

M Manasquan High School

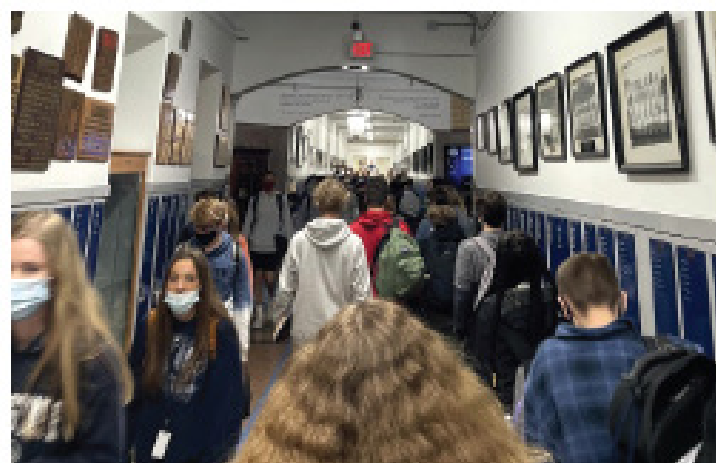
The Blue & Gray

WE'RE BACK!

Juniors Kelly Armstrong and Erin Driscoll smile under their masks after the return of full-time school



Students from all grade levels fill the halls with joy after almost a year without normalcy





The Blue & Gray Manasquan H.S. 2020-2021

Issue Two

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We're Back!

Students react to return to full time learning

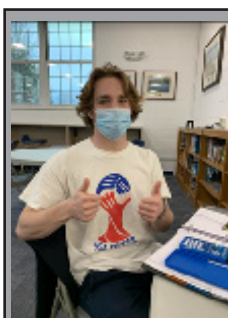
Most years, the first day of school in September is an exciting day as students show off their summer beach tans, see their friends, and meet their new teachers. This year though, the exciting "first day" was much different.

This past Monday, April 19, marked the first day of full-time, in-school learning. Classrooms and hallways were suddenly more crowded, and a buzz of excitement filled the air.

Principal Goodall reported that over 800 students who were previously "hybrid" (in school one day, virtual the next) returned to school full-time, while roughly 40 hybrid students decided to go fully virtual and roughly 40 other fully virtual students decided to return to school full time.

As the first week progressed, Mr. Goodall praised students and teachers for making the return to school a success. "It's been a seamless transition," he said.

Here's what students and teachers told The Blue & Gray about their experiences this week.



Senior
James
O'Neil

"It was nice to see everyone back, seeing all familiar faces, but we have stand strong in the fight against spreading this virus. The best part was seeing all my school friends and being allowed to play a sport with a ball in it. It was a long time since we have done that."

Senior
Allison
Waters



"It was very different. Way more stressful than being virtual, but seeing friends in the halls was fun. I wish we were allowed to go to town or our cars during lunch though."

Math Teacher Mrs. Hodnett

"It was nice to see all the kids socializing along with hearing side conversations. It nice to have a lot more class participation too."



Senior
Danny
Liggett



"The parking this year has been amazing but now it's horrendous and much harder to get a spot. The first part of the year I would only have about 8 kids in each of my classes, but now all my classes are filled and it's awesome."

Freshman Kyle Capodanno



"I think that it's good for all of the students to be coming back to school. As a freshman I am meeting a lot of kids that I had never met while we were doing the hybrid schedule. I feel that coming back will help all of the freshmen meet each other and start interacting with each other."

Freshman Lulah Kinn-Gurzo



"Being able to see and meet more people was fantastic. And eating lunch with more people too. Getting to class was harder though with the halls more crowded."

Junior Dylan Leblanc



"I loved really getting into the spirit of school and seeing all my fellow students and amazing teachers."

Senior Lyndsey Hardmeyer



"I think that it's good for all of the students to be coming back to school. As a freshman I am meeting a lot of kids that I had never met while we were doing the hybrid schedule. I feel that coming back will help all of the freshmen meet each other and start interacting with each other."

Spanish Teacher Srta. Radzinsky



"I was taken back when I heard the buzz of students talking and their laughter, since silence was all I heard this year."

Sophomore Cristian Jose



"It was crazy. I saw so many people. It was fun, packed with people and lots of energy."

Senior Erin Mulroy



"The best part was lunch and getting to sit with friends I haven't seen in a while. It's been so nice out and it's a nice break."

Senior Katie Dingler



"I was fully virtual so this transition was a little harder than expected, from being home every day to now being in school all day. But I'm extremely happy to be back in school with my friends. I also play softball and I'm a little nervous about losing the season if someone tests positive!"

Senior Evan Meloro



"My highlight of the first day back was seeing all these new faces. It was good to see all the kids I don't see outside of school for the first time this year."

Senior Reece Brutsman



"My first day was good! I was happy to see all my friends back in school. Some of my teachers are cramming in more work and tests/quizzes."

M Warrior Sports



Wrestlers Wrap Up Successful Season!

MHS wrestling ended the season on Tuesday, April 20th with an exciting victory over Manchester High School.

"I lost my voice from screaming so much," MHS teacher Mrs. Edward said.

The season-ending match was not for a championship, but it meant a lot to the team. With a 4-4 record in Shore Conference competition, they were determined to complete the season with a record above .500 for the first time in 15 years.

