



MHS *ex*PRESS

MHS addresses the nationwide vaping crisis

Kearsten Ball
Writer

The epidemic affecting nearly every high school in the United States has not missed the doorsteps of Marlow High School, leading MHS teachers and administrators to begin a school wide initiative to educate both themselves and students on the matter of vaping.

At the annual Safe School Committee meeting held on Wednesday, Aug 28 at MHS, compiled of students, parents, teachers and head administrators, it was assumed that half of Marlow high school students are currently vaping, while anywhere from 75% to 90% have tried it.

In recent studies, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) found that 3.62 million middle and high school students in the U.S. were current users of electronic cigarettes in 2018, a 48% increase in middle schoolers and a 78% increase in high schoolers from 2017.

From the previous 2018-19 MHS school year, on a monthly average, one student was caught with a nicotine related product on their person.

However, according to statistics from last school year, 67% of MHS students reported to be around those who vape.

Bryan Brantley, principal of MHS, struggles to find the students who use vapes due to their inconspicuous sizes and styles, making it harder to prevent students from using the nicotine devices and therefore spurring his desire to better educate students and parents about the e-cigarette products and health related issues.

“With our school statistics, I thought it was time to give our students information on the effects of vaping to at least try and deter them from it,” Brantley said.

All teachers lectured students on the known effects of vaping, including an addiction to nicotine, inhalation of cancer-causing chemi-



Marlow high administrators and teachers kick off a schoolwide initiative to remind students, faculty, and members of the community that Marlow Public Schools is a tobacco free school ground, including electronic cigarettes and vapes

cals and the destruction of the lungs.

The full dangers of vaping are still unknown since the effects have just recently come to light, as it was announced by multiple news outlets that at least 450 teens and young adults across the nation have been hospitalized for a vaping associated lung illness within the past three months.

Patients were admitted with symptoms of fever, nausea, coughing, chest pain and/or shortness of breath.

When looking for a diagnosis, doctors found that the illness looks to be a viral or bacterial pneumonia, but unlike pneumonia, there are slight deviations in the symptoms that make it not exactly like the known disease.

Deborah Buckles, program director of the Tobacco Treatment Program at the Indiana University Melvin and Bren Simon Cancer

Center, concluded that vaping abstinence is the only known way to prevent this mysterious lung disease.

“You should stop [vaping] completely,” said Buckles. “Because investigators haven’t identified the source of the lung disorder, right now, the safest bet is simply not to vape.”

Backing up Buckles statement, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommended to all members of the public not to vape while the investigation proceeds.

Taking the information presented by MHS faculty, as well as the national warnings, a student at MHS who wishes to remain anonymous spoke on their use of the e-cigarette.

“I got into vaping about a year or so ago,” said the student. “My older friends vaped, so one day I tried it and thought it was cool, so I continued to do it.”

With parents unaware of his or her use, the anonymous student made clear that a friend, of the legal age, bought the device and products for them.

“I started to get into higher level nicotine products, and that’s when I started to realize I was addicted,” the student said.

After the warnings were displayed, the student has since announced their process of quitting their addiction, as they became aware of the dangers of nicotine after seeing it had hospitalized others.

Recognizing the crisis and wanting to put an end to the illegal teenage use of vapes, President Donald Trump met with health officials on Wednesday, Sept. 11 to discuss a ban on flavored e-cigarettes, as the flavors were said to attract the youth.

With millions of teens at risk throughout the country, MHS will continue their goal of ending the vaping epidemic within their grounds, as an assembly on vaping will be held on a to be determined date for high school students.

FCCLA officers learn to lead

Madison Contreras
Writer

Family, Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) officers rediscover the meaning of FCCLA, by attending the annual LEAD conference that was held, this year, at the Great Plain Technology Center in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Marlow High School students have been attending the LEAD Conference ever since FCCLA adviser Tamra May started teaching at Marlow in 2014.

May explained that Marlow attendance at the LEAD Conference keeps them connected to state-wide initiatives.

“Attending the Lead Conference is beneficial in being able to know what new things FCCLA is involved in statewide. We hear from state and district officers

and their program of work for the year,” said May. “We can take that home to our chapter and build on it throughout the year. It keeps us relevant and building relationships with other chapter officers.”

MHS FCCLA Vice President Olivia Cantwell agrees with May that she learned ideas that can be brought back to the Marlow chapter.

After attending a class about FCCLA’s competitive events, known as STAR Events (Students Taking Action for Recognition), Cantwell explains how she can teach Marlow members about what she learned.

“It taught me a new method of preparation for STAR Events that I could show the members of FCCLA because I am the STAR coordinator for this year,” Cantwell said. “I feel that with the skills that I learned and the

method that they taught us, I could take that and revamp it to fit Marlow’s chapter to help others succeed at STAR events.”

Noting what she retained from the class “Are You a Responsible Officer,” Publicity Officer Maddison Hise described why she feels the officers attend the conference each year.

“The Lead Conference helped me in my officer position to become a better leader, and it taught me a lot of things, like being on time for a job interview or going to work,” said Hise. “I also feel it helped the MHS Chapter officers to become better leaders altogether and become a better team to lead our members.”

