the last, the energy remained high as



Pictured Above: Seniors Regan Prime and Ambrose Masonius

Inside the Art Show: Manasquan Students Bring Art to Life

By: Caitlin Young

The Manasquan High School art show featured a gallery of student creativity, turning the library into a vibrant showcase. The event was held on May 27, 2026, which gave students the opportunity to showcase months of hard work through paintings, ceramics, drawings, and other creative projects. The art show reveals not only the students' artistic abilities but also the confidence, growth, and personality they developed throughout the year.

For art teachers, Mrs. Treney, Mrs. Pagano, and Mrs. Herman, the show is much more than a display of finished projects. It is a celebration of the hard work students put into developing their skills throughout the school year.

"I have seen so much growth," Mrs. Herman exclaimed. "Students not only have built on their base skills but also have expanded their demonstration of self-expression!"

"I think it really is like the time and effort that they put into it or the creativity and planning," Mrs. Treney replied. "The ones that always stand out are the ones that poured their heart and soul into it."

As visitors examined the display, they met a huge variety of artwork displaying



MHS students' artwork on display at the art show.

different art styles, interests, and personalities. According to Mrs. Treney, the show allows students to move beyond basic assignments and demonstrate their personality through their creations.

Mrs. Pagano explained that what stands out the most is the unique way students approach each project. While students may receive the same assignment, each artist brings their own unique ideas and perspective into the final piece.

The art show highlighted the growth of students throughout the year. Many begin with not much experience but gradually gain confidence as they experiment with new materials and techniques in class. Mrs. Treney explained that students often start by learning the basics before becoming more comfortable taking creative risks and developing their own artistic voices.

That growth was shown in the work of sophomore Mikenna Barone, whose pieces were featured in the display. Mikenna stated that creating multiple pieces for the show allowed her to explore different mediums and share her creativity with others.

"It was really fun, and I enjoyed it a lot," Mikenna said. "I'm really delighted that people could see the way I explore different mediums."

Besides the pieces she displayed, Barone was especially proud of an oil painting of her cat. She was relatively new to oil painting herself. The project requires patience, attention to detail, and countless hours of work to achieve a realistic appearance.

"The piece I'm most proud of is my cat painting because I'm relatively new to painting with oil," Mikenna stated. "The fact I got my cat to look realistic with so much intricate detail makes me really proud of myself."

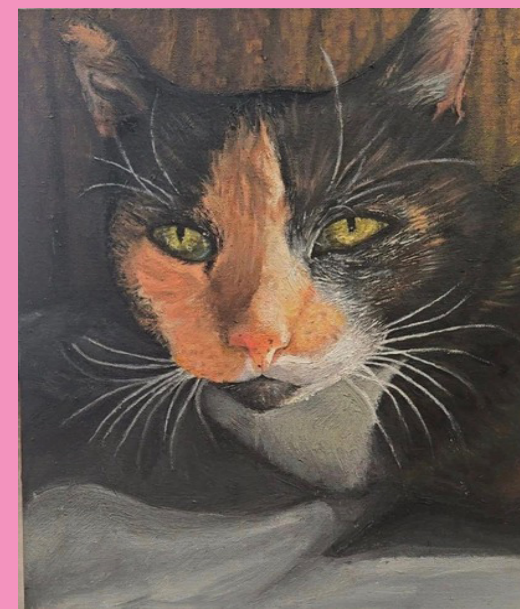
She also challenged herself by creating watercolor paintings, a medium she had little experience using. Although the process pushed her outside her comfort zone, she viewed it as an opportunity to expand her artistic abilities.

For student artists, displaying their work publicly could be intimidating, but it can also be rewarding. Mikenna said seeing multiple pieces featured in the show made her feel recognized as an artist and reassured her that her hard work had paid off.

The teachers hope students leave the experience with that same sense of pride. Mrs. Pagano explained that sharing artwork publicly encourages students to build confidence and express themselves creatively, while Mrs. Treney believes the event gives students recognition they may not receive elsewhere.

As the show came to an end, visitors left with more than an appreciation for colorful paintings and detailed

Below: Sophomore Mikenna Barone's oil painted cat.



Above: Senior Violette McGowan's personal art display board.



Above: MHS students' watercolored paintings

sculptures. They witnessed the creativity, determination, and personal growth of student artists who spent months turning ideas into works of art. Through every brushstroke, sculpture, and design, the Manasquan high school art show demonstrated that art is not only about creating something beautiful, it's also about finding the confidence to share it with others.

