

# The Blue & White



## Senior Sunrise

by Crystal Castro

This year’s Senior Sunrise took place on Friday, September 27th at 6:15 AM in Nicholson Stadium. The event marks the first of many senior activities to take place, with many more in the works from Senior Class Advisors Mrs. Melanson and Mr. Scammon.

Seniors were welcome to bring their own coffee and food, however Heavenly Donuts generously provided an assortment of donuts for everyone to enjoy.

Senior Milo Isaacs reflected, “I loved the donuts!” and there were plenty of leftovers for students to take home.

The weather was cloudy as it had rained the night before, but students still tried to make the best of the event. Senior Emily Grondine suggested that, “It would’ve been nice if the school had provided towels to wipe

down the water on the bleachers,” seeing as students’ clothes got wet as they watched the sunrise.

Senior Sunrise made for a memorable start to the day and year for the Class of 2025. The event was later followed by the Homecoming Football Game against Chelmsford later, which Methuen won in a close 38-36 match.

Senior Elias Castillo commented, “I think it was a very fun experience for students to connect with one another and marked a nice beginning to our senior year. It was a very enjoyable event and I appreciate that the school is trying to make things memorable for us.”

The next scheduled event for seniors is the New York City Trip in December!

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## A Starry Night

by Janely Sanchez

Methuen High School held its annual homecoming on Saturday, September 28th, 2024 from 6:30PM to 9:00PM.

Upon entering, students were required to bring their student ID’s to identify themselves and had bags checked. With the reassurance of food being served later, students passed through the fringe foil entrance and into the field house, with lights shining and music blasting overhead. Waiting for other students to enter, some took pictures

at the photo booth or spoke with others. The DJ played all types of songs, from *HOT TO GO!* by Chappell Roan to *The Cha Cha Slide* by DJ Casper and *Fireball* by Pitbull for people to dance to with their glittery dresses and fancy suits.

The lights weren’t fully turned off for safety reasons, but that didn’t stop students from bringing glow sticks and sharing them with others to make bracelets or crowns. Some started to leave once 9:00 PM slowly came closer to go to restaurants or to simply go to sleep and kick off their high heels.

Thanks to the MHS Student Council for making this homecoming especially fun and memorable this year!



Cell Phone Policy



Albums of Autumn



Word Games!

# Meet the Editors!

Crystal Castro is a grade 12 student looking to become a medical research scientist with specialization in immunology. She currently serves as The Blue & White’s Editor-in-Chief and has been involved for the entirety of her high school career--since 2021. Crystal first became interested in the school newspaper because she intends to minor in English in college and wants to remain informed about events in the school community. Crystal is also involved in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Club as a senior officer, Science National Honor Society as president, National Honor Society as historian, and Asian Cultural Awareness Club.



Emma Lam is a grade 12 student aiming to become a User Interface Designer. She has been in The Blue & White since her freshman year, and has now become the Arts & Entertainment Editor. She became interested in the Blue & White Newspaper club because her sister was in the club during her high school years, and she wanted to help design the layout for the newspaper. She is also in National Art Honor Society, National Honor Society, Asian Cultural Awareness Club as Digital Media Editor, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Club, and the Stage Door 22 as a member of set crew.

Sloan Farrell is a grade 12 student planning to become a civil engineer. She has been in The Blue & White since 2023 as a staff member and now serves as the club's Features Editor. Her interest in The Blue and White began with the fun of the investigation and interview process that come before writing and grew as she matured as a writer. Sloan is also involved with the Italian Club, Science Club as president, Yearbook Club, Photo Club, and Robotics Club.



# Meet the Editors!

Joshua Najeeullah is a senior who has been involved in The Blue & White for the past two years. He joined the club to inform people about Methuen High school's incredible sports program. His favorite aspect of the club is the creative freedom to showcase the best parts of our school. He is also involved in Asian Cultural Awareness as club treasurer, DECA, and peer leaders. Josh is interested in pursuing biotechnology at a four-year university and his favorite subject is science.



Kaylie is a sophomore who is hoping to pursue something in the medical field. She has been a part of the Blue & White for two years, serving as the Opinion Editor this year. Kaylie joined the Blue and White because of her love for writing. She is also a member of Student Council, HOSA, and the Sophomore Class Officers.

