

Wildcat Echo

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A publication by the students of Maquoketa Valley High School

New vocal music instructor strives to expand cultural appreciation

by Paige Winter

Ms. Huber is the newest member of the Wildcat family at MV. She has relieved Mr. Ford of his temporary vocal music instructor duties as she started this week as the new choir teacher. Welcome Ms. Huber to Maquoketa Valley!

Where have you worked previously?

I am a first-year teacher. I just finished my student teaching at Linn Mar High School and Francis Marion Intermediate (3rd and 4th grade level).

Where did you go to school and what did you study there?

I went to Luther College where I was a vocal music and theater major with a minor in K-12 music education.

What do you like about MV so far?

I really liked the welcoming environment. My first day was Monday and as I walked around everyone was saying hello to each other and asking who I am and wanting to get to know me. The choir students are really eager to get started on new things and have a really strong desire to get better and want to recognize their strengths and what to improve on.

What goals do you have here at MV?

In choir, specifically, I would love to give a sense of different cultures in music and give the students an opportunity to explore music from different parts of the world as well as classics and different standards, and for them to realize that they are an integral part of the group and have skills to be used for their whole lives. For the rest of the school I hope everyone gets a chance to enjoy the music we create and maybe inspire them to create some themselves.

Can you describe your family?

My parents are divorced. My mom and stepdad as well as my dad live in Iowa City. My mom and stepdad are music educators so it runs in the family. I have an older sis-

ter and two older step brothers. I also have two cats at home.

What do you do with your time away from school? What are your hobbies?

I love board games; I'm an avid board game player. In non-COVID years I also love performing plays, musical theater, or opera.

What is one thing you want all of the students to know about you?

I am a welcoming and safe and accepting person, and that my classroom door is always open. And that I love chocolate

Are you willing to tell us a fun fact about yourself or something interesting that not many people know?

I studied African music in Ghana, which is in West Africa, for two weeks in a rural village.



STUDENTS OF THE WEEK

Nolan Ries & Preston Roling

You are one of the voices of MV basketball this year as commentators on the live stream. What do you enjoy most about it?

Nolan: The best part about commentating is creating humor along with discussing the analytical side of basketball.

Preston: It's just fun I guess, creating humor for the audience I guess.

What is the hardest part of being a commentator?

Nolan: Not using foul language and holding in the laughter

Preston: Not saying anything inappropriate

Why does your work matter?

Nolan: People want to hear our version of Sports Center, and we promised to deliver our very best every home game.

Preston: People want to hear two gingers make jokes about the game.

Advisor's note: A special thanks goes to Mr. Arnold and Mrs. Scherrman for their logistical help with getting the live broadcast possible.



Getting Jazzy: Jazz band builds music skills

by Madeline Gellersen

Classy, brassy, and a little sassy. The Maquoketa Valley Jazz Band consists of many talented musicians with a passion for jazz. Mr. Ford joined the Wildcat family fall of 2017 determined to make a positive difference to the band program at Maquoketa Valley. With a fresh set of students eager to learn the basics of jazz, Mr. Ford set out to find a group willing to improve and practice their skills. With a small ensemble of only 15 students practicing every Thursday at 7 am, Mr. Ford had his work cut out for him in reshaping the program.

Music has always been a part of one's life, whether it is going to a Friday night concert or listening to a favorite song in the car. For our band teacher here at Maquoketa Valley, he found his love for music by playing the trombone. Mr. Ford's love for jazz all started back in middle school when he started to participate in band. From the time he was in 6th grade to the end of his 8th-grade year, Mr. Ford learned the fundamentals of jazz and continued the journey. Mr. Ford had participated in jazz band throughout high school, one could tell that his passion for jazz never died. "Oh yeah!" Mr. Ford stated, "I played bass trombone for two years and bass for two years as well."

The reason the Maquoketa Valley Jazz Band started up because Mr. Ford wanted to give the band the same opportunity that he had while growing up. "It was something I enjoyed in high school whether it was playing the music or playing different stuff. I wanted to give you guys the same opportunity and environment that I had. Jazz is just cool." Jazz bands are all about learning a new style of music while incorporating new swing beats and rhythms. The jazz band does not have the typical concert band or marching band feel. What makes the season interesting are the different talents and competitions year-round that makes jazz so exciting and fresh.

