

# The Blue & White

## New York Trip

by Crystal Castro

On December 7th 2024, the MHS senior class of 2025 embarked on their senior class trip to New York City, which was organized by senior class advisors Mrs. Melanson and Mr. Scammon. The day began early, with students meeting up in the field house at 5 AM to have their bags checked before boarding the coach buses for a four-hour ride to Times Square.

The first stop in NYC was Madame Tussauds Wax Museum, where groups of nine took turns riding the elevator to explore numerous floors worth of wax figures. Following this, the group visited RiseNY, a new attraction that received mixed reviews from students. Senior Emma Lam commented, “The ride itself was cool, but the whole process of waiting for it was a lot,” while Divier Ramos-Delgado added, “I thought it was fun. I didn’t like RiseNY though—it was too long of a wait, it was hot, it was boring, I was falling asleep.”



Dinner took place at Hard Rock Cafe, where students could dine on their choice of chicken tenders and fries, cheeseburgers, caesar salad, or mac and cheese, with chocolate chip cookies for dessert.

In their free time, students explored various attractions, such as the M&M Store and Rockefeller Center. For safety reasons, students were prohibited from taking Ubers or subways.

The senior class returned to school around midnight. Overall, the feedback from students was positive. Juan Polanco said, “I think it was phenomenal,” while Emma Lam shared, “I think it was pretty fun. I liked it a lot because I was with a small group so we could just do whatever. Walking around was fun too. The only thing that I didn’t like was how crowded the streets were.” Senior Fredrick Batista noted, “It was good but I wish that we had more free time or the ability to use the subway to go to Central Park and stuff like that.” Senior Alyssa Bouchard concluded by saying, “I think it was really fun. I had a good time.”

The Senior NYC trip was a memorable experience for all, and students expressed immense appreciation for this incredible opportunity. The next senior class trip will be to Pat’s Peak in late February!

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# Spirit Week '24!

From November 21th, 2024, to November 27th, 2024, MHS had a Spirit Week leading up to the annual Pep Rally, which was the half day before Thanksgiving. Spirit Days were decided by the Student Council.



Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

## Tuesday 11/26: Favorite Holiday Day

Staff and students were encouraged to participate by wearing something that represents their favorite holiday! Many staff and students were seen with Santa Hats to signify Christmas, red clothes to signify Valentines Day, green clothes to signify St. Patrick’s Day, and much more!

## Wednesday 11/27: Pep Rally!

The Pep Rally took place on Wednesday 11/27. Students were encouraged to wear their grade colors! Colors followed:

- Freshmen: Gray
- Sophomores: White
- Juniors: Blue
- Seniors: Black



Courtesy of Blue & White Staff





# MHS' HOSA

by Kaylie Lam

Methuen High School has a wide variety of clubs that students can choose from. From DECA, to Student Council, to Photography Club, MHS has just about any club that piques nearly every student’s interest. Starting at the end of the last school year, MHS has a new club, HOSA. HOSA, or Future Health Occupations, meets every second and fourth Monday of the month and discusses various health topics. Freshman biology teacher Dr. Kahn advises HOSA and is pleased with how HOSA has been going so far.

“We’ve had a lot of interest, our meetings are well attended and students seem really interested in learning more about healthcare careers and skills,” Dr. Kahn stated. She expressed her appreciation of guest speakers and student presenters who helped explain a variety of healthcare related topics to the club, “We’ve had a couple guest speakers with more to come, and students curious enough to learn about particular topics and present them to the group.”

Dr. Kahn was asked what led her to start HOSA at MHS. “Lina Zakaria, a current 10th grader, was the first person to suggest starting HOSA here at MHS. She asked her Biology teacher, Mrs. Hunter, who directed her to Mr. Harb, the head of the Science Department, who asked me to look into it.” After looking into the HOSA organization and looking for student interest in HOSA, Dr. Kahn started setting up the HOSA Club in the early months of 2024, with it officially starting in June of 2024.

Dr. Kahn expressed her love for HOSA and its members, saying “I really like how excited students are about possible careers in healthcare, and the great questions they ask. I also like getting to know students who aren’t necessarily in my classes.” However, HOSA definitely has its challenges. According to Dr. Kahn, “The only thing I dislike is that communication with the state and national HOSA organization has been slow and frustrating.” Despite this, Dr.

Kahn has done a phenomenal job piecing HOSA together, giving students a new opportunity to explore some of their favorite topics.