Sophia is a grade 10 student who hopes to become a pediatric psychologist or professional photographer. She has been a part of the Blue & White for 2 years now, and joined because of her love for photography and writing, as well as just enjoying being involved all throughout the school. Sophia is also involved with Stage Door 22 as an assistant stage manager, Photo Club, HOSA as historian, Books and Bagels, Women’s Choir, and Resonance, an A Capella group.



# Methuen Ranger Marching Band: How to Train Your Dragon

by Kaylie Lam



Image courtesy of Cooper Ireland  
The band marches in formation.  
*This is Berk, Romantic Flight, and Test Drive.*

Their show has been showcased at Home Varsity Football games during halftime, as well as at their competitions during October.

The Marching Band competes under the organization, NESBA, or New England Scholastic Band Association. NESBA is divided into different divisions based on size, the band being division five. Competitions are judged in three different categories, Overall Effect, Ensemble Analysis, and Individual Performance.

The Marching Band’s first competition was in Westford on October 5th, scoring a 78.990 and placing 4th. The Marching Band currently has 3 more competitions in Reading, Wakefield, and Finals, with the location still being determined.

For most high school students of Methuen, the first day of the 2024 - 2025 school year began on August 28th. However, for the Methuen Ranger Marching Band, the first day of the 2024 - 2025 school year was the end of June.

The Marching Band has been in and out of the school, working on their 2024 show, ‘How to Train Your Dragon,’ since the end of June and will be working until early November.

Their show is based on the movie, *How to Train Your Dragon*, and consists of four different movements, or songs, including *Forbidden Friendship*, *Test Drive*.



Image courtesy of Cooper Ireland  
The marching band outside of Nicholson stadium.



Image courtesy of Cooper Ireland  
The marching band taking the field.

## Methuen Rangers Triumph in Thrilling 38-36 Victory Over Chelmsford Lions

by Joshua Najeeullah

In a nail-biting contest under the Friday night lights, the Methuen Rangers beat the Chelmsford Lions, 38-36, in a late-September game that will be remembered for its high-paced offensive play.

The Rangers, led by the dynamic running back duo of Shane Eason and Josh

Kwakye, put on a clinic, rushing for over 400 yards as they dismantled the Lions’ defense.

These two kept the Lions on their heels all night. The two backs combined for multiple explosive plays. “We knew we had to run the ball to win this one, and the offensive line made it happen,” said Eason after the game. “Every time we touched the ball, we had space to work with.”

That space was created by an impressive offensive line anchored by senior veterans Aidan Marino and Joshua Najeeullah. The pair dominated the trenches, opening up massive gaps for their running backs and protecting their quarterback (junior) Joshua Daniella from Chelmsford’s pass rush. Their leadership was critical in what was a physically demanding, high-scoring game.

The Rangers’ ability to pound the ball on the ground made a difference in the close matchup, but it wasn’t without drama. Chelmsford mounted a furious comeback in the fourth quarter, cutting into Methuen’s lead with a quick pick-6. The Lions nearly completed the comeback, but the Rangers’ defense held strong on a crucial fourth-down stop to seal the victory.

With the win, the Methuen Rangers improve to 2-1 on the season, while Chelmsford falls to 0-3. Methuen will look to carry this momentum into the game against the Andover Warriors on October 11th, where they hope their potent rushing attack and dominant offensive line can continue to lead the way.

Final Score: Methuen Rangers 38, Chelmsford Lions 36.



Courtesy of Google Images

Methuen and Billerica take the field.

# Methuen High School Boys Soccer Team Claims MVC League Title in Historic Victory

by Joshua Najeeullah

The Methuen High School Boys Soccer Team clinched the MVC league title on Saturday, October 17th, defeating Haverhill with a score of 2-0. This victory marks a significant milestone for the program, as it is their first league title since 1985.

The game was held at Haverhill's home field. Even though they weren't on their home turf, Methuen set the tone early, showcasing their great communication and teamwork. Yasin Dakiri opened the scoring in the first half, finding the back of the net with a powerful strike that sent the crowd into a frenzy.

Eric Delaney sealed the victory in the second half with a beautifully executed goal, putting Methuen firmly in control and securing their place in history. The team's defense held strong throughout the match, denying Haverhill any chance of breaking through.

“This win means everything to us,” said Captain Benjamin Catarius. “The boys have worked incredibly hard all season, and finally bringing home the title is a testament to our dedication and resilience.”