Squan Unplugged: Digital Detox Day

By: Jane Marks

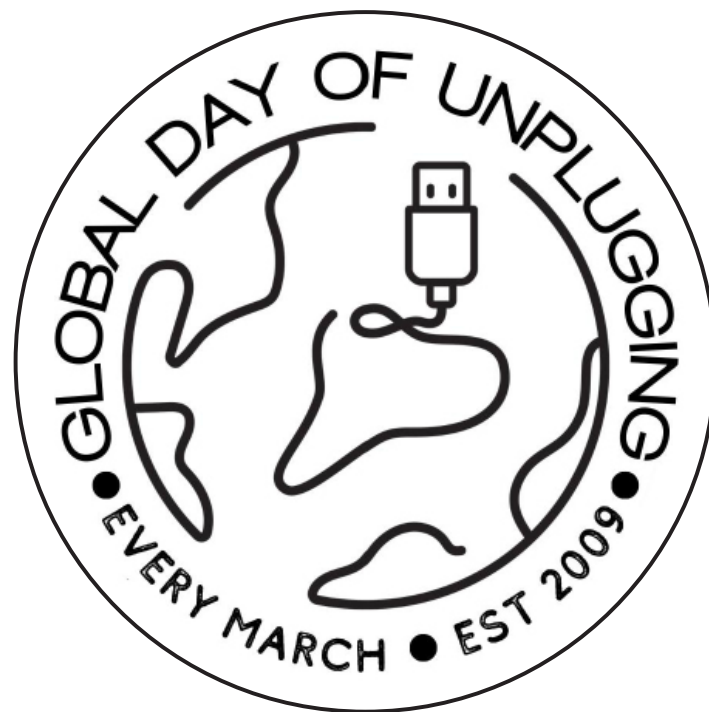
In the current age of technology, it's almost impossible for anyone to go through their day without looking at a screen. With the ever-evolving internet, increasing dependency on technology, and a culture that created a daily necessity for phones, many people find themselves unable to look away from these screens.

Manasquan High School has employed the "no cell bell to bell" rule for a while now, and this year the administration conducted their first Squan Unplugged day to get students off their phones. This event was a completely optional phone drop-off at the beginning of the day, in which students would get their phones back at the end of the day.

"I wanted to give a different perspective for the day," said MHS Principal Dr. Kukoda. "It's a spinoff of the Global Day

of Unplugging."

Dr. Kukoda shared that his goal for Squan Unplugged was not only to remind students that they don't need to rely on technology to get through the day, but also to affirm student's safety when at



Above: The logo for the Global Day of Unplugging, which inspired our local Squan Unplugged.

school—which proved to be a big concern for students reluctant to drop off their phones for the day.

"It's more symbolic than a true unplugging," commented Dr. Kukoda. "We are letting the community know that their kids are here and safe and

if there was ever an emergency, we will be in touch with them, too."

Many students who participated in unplugging noticed a difference in their school day as they left their phones behind.

"We definitely talked a lot more," said senior student Kendall Saunders. "And we got to know each other better because we didn't have our phones to sit on and scroll."

Another senior, Molly Nixon, also noticed a similar change.

"I realized that I didn't need my phone. I was just talking to my friends and hanging out without it. I socialized more for sure."

Overall, Squan Unplugged proved to be a success, with

double the number of participants that expected by administration. Students who joined the unplugging made important realizations about the unnecessary reliance on phones, and what resulted was a day of socialization and screen-free fun.

MHS takes on JUNIOR PROM!!

By: Susannah Patterson

Students gathered for an unforgettable evening at this year's Junior Prom, celebrating with friends, music, and dancing. Held on May 1st at The Shore Club in Spring Lake, many juniors were excited to dress up and create lasting memories. From the decorations to the dance floor, the night was filled with excitement and school spirit as students enjoyed one of the highlights of the school year.

The Shore Club was decorated to create a welcoming atmosphere for students as they arrived for the event. Many students said the night exceeded their expectations and became one of their favorite events of the school year.

Throughout the night, classmates took photos, enjoyed refreshments, and spent time together outside of the classroom. The DJ kept the energy high by playing a variety of popular songs that kept students on the dance floor.

"My favorite song that played was 'Love Story,'" said junior Delia Hunt.

"It was really

Pictured Below: Friend group ready for prom



Pictured above and below: Friend groups get ready for prom



fun getting dressed up and spending the night with my friends," said junior Janie Patterson. "Everyone was having a good time, and the music was great."

Since the juniors had been planning for this event for months, from picking out their outfits to finding dates and making plans with friends, many were excited to finally see everything come together. After weeks of preparation and anticipation, students were able to enjoy the special night they had been looking forward to all year. Many said it was rewarding to see all of their planning pay off and to celebrate with their classmates in a fun and memorable setting.

"If I had to explain prom in three words they would be exhilarating, awesome and outstanding," said John Visceglia. His comments reflected the feelings of many students who attended and enjoyed the night.

As the evening came to an end, students left with photos, memories, and stories to share. Junior Prom brought classmates together for a fun and memorable night that celebrated friendship, school spirit, and the junior class.

The MHS Spring Choir Concert Sends Off its Senior Members

By: Allison McCoy

The Manasquan High School Choir ended its year off with a memorable Spring Choir Concert that focused on themes of unity, reflection, and community while also honoring the graduating seniors during one of their final performances with the ensemble.

The concert included a variety of selections performed by the choir, including collaborative pieces with the New Jersey Chamber Singers. One of the evening's highlights was *A New Jerusalem Arise*, a song that impacted both performers and audience members because of its message of bringing people together despite differences.

Choir Director, Ms. Schille said the piece stood out among the concert's repertoire because of its powerful theme. "It's just so triumphant and so connecting," Schille said. "The students really loved and connected to it."

The performance was also an emotional milestone for the choir's senior members. This year's graduating class makes up nearly half of the ensemble, making their final concert especially significant. According

to Schille, many of the seniors joined choir after their freshman year and grew marvelously as musicians during their time in the program.

Senior choir member Maeve Korth described the experience as bittersweet. Although this was her first year in choir, she said the group had accomplished a great deal together, including a performance The Lincoln Center in New York City earlier in the year.

"It's kind of sad that this is



Above, MHS choir with the New Jersey Chamber Singers after the last song of the spring concert.

the last time this specific group of people will ever perform together," Maeve said. "But I'm also excited for the next chapter and to see what else the choir does in the future."

