

THE WAVE

Issue I
October 2007

Inside this

2008 Grad. Reqs.	5
Intro to Staff	10
New Coaches	15
Celeb Look-a-likes	22

Capstone Creativity

Could Capstone be Interesting to the Student Body?

Jazmin M.
Staff Writer

By this point in time, the upperclassmen should all know exactly what Capstone is, correct? Well, just because upperclassmen should know what it is definitely does not mean that they do.

“A research based, problem solving, project with a learning stretch and has to do with something that the student is interested in,” is how Mrs. Colleen Larson, MHS Proficiency Based Graduation Requirement (PBGR) Director, described the Capstone class.

It is also a graduation requirement for all students this year. Sixty-three of 137 seniors have already completed Capstone. Eighteen are currently in the class and 56 are finishing capstone independently.

“It gives a chance for students to show their true potential, and have something to call their own,” said senior Tayler S., who is designing and making a corner shelving unit for his house.

Overall, there are currently 104 students, sophomores to seniors, in Capstone. With a Capstone class every period, there are many interesting projects that are going on this semester, as well as some interesting ones that have been completed.

“I am amazed at the student creativity and the variety of projects getting underway,” said Mrs. Larson. “Since only one project is allowed per person per semester, it is great to see how diverse the interests of our students are since close to one hundred different projects are underway.”

Mrs. Larson was also saying that it was very hard to pick out only a handful of students’ projects that stood out to her, but here are a few.

- Nick R. (Senior)**- building a pond in his backyard
- Cassandra D. (Senior)**- teaching fourth graders about sanitation, hygiene, and nutrition
- Connor B. (Junior)**- wants to educate the citizens of Newport about pirate history
- Henry M. (Sophomore)**- hopes to design and create a protected outdoor theater complex in his backyard
- Emo D. (Junior)**- hopes to make an underwater field guide about tropical fish that end up in Rhode Island
- Jamie A. (Senior)**- hopes to create, design, and paint murals to visually communicate the different sections of our library
- Mical W. (Sophomore)**- hopes to put on a talent show for Gaudet
- Nicole W. (Sophomore)**- hopes to write a children’s book
- Will S. (Junior)**- hopes to build a metal bench for the front of MHS
- Tayler S. (Senior)**- hopes to design and make a corner shelving unit
- Elizabeth C. (Sophomore)**- plans on teaching middle school students about the Spanish language and culture
- Vance R. (Senior)**- plans on teaching high school students how to manage an account
- Shane C. (Sophomore)**- plans on teaching elementary students about dinosaurs

There are so many things that can be done as a Capstone project, and so many interesting ideas. So, do you think that Capstone could be interesting?

A Note from the News Editor:

You have all probably noticed that there is a new nurse in Mrs. Ivy’s place. Her name is Mrs. Byron. She is right across the hall from Mr. Sunn’s room, where Mrs. Ivy used to be. Drop by, she might just remember you from grade school!



The Wave Staff

Editor-in-Chief

Emma D.

News Editor

Jessica W.

Opinion Editor

Emma D.

Sports Editor

Krystal P.

Special Sections Editor

Christina K.

Style Editor

Aaron F.

Copy Editor

Megan D.

Staff Writers

Sara A.

Amber C.

Darby C.

Joseph D.

Tyler H.

Caitlyn K.

Savoy K.

Katlin M.

Jazmin M.

Alexa M.

Laureen O.

Jordan P.

Samuel R.

Ian W.

Advisor

Ms. Lisa Clark

**Middletown High School
130 Valley Road
Middletown, RI 02842**

Advisory Changes

Are you wondering why your advisory is different?

**Laureen O.
Staff Writer**

This year a handful of MHS students had their advisory teachers and rooms changed due to what Mr. Ruscito calls “contractual guidance.” He then explained that the contractual guidance is a requirement for teachers, stating that every teacher must have a prep period throughout their day. This mandatory prep period is there for every teacher at MHS to have time to prepare for the rest of his/her classes, organize lesson plans and get other work done. As a result of this some teachers had to take their prep periods during the scheduled advisory time, so their advisory students were “dispersed” out to other teacher’s advisory classes.