The Methuen team celebrated the victory together, reflecting on their journey and the support from their school community. This is a personal achievement for the team and a source of pride for all Methuen High School sports.

# Methuen High School Football Team Dominates Billerica, Claims MVC League Title Share

by Joshua Najeeullah

In an incredible performance on Friday night, October 18th, the Methuen High School football team shut out Billerica High School with a dominant score of 25-0. This victory showcased the team’s talent and secured them a share of the MVC league title for the first time since 1992.

Running back Shane Eason was the star of the night, racking up over 200 rushing yards and scoring three touchdowns. Eason’s explosive runs kept the Billerica defense on its heels, making him unstoppable throughout the game.

“Our offensive line played an incredible game, giving me the holes I needed to make those plays,” Eason remarked after the game. “This win is a testament to the hard work we’ve all put in this season.”

The offensive line’s dominance was evident, providing solid protection and paving the way for Eason’s explosive runs. Tight end Nolan Smith also contributed with a crucial 10-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Joshua Danella, contributing to Methuen’s impressive offensive domination.

With this win, Methuen celebrates its share of the MVC title and continues to focus on winning it outright. A win against its long-standing rival, Tewksbury, on October 25th, would secure the title for Methuen, a prospect that has fans buzzing with excitement.

This team is determined to make history and bring home the MVC title outright for the first time in over three decades. With their eyes on the prize, the Methuen High School football team is ready to face whatever Tewksbury throws at them.



Courtesy of Google Images

Methuen poses for their MVC title.

# MHS’ New Cell Phone Policy



by Kaylie Lam

Starting off the new school year, MHS students are now required to either put all personal electronics, including phones, airpods, and headphones, in a pouch hanging in the classroom or in their bags away for the duration of class. This has surprised many returning students, as this is different from previous years, where phones stayed on the students.

School Principal Mr. Curet made the decision, along with the School Committee, to implement this new policy. In an interview, Mr. Curet stated that, “While we have always had a cell phone policy, we did revamp our "electronics" policy this school year. Students distracted by technology has been an ongoing challenge that Middle/High School staff have been struggling with for some time.”

He noted data supporting this, saying, “The results of staff members that were surveyed across the district showed 30% of teachers reported needing to redirect students away from electronics 5-10 times per class. 24% noted that they had to redirect up to 5 students per class.” Ultimately, these findings led to the idea of implementing a clear pouch in which electronics could be placed in for the duration of class.

Mr. Curet explained that, “It is early in the school year, but when doing walkthroughs of classes I am seeing more teachers able to use class time for teaching and supporting students' learning as opposed to redirecting, and/or having to frequently deviate from the lesson. Students are more attentive/engaged as well.”

“With regards to some of the long term impacts of this work," he continued, "we are hoping to see students grades improving, less technology related disruptions, less incidents of bullying through social media, and a reduction in student anxiety that is perpetuated by technology usage (social media, falling behind, etc..).”

Overall, Mr. Curet and other staff members have noticed improvements in student and staff cell phone usage during class and hope to see long term improvements.

Mr. Curet hopes to implement this policy again in upcoming school years, commenting, “We recognize that technology is essential to being successful in today's world, but it needs to be an appropriate use of technology.”

Mr. Curet reassured that this policy is not to ban students from using phones completely, saying, “many schools have combated the challenges that come with technology use by banning cellphones in school entirely. That is not what we are trying to do with this effort. We are asking that students understand when it is important to “unplug.”

A couple of MHS students were interviewed on this matter and were asked, “What do you think of MHS’ new cell phone policy?”

**Sophomore Emily Amico:** “I think it’s useful but also kind of stupid because I don’t think that all students should lose out on their ability to use their phones if they still get all their assignments done and have good test scores, but hey, that’s just me.”

**Sophomore Sophia Polit:** “I think the new cell phone policy that was introduced to MHS this school year definitely had an impact on students in the first week or so. More specifically, as teachers first went over expectations as far as the restrictions on cell phones, it *did* ‘scare’ students. For the most part, they respected the enforcement given to put them away during class time, as the consequences were clear.