The concert consisted of several senior solos, allowing graduating members to per-

form songs that held personal meaning. Maeve performed Billy Joel's "Vienna," while senior Chris Rechner sang The Beatles' "Golden Slumbers."

Chris said one of the most memorable parts of the concert was hearing each senior's interpretation of the concert theme, "Can We Sing the Darkness to Light?"

"Seeing everyone's perspective on that is just beautiful," Chris said.

Several students and faculty members said that *A New Jerusalem Arise* was a stand-out moment of the evening, especially because it brought together singers of different ages and backgrounds. Schille described the experience as deeply moving and said it was the first time she became emotional while conducting a performance.

Although the Spring Choir Concert marked the ceremonial end of the year for many seniors, the choir's season is not over yet. Shortly after, the group traveled to Massachusetts to participate in the Trills and Thrills Festival before they perform at the Baccalaureate and graduation ceremonies later this month.

Battle of the Classes Pep Rally Ends with Junior Victory

By: Cameron McLaughlin

Senior Darcy Furniss said the pep rallies were one of her favorite traditions at Manasquan and she will continue to cherish them as her most memorable parts of high school.

"It was really fun seeing everyone dressed up and getting involved," Furniss said. "Even though our class didn't win, the pep rally was still fun, and it was great to see all four grades come together."

Fellow senior Sophia Covert agreed, saying the event was about more than just the final score.

"I loved seeing how much school spirit everyone had," Covert said.

"The games were fun to watch, and everyone was cheering for their classmates. It made for a really positive atmosphere."

Although the juniors left the gym with the championship, the Battle of the Classes pep rally once again proved to be one of Manasquan High School's most anticipated events, bringing students together through friendly competition, class pride, and lasting memories.

The annual Battle of the Classes pep rally at Manasquan High School brought students together for an afternoon of competition, school spirit, and class pride, with the junior class taking home the win.

Students filled the gym dressed according to their class themes. Seniors showed their school spirit with a USA theme, sporting red, white, and blue outfits throughout the stands. Juniors embraced a Hawaiian theme with colorful shirts and leis, sophomores participated in a white out, and freshmen wore jerseys. The themed outfits added to the energy and excitement of the event.

Throughout the rally, students competed in several games to earn points for their class. One of the crowd favorites was the granny pants game, which had participants racing and completing challenges while wearing oversized pants. Musical chairs also kept students entertained as competitors fought to stay in the game while classmates cheered from the sidelines.

Another highlight was a dodgeball challenge where teams had to protect a dodgeball balanced on a tray while trying to knock their opponents' balls off. The game tested strategy, teamwork, and co-



Right: The classes battle for victory during musical chairs.



Above: The junior class celebrating their win.

ordination and drew some of the loudest reactions from the crowd.

After a series of competitive events, the junior class earned enough points to secure first place and claim this year's Battle of the Classes title.

Despite the seniors not taking home the victory, many students said the event was a memorable way to celebrate school spirit.

Spring Dance Show 2026

By Annie Lomas

This year's dance show, *Let's Get Loud*, gave students the chance to showcase months of hard work, creativity, and dedication. Filled with upbeat music, emotional performances, and a variety of dance styles, the show left a lasting impression on both dancers and audience members.



Above: The dance class performs one of their dances.

According to dance teacher Mrs. Galano, planning for the show begins long before opening night. Students can apply to choreograph dances, allowing them to choose their own music as long as it is school-appropriate. When Mrs. Galano choreographs a dance herself, she often asks students to vote on song choices before making the final decision. She explained that she tries to create a balance of energetic and softer dances to give the show variety.

The theme of this year's performance was *Let's Get Loud*, which Mrs. Galano described as one of the program's most upbeat shows. "There was a lot

of strong hip-hop choreography and feel-good music," she said. Preparation for the performance began shortly before winter break and continued through May, with dancers spending months learning and reviewing choreography.

For junior Casey Faulhaber, one of the highlights of the show was choreographing her own dance. She said that being able to bring her creative ideas to life was especially rewarding. While she admitted that stage fright can sometimes be a challenge, performing with friends helped her feel more comfortable. Casey also shared that one of her favorite memories was spending time with her friends during after-school rehearsals, where dancers often ate dinner together during practices.

Sophomore Gia Frattaroli said her favorite part of the show was performing alongside her friends. Although rehearsals were long at times, she described them as fun and worthwhile. Like many dancers, Gia felt nervous before stepping on stage, but those feelings quickly faded once the performance began. One of her favorite memories from the sea-

son was enjoying meals with her friends during rehearsals.

Sophomore Chloe Brandl also enjoyed learning new dances and creating memories with fellow performers. She said the hip-hop routine "Soulja Boy" was the most difficult dance for her because it required extra practice. Chloe explained that many people do not realize how much work goes into preparing for the show, including several rehearsals held outside of regular school hours.

For Mrs. Galano, one of the most meaningful parts of the show was watching the senior dancers perform for the final time. She described the graduating class as strong leaders and talented choreographers who have made a lasting impact on the dance program.

From months of preparation to unforgettable performances, *Let's Get Loud* was a celebration of talent, teamwork, and the friendships formed along the way.

Below: The advanced dance class showcases one of their dances.



Contemporary Colors: MHS' 2026 Spring Band Concert

By Sydney Lynch

ended the night off with "Peter and the Wolf," a song that shows the power of storytelling through music. Mr. Harvey played the role of narrator.