Then there are the other students who had their advisories changed, and while Mr. Ruscito can explain the advisors who retired, he isn’t quite sure about some of the other students who were somewhat randomly assigned different advisories.

“If a teacher retired or needed a prep

period, then the students in their advisories were dispersed; otherwise you shouldn’t have been moved,” said Mr. Ruscito. But it wasn’t just who MHS students had for advisory this year that changed, but also when they had advisory. Last year students had a twelve minute advisory period every day, but now it’s an hour long period once in a schedule rotation.

“We had complaints from students and teachers that advisories were a waste of fifteen minutes,” said Mr. Ruscito, but he also didn’t want to get rid of it as he said advisory helped to “personalize the school”, and so changes were made.

Overall advisory times and teachers were changed for many different reasons, but the basic motive was to accommodate the needs of the student body and the teachers. Changes will continue to be made where they are needed as the years go on, but for now advisories will remain to be a class targeted to benefit the students no matter when it is, or who it’s with.

A Hunger for Lunch

**Katlin M.
Staff Writer**

Along with the new advisories, new lockers, and new schedules, students were forced to deal with the shortened lunch periods. Faculty and staff members Stephen Ruscito, John McDevitt, Chris Savastano, Laura Yentsch, Colleen Larson, and Janet Sheehan changed the lunch length to fit the 330 minute class time requirement. While the state may be happy, some student’s aren’t.

“The lunches are too short!” exclaimed freshman Rico M. Junior Amber S. agreed, “I rather have 5 minutes added to the end of the day, rather than take 5 minutes from lunch.”

Students say that they look at lunch as time to socialize and have a break from the books. Twenty minutes gives them less time to catch up on homework, talk to friends, and have a good stress free lunch.

“I think that the lunch change is wrong and unhealthy, we only have 20 minutes to get our lunch and find a place to sit and eat,” com-

mented sophomore Casey G. While students are affected by this change, teachers are too. Some teachers have less time to prepare for their next class, make phone calls, eat lunch, and go to the bathroom.

“It is unhealthy to eat that fast- especially when it is the first meal of the day for many of our students,” explained Physical Education teacher Anita Delima.

Even though the teachers and students think the lunch change is a bad idea, there’s always someone who begs to differ.

“I am very pleased with the new lunch schedule. I believe it is more efficient and the students have more than enough time to eat lunch and visit with friends,” said Mrs. Deblois.

She feels the lunch change isn’t a big deal and shouldn’t be tampered with. So who decides? It’s officially students vs. administration.

(Continued on page 6)

Virtual High School at MHS

**Alexa M.
Staff Writer**

Interested in taking an online course for MHS? Virtual High School is offered to students in VHS member schools and our very own MHS is involved. The class is for Advanced Placement and Pre-Advanced Placement courses as well as Arts, Business, Foreign Language, Language Arts, Health, Math, and Science.

"I like it. It's an easygoing course and I like being able to work online," said junior Kayla T., who took the course because the school's entrepreneurship class was cut.

This year, VHS is held in the Career Center at the back of the library. The classes are taught by teachers from all over the world but Middletown High's Mr. Chris Savastano and Mrs. Kristen Lyon are managing the class for MHS students.

"Last year eleven students here at MHS signed up for courses in VHS counting 1st or 2nd semester and full year classes but this year seventeen students signed up," said Mrs. Lyon.

Are you wondering how students are graded?

"Students are graded no differently than in traditional classes. Because of the nature of a virtual classroom, there are less quizzes and tests and more written assignments than in a tradi-

tional classroom," said Savastano.

What about homework?

"There is a good amount of homework in VHS classes. Assignments are given on a weekly basis and typically every Tuesday night at 11:59 PM," Mr. Savastano had said

Mr. Savastano could see why an average student may be interested in taking this course.

"The main attraction to VHS is the selection of courses. VHS offers hundreds of classes that may not be available here at Middletown," said Savastano.

The amounts of credits you receive are the same for any other class. If you take just one semester class, you get .5 credits and if you take a full year course it is 1 credit.