In the youthful stages of life, we find our love and passion for the talents that make us feel whole. For Noah DeVore, joining the jazz band at Maquoketa Valley has allowed him to further express his love for the drama department. "I joined because I've been highly involved in the arts along with the band and what it has to offer. Jazz sounded like fun!" Right now, you will see and hear Noah's triumphant



Jazz band members rehearse before school. The jazz band plans to perform at the Night of Jazz concert in April and at an outdoor concert in May.

sound when he plays his trombone as a section leader in the jazz band. Noah has been a member since his freshman year where he has always brought the energy not only in practice but also at competitions. Noah is most excited about the song "Tweet Fatigue" that the band will be performing this year. Swinging and feeling the rhythm in jazz is very important, and Noah thinks that this song will help everyone with that aspect.

Just when you thought that it couldn't get any jazzier, a second jazz band might be in the making at Maquoketa Valley. This band would practice on separate days than the competitive one, and the focus would be on learning a secondary instrument. Mr. Ford has expressed the idea to many of the current members of jazz one. Currently, it's only a matter of time and interest if students are willing to commit. Noah generated the idea of playing the piano as a secondary instrument that he had started to learn during the summer months. Mr. Ford has portrayed the feeling of hope that this band will take off this year. "It will give students opportunities to learn a new instrument for fun that will allow them to further develop their musical abilities." Only time will tell with this musical idea, but as far as competitions this band knows a thing or two about slowly climbing to the top.

The Maquoketa Valley Jazz Band was a name that the audience was unfamiliar with when attending competitions. However, this band has slowly risen like

a phoenix from the ashes wanting a taste of victory. The jazz band has only competed for two years and has already won 3rd place at NIEBA. Knowing that one can showcase their talent for an audience to hear and applaud is rewarding after long hours of practice. Mr. Ford has big plans for the jazz band and its future. A common question that is asked throughout one's lifetime is where do you see yourself in five years? Mr. Ford had determination in his eyes when he answered the question. "We have laid the groundwork for what we want to do," Mr. Ford began, "We can stay competitive in 2A and we will go to the same competitions. I hope to see us win NIEBA in the future. We just need to continue to get better." Both Noah and Mr. Ford are hopeful that there will be a competition this year considering all of the uncertainty. For now, the jazz band is just excited to start practicing and learning new material.

It is something that is not required but highly recognized by the ear when listening to music. Jazz is all about getting out of your comfort zone and letting go. Jazz is a stress reliever or a great way to improve one's technique. From a non-existent jazz band, to one that was formed for fun, to one that is now competing and winning. The jazz band here at Maquoketa Valley has improved tremendously in such a short amount of time and is going to continue to climb even higher. There is no question as to where this band will be in the future however, it will forever and always continue to stay classy, brassy, and sassy.

Home Away From Home: MV is a special place

by Zoey Mulford

Maquoketa Valley. Black and gold. Success across the board. Dedication and determination throughout the student body. Compassionate teachers. Community of cheerleaders. There's always been something special that stands out about Maquoketa Valley, but the question is: what? Our tiny, but mighty high school ranks 21st in the state of Iowa out of 400 plus pertaining to academics and programs. The middle school was one of six in the state to receive the National Blue Ribbon Scholar Award this year. This award is given to schools that have record numbers in success throughout all fields of education and their programs. After talking with some of the excellent staff and students here at Maquoketa Valley, love and friendships are what stand out between all staff and students.

"Our teachers understand that building relationships between our students has to happen first for environmental learning to take place. When students know that their teachers care about them, a bond of trust is formed," Troy Osterhaus, principal and former teacher, keeps a close eye on the student body. Behind every teacher here at MV knows they can lean on Troy in tough times. Mr. O. will not stop until everyone achieves their goals and walks out of the doors, tassels flipped with a new strength on their shoulders. When speaking about educational level success, Mr. Osterhaus said the achievements of the student body go way beyond the information in our textbooks. "It goes back to those soft skills,



you know, building relationships with your peers, teachers, bosses are so important. They drive how successful a student is outside of school when talking about employability skills and so on." But the road to success does not stop there.

Maquoketa Valley is fortunate to be built on such a supportive community. Dollars for Scholars is a unique program we are so fortunate to have here at MV. This program alone shows that each student has their own cheerleader and will receive more financial aid compared to most other high school students. "We are next to none that has the best post secondary and apprenticeship success. With the commitment from the community, any kid can benefit from this," Troy Osterhaus believes that the environment set here at MV is important. This dedication is the reason why we are so academically successful compared to most. Not only are we blessed with the Dollars for Scholars program, Maquoketa Valley works hand in hand with Kirkwood and NICC Community Colleges. MV offers academy programs and classes which can really set individuals up for success by improving their high school GPA, wiping out their prerequisites, not paying any money out of their pocket, and gaining the college experience before going into the real one. Osterhaus ended with, "Bottom line, if a student has a good work ethic, they are going to be successful." Our Wildcats are determined and have a special tunnel vision that most student bodies lack, which is why we are sitting at the twenty-first highest ranked in Iowa.