"I think the concert went really well!" Said Abigail Shaw, a sophomore who is part of the Jazz Ensemble, the Concert Band, and the Rock Band. "We all pulled it out and I think we did a really good job listening to each other and performing the pieces we've been practicing for months."

The band had spent quite some time preparing and practicing for this concert, and their hard work did not go unnoticed!

"We started practicing right after the winter concert, so end of February was when we started," said Ms. Szakal, who helped direct the concert.

Since the school year is now coming to an end, fundraisers and events from band will be up and running again next year. Don't forget to show your support for the band and performing arts students!

Below: The MHS Concert Band along with Ms. Szakal



Above: MHS Jazz Band on stage

On May 21st, Manasquan High School hosted the annual Spring Band Concert titled "Contemporary Colors," directed by Ms. Eva Szakal. Members of the Rock Band, Jazz Ensemble, and Concert Band put on a wonderful performance that showed not only individual talent, but also how well they work together as a group.

Band students and families brought concessions and baked goods that were sold at the concert for \$1 to raise money for the MHS Band & Choir trip to Six Flags in Massachusetts, where students will perform for adjudicators at a local school before traveling to the theme park and enjoying the day.

The night started off with the Rock Band, who performed "Valerie" by Mark Ronson & Amy Winehouse, and "Creep" by Radiohead. The Jazz Ensemble then performed, playing songs such as "Soul Man" and "Norwegian Wood." The Concert Band



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2026!

Student Council

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for Student Council Vice President.

"I am very excited to be Vice President next year," said John. "I think Findleigh and I will make a great duo and I cannot wait for our senior year."

Jake Litzlinger was elected Student Council Treasure in a close race against Ella O'Reilly and Caroline Watson. He gave a very memorable speech with multiple location changes that stressed the importance of giving everyone a voice if elected. Dylan Caranahan ran unopposed for the secretary position and could not be more thrilled.

"I have been a member of student council since freshman year and am so lucky to be an officer this year," states Dylan. "I am so excited and hope I can make it the best school year yet!"

Along with our new Senior Officers, there are a few familiar faces from the Senior class representatives. The Class of 2027 returning representatives consist of Liam Fay, Morgan Feeney, Ella O'Reilly, Quinn Petrulla, Adam Rodricks, Addyson Vallio, Caroline Watson, and Jack Weinstein who are all ready to make their Senior a memorable one for all of their peers.

Not only is the Class of 2027 ready to make some exciting new changes but are ready to pave the way for the underclassman representatives who are, as the incoming Senior class would put it, the future of Manasquan High School.

Senior Prom

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an unexpected surprise. A fireworks show lit up the sky. While the fireworks were not specifically planned as part of prom, their timing made the moment were the perfect end to the night.

"The fireworks were very unexpected, like out of nowhere, but it was nice and so pretty," said senior Emily Heredia.

With great weather, nonstop dancing, delicious food, and a surprise ending, the MHS Class of 2026 senior prom was a night that students will remember long after graduation.



Pictured Above: MHS Seniors Kendall Saunders, Ally McCoy, Jane Marks and Paige Petruzzello

Seniors Share Parting Thoughts with MHS

Advice for Underclassmen

Thanks for Helping!

Natalie Goble: "Ms. Galizio always helped me whenever I needed it. She really cared about her students and always pushed me to do my best."

Chris Rechner: "Mrs. Edwards really helped me find my place in the field of Computer Science," and "Mrs. Schille for helping me get out of my shell and express myself more outside of academics."

Ronan Rahill-Shaughnessy: "Ms. Schille is non-judgmental and supports anything. She made me accept who I am and taught me how not to judge myself."

Jane Marks: "Ms. Virok, Mr. Mawn, and Mr. Harvey...They made me feel seen as more than just a student. They were people I could trust and connect with."

Nick Walsifer: "Mrs. Koenig is nice and makes me happy. She taught me to take lots of pictures too."

Emily Heredia: "Mrs. G has made such an impact in my life. She's really pushed me to do so many amazing things, and I am so grateful for her and everything she has done for me."

Dylan Mattesich: "Coach Sweeney always believed in me and wanted me to be better, not just as a golfer but as a person too. Having people around you who support you makes a huge difference, especially when you have the privilege to do something that you love."

Madelyn Schlatter: "Ms. Kozik sparked my interest in going into the healthcare field and going into nursing. She was really interesting and really opened up my eyes."

Addie Gunnell: "Never give up and always have fun."

Jane Marks: "I cannot stress how much no one else cares. Everyone is worrying about themselves, too. Once you stop caring so much about how you look to others, you'll be happier and make more genuine friends."

Kellan Quinn: "Time goes by way faster than you think. Try new things and meet as many people as possible. You only get four years here, so don't waste time worrying about what other people think."

Christopher Rechner: "Do as much as you can here, find your passions, try to involve yourself outside of classwork."

Ally McCoy: "It won't hurt you to try something and decide you don't like it rather than think 'what if I had done that?'"

Natalie Goble: "Don't be afraid to put yourself out there and try new things. Being involved helped me meet so many people and make great memories. Even when things get stressful, just stay positive and enjoy every moment because it all goes by so fast."

Ella Buscisci: "Don't stress, it's not worth it. Although also make sure to always work hard and put your all into everything."

Darcy Furness: "Just enjoy it. It goes by fast and is such an enjoyable journey. It'll be over before you know it."

