

The Memorial Voice

WHY ARE SCHOOL PICTURES ALWAYS HIDEOUS?

By: Olivia Millard

MILLVILLE, NJ—When that time of the school year comes around, you wake up at five in the morning just to perfectly curl your hair or apply your eyeliner. You feel as confident as ever, smiling and tilting your head almost to a 90 degree angle and think to yourself “This picture is gonna be the one I *actually like*.” But when you get those pictures or your school I.D. back, you scream.

Why does this always happen? Every year students dress their best and make sure they look runway material just for their picture to turn out terrifying.

“There’s never been a school picture of mine that I actually liked” student Zaire Sturdivant says. Either you sneeze and the photo is snapped at just the wrong time, or you blink, or your eye is doing that crazy squinty thing you hate. Your hair went flat, frizzy, and frightful. The people that take your picture are evil, conniving undercover monsters behind the camera.

Freshman Devyn Ciccio says, “I remember when we were little and we were given those plastic combs and our

teachers made sure we looked right. Now we’re on our own. We need a mirror to check ourselves right before the picture is taken to take one last look at ourselves.”

What seems like 90% of the student body absolutely hates their school photo. The worst part is, this photo will be used to identify YOU by your teachers, school campaigns, and other students. You will be recognized for that ONE picture, which makes you determined to make it the best it can be. But what always happens? The exact opposite of what you were expecting. To top it off, you have those stunningly gorgeous people who seem to be immune to the annual “ugly school picture” syndrome, which in a way makes you want to punch them and be them at the same time.

How could we make this problem resolved once and for all? A while back I

talked to a few of my friends and they said that we should just use pictures we have taken of ourselves and submit them to the faculty at school and they can just use them. That way, we are more comfortable with our picture, and other people can more easily recognize us. If that doesn’t seem like a good idea, then maybe the way the students have to pose for the picture could be changed. Facing the left corner and looking straight ahead, leaning forward slightly, and tilting your head at almost a ridiculous looking angle is a pose that should never be posed again. Ever.

School pictures almost always stink. No matter how much you try to look perfect, something somehow goes wrong. This needs to be changed as quickly and as effectively as possible. Students shouldn’t have to be embarrassed with the photo that will identify and represent them for a whole 180 days of the school year.



JOURNALISM 1 AT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

By: Mrs. Errickson

MILLVILLE, NJ—For the first time in over a decade, students at Memorial High School are able to take Journalism I.

The Journalism I course is designed to combine journalistic theory and practice. This course provides an introduction and overview of the newspaper format. In addition to writing news articles, students examine news sources, discuss weekly current events, explore important events in journalism history, and research careers in journalism and the newspaper business.

Most importantly, these students

are being tasked with creating and publishing a school newspaper: *The Memorial Voice*. *The Voice* will highlight important stories, events, and features for students and staff at Memorial.

Interested in participating? *The Voice* will be looking for reporters, photographers, and graphic designers to join an after-school journalism club. Interested students should see Mrs. Errickson in Tech Lab 1 for more information. Listen to morning announcements for meeting times. Meetings will begin in January 2014.



Voice Staff: S.Klein-Parks, Z.Sturdivant, G.Lilly, M.Pettit, E.Vazquez, D.Ciccio, J.Lopez, N.Butler, O.Millard, J.Smith, B.Adair, K.Mooney. Not Pictured: M.Cohen

WALK OR RIDE: YOU DECIDE!

By: Gabby Lilly
MILLVILLE, NJ—Would you rather be safe or take a risk of something happening to you on the way to school? Students who live three miles or less away from their school have to worry about the dangers of walking to school every morning and it could worry parents.

If you have to walk to school, it means you have to get up earlier because you need time to get yourself ready and then leave your house on time. The students at Memorial High have to walk down some of the roads that are not safe to walk through in the morning while it's still dark outside.

Recently, a shooting on the 400 block of Third Street happened around 6:30 in the

morning when students were preparing to walk to school. Many students had to pass that street to get to school. Luckily no students were involved. Wouldn't it be safer if all kids could get a bus?

Walkers have to worry about making it to school on time and they have to know not to talk to strangers if one was to approach them. Walkers need to know it's safer to walk with a friend then to walk alone.

In an article posted on Uticaod.com, it states that 38% of attempted child abductions happen while walking or riding a bike to or from school.

One student walker from



Memorial High says, "Walking to school isn't so bad because I can get exercise, but sometimes it sucks walking in the rain."

Some students have to walk no matter what the weather because their parents aren't able to take them. It could be snowing and windy but the kids would still have to walk or they wouldn't be able to get to school.

One extra bus for walkers might cost a little more, but it could save a life.

"38% of attempted child abductions happen while walking or riding a bike to or from school"

Memorial Winter Choir and Band Concert

December 5th @ 7:00pm

"Wintery and festive music!"

- Mr. Spinelli, Choir Director

Choir, Select Choir, and Band

Free Admission

KEEP YOUR HEAD UP!

The Worst Part is Almost Over

By: NyAsia Butler

MILLVILLE, NJ—"Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me" is a saying that has existed for hundreds of years. A quote that some people would love to relate to but just simply can't. Every day there are new victims of bullying, an action that claims lives, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year.

Bullying exists throughout schools around the country, not just MHS. Some people are ignorant to the idea

that such types of disgusting behavior occurs all around them. This behavior is most commonly found among teenagers. What begins as "innocent" child's play can end with a bright teen, with an entire lifetime ahead of them, committing suicide.