Senior Emma Ritz, former Minnesota student, has some of the same beliefs as Mr. O. when it comes to what sprouts academic success, but also our student body's

behavior. "The teachers here expect more out of the students and hold themselves to higher standards too, everyone is always willing to give a hand just to see someone succeed." Ritz led to say that her old school was an eye opener to how great our Maquoketa Valley student body truly was. She stated that we take for granted how nice everyone is to one another and how limited bullying truly is. Safety is another key factor in academic success. If a student feels like their school is a safe place, the individual is less likely to worry, which will lead to focused behavior on soaking information in and improving their work ethic. "It's nice to wake up in the morning knowing that I do not have to fear something bad is going to happen compared to my old school. You just feel like you're home with your second family." Emma Ritz is beyond ecstatic to be back at Maquoketa Valley because she knows she will be successful here.

Respect, dignity, diligence, selflessness, support, sympathy, encouragement, programs, college classes, countless opportunities, and most importantly, love. Love creates the formula that makes up each student's academic success through the student body, the excellent staff, and the community here at Maquoketa Valley. We may be tiny, but we sure are mighty. A wide variation of outsiders looking in have noticed that Maquoketa Valley has something very special.

This feeling can not be put into words, but felt through the heart and mind. An individual's school and environment is the foundation for their entire life, and we here at MV are all going to be successful way past the academic level, we are a part of the Wildcat family.



When seniors are asked what they most appreciate about MV, a common response is that teachers truly care and will help them with anything. Above: Mr. DeVore works with Brady Davis on a math problem.

#1 ranked Wildcats get decisive win over #2 Lynx

by Tara Goedken

The Wildcats started the season with some strong momentum, and that energy has carried over to 2021.

The Tuesday night before Christmas breaks the Wildcats played Central City. MV won with a score of 48-39.

The Wildcats started the new year last Saturday with a tough opponent, North Linn, who was ranked second behind MV in 2A polls. "North Linn has a great tradition of basketball. They are a very well coached team with a lot of talented players. We knew we had to play some of our best basketball to date to have a chance to win," stated Coach Moenck.

The Wildcats come up on top with a score of 52-34.

On offense, Taya Tucker led in points with 15 points, followed by Emerson Whittenbaugh with 12 points and Haley Ronnebaum with 9 points.

On defense, Tucker led in steals with 4 steals followed by Ella Imler with 2 steals. Tucker and Whittenbaugh led with rebounds with 8 each, followed by Kylie Chesnut with 6 rebounds, Imler with 5 rebounds, and Ronnebaum with 3 rebounds. Whittenbaugh led in assists with 6 assists and then Tucker with 3 assists and Imler with 2 assists.

Coach Moneck stated after the game, "We had some kids on our team really step up and play some meaningful minutes. Haley Ronnebaum, Kennedy Rausch, and Erin Knipper did an amazing job coming off of the bench and playing some really good basketball on both ends of the court for us. I was very pleased with our composure throughout this game. We never got rattled. We did a very nice job of staying patient on offense and discipline on defense. We talked with our kids that win or lose this was just another game. We can't get caught up in the rankings and all that other stuff. We need to continue to focus on us and getting better each and every night we take the court."

On Tuesday night the Wildcats hosted the Alburnett Pirates and come on top with a score of 51-38. The Wildcats were able to score 27 points in the first half and 24 points in the second half.

Last night the Wildcats hosted Mount Vernon and won 43-26.

Tonight the Wildcats will travel to Starmont to take on the Stars.



Senior Emerson Whittenbaugh makes a pass. (photo courtesy of Pete Temple)

Boys gain some wins before break

by Chantel Crowley

The Maquoketa Valley basketball team played three games over winter break with two wins.

The first game was against North Linn at home Dec. 18, with a loss of 43 to 75. Top scorers were AJ Ambundo with 16, Avery Holtz with 10, Owen Mensen with eight, and Lucas Orcutt and Brock Trenkamp each with two.

