

A new beginning and a sweet farewell

by Mason Kruse

Mrs. Grant is the current Agriculture Education Instructor and FFA Advisor here at Maquoketa Valley High School. As most of you know she is very new to the job, as it is her second here at Maquoketa Valley. When Mrs. Grant was announced as our FFA advisor many members didn't know what to think. Many thought that she wasn't going to be able to accomplish the accolades that our former advisor had accomplished. This is where everyone was wrong.

When I walked into her first class that fall getting asked how is this class is going to go. I didn't really know how to feel about it at that point in time. That first day the new advisor had impressed me to the max. She used her outside knowledge of agriculture. She also added her foundation of science into helping us become better fitted for the real world. "In Farm Business Management class I can benefit students by giving them real life examples of how different people do it in different ways," Mrs. Grant proclaimed. The classroom aspect of agriculture education was benefited tremendously by the hiring of Mrs. Grant.

The classroom also gained another piece vital to success outside of school. It was something that didn't happen in my first two years of high school. Our agricultural education class gained knowledge from professionals who work in our area. This would not have been possible without the farming background of Mrs. Grant. "Because I farmed, I was able to connect to many people in the area, giving students the opportunity to learn from these guest speakers," she stated. During the first semester of my junior year we were able to here from a plethora of speakers. One of these speakers was a lady who specialized in ag-finance. The kids in this class were able to discover the things that go into a banker deciding to give a farmer money.

Mrs Grant had never had a job as an FFA advisor prior to this one, so she



Mrs. Grant helps some Intro to Ag students.

lacked some of the knowledge needed to have a successful FFA chapter. She admits, "The hardest part is the Career Development Events and all of the contests and getting to know what their all about," Mrs. Grant confessed. The FFA chapter still competed in all of the contests that they had gone to in years past; however, we were more successful because Mrs. Grant set up practices for us to gain knowledge of the contest. This also allowed for Mrs. Grant to understand what these contests were about, since most of us went to them in prior years. These practices consisted of us reading the rules of the contest so we knew what to expect when competing, and us practicing the tests that were going to be given during the contest. Mrs. Grant was very heavy on us that if we went to the contest just to be there, then we should still be in school. She wanted us to be able to compete with every team that we need to in order to win the contest.

This fall we were getting ready to compete in the Iowa State Dairy Cattle Evaluation CDE. This contest included kids from across Iowa, all trying to win this contest and qualify for the National Contest in Indianapolis. Mrs. Grant was not going to have time to practice with us. She knew that we needed to do something in order for us to have a shot at winning it. A few

weeks prior to the contest we received an email with a crazy amount of links all involving the contest. These links included: rules to the contests, past tests that could be used to practice, and instructions on how we should go about studying. In this contest we absolutely destroyed the competition. Having two of the team members in the top five while the other two followed closely behind. I, in particular, was the top individual in the contest. Our success revolves around the encouragement of our advisor, to not only go the contest to learn, but to go there to increase upon the things that we learned previously. We can now say that we are State Champions, and will compete in the national contest later this month. This year's national convention was one of the last big events that we went with Mrs. Grant because she announced that she will be giving up her job. She does this to return to her real passion within the medical field. She will serve as the laboratory manager at the Regional Medical Center in Manchester, a position she once held.

Mrs. Grant said she has enjoyed the "family" atmosphere at MV amongst the students and staff: "Everyone truly cares about each other, respects each other and are always pushing to bring out the best in all of us."

Sports Connection

Wrestlers host meet

by Allie Knipper

Last Friday, the wrestlers took on Anamosa, Dubuque Wahlert Catholic, and Center Point-Urbana at home.

MV lost to Anamosa 12-66. Here are the individual points earned against Anamosa:

Dylan Lane (132) with a win (forfeit) and Carter Kruse (195) with a pin.