In a recent case, a 14-year-old Florida girl was charged with aggravated stalking that allegedly led to the suicide of a 12-year-old classmate.

There are many ways that MHS has tried to raise awareness against bullying. It worked but the word "BULLYING" isn't defined by just one act. Many acts define bullying. Threats, name calling, making fun, teasing, hitting, punching, and harassment are just a few of the many acts that occur everyday. . . acts that no one may actually be aware of and that are the main cause of suicide and suicide attempts.

I questioned my friend,



freshman Janecia Lopez, on the horrific things she's seen this school year.

"Personally, I think bullies are pathetic. If you don't like the way someone is or the way they dress, leave them alone. Like, why are you making such an effort on pointing out one's mistakes or flaws?"

Janecia also told me she actually witnesses a kid being bullied every day during her lunch period.

"Kids laugh and make funny of him. It's pathetic and rude!" she snapped.

I personally think that MHS should find a fun yet strong way to get the message across about bullying and its preventions. I also questioned my best friend Antwon McGriff about his thoughts and he said:

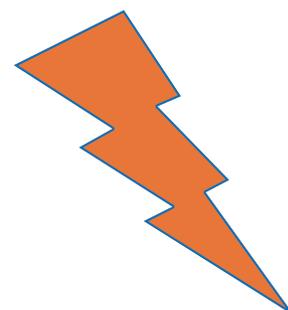
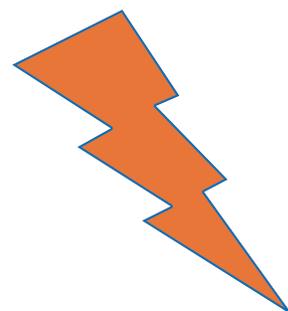
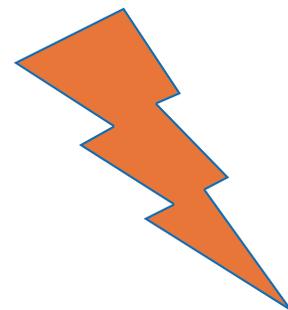
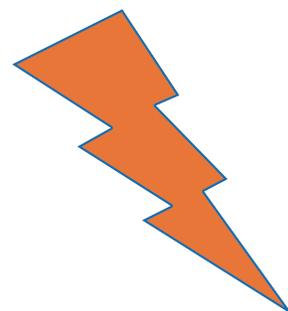
"Bullies are annoying and boring. PERIOD!"

In recent case covered by CNN, a Connecticut teen committed suicide due to bullying:

"Bart Palosz committed

suicide August 27 after attending the first day of his sophomore year at Greenwich High School in Greenwich, Connecticut. Friends who knew Bart, a Polish immigrant, told CNN he was the target of bullies due to his size – the teen was 6 feet, 3 inches tall – and Polish accent. The friends described him as 'a little awkward in his body' but said he was a 'giant sweetheart' who related more with adults than his peers."

Maybe not today, or not tomorrow, but one day this journey of heartache and tragedy caused by bullying will be conquered, and everyone—no matter the shape, size, color, sexuality, or beliefs—will all be equal and no one will be bullied to death.



STUDENTS CAN'T STAND CROWDED HALLWAYS

By: Kayla Mooney

MILLVILLE, NJ—Every time the bell rings, there is a problem most students and staff are exposed to: crowded hallways.

From the time students enter the school to the time they leave, the hallways are constantly crammed full of people. This is a major concern with students, because it's not exactly a very comfortable situation to be in, yet they have to face it several times a day.

"I hate [crowded halls]!. I am short and I don't want to be trampled over by a bunch of people," 14-year-old Breanna A. says. Like every student in Memorial, she deals with the school's halls numerous times a day.

One of the main problems that a congested hallway can cause is being late to class. Once students begin pushing and shoving, disagreements

can occur, and most students feel aggravated, agitated, and annoyed. Busy hallways also cause some students, who may not be completely familiar with the school, to get lost. All of these possible outcomes of crowded hallways result in problems with teachers and staff.

This majorly difficult and time consuming problem can have some simple and easy solutions:

- 1.) When the bell rings, be sure to be ready. Have your books packed and any work handed in to your teacher.
- 2.) Know where you have to go next. Instead of taking the main halls, find a quicker and easier way to get to your next class.
- 3.) Walk next to the walls. If you stay on the far right of the hall, you will avoid hitting traffic

head-on.

4.) Walk without stopping for others. If you act like you are important, most likely, others will move for you.

5.) Pay attention. Look at what is happening around you.

If you like to socialize with friends in the halls, be considerate and stand on the side of the halls to chat. Standing directly in the middle of the halls will cause others to push you and urge you to move.

The best way to resolve the problem of crowded halls is teamwork and being considerate of others. To avoid any conflicts, try not to bump into anyone and if you do, just apologize. If you are friendly to your fellow pupils, you will have a better chance of getting where you need to go quickly and on time.

"I am short and I don't want to be trampled over by a bunch of people."



Memorial Mentors & Student Council Toy Drive For R.D. Wood School

Please donate money or unopened gifts for 4th & 5th grade students

All gifts go to Mrs. Trimble, Mrs. Daigle, or any Memorial Mentor or Student Council Memeber



Only \$5 per gift/donation

Questions or Comments?

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