However, as we continue to progress past mid-term, I believe both students and teachers have become a little more lenient in respecting this policy by not using the given phone holders assigned, and going back to just verbal warnings, which don’t seem to bother students as much. Don’t get me wrong, teachers are still doing the best they can to make sure students are using their class time efficiently, but, it is also the student’s responsibility to make their own decision as growing adults to limit their distractions and make their own decisions.”

**Sophomore Elier Jaquez Guante:** “I personally found it stupid at first but honestly, I don’t see much of a difference from last year. Students don’t have the school Wi-Fi so there’s no way to use our phones even if we had them, and the only use we would have is calling, which we don’t need to do, and listening to music, which you don’t need your phone to do. And most teachers don’t mind you listening to music and stuff as long as you’re paying attention. It does suck that we can’t take photos of in-school moments anymore, it sucks not being able to make memories like last year because personally, I have tons of photos from in-class with friends.”

All in all, this new policy has been an adjustment for the staff and students, but deems helpful in the success of the school. Despite it not being a favorite among the students, Mr. Curet and other staff members are hopeful for this benefiting the school as a whole.

What are your thoughts on the new cell phone policy?

# Is the School-Wide Headphone Ban Beneficial?



Image courtesy of Blue & White Staff



Image courtesy of Blue & White Staff

by Sloan Farrell

Beginning in the 2024-25 school year, all outside technology use has been banned during instructional time at Methuen High School. This means iPads are students' only means to the outside world. Some teachers prefer an iPad free classroom as well in order to “fully focus the students.”

But is this fair to do to upperclassmen? It’s a bit like trying to teach old dogs new tricks. Some classes do seem to be more relaxed about the changes, allowing us to keep our phones in bags instead of the clear pockets numbered 1-30 that appeared in every classroom upon our return. However, the classes that rule with an iron fist can make students miserable.

“At the end of the day, we’ve been told to keep our phones and headphones away since freshman year and even without the devices, the people who don't want to focus, aren’t going to focus and we all shouldn’t be punished.”

This brings me to the headphones rule. I am a student that, I’m sure, many other students and faculty may know, always has my headphones on. I constantly wear my headphones, except when a teacher or faculty member is teaching or speaking to me. Being asked to remove my headphones during independent work time hurts a piece of my soul that I didn’t know I had. For me, personally, my headphones are like my security blanket. As someone with anxiety and trouble focusing, especially in noisy or lively classrooms, headphones help my learning immensely.

Out of all my classes over my high school career, the very few where I was not permitted to wear headphones were also my lowest scoring ones.

What I’m confused about is why is the headphone ban necessary? Why in PE, on the electric bicycle, can’t I wear headphones? How does headphone wearing affect my learning when work is being done independently? It feels suddenly as if my school no longer cares about students' comfort and mental health.

“The people that are willing to abide by their teacher’s rules, I feel, are usually the ones that aren't distracted by their

headphones. At the end of the day, it’s the student’s responsibility for their own learning.”

Among the few at MHS who choose to wear headphones incorrectly, there are quite a few more of those who wear these headphones as a means to not dislike school.

I will admit, this is the first year since grade school I have really dreaded coming to school and a big reason for that is that I can’t have my headphones. I find myself waiting until the last minute before the bell to get to class so that I can have a little more time listening to my favorite music. I really don’t think that I’m alone in this thinking, either.

So as the school cracks down on distractions in the classroom, it would make sense why the school board should vote to ban headphones, however I believe that they have a misconstrued idea of *how* headphones work as a distraction.

One student said, “it encourages certain students to find work-arounds, which ends up taking up more time.”

Headphones are a lesser distraction a lot of the time from the existing distractions, such as other students, traffic, and noises in the hallways, all working to disrupt classes much more than headphones. They work as the lesser evil. While headphones may distract students if used during instructional time, they ultimately benefit many students' learning.

Headphones often keep students from being a distraction to the rest of the classroom. This is why headphones should not be banned from the classrooms of MHS.

“I think it just gives the teachers one more thing to regulate.”