CPU beat MV 60-21. Here are the MV points against Center Point-Urbana:

Tim Harmon (170) with a pin, Carter Kruse with a pin, Evan Elgin (182) with a forfeit win, and Devin Smith (220) with a 7-3 win.

In the Dubuque Wahlert match, MV lost 22-48. Here are the MV points against Dubuque Wahlert Catholic:

Tim Harmon with a forfeit win, Evan Elgin and Carter Kruse with pins, and Michael Schaul (138) with an 8-0 win.

The wrestlers competed last night. Results will be in next week's issue.



Caelyn Sands and Brooke Elgin set up a defense against Central City.

Boys go 2-1 in recent conference play

by Tara Goedken

On Friday December 20th, the boys played their last game before break against East Buchanan. They walked out with a win with a score of 51-41.

On offense, Andrew Holtz led in points with 16 points, followed by Owen Mensen with 4 three-pointers with a total of 12 points, Avery Holtz with 8 points, and Miguel Bojorquez and Issac Zirtzman with 5 points each.

On defense, Andrew Holtz led in steals with a total of 3. Zirtzman led in rebounds with a total of 9, followed by Mensen with 4 and Avery Holtz, Andrew Holtz, and AJ Ambundo each had 3 rebounds.

Last Friday the boys played against North Linn and lost with a score of 37-88.

On Tuesday night the Boys Basketball team played against Central City and won with a score of 46-44 with a last second tip-in by Isaac Zirtzman.

On offense, Ambundo and Andrew Holtz led in points with a total of 12 points each, followed by 10 points by Avery Holtz, 6 points by Mensen and 4 points by Zirtzman.

On defense, Avery Holtz and Mensen led in steals with 2 each followed

Girls basketball continues to roll, now 10-1

The girls basketball team has come into 2020 strong with two victories.

This week the Wildcats defeated Central City at home 63-35. Last night the team traveled to Clayton Ridge and won 51-16.

Dec. 20, the team beat East Buchanan 39-35 at home. On Jan. 3, the girls lost to powerhouse North Linn 70-41.



Isaac Zirtzman makes his way around a Central City defender Tuesday night. (photos by Lesa Parmely)

by Andrew Holtz and Ambundo with 1 steal each. Ambundo led in rebounds with a total of 10, followed by Avery Holtz with 5 rebounds, Mensen with 4 rebounds, and Andrew Hildebrand with 2 rebounds.

Last night the boys traveled to Clayton Ridge and tonight the boys travel to Alburnett. Details from both games will be in next week's Echo.

Mark your calendars!
Dollars for Scholars

Soup
Supper
Friday, Jan. 17!
5:00-7:30

what's up!

If you could live anywhere in the world, where would you live?

by Paige Winter

Landen Deutmeyer: Louisiana

Molly Anderegg: Brazil

Avery Holtz: Dubai

Saige Hunt: Australia

Kendra Hillers: Paris

Annisten Trenkamp: Hawaii

Trayce Klosterman: Alaska

Ethan Doyl: Cuba

Mrs. DeVore: Here

Academic Corner:

60s America

by Paige Winter

One class that only some of you might have taken is 60's America class with Mr. Cassutt. Though Mr. Cassutt couldn't pick a favorite class, the one that he chose to talk about this week is 60's America because even though it's a time none of us have lived through, it still has a major influence on our country today.

Mr. Cassutt said that students should take this class because it's very interesting to learn about events and people in the decade that still have a connection to today.

Students who take this class learn discussion, research and sourcing skills. If you decide to take this class you can also look forward to meeting some speakers that Mr. Cassutt has come into class. You can be excited to learn about topics such as the Kennedy assassination and the Vietnam War which are two of Mr. Cassutt's favorite units to teach.

This class will also prepare you for life after high school by giving you perspective and understanding on our country and appreciate the people that lived through the decade.

So when you're deciding what social studies class you should take to fill out your credits, consider taking 60's America with Mr. Cassutt and learning about a decade and people that still impact our country today.