Emily Heredia: "Always work hard and indulge yourself in anything and everything. There's nothing stopping you. You are your biggest critic, so let yourself be free and do anything you want"

Dylan Mattesich: "Enjoy the experience and don't stress too much about small things. Get involved, work hard, and appreciate the time you have because it goes by faster than you expect."

What Are the Warriors Up To This Summer?

By Charlotte Leible

As the school year comes to an end, students and staff at Manasquan High School are getting ready for a summer filled with vacations, jobs, sports, concerts, and time with friends and family. Lets see some of the MHS students/staff exciting plans to make the most of Summer 2026!



Freshman **Sara Siano** is very excited to go the beach ALL day and “hang out with my freinds!”



Senior **Declan White** wants to take in all the moments with his freinds for his last summer before he leave to go to Fairfield Universary!



Junior **John Visceglia** can't wait to go on vacation! “Spending time with my family in Costa Rica this summer is something I’m really looking forward to.”



Junior **Janie Patterson** plans to spend her summer hanging out with her dog, Red. “My perfect summer is basically just hanging out with Red, and enjoying the nice weather”



Sophomores **Wyatt Sowl** and **Renzo Lucarelli** are both heading to Nantucket at the beginning of the summer with a couple of their freinds!



Gym teacher **Mr. Shaad** is super excited to relax and enjoy the slower pace of summer after a busy school year. His class all agrees!



Freshman **Kenley Tullock** is especially excited for all the concerts she has planned this summer at PNC including Jack Johnson, Kesha, and Pitbull.



Senior **Miles Kline** is super excited to get back to work to “make MONEY!!” before he heads to St. Joseph’s University!



Sophomore **Johnny Kumpf** is starting his new job as a Spring Lake lifeguard. He has already started his training and can't wait to be on stand!



Senior **Gwen O'Connor** is most excited to visit Cuttyhunk on her annual trip with her sisters and cousins. “Going to Cuttyhunk every summer is something I look forward to all year”



Freshman **Myles Byrne** is “just excited to spend every day at the beach or pool with my friends and have a really fun summer!”



Junior **Michaela Kelly** can't wait to hng out with her freinds all sumer and sleep in! “Summer nights with my friends are always the best.”



Freshman **Chris Cleveland** is looking forward to spending his summer golfing and playing lots of pickleball with friends. “Summer is the best because I get to be outside with my friends all day!”



French teacher **Madame Thieme** plans to spend her time enjoying plenty of good food. “Summer is the perfect time to slow down, travel, and enjoy amazing meals!”



Sophomore **Brooke Mack** is already looking forward to soccer season and getting back on the field for preseason with her teammates this summer.



MHS Girls Lacrosse WINS State Sectional Championship

By: Natalie Goble

The Manasquan girls lacrosse team has enjoyed a successful season highlighted by a win over Allentown to take the state tournament championship!

Beating Allentown was significant as the Warriors got revenge, after losing in last year's tournament championship. This time the taste was sweet, as the girls dominated the game 14-2.

Senior Ellie Sitar led the scoring with three goals, while junior Dylan Carnahan scored two goals and added



three assists.

Throughout the year, the Warriors have relied on teamwork, communication, and strong chemistry to compete against some of the Shore Conference's toughest opponents.

According to player Sadie DePasquale, one of the team's defining moments came in a victory over RFH. "Our biggest win of the season was beating RFH. We have not beat RFH in forev-

er so getting that close win was so refreshing and felt amazing," De-Pasquale said.

The win proved to be a turning point for the Warriors. De-Pasquale explained that the victory gave the team a significant confidence boost that carried throughout the remainder of the season. When discussing the team's strongest performances, she pointed to games against RFH and Trinity Hall. "We played our hearts out and left it all on the field. I have never seen our team have that much chemistry before," she said.

That chemistry has become one of Manasquan's greatest strengths. De-Pasquale believes the close bond between teammates makes the Warriors difficult for opponents to face. "Something that our team has that not many do is a bond like family. We may

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MHS GIRLS LACROSSE



CONGRATS!



SOUTH JERSEY CHAMPS!



Boys Lacrosse Battles Through '26 Season

Four Overtime Loss Ends Season in State Finals



The boys getting ready to play CBA

By Richie Conklin

After making history with a state championship the year before, the Manasquan boys lacrosse team entered the 2026 season with high expectations. Even though the Warriors had a younger roster and faced one of the toughest schedules in the Shore Conference, they continued to compete against some of New Jersey's best teams and finished the season with several impressive wins.

The Warriors opened the year strong,

defeating Red Bank Catholic 16-3 and Robbinville 10-3. Those wins showed that Manasquan was ready to compete despite graduating many key seniors from the previous season. Throughout the year, the team continued to prove itself with victories over Moorestown, Shore Regional, Wall, Mainland Regional, and Red Bank Catholic.

One of the biggest wins of the season came against Moorestown. The Warriors earned a hard-fought 7-5 victory against one of the state's respected programs. They also picked up an important 8-6 win over Wall and a close 7-6 victory against Shore Regional. Those games showed the team's ability to win tight contests when it mattered most.

The season was not without challenges. Manasquan faced strong opponents such as Holmdel, Rumson-Fair Haven, Christian Brothers Academy, Southern Regional, and Red Bank Regional. Several of the losses were close games decided by only one goal, showing how competitive the Warriors were throughout the season. A 10-9 loss to Southern Regional and a 10-9 loss to Red Bank Regional could have easily gone the other way.