As the year advances, MHS will continue to see how the FCCLA officers grow and develop new leadership skills and methods to better themselves, along with the other members.



Pictured above (L to R) Kennan Simpson, Luke Tolle, Kirsten Nunley, Ty Scott, Shiloh Sullivent, Jessilyn Pearson, LeeAnne Riddle, Skylar Schnedorf and Kearsten Ball.

Marlow High School’s class officers for the 2019-20 school year. Elections were held on Friday, Sept. 6 and results were posted on Tuesday, Sept. 10. Elected for the freshman class is Gehrig Furr as President and Kennan Simpson as Vice President. For the sophomore class, Ty Scott serves as President, Kirsten Nunley as Vice President and Luke Tolle as Secretary/ Treasurer. Elected for the junior class is LeeAnne Riddle as President, Shiloh Sullivent as Vice President and Jessilyn Pearson as Secretary/ Treasurer. Finally, serving for the senior class is Skylar Schnedorf as President and Kearsten Ball as Vice President.

Stagecraft sets the stage for success

Chelsea Strutton and Caleb Kimbro
Writers

MHS Stagecraft has big plans for the year’s Marlow drama productions.

Working behind the scenes, Stagecraft is responsible for setting the productions’ mood for performers as well as the audience.

Managing behind the scenes activities involved in each production, stage director Paula McConnell spoke about what they are working towards.

“Stagecraft is working on two productions right now,” said McConnell. “One will happen on Sept. 19, which is Demonstration Day, and the other happens on Oct. 11 and 12, which is the advanced drama show.”

Each year, both Stagecraft and the drama team cooperate in order to produce the best perfor-

mances possible.

Without Stagecraft, Drama students would have a tight schedule of building stage sets and learning lines for the next play.

Entering her second year of Stagecraft, senior Alli Riddle vocalized the efforts of her and the other students involved in Stagecraft.

“We’ve been working hard in the scenery for the upcoming play for advanced drama,” said Riddle. “We are usually up on ladders and sometimes on 2x4s. It is pretty risky but fun at the end.”

One of the tasks that Stagecraft does is painting periactoids and building rooms.

Spending hours on stage each week for a purpose other than performing, the students find themselves focusing on little details to fulfill the overall desired scenery.

Balancing both Stagecraft

and the Marlow Outlaw Speech Team (M.O.S.T.), Senior James Shirley elaborated on the struggles that come along with participating in the two organizations.

“Being a part of both Stagecraft and Drama has its challenges, but, on the bright side, I know where everything is and where to go during performances,” said Shirley. “One of the disadvantages is always being tired, especially when you are about to go over the play.”

In an effort to make each performance better than the last, MHS Stagecraft has been working tirelessly to create the best environment for the drama department.

M.O.S.T. will be presenting a comedy on Oct. 11 and Oct. 12.

The Friday, Oct. 11 matinee is scheduled specifically for the MHS students, followed by the Oct. 12 show that will be open to the public at 7:00 p.m. for \$3.00.

Terrell swings her way through her senior year

Lanie Leach and Bralyn Stallons
Writers

As she begins her last year of high school, senior Makenzie Terrell continues to learn many skills and leadership qualities from playing golf that will pave the way for her continued success after graduation.

Terrell has been involved in golf for the past six years and has played a critical role in helping the Outlaws find consecutive years of success.

Lady Outlaws Golf Head Coach Mikey Eaves, who has known and instructed Terrell for six years, expressed how much she has grown in her skills.

“Makenzie has improved tremendously in the past year,” said Eaves. “She has been willing to change, and it has helped her become the golfer she is as a senior.”



Makenzie Terrell

Terrell is recognized for bringing her kindness and her humorous qualities to the course and over the past two years, junior LeeAnne Riddle has formed a relationship with Terrell, and has seen her bright personality grow.

“I have gotten closer to Makenzie and have seen her funny and flamboyant personality that can light up a room,” Riddle said. “She has gotten way more outgoing over the past years.”

Many of the younger students

have recognized Terrell’s dedication, one being sophomore Miranda Martinez.

“I believe that Makenize deserves student of the week because she is so hard working,” Martinez said. “She gets her stuff done when she needs to and is on time.”

Terrell, who now shoots in the 80s to 90s, described her struggle to break 100 strokes and the hardwork and dedication it took for her to reach her goals.

“Golf has taught me to never give up and to give it your all in whatever you’re doing,” Terrell said. “Even if I find myself struggling, I know if I keep working, I will be able to do it one day.”

Terrell is planning to attend Oklahoma State University and major in computer science after graduation.

Until then, Terrell will continue to be involved in golf and bring her best qualities to the team.

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The MHS express is the student newspaper of Marlow High School. It is published every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, except during holidays.

The MHS exPRESS encourages comments from the student body, faculty, and administration in the form of letters to the editor. All letters must include a name for consideration; however, the name may be withheld upon request. Letters should be sent to Room 105 at MHS.

The opinions expressed within the signed editorials are the opinions of the writers; the opinions expressed in unsigned, boxed editorials are the opinions of the staff. Neither is necessarily the opinion of the high school administration, staff, or faculty.