Fine Artists of the Week

Name: Paige Panosh

What event are you in for speech? I am in musical theatre and ensemble acting.

What do you enjoy most about large group speech? Because of the events that I am

in, no practice or performance is the same, so I love the unexpectedness that comes with having a plan with details that are constantly changing.

What have you learned through this event? I've learned the power of the pause and how differently things can be interpreted without prior knowledge from the person who wrote or said it.

Who is your speech role model? I can't just pick one. Mr. And Mrs. DeVore have both influenced my speech abilities so much. They are both constantly coming up with ways for you to improve while still reminding you of what is going well. I'm able to look at several different ways of wording, pauses, and interpretations in different situations because they're constantly giving good advice on them while working with you to figure them out if they aren't sure either.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge musical theatre. It's my two favorite things wrapped into one.



Name: Carter Hildebrand

What event are you in for speech? TV News and Radio Broadcasting

What do you enjoy most? I enjoy being able to work every week with a group of people to put together a quality product. When its all

over, it makes you feel good about what you accomplished.

What have you learned through this event? I have learned that in group work everyone must put their best effort to get the best product

Who is your speech role model?

My speech role model is Mrs. DeVore.

If you could judge a large group speech event, what would it be? I would judge TV News because they are all so different. Also, its an event I'm knowledgeable on and enjoy.



Athletes of the Week

Name: Molly Anderegg

What do you enjoy most about dance team? There is always

something creative about it, whether it's one or two of the girls choreographing a new dance for the team, or when we

need a new move to fill in/ replace an old move. People are always coming up with new ideas to make the dances better.

What's the hardest part of it? To me, the hardest part is making sure everyone looks the same, especially when it's a faster part of the dance. Every little thing matters and can either make it look really really good, or make it look a little bit off.

What's your favorite routine you've ever been a part of? What did you like about it? Our upcoming Pink Out Pom routine! I like this routine because it showcases the different talents that we have on the team, and there are many strong points throughout it.

What's something about dance most people don't realize? The amount of time and effort that goes into it! If the littlest thing looks different, it can set the whole routine or formation off.

If you could choreograph a routine, what would it be? A pom routine to "Walking on Sunshine"



Name: Miguel Bojorquez

What position do you play? Any but point guard.

What do you enjoy most about playing basketball? Playing with my team and the fact that the game never gets boring.

What's something about the sport that others may not know about? Details matter. The smallest one can determine the game.

What's been a favorite basketball memory? Going to the NIACC team camp last summer and playing basketball all day for 4 days straight with the boys.

Who's your basketball role model?

Dwayne Wade because he is the reason I got into basketball. I grew up watching him and LeBron on the Miami Heat. I wanted to be like him because he was a threat both on offense and defense.



I'll Be There... Part 2 of 10

TEL students are writing a 10-part series about drunk driving. This part is written by Adrienne Freiburger, Paige Panosh, Taya Tucker, Allie Dunn, Lydia Helle and Emma Hill. (If you missed Part 1, look at the Dec. 13 Wildcat Echo.)

Issue 2

A Sheriff's Deputy standing at his window, glaring in, the first recollection for David. He's not sure where he is, what has happened or why on earth there is a Deputy standing at his window. He is motionless. The fog, clouding his memory, is lifting excruciatingly slowly. There is a distinct smell of burning rubber, muffled high pitched sirens getting closer, the taste of blood in his mouth and a crushing feeling in his chest.

What had happened? Slowly, painfully, he recalls seeing the headlights as he rounded the corner. Had someone run into him? Had he been in a crash. Had HE caused the crash? That was it! That was why the Deputy was standing right outside his window.

His breathing became rapid and shallow. He felt as though he couldn't catch his breath, and then everything became a blur, quickly turning to a blackout.

This all happened to David in a matter of seconds. The Deputy was assisted by several first responders and firemen to get him freed from the wreckage. The paramedics, once on the scene, loaded David into the ambulance and headed for the hospital.