# Best Horror Movies for Halloween 2024

by Luisaura Candelaria

This Halloween we all want to gather with our friends and family, dress up, have fun and of course watch some good scary movies, so here is a list of the best horror movies for this Halloween:

If you are looking for something brand new, exciting and scary:

### 1. Beetlejuice (2024)

Synopsis: Three generations of the Deetz family return home to Winter River after an unexpected family tragedy. Still haunted by Beetlejuice, Lydia's life soon gets turned upside down when her rebellious teenage daughter discovers a mysterious portal to the afterlife. When someone says Beetlejuice's name three times, the mischievous demon gleefully returns to unleash his very own brand of mayhem. The newest hit in horror movies for this year, a horror/ comedy of 1 hour and 44 minutes from one of the best



### 2. Smile 2 (2024)

Synopsis: About to embark on a new world tour, global pop sensation Skye Riley (Naomi Scott) begins experiencing increasingly terrifying and inexplicable events. Overwhelmed by the escalating horrors and the pressures of fame, Skye is forced to face her dark past to regain control of her life before it spirals out of control. This, 2h and 17 minutes horror/mystery film with an R rating is the second movie of the franchise “Smile” (2018). if you are looking for something really scary, this is the movie for you.

Where to watch it: It is available in AMC theaters, here in Methuen.

### 3. A Quiet Place: Day One (2024)

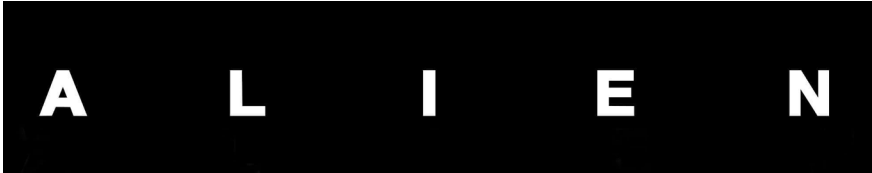
Synopsis: Sam, a pessimistic, terminally ill cancer patient, lives at a hospice outside New York City with her cat, Frodo. Reuben, a nurse, convinces a reluctant Sam to join a group outing to a marionette show in Manhattan. While in the city, the group notices meteor-like objects falling from the sky. Shortly afterwards, creatures attack the gathered crowd and passersby. 1h and 39m horror/Sci-Fi film with a PG 13 rating and in addition stars the one and only Lupita Nyong'o. Perfect movie to watch with friends.

### 4. Late Night With the Devil (2023)

Synopsis: A live television broadcast in 1977 goes horribly wrong, unleashing evil into the nation's living rooms. 1h and 33 minutes horror/found footage film with a R rating. This movie draws inspiration from real aspects of 1970 pop culture.  
Where to watch it: Hulu, Disney+, Amazon Prime video, Apple TV (5.99\$)

### 5. Alien: Romulus (2024)

Synopsis: A group of young colonizers fight for survival on a derelict space station against the universe's most terrifying life form. 1h and 59m horror/sci-fi film with an R rating. This film being the 8th sequel of the franchise “Alien” that has been produced since 1979, one of the best Horror/Sci-Fi sagas.  
In my personal opinion, is a really interesting and exciting saga and this movie totally fits in that category.  
Where to watch it: Apple TV (24.99\$), Amazon Prime Video (24.99\$)



For more 'classic' movies, you might consider:

### 6. Scream Saga (1996)

The *Scream* franchise is a horror series that includes six films, a TV series, and merchandise. The series is about Sidney Prescott, who fights against a series of murderers who use the Ghostface persona to torment and stalk their victims.  
Available on Amazon Prime Video, Hulu, Apple TV (3.99\$)

### 7. Ghostbusters (1984)

Synopsis:When three parapsychologists are forced out of their university, they start a ghost-catching business in New York City. They soon discover a gateway to another dimension and must wage a high-tech battle against the supernatural to save the city.  
A 1h and 45m Comedy / Horror film with a PG rating.

### 8. The Exorcist (1973)

Synopsis: A mother seeks help from two Catholic priests to free her young daughter from demonic possession in this 1973 supernatural horror film. 2h and 12m Horror/Mystery film with a R rating. The film is based on the 1949 exorcism of a 13-year-old boy and was a commercial success.

### 9. Hocus Pocus (1993)

Synopsis:A teenage boy accidentally resurrects a trio of witches in Salem, Massachusetts on Halloween night. He must then team up with his crush, his sister, a talking cat, and a centuries-old zombie to stop the witches from taking over the town. 1h and 36m Family/comedy halloween themed film with a PG rating.