"The classes aren't hard depending on which class you sign up for and how hard the student is willing to work," said Ms. Lyon.

So, if you are willing on signing up for Virtual High School then talk to your guidance counselor about it now that you know a thing or two.

Dave McCauley, GRI, CRS
Broker
dave@prudentialprime.com



Prime Properties
136 West Main Road
Middletown, RI 02842
Bus 401-849-2800 Cell 401-862-6206
Dir Ln 401-367-0819 Fax 401-849-7059




An independently owned and operated member of Prudential Real Estate Affiliates, Inc.

Simply The Best!



TOYOTA
of **NEWPORT**

285 East Main Rd.
Middletown, RI 02842

www.toyotaofnewport.com
ekennedy@toyotaofnewport.com

401-847-1144
Fax 401-847-6452

EARL KENNEDY



Joseph F. Aguiar
Landscaping

614 Mitchell Lane
Middletown, RI 02842

Tele: (401) 847-6408
Cell: (401) 640-1780

Over 20 Foreign Students Call RI Home

Savoy K.
Lauren O.
Staff Writers

This year our school was given a handful of new students, and over 20 of them were from foreign countries. To get to know them better, we interviewed six of them on what it's like to be here.

1. How is Rhode Island/America different from the country you came from?

Phil (Portugal): It is totally different! Here we have THREE beaches at our disposal all the time! The climate is different too... it's much foggier here. The people are somewhat different, not the peers but our neighbors. The interaction here among neighbors is much greater.

Daniel (Mexico): All is different: the school (more easy), the food (I miss tacos!), the weather... all.

Andrés (Spain): Rhode Island is green, wood houses, so many bridges and you have to take the car to go some place. In Spain we don't use the car as much as here; we use public buses. All the things are different, the food is very big, the cars very big too, and also the school system is different.

David (Mexico): Mexico weather is better, the beach here is dirty and in Mexico they are very good. In Mexico the things aren't too expensive like here.

2. What is your favorite American band/movie/TV show?

Phil (Portugal): Band: Green Day; Movie: Pirates of the Caribbean 2; TV Show: Friends

Stephan (Costa Rica): Band: Tool; Movie: Layer Cake; Show: South Park.

Daniel (Mexico): Band: Three Days Grace, The Killers; Movie: Shooter

Andrés (Spain): Band: Sum 41; Movie: Ocean's 11, 12, & 13; TV Show: Prison Break

3. How do you like it here?

Phil (Portugal): I love it here! I was very well accepted by most people and I already have a lot of friends which is great.

Stephan (Costa Rica): I like this school and have found a good place here.

Daniel (Mexico): I love it... it is a new experience for me.

Muhammad (Malaysia): Now I feel good, better.

4. Do you miss anything/anyone from back home?

Stephan (Costa Rica): I don't miss anything, but a handful of close friends.

Daniel (Mexico): Yes, I do. My car, my friends and all the stuff we used to make and my pet.

Muhammad (Malaysia): I miss my family and my friends

David (Mexico): Of course, my sport, my friends, the FOOD!!

5. Is there anything new that you learned here about American Culture?

Phil (Portugal): People are not as mean as we see in movies and the peer groups exist, but you can belong and be friends with different groups without being judged.

Daniel (Mexico): Well, I'm taking US History II; I'm learning a lot of things of this country.

Andrés (Spain): Yes, I'm meeting a lot of people here from many other countries. In Spain we don't have as many people from other countries as you have here.

6. How many languages do you speak?

Stephan (Costa Rica): Three (French, Spanish & English).

David & Daniel (Mexico): Three – Spanish, English, and Portuguese.

Muhammad (Malaysia): Two - Bahasa (Malay) and English.

Andrés (Spain): I can speak three languages, Spanish of course, English and Catalán.

7. What is your favorite English word?

Phil (Portugal): Antenna

Stephan (Costa Rica): Electric.

Muhammad (Malaysia): Family

Andrés (Spain): Amazing

David (Mexico): Brother

8. Is there anywhere else in the world that you would like to travel to in your life?

Phil (Portugal): Of course! Lots of places! France, Mexico, Chile, Argentina...