When David awoke, there was a doctor assessing his injuries, one nurse starting an IV and another nurse cleaning the glass out of his face and scalp. The lab technician had just arrived to draw blood. He recalls hearing someone say, "Make sure you get a blood alcohol on him."

Issue 2

The hot metal of the car seemed to mold around her. It encompassed her in a sort of metal coffin. The air was thick with panic that flowed from her mouth in harsh cries for help.

Black masses seemed to form in her vision, cutting through time passing agonizingly slowly. It seemed like centuries until she heard the faint rescue call of a siren.

But by then, she was already out cold.

There was a hard, piercing light that sat upon her eyelids. When she opened her eyes, there was a heavy weight covering her body. She didn't have the energy to lift a muscle. It was then she came to realize that she laid in a hospital bed, tubing protruding out of her arms.

Nurses stood around her, scribbling things down on clipboards whereas her mother sat staring at her. Tears flooded her face, running down in streams and pooling in dark, wet patches on her shirt.

Her father was speechless. Shock still grasped ahold of him, trapping within him the emotions he had not yet been able to express.

As for Harper, she just wanted to know what happened.

MV TEL-ALL

by Lydia Helle

A 2018 Truth Initiative study published in Tobacco Control found that among current youth and young adult **JUUL** users, the majority — **63%** — did not know that the product always contains nicotine.

Information came from Truth Initiative's "E-Cigarettes: Facts, stats, and regulations"

Brain Teaser

by Mason Lubben

I love to dance and sway among the clouds.

I move quickly but I am never loud.
My tail flutters and flashes and might get stuck in a tree,
I attempt to fly away, but I am never truly free.
What am I?

Answer: A Kite!

Cutie

by Maria Cole

This week's cutie is a freshman! She currently lives in Earlville and has three siblings along with a dog. Her favorite subject is social studies and she is currently involved in volleyball, basketball, track, and speech! Her hobbies include watching Netflix.



Comedy Corner

—compiled by Lydia Helle

Today at the bank, an old lady asked me to check her balance. So, I pushed her.

Why do we tell actors to "break a leg"?...
Because every play has a cast!

What do you call a pig that does karate?...A pork chop

What do you call a rooster staring at a pile of lettuce?...A chicken sees a salad

And the Lord said unto John, "Come forth and you will receive eternal life." But, John came fifth and won a toaster.

Certification earned *More than a ballgame*



Intro to Computer Applications students Carter Hildebrand, Mason Lubben, Maria Cole, Mason Kruse and Devante Strickland earned their Microsoft Word certification.



Little Comics

compiled by Lydia Helle

There were cats on a boat and one jumped off. How many cats were left?...None.

They were all copy cats!
-Ruby Recker, 5th Grade

Why are pickles so picky?...Because they are salty.

-Ella Reicher, 5th Grade

What do you call a dog with no legs?...It doesn't matter because it won't come to you!

-Bryce Vaske, 5th Grade

What did the mommy tomato say to the baby tomato?...Catch-up!

-Alaina Connolly, 3rd Grade

Knock knock.

Who's there?

Pea.

Pea who?

Pee-eww!

-Anna Feldmann, 3rd Grade

Why don't bananas get lonely?...Because they hang around in bunches!

-Colt Haas, 3rd Grade

What did the math book say to the other math book?...I've got problems.

-Landon Helmrichs, 3rd Grade

What do policemen do when they are hot?...They sweat bullets!

-Colin Hillers, 3rd Grade



The gym was the hub of a lot of action Tuesday besides the site of two varsity basketball wins.

Far above: The dance team performed its hip hop routine.