### 10. The Conjuring Saga (2013)

*The Conjuring* Universe is an American horror franchise and shared universe centered on a series of supernatural horror films. The films present a dramatization of the supposed real-life adventures of Ed and Lorraine Warren, paranormal investigators and authors associated with prominent yet controversial cases of haunting.  
Available on Hulu, Disney + and ESPN+.



# Albums of Autumn: Music Recommendations

by Sloan Farrell

## 23 by Blonde Redhead

This album blends shoegaze and alternative rock making it perfect for studying at the library or sitting outside watching the leaves fall.



## Killers by Iron Maiden

What's to come? Who knows and who cares with this album on repeat. Powerful instrumentals make it unforgettable and empowers listeners, especially during the back to school season when most of us need some help focusing.



## Clinging to a Scheme by The Radio Dept.

Whether listening through wire earbuds or on the car stereo, *Clinging to a Scheme* is possibly the most versatile fall album. Providing lofi beats, this album sounds like a breezy fall day.

## 13 by Black Sabbath

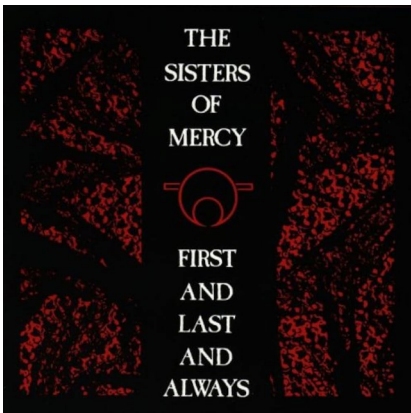
The final album released by the band is eerie and sets the perfect fall mood. As the sun sets earlier and earlier, this album fills the time that it used to be visible with a spooky atmosphere and Ozzy's famous chilling vocals.



## First and Last and Always

### by Sisters of Mercy

Giving you a dose of gothic rock and a dark atmosphere, this album is perfect to get you in Halloween spirits



# I Saw The TV Glow

by Janely Sanchez

Directed and written by Jane Schoenbrun, music by Alex G, distributed by A24 with production companies helping along by the names of Fruit Tree, Smudge Films, Hypnic Jerk and Access Entertainment, *I Saw The TV Glow* is a psychological horror drama film that was released on May 17, 2024. It premiered at the Sundance Film Festival on January 18, 2024.

It stars Justice Smith and Brigitte Lundy-Paine as Owen and Maddy, two teenagers who connect through their favorite television show, *The Pink Opaque*, where they begin to discover their true identities and question their reality.

The story takes place in the 90's, 1996, where Owen, a seventh grade boy and Maddy, a freshman in high school, meet for the first time and she introduces him to *The Pink Opaque*. They confide in each other, even two years later in 1998, when Owen is a freshman and Maddy is a junior.

The haunting nature and the slowness of each movement makes it uncomfortable to watch at times. It is strange, creepy and weird, it isn't normal, nor is it for the normal. It isn't scary, there isn't anything to jump at, it's purely haunting and



emotional once you've understood the circumstances of Owen and Maddy.

Throughout the film, it would mention serious topics such as child abuse, feeling distinct, questioning your reality, and the main metaphor, being transgender. In the 90's, being transgender or a lesbian wasn't considered "normal", Owen didn't know who they were. Maddie knew. Owen's identity is of the main character, Isabel, and Maddy is Tara. As the camera switches from Owen to Maddy in an eye shot, static is heard in the background while Maddy warns and questions Owen in a music club after they haven't seen each other in a decade. A deep pit digs in your heart as distress forms on Owens face.

This movie may not be everyone's favorite, it is very strange and at times hard to understand and confusing, especially the heartbreaking ending, but for the ones who enjoy strange and emotional art, I think you would like it.

"I know there's something wrong with me. My parents know it too, even if they don't say anything."

# Bruno Mars and Lady Gaga’s Newest Hit: Die With A Smile

by Emma Lam

In August of 2024, artist Bruno Mars released a new song alongside Lady Gaga, who’s also a singer-songwriter.

The single, “Die With A Smile” was the first song that both artists have released in quite some time, so its astounding popularity is no surprise. It even reached No. 1 on Billboard Global Charts and 117.8 million streams shortly after its release.

The collab was seen all over social media platforms, with fans making song covers, art, news updates, and reactions to the song. This soft rock love song displays an emotional style of pop and soul ballad, with the music video showing the two singing in a retro setting.