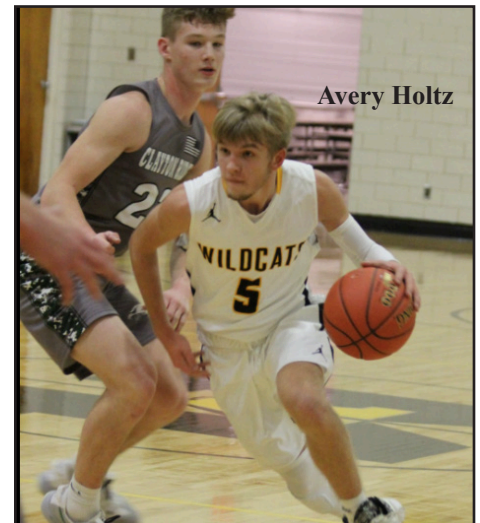
Mitch Heims had six rebounds, and Ambundo had five. Andrew Holtz had four rebounds, Avery Holtz and Jacorrey Wallace with three, Orcutt with two, and Mensen, Tony Offerman, Brock Daack, Devante Strickland, and Andrew Hildebrand each with one. There were two steals, made by Ambundo and Orcutt.

They played a home game against Clayton Ridge on Dec. 21. The boys won 51 to 48 in double overtime.

Top scorers were Andrew Holtz with 25, Avery Holtz with 10, and Ambundo with five. Heims scored four, Mensen scored three, and Orcutt and Wallace had two each.

Ambundo had seven rebounds, Andrew Holtz with six, and Orcutt and Michael Bojorquez each had three. Avery Holtz, Wallace and Mensen had two rebounds each, and Heims with one. There was a total of nine steals, three made each by Avery Holtz and Mensen. Andrew Holtz, Orcutt, and Wallace had one steal.

Dec. 22, the team played at Central City High School against Central City



Avery Holtz

and won 56 to 25.

Top scorers included Andrew Holtz with 19, Ambundo with 11, Avery Holtz with nine, and Mensen with six points each. Hildebrand scored two points, and Bojorquez, Trenkamp, Strickland, and Wallace each scored two points each.

Ambundo had seven rebounds, Andrew Holtz and Wallace had five, Orcutt had four, and Ethan Doyl, Trenkamp, and Heims had three rebounds each. Hildebrand, Daack, and Avery Holtz had two rebounds, and Offerman had one rebound. There were ten total steals, made by Avery Holtz, Ambundo, Heims, Andrew Holtz, Bojorquez, Mensen, Strickland, and Trenkamp.

Last night MV played Independence and lost 48-55.

what's up?

by Paige Winter

What was your favorite thing that you did over Christmas Break?

Taylor Jones: I ate ice cream cake
Adrienne Freiburger: Played video games
Michael Van Meter: I went to Chick-Fil-A for the first time then I ate Coldstone which is a good combination
Mr. Ford: I got to cook for myself for a full week
Ella Mensen: beat North Linn (in basketball)
Mrs. Lewin: binge watch Netflix
Emma Ritz: Visiting my friends
Haley Ronnebaum: Watch Netflix
Matthew Brehm: Played Minecraft
Tanner DeMoss: spend time with family
Carter Klaren: Went sledding
Jena LeGassick: Had a movie marathon

Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Panosh

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

In 2019, 25.8 percent of people ages 18 or older reported that they engaged in binge drinking in the past month.

—NIH

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Allie Dunn

What event(s) are you in for speech?

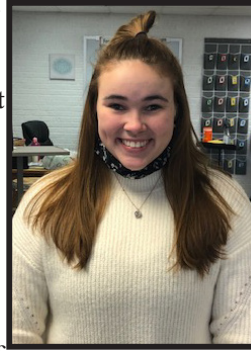
One-Act Play and Solo Mime.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? Working with other students I never get the chance to and seeing how they portray and take on the role of a character.

What have you learned through this event? One-Act: I have learned how to embrace a character and feel them in my soul. Solo Mime: How to be comfortable portraying a story on my own

Who is your speech role model? Andrew Kloser because he never fails to make me proud.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge One-Act because I would have the time to watch the characters come to life in ways you can't see in 5 minutes.



Name: Krista Ries

What event(s) are you in for speech?

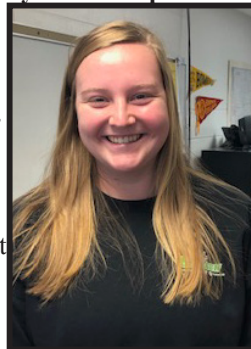
I am in Choral Reading and Readers Theater.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? The thing I enjoy most about large group speech is going to contest and watching others.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned that it's important to work together as a group to be able to create a great piece.

Who is your speech role model? My speech role model is Mrs. DeVore. She is my speech role model because I love the perspective she brings to certain pieces and it makes them very unique.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? The one event I would judge is group improvisation because you are guaranteed a good laugh!



Athletes of the Week

Name: Haley Ronnebaum

What position do you play? I play both guard and post.