Above and left: Alumni, including Sean Hucker and Alex Digman and Hunter Glass and Maddie Lahr, joined the pep band. (photos by Lesa Parmely)

Holly Offerman

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? Meeting one of my best friends, Hannah. Hannah has impacted my life throughout these last six years and has been with me through it all. I



love that I can always talk to her and she will always be up to have a good time. Sometimes we get in fights and sometimes it may seem like we won't come back from them... but we always do. I really do hope she's around for the rest of my days and we stay connected after high school. Too more memories.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? To not let high school get the best of you and stress you out too much. I urge you all to find your way of escaping the drama and the stress of it all and just relax. We have an amazing staff here at Maquoketa Valley and they will do their best to help you understand and get through it. Be sure to ask them questions; that's what they're there for. Ways I distress are by working out, managing my time, and of course hanging out with my friends.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? I appreciate how awesome the staff is. They truly care about you and want you to succeed. They will push you and encourage you to go above and beyond expectations, and they will believe in you through it all. I've had some pretty amazing teachers throughout my years.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? I've had a lot of moments in high school but the one I would probably relive is when Mr. K was my study hall teacher. He could always put a smile on face and truly made me get through high school when I was starting to give up on it. Jackson and I had so much fun in his study hall and he let us, but we made sure we got our homework done. I will never forget him singing and dancing while we laughed.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Here for the Party" by Gretchen Wilson.

What does your future (college and career) look like? I am attending Des

Hall Smarts

by Lydia Helle

This week, I decided that I wanted to see how many people know famous quotes. So, I asked Emma Hill, Summer Schmuecker, and Erika Supple if they could finish these famous lines.



"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and ____." -Teddy Roosevelt
Emma: ...let go.
Summer: ...start again.
Erika: ...hang on.
Answer: "...hang on."

"Never let the fear of striking out keep you from ____." -Babe Ruth
Emma: ...trying your best.
Summer: ...playing the game.
Erika: ...playing the game.
Answer: "...playing the game."

"Only a life lived for others is a life ____." -Albert Einstein
Emma: ...lived.
Summer: ...worthwhile.
Erika: ...worth living.
Answer: "...worthwhile."

"Ask not what your country can do for you, but ____." -John F. Kennedy
Emma: ...what you can do for your country.
Summer: ...what you can do for it.
Erika: ...what you can do for your country.
Answer: "...what you can do for your country."

That's all for this week- "catch you on the flip side!"

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT MV the week of January 13, 2020

MONDAY, JANUARY 13, 2020

1. NO SCHOOL - Teacher Work Day
2. Accuplacer Test for Kirkwood On-line Students - HS Library - 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
3. TRC HS Honor Band Festival at Lisbon - Noon (2 Vans Leave @ 10:00 AM) - Concert 7:00 PM

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 2020

1. 3rd Quarter Begins / 2nd Semester Begins
2. HS JV/V G & B Basketball - HOME - Starmont - JV at 4:30 PM / V at 6:00 PM
3. MV Dance Team Performs - Half-time of Girls' Varsity Game

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2020

1. Deadline for ALL 2nd Quarter / 1st Semester Grades to be in Power School by the End of the Day
2. MV Fine Arts Boosters Monthly Meeting - HS Caf - 5:30 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, 2020

1. HS V Wrestling in Central City (with Multiple Schools) - 6:00 PM (Suburban & Van Leave at 3:45 PM)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 17, 2020

1. High School and Middle School Report Cards to be Sent Home
2. Dollars for Scholars Soup Supper - HS Cafeteria - 4:00 - 8:00 PM
3. HS JV/V G & B Basketball - HOME - Springville - JV at 4:30 PM / V at 6:00 PM
4. MV Dance Team Performs - Between Girls' and Boys' Varsity Games
5. HS NHS Fundraiser - Half-time of Boys' Varsity Game

SATURDAY, JANUARY 18, 2020

1. HS TRC Lrg Grp Speech Contest at Midland - 8:00 AM (2 Buses, Suburban & Trailer Leave at 6:00 AM)
2. HS V Wrestling Tournament in Cascade - 9:00 AM (Suburban & Van Leave at 6:00 AM)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19, 2020

1. HS Vocal to Meistersinger Festival at Wartburg College in Waverly (Van Leaves at 11:30 AM)

Corbin Midkiff

Activities involved in during high school: West Delaware Football



Which activity affected you the most? Football gave me lots of life lessons

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? When I jumped off the rock wall and shattered my ankle.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?

