

## **Senior Project** **-Matt Lieberson**

As the weather starts to heat up in early spring, the seniors' interest in classes at MHS begins to cool down. Conveniently enough, for most seniors, real classes end on April 13<sup>th</sup>. After April break, the seniors don't report to MHS (except for AP classes as exceptions). They report to various locations throughout the community, as Senior Project begins.

According to the Marblehead High School webpage, "Senior Project allows students to have a voice in their own education by pursuing an independent study of their own design. It is an excellent opportunity for students to prepare for college, the workplace, a special interest, or community service." The program allows an outward-looking group of seniors to follow their own interests and work in a special program that they create, working with local leaders in business, art, and other fields.

Pat Casey, who will be attending Cornell next year, is working with chemistry teacher Ms. O'Reilly on organizing a chemistry outreach program. "[Headlight editor] Danny Plunkett and I are going to be organizing a program for high school students to go out to local elementary schools and do experiments for kids. I'm very excited," Casey said. Casey participated in a similar program last year. "Danny and I did this last year with Ms. O'Reilly in our chemistry class, but this year we will be running the show." Casey was excited by the proposition of leading this effort this spring. "It's a great opportunity to gain experience managing an organization, especially with something I enjoy such as chemistry. Plus, it's also good to spend some extra time with one of my favorite teachers, Ms. O, before I leave the school."

Ryan Forsyth, who is off to Northeastern next fall, has a much different style of Senior Project. "I'm going to be creating EDM [electronic dance music] using a software called Reason 6. I couldn't be more thrilled that I get to do this all spring!" Forsyth, an electric bass player, has always had a passion for electronic music, and producing it himself is an opportunity he couldn't pass up. "Music has always been a part of my life, and it's cool to incorporate a technology aspect to my project. I get to learn more about the genre of music I'm working with, the software I'm using, what goes into producing a song, and how to stick with a self-made schedule. It should be really fun, because I love this kind of music."

Seniors throughout the school are excited for Senior Project. It's a great way to get experience with a personal passion without such a structured curriculum. But the hallways start to feel empty with the seniors gone, and it's always weird with Seniors not in the school.

Even when we leave, the juniors still better not park in the lot.