

ALL EYES ON MHS

-Davis Gold

Being a freshman in high school I am faced with plenty of changes, both academically and socially. Little did I know, while I was adjusting to these changes, MHS was preparing itself for another. I'm sure people have heard that MHS received a grant for \$44,000 which the school matched to buy and set up security cameras around the perimeter of the MHS building. No doubt this is a controversial topic throughout the town. The letters to the editor section of the *Reporter* reflect this, and several articles have been written on this subject asking the opinion of the school committee, faculty, and district leaders. Starting to see a pattern here? There has not been one article asking the opinion of the people most affected by this decision: the students.

I've wondered about it myself and wanted students' opinions heard. According to an article from the September 28, 2011 issue of the *Reporter*, there will be 23 cameras placed around the perimeter of the school. The purpose of the cameras is to secure the building from strangers and to prevent students from vandalizing, skipping class, and carrying out illegal activities. Senior James Wigglesworth offered his opinion on the matter, "I think this a lot of money to spend on a project like this." Sam York, a sophomore at MHS, gave his perspective, "I think that it's a good approach to stop vandalism, but definitely a little over the top and kids will always find a way around it." I agree with Sam that the vandals will inevitably find a way around the cameras, which makes me wonder if, ultimately, the cameras will have any positive effect. I asked Principal Weinstein a few questions about the cameras, including where they will be placed. He responded, "We don't know yet but certainly the exterior doors will have cameras as well as the cafe and field house where most of the damage takes place on a weekly basis." I was also curious about who will be monitoring the cameras. "We really cannot monitor them all day. People are much too busy for that," responded Mr. Weinstein. "Perhaps when one of the assistant principals is at her desk, she might take a look." Only time will tell if these cameras are a good safety precaution or simply an invasion of privacy.