Live Friday to Friday and lunch to lunch and it will be over soon.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The environment and how close and nice everyone is.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? The first day of coming here.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? Mrs. Lewin because she teaches me how to not go bankrupt and makes everything fun.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Two Wheels by Wax"

What does your future (college and career) look like? Marines OOHRAH

What is your dream job? Welder

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? School work

What one event has most impacted your life so far? The decision to go to the Marines

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? They better just remember me for the goofy and fun stuff I've done in and out of school.

Maria Cole

Activities involved in during high school: Wildcat Echo, Yearbook

Which activity affected you the most? The Echo. It fueled my passion for writing and helped me explore more creative options in journalism.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? When I got stuck on top of the jungle gym and Hannah abandoned me up there by myself.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Manage your time and don't slack off. I didn't care about my grades during freshman year and now my GPA is paying the price. Stay focused and do your work and ask questions.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The environment. Everyone is really nice and inclusive. No one ever really feels left out, and I think that's why the classes bond so well and are close together, which makes high school even more fun and the environment relaxed.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Homecoming 2019, because I actually went to the football game and had a lot of fun.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? Probably Mr. Huegel. He gives really good advice and always tries to help people see the best in themselves and appreciate the things around them. He has opened my eyes to a lot of things because I took many classes with him, such as Social Issues.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Dancing Queen" by ABBA

What does your future (college and career) look like? I am hoping to attend the University of Iowa for their Creative Writing program. I would like to begin in journalism after college but then move onto authoring a few books and maybe do professional photography as well.

What is your dream job? I want to become a writer and also a professional photographer.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Give the speeches during Speech class, I'm terrified of public speaking and honestly giving a speech doesn't help at all.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Graduating early, it made me realize I need to start looking forward into my future for college.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I hope we talk about everything. Like the senior shirts, Homecoming, everything was just so fun and new and exciting that we all experienced together.



Hannah Cornell

Activities involved in during high school: Choir and golf

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? How every day in 4th grade Maria would ask me for my Facebook password.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? To know that grades matter and time flies, so just relax and take time to think about your future.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? The environment

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Probably relive the relief I felt from waking up and seeing school had a snow cancellations

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why? I would say Mrs. Temple. She's helped me out a lot with planning for my future, and I really appreciate that.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "Bubbly" by Colbie Caillat

What does your future (college and career) look like? At this moment I have no idea. I'm planning on working and saving money so that I can move to Colorado.

What is your dream job? Something that involved a lot of traveling, or being a psychologist.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Speech class, which about made me want to die but that's ok.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Graduating early, because it has made me think a lot and kind of pushed me to start looking toward my future.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Just inside jokes and funny stories about us "fighting the man"



Jenna Nefzger

Activities involved in during high school: Track (1 year); Play (1 year); Musical (2 years); Speech (1 year); Choir (2 years)

Which activity affected you the most? Musical and Play.

I got out of my comfort zone and made a lot of new friends.

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory?

When Aspen got his head stuck in the chair or when Emma got puked on by Frankie on chili day.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?

Don't do anything in the choir room but sing. Listen to your parents. Take Applied Math! It's okay to work instead of being involved in things. If you're gonna do something, do it right or don't do it at all.

What do you appreciate most about Maquoketa Valley? Being able to take college courses to get ahead and save money.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? Any of the adventures with Jordyn. I'm still surprised we aren't dead yet.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? Why?

Mrs. McDermott is someone who can read me like a book and is always willing to lend a helping hand. She gave me so much hope and motivation to continue on when I didn't want too. I don't think I'd be graduating without her.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "9 to 5" by Dolly Parton - But instead of 9 to 5 sing 2 to 10, night shift baby. :)

What does your future (college and career) look like? I'm going to NICC to get my RN and then Upper Iowa for my BSN.