Billboard’s Kyle Denis described the song as a “soaring ballad that blends pop, soul, country, and rock”, and some even describe the single as “the song of the year”. Quang Vu, former MHS student, said “I would pay any amount of money to see that man live.”

However, along with this new release, unfortunate news of Bruno Mars was also disclosed. He had come into \$50 million in debt due to gambling. Many fans were surprised by this news, however they weren’t angered by it. Instead, they made jokes on social media, such as Instagram and TikTok, by creating videos making playful jokes on the matter.

Once the news of Bruno’s debt became known, some fans found that it was no longer surprising he suddenly released a song, especially with the famous Lady Gaga. Some speculate that the song was not only for his joy of making music, but to also earn enough money to help ease his amount of debt.

Nevertheless, the song has become a huge hit in 2024, and caught the hearts of many.



Courtesy of Google Images

Promotional artwork for *Die With a Smile*.

## Beetlejuice Beetlejuice Review



Body text

by Sloan Farrell

*Beetlejuice Beetlejuice* is a comedy above all.

Overall, the film is incredibly commercial, as more airtime goes to the makeup line and merchandise associated with the series than the film itself, only spanning 104 minutes.

Despite this, I have seen the film twice and I’m obsessed.

The movie tells the story of the Deetz family, an odd collective of Lydia Deetz’ dramatic artist stepmother, Lydia’s daughter, Agnes, Lydia’s newly deceased father, Charles, Lydia Deetz, herself, a once-psychic medium turned ghost-talk-show host, and her codependent fiance,

Rory. The story is the second in the series, 24 years after the original.

Lydia and Agnes must return to their hometown to attend Lydia’s father’s funeral while Lydia is haunted by the demon, Beetlejuice.

The most thrilling part of this film was the introduction of a I’m-not-like-other-boys, Dostoyevsky-reading, Pixies-listening teen, Jeremy, Agnes’s love interest. Jeremy swept Agnes off her feet and into his tree house but there was a twist. Spoiler alert, the real evil that Jeremy was guilty of was his corny method to lure Agnes in on Halloween and a poorly decorated bedroom.

A lot of the movie was filled with purposeful wig slips and Rory’s enabling of Lydia which both contributed to a funny and ironic film that has my personal stamp of approval. There is a certain level of appreciation that is important for films that are not Oscar-winning but, nonetheless, entertaining and fulfilling.

This movie is certainly worth a watch if you’re looking for a laugh, whether at the 80s-style filming, Beetlejuice’s crude sense of humor, or the tortured adolescence of Jeremy and Agnes.

Fall Word Search



w	c	l	d	p	g	h	o	s	t	x	m	f	a	l	l	t	t
i	a	c	i	u	h	s	q	d	n	c	d	b	i	g	w	s	g
t	n	a	v	r	x	a	l	w	s	t	o	b	s	j	a	c	p
c	d	t	b	p	o	c	l	a	t	e	r	s	o	j	j	a	g
h	y	h	l	l	q	r	l	l	n	u	z	i	t	o	x	r	p
h	t	a	a	e	d	n	a	o	o	t	r	o	c	u	h	y	u
r	r	u	c	s	z	g	o	n	w	w	e	k	m	k	m	u	m
z	e	n	k	e	d	z	s	e	g	n	e	r	e	b	h	e	p
u	a	t	r	e	d	l	e	a	v	e	s	e	n	y	i	h	k
h	t	e	s	w	e	a	t	e	r	r	t	w	n	i	y	e	i
j	u	d	i	c	t	h	a	n	k	s	g	i	v	i	n	g	n
b	a	u	t	u	m	n	i	j	y	e	l	l	o	w	v	a	i

Find the following words in the puzzle.  
Words are hidden ➡ ⬇ and ↘ .

thanksgiving  
halloween  
haunted  
costume  
pumpkin  
lantern  
sweater  
autumn



leaves  
orange  
yellow  
purple  
turkey  
zombie  
clowns  
black



witch  
candy  
scary  
ghost  
rick  
treat  
fall  
red

cat  
boo



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2024-25

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## Calling All Reporters!

The Blue & White is always looking for new students to help with writing, photography, editing, and design.

Email Mr. McKenna at [jnmckenna@methuen.k12.ma.us](mailto:jnmckenna@methuen.k12.ma.us) for more info!



*The 2024/25 Blue & White Staff*