Despite those setbacks, the team never stopped fighting. The Warriors responded to difficult losses with strong performances, including a 17-7 win over Mon-

A GREAT SOFTBALL SEASON

By: Kelsey Kalembe

The Manasquan High School softball team had a difficult season this year, but they made the most of it. The team finished with a record of 4-16, going 4-8 against teams in the Shore conference. Although the record isn't something they had hoped for, the process and practices made it worth it.

The team is led by head coach Mrs. Hodnett, and consists of 6 freshmen, 8 sophomores, 2 juniors, and 3 seniors. The three seniors, Ally McCoy, Gianna Zazzarino, and Delia Gilmore made such a big contribution to the team and will be greatly missed. Both Gianna and Delia will continue playing softball in college.

According to Coach Hod-



Above: Gianna Zazzarino and Julianne Runge celebrate a game-winning catch

nett, "The season as a whole had its ups and downs, we were a very young team, but at moments we had really great things."

The team's first game of the season was on March 26 against Manchester township. The result didn't go exactly as planned, and they lost 18-3. They had a slow start in the next 3 games, losing to Freehold Borough and losing very narrowly to Ocean Township and St. Rose.

However, the team turned it around for the next game. They knew they needed to do something special to get

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Lacrosse

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roe Township, a 12-3 victory against Toms River East, and a 15-4 win over Red Bank Catholic later in the season. Their ability to bounce back demonstrated the toughness and determination that have become part of the Manasquan lacrosse program.

The roster featured several young players with valuable varsity experience. Junior midfielder Nick DeMarco said, "This is a great team and we have a lot of chemistry from last season and it is showing this season."

Sophomore defender Logan Aumack was another underclassmen who continued developing at the varsity level. Logan said, "This team is awesome and I am happy to be apart of it this year."

Under head coach John Naslonski and the coaching staff that has helped

build Manasquan into one of the Shore's top programs, the Warriors continued to uphold the high standard that has been established over the past several years. Even after graduating a championship-winning senior class, the team showed that Manasquan lacrosse remains a program capable of competing with anyone.

Although the season did not end with another state title, the Warriors gained valuable experience and continued to build for the future. With younger players stepping into larger roles and a strong foundation already in place, Manasquan fans have plenty of reasons to be excited about what comes next.

The 2026 season may have had its ups and downs, but it proved that the Warriors are still one of the most respected lacrosse programs in New Jersey. The effort, resilience, and determination shown by the team throughout the spring will help set the stage for future success.

WARRIOR SPORTS

Warriors Capture Division Championship

BY: JAZMIN RODRIGUEZ

The Manasquan High School baseball team delivered a memorable and hard-fought season this spring, earning a division championship and proving its resilience in the face of adversity. What could have been a year defined by setbacks instead became a showcase of teamwork, depth, and determination, as the Warriors battled through injuries and tough competition to emerge as division champions.

For junior pitcher Logan Cleveland, the team's division title stood out as the defining moment of the season.

"Winning the division championship was definitely the team's highlight," Cleveland said.

Manasquan finished tied with Toms River South for the best record in the division, setting up a tight race that came down to head-to-head performance. Because the Warriors defeated Toms River South twice during the regular season, they earned the tiebreaker and secured the division championship. That accomplishment sparked a celebration that reflected not just a successful season, but the culmination of weeks of consistent effort in high-pressure games.

Junior Jack Soltis pointed to another pivotal moment that helped shape the team's championship run: a key win over Donovan Catholic.

"Beating Donovan was the game that earned the division championship," Soltis said, emphasizing how crucial each divisional matchup was in a season where every win mattered.

Throughout the year, the Warriors demonstrated strong chemistry and consistency. Whether facing familiar division opponents or challenging non-league teams, Manasquan found ways to stay competitive and execute in crucial situations. The team's ability to remain composed during close games became one of its defining strengths, espe-



cially in moments when momentum could have easily shifted the other way.

What makes the accomplishment even more impressive is the adversity the Warriors faced along the way. The pitching staff, a key part of the team's success, was hit hard by injuries early in the season. Cleveland, one of the team's top pitchers, was sidelined after just one appearance and was unable to return for the remainder of the year. In addition, junior pitcher Blake McCowan missed the entire season due to a back injury, further testing the team's depth.

Despite those losses, Manasquan continued to compete at a high level. Other players stepped into expanded roles, taking on increased responsibilities both on the mound and in the field. Younger and less experienced players were called upon in pressure situations, and many rose to the occasion, helping stabilize the team through the most difficult stretches of the season.

The Warriors' success was built not only on talent, but also on a strong team-first mentality. Players

Softball

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Above: Gianna Zazzarino goes for a hit

their first win of the season. The game was against Manalapan, who were also coming into the game with a losing streak. It was close the whole game, and Manasquan dug deep to squeeze out with a win, defeating Manalapan 12-11. Senior Gianna had a great game, with 3 runs, 4 hits, and 2 runs batted in. Delia had an amazing game as well, with 2 runs, 3 hits, and 4 runs batted in. Sophomore Calista Vowteras also had an incredible game, with 2 runs, 1 hit, and 2 runs batted in.

Sophomore Julianne Runge reflects on the game, saying, "Our best game was definitely the Manalapan game because we went on a winning streak after that, and it lifted team spirit".

This winning streak continued for 3 games, when Manasquan beat Monmouth 12-5 and Shore Regional 7-2. This period of the season was a high point for the team, and morale was very high. The teamwork was at a really good place, and the chemistry was undeniable.

