

## **MHS School Spirit**

By Shanna Smith

When you walk through a hallway and see dozens of students dressed in sports uniforms and funky clothes, you know you're at Marblehead High School.

As fall sports continue, MHS students constantly display their school spirit by supporting their teams to the fullest: team dinners, advertising big games, and, of course, dressing up for school on game day. This intense school spirit that other towns may find odd or over-the-top is actually considered normal at MHS.

Picture this: walking into school and within five minutes, you already know which sports teams have games that day. There are numerous factors as to why the MHS student body is so informed about our sports teams.

First of all, the school administration makes sure to support team sports by writing on a whiteboard near the MHS field house designated simply to informing us all about school sports. This white board can always be counted on to show information, such as which sports practices are relocated/postponed due to poor weather and, of course, which teams are playing against which towns on any given day.

Along with the help of the school, sports teams advertise their games by wearing signs, posting on Facebook, and our favorite thing of all: dressing up for school.

And no team is ashamed to dress up! Most sports teams advertise their games by wearing their jersey to school on game day. This is a very simple thing to do – in fact, it reduces the amount of time it takes to get ready in the morning, since no one has to search through their closet looking for a cute outfit – and it helps create the incredible atmosphere of school spirit and pride.

However, some teams take it to the next level. Any MHS student by now can safely say that they have seen a number of crazy outfit ideas – anything from hippies to panthers to Risky Business. Some sports teams get bored with constantly wearing their uniform, especially if they play two or three games each week. As a result, these teams come up with creative outfit ideas as an alternative to just wearing their uniform shirt. Even before first period begins, people have already caught on to which sports team are dressing up and what they're dressing up as.

Of course, I've heard other students' negative opinions on dressing up for school. Many students, particularly freshmen, are embarrassed to dress up because they fear that they will be the only one on their team to do so. But their fear is immediately diminished when they walk into the MHS cafeteria in the morning and see every other player of their team dressed as ridiculously as they are.

As a member of the Marblehead Field Hockey team, I know exactly what it's like to sport a funky outfit to show spirit and dedication to my sports team. Dressing up not only shows that students are part of individual sports teams, but it shows that we are part of a unified and supportive school community. This is what makes students comfortable in their own shoes: they know that they can dress as crazily as they want to school without being judged.

Between daily practices, team dinners, and displaying unity by dressing up, MHS sports teams perform efficiently due to one factor: we are a single cohesive team, not a bunch of random athletes thrown together every fall. This is solely what makes Marblehead High School a

unique and unified community, and it demonstrates one important thing: we are all proud to be here.

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