What is your dream job? I have a lot of dream jobs but travel nursing is the most practical one of them all. Here are my other dream jobs: undercover cop, body piercer, mortician, Sam Elliot's personal assistant, barista, golf ball diver, mattress tester.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Survive sophomore year.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Getting my CNA. I got my certificate because I wanted experience in a nursing home when I became an activities director. That all changed when I fell in love with nursing and everything about it. I remember driving home from my first night of clinical crying because there was no way I was ever going to go back. I went back the next night and realized that it was the career for me. Moral of the story: if you start something, finish it. You don't know what opportunities will come along with it.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? Anything involving senior year. We've kinda been a handful.



Morgan Hermanson

Activities involved in during high school: Football, Golf, Large Group Speech

Which activity affected you the most? How?

Large Group Speech. Speech has helped me out tremendously in all aspects of life. The ability to speak in front of people is a trait that few have, but we all need it. Speech has helped me gain confidence in public speaking and will propel me even farther with my future job plans

What is a favorite elementary/middle school memory? I would have to say either when Storm chased Christopher with an ice sickle during recess in 5th grade. Another great memory would be the countless laughs during WIN time in 6th grade watching Chaw with the boys'.

If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be? Don't be afraid of upperclassmen and asking them for help or advice. The upperclassmen usually know exactly what you are going through and are typically more than happy to help you. Also, know your place on the totem pole, and respect upperclassmen and authority figures in the school. Represent Maquoketa Valley the correct way.

What do you appreciate most about MV? How much most of the teachers care about us students. I know that I can personally go to at least three teachers with personal problems and school problems and they are more than happy to listen and give advice. Our community and school support the students so much and that is truly a great thing about MV.

If you could relive any moment in high school what would it be and why? My junior prom! Man, was that year the best. The senior class before me was super fun and we really enjoyed the party bus and where we went out to eat. Mrs. Downs did an amazing job with post-prom, making it the best post-prom in recent years! I had way too much fun! Then closely after that, we had state track, and boy did I have fun staying with some friends down there.

Who is your most inspirational teacher? I have to have two, Mrs. Downs and Mrs. Lewin. They have helped me out in so many different ways and I have bonded with them throughout my four years in high school. Mrs. Downs has shown me countless life skills and her classes are really educational and impact our future just as much as our high school GPA. Mrs. Lewin and Mrs. Downs are people who I can go to laugh, joke around, also learn from. They are extraordinary teachers whom I will dearly miss.

If you wanted people to remember you by a song, which one would it be? "The Show Goes On" By Lupe Fiasco featuring Lil Wayne. The show goes on even after we graduate from high school. Some of us in our class have a lot of growing up to do before we hit the real world.

What does your future (college and career) look like? Hopefully shortly after I graduate in January I will be shipping off to Fort Jackson, South Carolina to complete my military training for the Army National Guard. After graduation from advanced training, I plan on going to St. Petersburg College in St. Petersburg, Florida to pursue my bachelor's degree in management and organizational leadership, focusing on sports management.

What is your dream job? To become a high-level manager for a professional sports team, ideally in the NFL.

What's the hardest thing you've ever had to do? Say goodbye to my best friend for ten weeks this past summer to go through basic training. It sucked a lot, but now that it is over, I can look back and say it was worth it.

What one event has most impacted your life so far? Definitely signing up for the National Guard. The National Guard as forced me to grow up so much faster than normal and is a great platform for me to get ahead in my career and personal life. Signing that dotted line changed my life forever.

What event from high school do you hope your classmates still talk about at your five-year class reunion? I would say just all the fun times we had and all the trouble we got into. We were constantly trying to push our boundaries and it was a lot of fun. I also hope that we talk about our after-lunch talks in Mrs. Down's room. Those are some conversations I will never forget.