Although the team went on to lose 2 more games, breaking the streak, the team came back and won one of the most important games of the season.

This important game was against St. Rose, a cross-town rival for the Warriors. This was the second time they played them, and they lost the first time. The second time however, Manasquan was ready.

Fresh off of 2 disappointing losses, the team was in desperate need of a win. Many of the girls on both teams know each other, so it definitely made the game personal. The final score of the game was a whopping 10-3, which showed Manasquan's dominance throughout the game.

Gianna had another big game, with 3 runs scored for the Warriors. Delia and Junior Avary Caccamise had 2 runs each, which was important for the win. Freshmen Emma Uliano and Devyn Weber both had 1 run, as well as Sophomore Kate Loughlin.

"The vibes were high that day and everyone was very supportive during the game. We were focused more on having fun than the outcome of the game, which definitely contributed to the win", explained senior Ally McCoy when asked about the big win.

After this game, it unfortunately went downhill for Manasquan. The team finished off the season with several losses in a row, but they are optimistic about future seasons.

Looking back on the season, Coach Hodnett explained, "We had 6 freshmen in our starting lineup at one point, so there is a lot of potential. The girls came in with really great attitudes and were very coachable. I am looking forward to the future with this team!"

The team is already looking ahead to next year, and plans to keep their momentum going.



Above: Delia Gilmore hits a home run

Baseball

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across the roster contributed in different ways, whether through timely hitting, defensive plays, or supporting teammates from the dugout. That collective effort created a culture rooted in accountability and resilience.

As the season comes to a close, the future looks promising for Manasquan baseball. With several key contributors expected to return and injured players working toward recovery, the program has reason to

believe it can build on this year's success. The experience gained from a championship push under challenging circumstances may prove invaluable moving forward.

While the division title will be remembered as a major accomplishment, the perseverance shown throughout the season may ultimately define the team's legacy. In overcoming injuries, handling pressure, and competing at a high level night after night, the Warriors demonstrated what it truly means to be a championship-caliber team.

Manasquan Track Team Pushes Through Spring Season

By: Darcy Furniss

Several Manasquan High School track and field athletes delivered an outstanding performance at the NJSIAA Sectional Championships, earning top finishes and securing spots at the State Championships. The meet showed the talent, determination, and hard work of the Warriors as they competed against some of the top athletes in New Jersey.

Senior hurdler Owan Murphy led the way for Manasquan in the boys' 110-meter hurdles, finishing third with a time of 14.88 seconds. His strong performance earned him a trip to the State Championships and marked one of the best races of his season.

Murphy said he was pleased with the result and proud of the effort he put in throughout the year. "I'm really happy with how I ran," Murphy said. "The competition was tough, but I've been working all season for moments like this." He added that qualifying for states had been one of his biggest goals and that finishing third made all the hard work worthwhile. "Getting third place and qualifying for states means a lot. It's rewarding to see all the hard work pay off."

Fellow senior Ace Etienne also had a historic day on the track. Etienne broke the Manasquan High School record in the 100-meter dash, crossing the finish line in an impressive 10.60 seconds. The performance not only set a new school

mark but also earned him a place at the State Championships.

Etienne said breaking the record was a special moment after years of training and dedication.



"Breaking the school record is something I've dreamed about for a long time," he said. "It's an amazing feeling to see all the training come together." Despite the accomplishment, Etienne explained that his main focus was simply competing and running his best race. "I wasn't focused on the record when I stepped on the track. I just wanted to run my race and compete at my best." Looking ahead, he is eager for the challenge of competing against the state's fastest athletes. "I'm excited for states," he said. "I know the competition will be strong, but I'm ready for the challenge."

On the girls' side, sophomore Susanna Patterson turned in an impressive performance in the 200-meter dash, placing fifth with a time of 25.86 seconds. Competing against a talented field, Patterson delivered one of her strongest races of the season and continued to prove herself as one of the team's top sprinters.

Patterson said she was

proud of her performance and felt it reflected the work she and her teammates have put in throughout the season. "I'm proud of my performance," she said. "Running well at sectionals was a great way to end the meet." Patterson also highlighted the team's success as a whole, saying, "Our team has worked really hard this year, and it's exciting to see so many athletes having success when it matters most."

The sectional meet was a successful one for Manasquan, with multiple athletes advancing and several personal milestones being achieved. From Murphy's podium finish in the hurdles to Etienne's record-breaking sprint and Patterson's strong showing in the 200 meters, the Warriors demonstrated their talent and determination on one of the biggest stages of the season. As the State Championships approach, Manasquan's athletes will look to build on their success and continue representing their school with pride.



Owan and Ace qualify for Meet of Champions.

A Fun Packed Season for Manasquan Golf

By: Stella Brady

Whether they are competing in matches or practicing at the driving range, students involved in Manasquan High School's golf program had a fun and memorable season.

The girls golf club this year was a fun filled environment in which the girls learned how to play golf and bettered their skills. Despite not competing, the team was dedicated and made big improvements throughout the year. They were coached by Mr. Critelli, a teacher at Manasquan Highschool.

The boys golf team did well this season, with a record of 11-10 record, including 4-4 in the Shore Conference. They were coached by Chip Sweeny.

For many players, golf has been part of their lives for years. Sophomore Jack Barrow said, "I started playing golf when I was four years old."

Others were inspired to start the sport by their family members. Freshman Olivia Carlile said both her father and older sister influenced her decision to join the girls' golf club.