11th grader Valentina Carideo is the first president of MHS’ HOSA

and enjoys how HOSA has helped her grow, saying, “HOSA allows me to expand my knowledge about specific topics relating to the healthcare field, and be exposed to different careers. I really enjoy hearing from guest speakers, to understand the pros and cons of each profession, helping me determine if that is something I could see myself pursuing.” Carideo talks about how HOSA has helped inspire her love for healthcare, saying “When HOSA came to my attention, I knew it would easily become my favorite club, combining the best of both worlds: competition and healthcare careers. It is the one club that can provide experience and prepare me for a future career, furthering my academic experience.” She plans to rejoin HOSA next school year, as being a part of HOSA has been a meaningful experience for her and many other members!

Any and all students who are interested in healthcare professions, have healthcare related hobbies, or simply just want to join a new club, should consider joining HOSA! Not only does HOSA provide additional opportunities for students to succeed, it is also an extremely warm and welcoming environment. All students are welcome!



# Winter Band Concert '24

by Kaylie Lam

The MHS’ Band held its Winter Concert on Thursday, December 19th. The Winter Concert consisted of the Concert Band, directed by Mr. Brian McGonagle and Mr. Eric Poster, and the Jazz Band, directed by Mr. Poster. In addition to the Concert and Jazz Band, the Methuen Ranger Band started a new tradition this year where alumni were invited to play *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson, an annual piece. This new, exciting opportunity has brought back many beloved members of the band, from recent graduates to older graduates.

The Jazz Band played a total of 6 pieces at the concert, including *Santa’s In Town*, arranged by Carl Strommen, *Greensleeves*, arranged by Les Sabina, *Feliz Navidad*, arranged by Andy Clark, *This Christmas*, arranged by Mark Taylor, *Home for the Holidays*, arranged by John Wasson, and *Winter Wonderland*, arranged by Jack Cooper. Soloists for the pieces include Sarah Baylis, Rokiya Boulal, Sofia Federico, Milo Issacs, Ben Kebreau-Maceus, Sophia Mayole, Sergio Reyes, Dakota Robinson, and Joey Safi,

with each solo being improvised on the spot.

*Santa’s in Town* also included a trio made up of Milo Isaacs, Sophia Mayole, and Sofia Federico and *Home for the Holidays* included a duet from Sarah Baylis and Ben Kebreau-Maceus. Each piece was met with applause, and after their performance concluded, the stage was reset for the Concert Band.

The Concert Band opened with *Themes from The Nutcracker*, arranged by Ed Huckleby and directed by Mr. Poster, then, *Themes from The Nutcracker* was followed with *Christmas Eve/Sarajevo 12/24*, arranged by Bob Phillips and George Megaw and directed by Mr. McGonagle, *A Rollicking Hanukkah*, arranged by Randall D. Standridge and directed by Mr. Poster, *Stille, Stille, Stille*, arranged by James Curnow and directed by Mr. Poster, and *All I Want For Christmas Is You*, arranged by Larry Kerchner, directed by Mr. McGonagle, and featured soloist Elden Charles.

After these performances, the Alumni Band came on stage to perform *Sleigh Ride* by Leroy Anderson with the

Concert Band, being directed by Mr. McGonagle. As the performance of *Sleigh Ride* began, many alumni remembered the familiar feeling of being on stage, playing *Sleigh Ride* every winter concert. This concluded the 2024 Winter Band Concert, with the students, alumni and Mr. Poster and Mr. McGonagle feeling pleased.