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? I enjoy how it's not an individual sport. We all have to work together to be successful and reach our goals.

What's something about the sport that others may not know about? Basketball is very physical.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Chasing a spider around the hotel room at Spirit Lake.

Who's your basketball role model? My basketball role model is Taya Tucker.



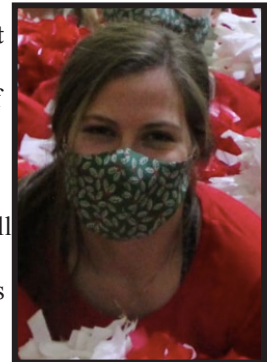
Name: Molly Anderegg

What do you enjoy most about dance team? I love the energy of the team - there's so many different personalities; there's never a dull moment in practice. We're always laughing about something.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? The hip hop routine that Kate Deutmeyer choreographed last year. We looked good as a team and it was one of our strongest dances, plus it was really fun.

With COVID-19, how has dance been different this year? All that's different is that we have to wear masks during practice, and we don't get to have nearly the amount of fundraisers as we usually would have. Also, we didn't get to go to state this year, so we had more time to learn our first dances so we could come out looking good to start the season.

If you could choreograph a routine, what kind would it be? I would probably choreograph some kind of a hip hop routine, but it wouldn't be very good. The music I would use would be the best songs written by female artists as kind of a "girl power" dance.





Pep band members Ethen Brockhohn and Emma Richter (above) and Jake Gellersen add energy to the home games. (photos by Lesa Parmley)



Cutie



by Matthew Brehm

This cutie is from Hopkinton. She plays softball and volleyball. She also participates in Speech and Jazz Band. This cutie likes dark chocolate, mac and cheese, and spending time with friends.

The last Cutie was Claire Krapfl.

Quoted

by Matthew Brehm

Today's world is designed to hook people. It's important to break free from the trap before it's too late.

This week's quote is, "**The proximity of a desirable thing tempts one to overindulgence. On that path lies danger.**" - Frank Herbert.

Over break, I had the chance to start reading the book *Dune*. A book that heavily influenced Star Wars and other works of fiction, it also contains many thought-provoking ideas. I would strongly recommend it. While *Dune* contains many beautiful quotes, I had to pick one. This quote tugs on something inside us that we don't think about often enough.

I'm sure many of us have heard the phrase, "Absence makes the heart grow fonder." I think about this quite often, but the addition of the words, "proximity" and "overindulgence" add another layer. It's true that the ease with which we can attain something has a factor in our usage of it. Think about your smartphone. For a good number of students, it's difficult to stay away from it too long. After all, it's usually always with you. Checking it is quick and easy. This scenario arises not only in smartphones, but also in games, music, money, drugs, food, and many others.

However, the problem arises when we become too reliant on it being there. Regular usage can become overindulgence, which can become addiction. When something we want is suddenly always within our reach, it's normal to overlook the cost of partaking in it. Suddenly, when that thing is removed, it reveals a hole inside us that needs to be filled.

Learning to turn away from temptation takes time and self-discipline, but I

can assure you that it will only help you in the long run. When the "proximity of a desirable thing" no longer has an effect on you, you've eliminated it as a weakness. You will almost certainly be more productive as well.

Downloading an app to keep you off your phone, creating a budget, and watching your daily calorie intake are all examples of ways to limit temptation. You could also talk to friends and family for help with this.

Habits are hard to break, especially when they constantly entice you, but when you do break them, you'll feel much more free.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Paige Panosh

On the way there, he tells his driver that looks a bit like him:

"I'm sick of all these conferences. I always say the same things over and over!" The driver agrees: "You're right. As your driver, I attended all of them, and even though I don't know anything about science, I could give the conference in your place."

"That's a great idea!" says Einstein. "Let's switch places then!"

So they switch clothes and as soon as they arrive, the driver dressed as Einstein goes on stage and starts giving the usual speech, while the real Einstein, dressed as the car driver, attends it.

But in the crowd, there is one scientist who wants to impress everyone and thinks of a very difficult question to ask Einstein, hoping he won't be able to respond. So this guy stands up and interrupts the conference by posing his very difficult question. The whole room goes silent, holding their breath, waiting for the response. The driver looks at him, dead in the eye, and says :

"Sir, your question is so easy to answer that I'm going to let my driver reply to it for me."

MV TEL-ALL

compiled by Paige Panosh

Each year 1,825 college students between the ages of 18 and 24 die from alcohol-related **unintentional injuries**, including motor-vehicle crashes.

—NIH