The match was hard fought. Junior Jake Edwards pinned his opponent in the 145lb weight class, and seniors Jay Hilla and Peter Berlin also pinned in their final appearances for Squan Wrestling.

Another senior, Shayne Leddy, who joined the team for the first time this year, lost a heartbreaker as his opponent earned two points for the victory in the closing seconds, perhaps after the final tick of the clock according to the Manasquan side.

So the match, and the winning record for the season, came down to the final bout, featuring senior Orlando Osorio. The Warriors, and the home crowd in the MHS gym, were screaming. Squan trailed Manchester by a score of 34-33, so Orlando had to win.

Orlando battled hard, and the intensity in the gym was sky-high. He fought and fought through a close battle, and earned the win

by decision 9-7. His victory lifted the Warriors to a 36-34 win in the match, and MHS Warrior Wrestling had earned its winning record for the 2021 season.

Orlando and several other seniors will graduate in June, so this was their last hurrah. But the future is bright, as first year coach Justin Barowski has a number of talented underclassmen ready to step up next year.



Left: Junior Jake Edwards pins his Manchester opponent,

M Warrior Sports

Warrior Baseball Start off Season 0-2, Looks to Bounce Back Against RBC

By: David Smith

After a perfect preseason for Manasquan High School's baseball team with wins over Holmdel, Manchester, Barnegat, and Middletown North, the Warriors hit a bump in the road to start off the season 0-2.

Per Shore Sports Network, the Warriors were projected to finish last in the Class B North Division, with St. John Vianney, Wall, Colts Neck, Red Bank Regional, Matawan, Freehold Boro, and Neptune all picked to finish ahead of them. A young roster, the Warriors have 0 returning starters from 2 years ago, as last season was cancelled due to the pandemic. The only three players with varsity innings are juniors Mike Antonucci and Patrick Woodford, and senior Dave Frost, who transferred from St. Rose. As a result, expectations from outsiders looking in were low, as the division was set to be extremely competitive.

However, the preseason indicated that the Warriors were ready to compete now instead of having a "transition year." As opening day approached, the Warriors starting lineup consisted of three sophomores, five juniors, and one senior. Junior Luca Marshall took the mound against the Ocean Spartans, picked to finish third in the Class A North Division. The Spartans returned 4 starters, all of whom being seniors.

In his first varsity start, Marshall struggled to find the zone. A lefty typically known for his command and break, first day jitters seemed to get to Marshall, as Ocean "welcomed him to big boy baseball" as they started the game with a hit, walk, and three run jack by senior shortstop Kevin Novobilisky, who tallied a game high three hits and four RBI's. The Stockton commit showed no signs of slowing down, hitting the ball hard in each at bat in the 11-1 route of the Warriors.

Nick Callano took the mound for the Spartans, ranked as one of the top preseason pitchers in the entire Shore Conference. The Salve Regina commit was nothing short of spectacular, tallying eleven strikeouts, one earned run, and just one walk in 5 innings pitched before the Spartans mercy-ruled the Warriors.

It was a game to forget for the Warriors, as nobody played well- nobody hit, multiple errors were made, and the pitchers allowed too many walks and hits. However, baseball is unique, as one day you can be horrible, and the next you can be spectacular. The Warriors were hoping for such a

scenario in their next contest against the Monmouth Regional Falcons.

Senior righty David Smith took the hill against the Falcons, also making his first career varsity start. Similar to Marshall, Smith is known for his command and break, being able to throw his off-speed at any spot in any count.

Unlike the Ocean game, the Warriors started off hot, recording two runs in the first inning off on a double from Mike Antonucci, a few errors, and some walks from the Falcons senior starting pitcher Aiden Denton. The Falcons answered right back, however, posting two runs of their own. After Smith struck out the leadoff hitter on an outside fastball, he fell behind Denton and center fielder Christian Zito, allowing them to record hits. However, the second was a pitching duel, as Smith and Denton fanned multiple and escaped both innings with no runs allowed. The Falcons jumped on Smith in the third, as he fell behind once again. In the fourth inning, Smith fought back strong again, giving up zero, and was taken out after throwing 82 pitches.

Smith finished his day with 4 innings pitched, 6 hits, 5 runs, 4 earned runs, 3 walks, and 6 strikeouts, while Monmouth Regional starter Aiden Denton went 4.2 innings while giving up 4 hits, 4 runs, 2 earned runs, and 4 walks while striking out 7.

Junior left hander Zac Lavigna relieved Smith in the fifth in his first varsity pitching performance as well. After a smooth fifth in which he only surrendered one run, the Falcons broke the game wide open with a 5 run 6th inning off of a grand slam from sophomore catcher Joe Esposito. After the home run in which Esposito capped off a 4-4 7 RBI game, the Falcons drained any potential shot at a Warriors comeback, as they won by a score of 11-4.

Desperately in need of their first win in order to boost their confidence, the Warriors take on the Red Bank Catholic Caseys tomorrow, where junior Nicholas Galvan will make his varsity debut at pitching as well. Galvan, the younger brother of former Warriors star and University of Louisville pitcher Alex Galvan, Nicholas is known for his lively fastball and disgusting curveball. When able to locate, Galvan is a very dangerous pitcher, and if he is on, the Warriors will have a real shot of beating one of the best teams in the conference tomorrow.

