



# MHS exPRESS

## Students work behind the scenes at MHS

Cole Cloyd  
Writer

An often ignored or underappreciated component of Marlow High School teacher Paula McConnell's speech and drama program, her stagecraft class, or as they call themselves "backstage specialists" do more than meets the eyes.

McConnell, who instructs the stagecraft and drama classes, described how the stagecraft program often flies under the radar and expresses themselves in many ways beyond designing the set of the upcoming drama play production.

"They do more than the just the play, they do scenery for the Marlow Speech Tournament, the children's play and numerous other multi-week projects," McConnell said, "We also study classic art, ethnic art, ancient art, and famous artists."

McConnell also said great things about her numerous "backstage specialists."

"They are disciplined, hands on, goal and deadline oriented, hardworking young adults," said McConnell, "It is such a one for all, all for one style, positive atmosphere where everyone works on one big group goal."

McConnell's passion has also rubbed off on many of her older, more experienced students as well.

Seniors Olivia Williams and Kaden Brite, who both are 3 year members of Stagecraft, echoed McConnell's sentiments and ex-



"I always heard about stagecraft, and the Blast assembly skit they did really caught my eye," Brite added.

Brite made mention of how much the stagecraft program communicate and form a bond.

"I like how it is such a close group, almost a family," Brite said, "It is a laid back class, and we got along really well."

Both Williams and Brite discussed why they stuck around with the program for so long.

"I just loved the class and it became routine," Williams said.

"This was just the class I was always looking forward to, and I am always ready to come back," Brite added.

Both seniors also had some encouraging words for those interested in joining the program.

"If you don't want the spotlight but still help out, it is a great class," Brite said."

"Go for it if you do not want perform but still want to help," Williams added.

McConnell added her own sentiments of the class and what type of students she would like to join the class.

"It is one of the happiest hours of the day," McConnell said, "The class is for goal oriented, task focused students who

are not afraid to get their hands dirty and work."

One of stagecraft's projects will be on display during the Advanced Drama production, Neil Simon's "God's Favorite," which is performed October 8 at 7 pm.

## Dance and deaf education motivate Marlow senior

Kallie Slate and Jae Hee Yun  
Writer

Senior Tristyn Genn is dancing her way to University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma (USAO.)

"I joined bootlegger my freshman year in hopes to be more like my older sister, Tori," Genn said.

"Bootlegger has taught me many things," Genn said. "I have become more responsible and know to take care of things that I need to because of Bootlegger."

Many of the underclassmen on the Bootlegger team mentioned that Tristyn plays a strong role as a leader for the team.

Junior Jaden Gallop shared her feelings towards Genn's positivity.

"She keeps us in line," Gallop

said. "She challenges us to better ourselves; I imagine that she will do very well in college."

While her team knows she will always be motivating, Tristyn mentions that her motivation comes from them as well.

"My motivation to do my best comes from my team," Genn said. "I know they are always counting on me to do what I need to do."

Genn excels not only in her talent for dance, but also her ability to learn quickly and follow her dreams.

American Sign Language and Spanish teacher Gloria Conner talked about Tristyn's passion for learning and helping others.

"I was excited and thrilled to hear that the language touched her in such a way," Conner said. "I am very proud of her."



TRISTYN GENN

"Deaf people are living in a hearing world," Genn said. "We should all want to make it easier for them by just knowing even a few small signs."

Genn plans to attend USAO to become a deaf educator.



YOUNG LEARNERS. Marlow Elementary students performed the routine that they learned at the 2016 MHS Cheer Clinic.

## Seniors are getting a head start

Allie Custer  
Writer

Instead of waiting to cross the stage to start college, seven seniors from the class of 2017 have decided to get a jump on their college careers and have concurrently enrolled in classes at Cameron University in Lawton this school year.

At Marlow High School, Concurrent enrollment is a program offered exclusively to seniors, and it gives students the opportunity to take college classes at Cameron University and earn college credits for free while simultaneously taking high school classes.

Last year, Marlow had a total of 14 seniors who took concurrent classes.

