

Headlight

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community
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Super Tests: How Midterms Overlap with the Big Game

Alex Kerai
Webmaster, Freshman

This is my first year taking midterms and it's quite exhilarating, in a stressful sort of way. They are the conclusion to my first chapter here at MHS and they are also the first few words of the beginning of a new chapter. They are the first checkpoint of my high school career and are a marker for what is to come. When I think of midterms, I seem to draw comparisons between them and the Super Bowl...for some interesting reasons. For one, they both occur around the same time: the Super Bowl is in early February and midterms are in late January, they are about a week or two apart. Second, they each have little checkpoints leading up to them: the tests that you take all throughout the first term can compare to the games that are played to measure the progress of the team that could eventually partake in the Superbowl. The other major comparison is that they shine a light on you. With midterms, the teacher is specifically watching you to see if you know what you're doing and with the Super Bowl, all eyes are on you to make sure you don't mess up what could be the biggest game of your career. So they're quite similar in unexpected ways.

Midterms are a big deal. They signal the end of the term and a fresh start. They could mean the end of one class, or just the halfway point: a place to stop and review the work that you have already done. It is here that all that you have learned comes into play, every little fact you wrote down, every little test you took, it all comes rushing back. In comparison, the Super Bowl is a big, too. It signals the end of the season, a final hurrah before next September. Here is the place where you can prove that you have what it takes to win it all, here on the world's stage. It will be the biggest moment of your career and it will be watched by millions. They both are the place where you have the chance to prove yourself – or crash and burn.

With this being my first "trip" to midterms, I await it apprehensively like a rookie quarterback: I am excited to finally to do this, but I know that I cannot ruin this moment, whatever I do. This is my big time to shine, my chance to prove myself. Midterms may solidify you a good grade or they may bring it down a few points, and cost you that grade you had tried so hard for. Just like that quarterback, I've been reviewing everything I know for the past couple of weeks, I've been going over my flashcards and doing practice questions whenever I get the chance...it's kind of like

reviewing the film of the opposing team before going on to face them. Every advantage has been given – the extra practice, the extra help – for me to win this game and to go home victorious...so why am I still intimidated and fearful – yet calm and content – of what I have to face? Why these mixed feelings?

Midterms are approaching fast, as is the Superbowl. I wonder how anxious the two Superbowl teams are feeling right about now, how much they're practicing and if they have reviewed their films yet. Have they spent every waking minute thinking about the game, thinking about how they carry the weight of themselves, their team, and their city on their shoulders? I would be; and I'd also be freaking out, yet somehow I feel calm, too, for I've studied and I am prepared...there's my reassurance. Instead I'm left to fret about the impending doom that awaits me, along with the relief that will come once the week is over, and then the knot in my stomach that will retie itself when I hear the words, "Oh don't worry, your tests are almost done being graded...all will be fine." Then I just have to wait to hear how I did, and if it all paid off. At least the players don't have to wait a few weeks to hear if they won the Super Bowl.

New Superintendent Leads Exciting Site-Based Management Team

Dan Rosenberg
Headlight Staff,
Sophomore

One of Dr. Maass's early goals is to ensure that the Marblehead Public School System is abiding by all Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education guidelines. In order to comply, Dr. Maass has required that all public schools are to continue having a School Council. The council is mandated to be co-chaired by the school building principal, and must be made up of parents, students, teachers, and at least one individual who lives in the town where the school is, but does not have a child in the school system. A member of the town's school committee also attends each meeting.

The point of this council, in Marblehead called the Site-Based Management Team, (SBMT) is to provide valuable input on matters pertaining to the school. Each Marblehead school's team will be working with both the school committee and committees run through the school to make the learning environment a better place.

This year's first meeting of the Marblehead High School's Site-Based Management Team took place on January 10th, right after the first Par-

ents' Council meeting of the year. In the meeting, members set goals for how they wished the SBMT to function, and spoke a bit about what issues they hoped to tackle in the remaining months of the 2011 – 2012 school year.

Among the goals, which they would like to complete before the end of the school year, the number one task for them is to review the MHS budget, making sure that the level funded monies are spent in the right areas. Once again, there will be no increase in the budget, so the presentation to the School Committee and Superintendent's office, must be reviewed with a fine-toothed comb.

Another mission of the site-based management team is to revise the Student Handbook with the help of the school's handbook committee. Some student members of the SBMT also sit on the school's handbook committee; they gave a presentation on their efforts to date. Members of both groups will be making a cohesive effort to rewrite the handbook. The current one is outdated and has unnecessary legal formalities throughout it, making it difficult to read.

Each department in the school does not carry out the rules consistently as well, due to its contradictory and obtuse language. The team hopes to rectify this by producing a clearer, more con-

cise version of the handbook by next year.

One more important duty of the Site-Based Management Team is to provide the school with an Improvement Plan, which it can carry out over the upcoming years. This plan will assess the needs of the school, and will provide educational goals for all students in the high school. It will also enhance parental involvement in the school, and make sure that every student in the school has an opportunity to learn in the best environment possible.

This team is doing some important work for the school. It's a very valuable asset due to the fact that students, parents, faculty, and community members are working in cohesion to make the school a better place. Hopefully, they will be able to achieve positive results by the end of the school year.

All of the SBMT meetings are open to the public. In the high school they take place after the monthly meeting of the PCO. If you are interested, the next meeting will take place in the MHS Library on Monday, February 13. The PCO meetings run from 7 – 7:30, SBMT runs from 7:30 to 9:00, and once again, all are welcome.

MIDTERMS

The schedule for midterm exams is as follows:

Tuesday, January 24 A Block: 9-10:30; B Block 11-12:30

Wednesday, January 25 C Block: 9-10:30; D Block 11-12:30

Thursday, January 26 E Block: 9-10:30; F Block 11-12:30

Friday, January 27 G Block: 9-10:30; H Block 11-12:30

Interact Club will be selling Bagel World's famous bagels in the cafeteria in between exams!

Good Luck!

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