"My sister is on it, and my dad plays golf, so I wanted to try it out,"

Below: Girls Golf Club posing for a picture



Olivia said.

Olivia also explained that her favorite part of golf was getting to spend time with her sister, who is a senior bound for college next year.

The boys' golf team enjoyed a successful season, earning strong results throughout the spring. Players credited both their talent and hard work for their success. They ended the season well, getting fifth in states.

Sophomore Oliver Caffero described the season simply and said, "we did good this season."

While competition is important, many students said the social side of golf is what makes the experience special.

Sophomore Tegan Paradise said, "my favorite part of the club is all the friends I made and how laid back and chill it is." She also praised the coach, Mr. Critelli, saying, "He makes it super fun and interactive."

Junior Kelsey Kalemba agreed, saying she enjoys "getting to hang out with my friends" and spending time outdoors.

Kelsey also said, "my favorite memory is when

we would make TikToks with Mr. Cretelli, and we went viral on our TikTok."

Many golfers highlighted memorable moments from the season. Jack said his favorite memories were "the bus



Above: Boys Golf Team Standing together after a match

rides from away matches."

Teagan remembered a special practice where members participated in games and competitions.

She said, "One day we did a super fun challenge day where we just did a bunch of games and stuff."

Players also reflected on personal growth made throughout the season. Olivia said her goal was just to improve her swing, while Teagan worked on her chipping and felt she successfully improved. Sophomore Ryan Olsen achieved one of his biggest milestones this year when he "broke 40 for the first time."

Although students enjoyed the season, several suggested ways the program could continue to grow. Some players hoped for a longer season, while others suggested adding more structured scheduling or even a golf simulator in the field house.

Still, the overall message from players was positive and it is clear they all love the golf program.

Based on the success of the Manasquan golf program, it is clear they have a bright future ahead.

Growth Over Wins: Manasquan Tennis Builds Foundation in 2026

By: Myles Carstens

Despite facing one of the most challenging schedules in the Shore Conference, the Manasquan High School boys' tennis team continued to compete with consistency, effort, and a growing sense of identity throughout the 2026 season. Under head coach Ryan Ritchey, the Warriors leaned into a culture built on hard work, accountability, and steady improvement, even when matches stretched them against some of the area's top programs.

The Warriors ultimately finished the year 7-14 overall, a mark that didn't fully reflect the progress made on and off the court. While the results were inconsistent, Manasquan showed resilience in nearly every match, finding ways to stay competitive and push stronger opponents through singles and doubles play.

Throughout the season, the team relied heavily on leadership from upperclassmen Declan White and Michael McGloughlin, who helped set the tone in both performance and attitude. The team also has a young future star, Declan Flynn, who competed in his second varsity season this spring as a sophomore. Whether competing in tightly contested matches or navigating difficult stretches of the schedule, all players of the team played key roles in keeping the group focused and determined to win.

"We all just tried to stay together and keep pushing," White said. "Even when things weren't going our way, nobody stopped working. That's what made this season meaningful for us."

That mentality carried through the roster, as the Warriors emphasized day-to-day improvement rather than short-term results. Practice remained competitive, with players consistently challenging one another to work on their technique, improve consistency, and strengthen communication, especially in doubles play.

Much of that approach was highlighted by Coach Ritchey, whose emphasis on preparation and effort helped maintain structure during a gritty spring. Players credited the coaching staff for keeping the team motivated and focused, even as the schedule grew more difficult.

Beyond wins and losses, one of the most lasting elements of the season was the bond built within the program. From long bus rides to daily practices and match-day routines, the experience created a sense of connection that extended beyond the court.

McGloughlin said, "My favorite part was just being around the team every day. We had a great group, and even



Shown: Junior Micheal McGloughlin strikes a forehand



Seen: Sophomore Declan Flynn crushes a shot

Girls LAX CHAMPS!

Continued from previous page

not be blood related, but we have such an amazing relationship with one another," she said.

The offense has also improved throughout the season. DePasquale credited increased communication and the team's ability to execute plays practiced during training sessions. She noted that the offense has become more effective because players have consistently applied what they work on in practice during games.

On the defensive side of the field, the Warriors have focused on communication and trust. As a sample perspective, defender Madeline Marcucci emphasized that the team's defensive success has come from players understanding their roles and working together. She

also noted that facing strong opponents throughout the season helped prepare the team for postseason competition.

Following difficult losses, the team responded by focusing on improvement and maintaining a positive attitude. Marcucci explained that the players used setbacks as motivation to work harder in practice and correct mistakes before the next game.

And now they are champions!



Tennis

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when matches didn't go our way, we stayed positive and kept working together which always made it fun."

While the Warriors fell short of their competitive goals, the season provided valuable experience for both returning players and underclassmen stepping into larger roles. Those lessons, particularly in handling adversity and maintaining focus, are expected to shape the team moving forward.

As the offseason begins, Manasquan's focus shifts toward development and preparation for the 2027 season. With experience gained from a demanding schedule and a stronger sense of pride established, the Warriors aim to return with greater consistency and confidence.

"This season taught us a lot about what it takes," Ritchie said. "We lost a lot of seniors this

year and now it's about using our young guys and coming back stronger."

For Manasquan boys' tennis, the 2026 season will be remembered less for its record and more for the resilience and growth shown throughout. The foundation is in place, and the next step will be turning that progress into results.



Above: Junior Michael McGloughlin in action