According to Marlow High School Counselor and testing coordinator Brenda Parker-Tillian the sudden drop does not reflect badly on the program, and the program's numbers change every year.

"The number of kids in this

program depends on the personality of the senior class and the goals they have set for themselves," Tillian said. "Many students from this year's senior class just wanted to be high school students now and college students later."

When students decide to take concurrent classes, Tillian encourages them to take core subject classes like College Algebra or English 1113.

"If they take the core subject classes then they have teachers here who can help them at any time," Tillian said. "It also helps our teachers to know what colleges are expecting."

According to senior Trevor Roe, who took concurrent classes this year in order to know what colleges will expect of him next fall. Roe has learned a few tricks so far.

"I've learned that self-discipline is a must because most of the work is done in your own time and not in class," Roe said.

Marlow High School senior Hailey Parker has learned that tak-

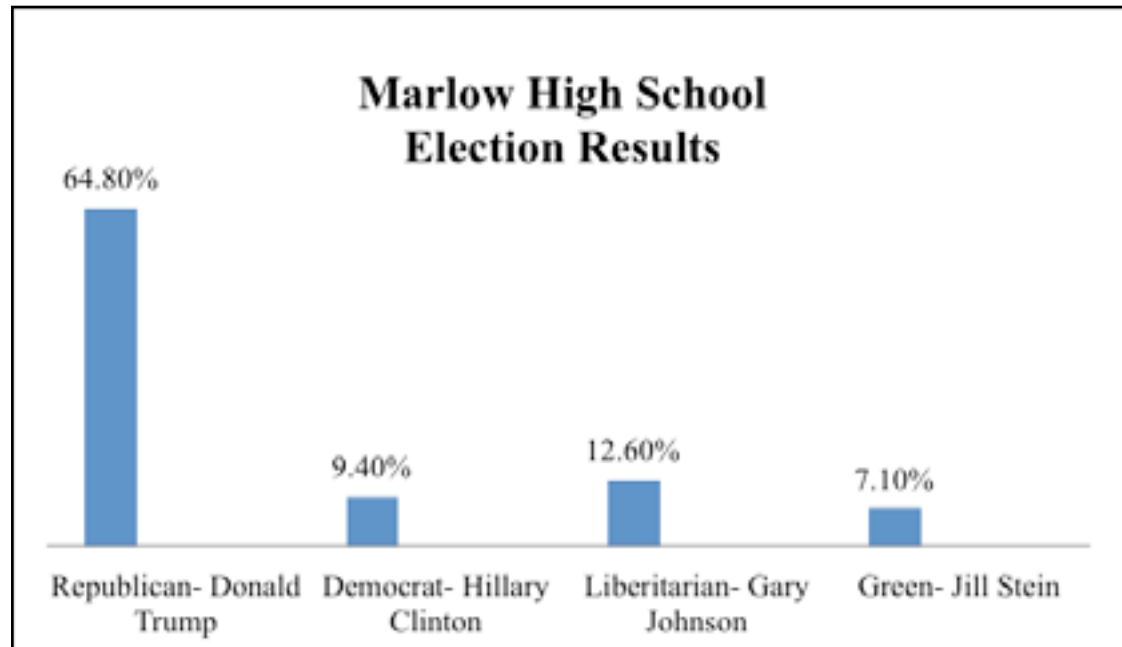
ing concurrent classes is not quite the same as taking high school classes.

"Unlike high school you have to be very organized," Parker said. "The professor does not remind you of what needs to be done, so you have to be accountable and responsible for yourself."

While most seniors who take concurrent classes agree that it is a new type of difficult, most of them including Parker also agree that Marlow High School has prepared them for these classes.

"Our English departments have done a wonderful job preparing us for college courses," Parker said. "Junior year English with Mrs. Cramton was very hard on me as a student, but she has made me a better English student in the process."

According to Tillian, taking concurrent classes is a great way for seniors to get a head start for little to no cost and hopes to see more seniors seize this opportunity in the future.



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Also, be sure to follow us on Twitter at @mhs\_express for updates on school activities.