Stephan (Costa Rica): Too many places I haven't seen that I would love to go to.

Daniel (Mexico): Yes... I want to go to Brazil and to Australia.

Muhammad (Malaysia): Mexico, Saudi, Arabia, France, and England

David (Mexico): China and Italy

Seven Months to Go...

Number of seniors to complete requirements show cause for concern

Caitlyn K.
Staff Writer

Excluding June and vacation time, seniors have about seven months to make sure they have 12 portfolio tasks, 20 hours of community service, a capstone project and passing grades in order to graduate in 2008.

With 137 students in the graduating class, how many will make it? According to Principal Steven Ruscito, only 33 seniors have completed all of their requirements outside of this year's academic coursework. That means 112 seniors should be keeping track of their own requirements. 80 of 127 seniors have completed the community service requirements.

"I sent out progress reports and have had face to face conferences with the students who might not be graduating and I am concerned that some will not graduate," said Principal Ruscito.

For students who have attained Certificate of Initial Mastery (CIM), which embeds these tasks, there is little worry.

"I completed the capstone last year when I transferred

to MHS," said senior Erin L. "I didn't find it that difficult and it's good to have it done."

For others, it is not so easy.

"[The Capstone] made me hate school; it made all my class grades drop," said senior Tory M., who completed his capstone teaching Karate at Gaudet during the summer.

According to Proficiency Based graduation Requirements Coordinator Mrs. Colleen Larson, 53 seniors still need to complete their capstone. She said that all seniors received a PBGR Status Report during the second week of November detailing what she or he needed to do to graduate this year.

Academic course requirements include four English classes, three history classes, three science classes, three years mathematics with one year experience, one art or musical elective, one computer class, and four semesters of physical education.

Many students say that capstone is a waste of time and don't feel that they should have to complete it.

"If you want to graduate and get out of MHS than you have to do it," said senior Samantha H.

What's Going on in the World

Joe D.
Staff Writer

News Briefs

School

- SAT at Middletown High School November 3rd
- Open house October 3rd
- Homecoming October 27th

State

- Patriots undefeated
- Boston Celtics home opener November 2nd
- Watch Hill lighthouse turned 200 years old Saturday October 6th

Nation

- Two armored car guards killed in robbery
- Rudy Giuliani raised over \$11 million in the presidential race from July through September

World

- 3,200 Trapped miners in South Africa were rescued safely on Thursday
- Roadside bombs killed the top Shiite official and about thirty-one people on Thursday
- A cargo plane crashed into a small neighborhood in Conga killing a total of twenty-five people
- Smugglers tried to use dead bugs to ship illegal drugs in Amsterdam. Cocaine stored inside over 100 dead bugs
- Police officers in California thought the explosion from a cigarette lighter was gunfire. The officers dove to the ground and called for back-up shutting down the neighborhood for two hours

Story ideas? Send them to The Wave!


Continued from page 2

for their next class, make phone calls, eat lunch, and go to the bathroom.

“It is unhealthy to eat that fast- especially when it is the first meal of the day for many of our students,” said Physical Education teacher Anita Delima.



Even though the teachers and students have not been happy with the change, there’s always someone who begs to differ.

“I am very pleased with the new lunch schedule. I believe it is more efficient and the students have more than enough time to eat lunch and visit with friends,” said Mrs. Deblois.



ANCHOR FUEL

Locally Owned & Operated by Dennis Dougherty

 **DEPENDABLE LOW PRICES** 

visit www.anchorfuel.com for daily price

401-619-2222



NOVEMBER 2007



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2	3 SAT Testing
4	5	6 Faculty Meeting	7 Grade 9-12 First quarter Ends	8 Talent Show	9 Blood Drive	10
11	12 Veterans' Day No School	13	14 Grade 9-12 First Quarter Report Cards	15	16	17 All State Auditions
18	19	20	21	22 Thanksgiving Break No School	23 Thanksgiving Break No School	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	



Don't Forget to show school spirit by coming to MHS's Homecoming Football Game on Friday, October 26th!