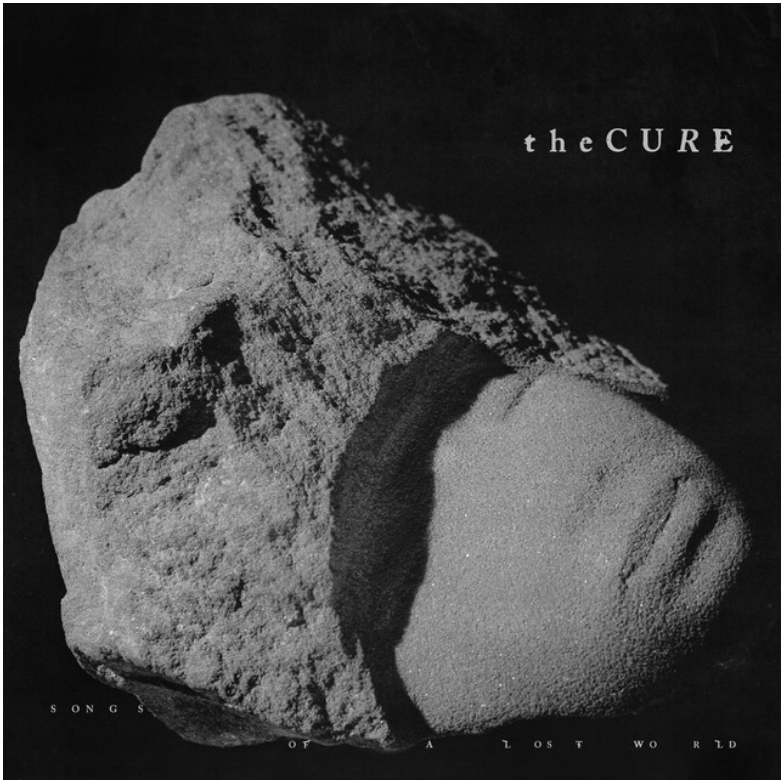
In addition to the concert, while the Alumni Band gathered onto the stage, a raffle was held and many prizes were given out to winners by current students. The raffle was held to fundraise money for the band and to buy a little time for the Alumni Band to get on stage, but nonetheless was a success!

The Winter Band Concert was considered a success to many band members, alumni or not. It was a great way to bring back the beloved alumni and stirred many funny, memorable moments. Mr. McGonagle and Mr. Poster hope to keep this Alumni Band alive, and bring back many more alumni who they greatly love and appreciate.



# *Songs of a Lost World:* Album Review

by Sloan Farrell  
Songs of a Lost World by The Cure  
Release date: November 1, 2024  
Length: 49 minutes



The Cure’s new album was announced when fans received a letter in the mail reading only 1 November 2024 in roman numerals.

The album holds true to the band's long time post-punk sound known by many.

I will say, I was personally hesitant to listen to the new release, as the band has not released music since 2008 and I had my doubts about its quality. After listening through the album, I found it was still extremely inspired and cohesive, not only within the album but also with previous albums such as “Seventeen Seconds” and “Disintegration”. These albums all have similar sounds but tell different stories and keep each distinctly unique.

A memorable track from the album is “And Nothing is Forever”, reminding listeners that the passage of time is real and conveys the feelings of loss in an incredibly talented manner. A moving and atmospheric song, “And Nothing is Forever” accepts loss face-to-face and makes each listener think of a loved one lost when listening, in some bittersweet tribute.

The album’s artwork is an interesting sculpture by Slovenian artist, Janez Pirnat titled “Bagatelle”. The sculpture allegedly inspired Robert Smith, lead singer and guitarist in The Cure, to be the cover because he had seen it in a book and tried to make contact with Pirnat to ask for permission. When attempting to reach the artist, Smith learned that the sculptor died, and it happened to be on the very same day that Smith had discovered the book containing an image of the sculpture.

Overall, This album is a powerful journey through the Cure’s deep talent and this belongs on your playlists. We would love to hear how you feel about this article. Let us know, was it a hit or miss?

## Keshi's *Requiem*

by Emma Lam

Rising Asian-American artist, Keshi, has released a new album titled “Requiem” and it’s become his latest hit since his last album “Gabriel” in 2022. Most of the album’s melody and rhythm differs from his usual style of pop and R&B, and instead have an obvious grandness and dramatic feel. Some listeners were not the biggest fans of the new album, like MHS graduate Allison Lam, who states that “it’s really different from his regular music, it’s not my favorite but I like ‘Dream’”. During an interview with BuzzFeed, Keshi explained what the album is about, covering, “how big everything's kind of gotten, the pressure and the scale. And it was about my relationship with my partner, with the people that I work with, my relationship with my own art, and I feel like I tried to capture that as best as I could. Requiem itself, the title of the album and the title track of it, is about loss, and that's something that I've wrangled with the past couple of years.” These themes can be seen through the lyrics of each song, some about love like “Euphoria”, and others about loss such as “Requiem”. There are 13 songs in the original version of the album, and one additional in the bonus edition, and the length being 43 minutes total. The most popular songs off the album are “Soft Spot” and “Kiss Me Right”, which is the bonus track.

Here are all of the songs from Keshi’s latest album “Requiem”:

1. Amen
2. Say
3. Night
4. Soft Spot
5. Like That
6. Texas
7. Dream
8. War
9. Bodies
10. Requiem
11. Euphoria
12. Just To Die
13. Id
14. Kiss Me Right (Requiem Bonus Edition)





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*The 2024/25 Blue & White Staff*