

Congrats Grad's of 2025!



Images courtesy
of Blue & White
staff



Go to page 4 for
more graduation
photos!



<h2>What's Inside</h2>
<p>Page 2 <i>Crystal Castro: Harvard Bound</i></p>
<p>Page 8 <i>Stage Door: No Show!?</i></p>
<p>Page 9 <i>Albums of Spring</i></p>

<h2>Student Council Elections</h2> <p>by Kaylie Lam</p> <p>On Friday, May 23, the Student Council Election results for the upcoming school year were released. Congratulations to the newest class officers for each grade for the 2025-2026 school year!</p> <p>Class of 2027: President: Kristina Meuse Vice President: Yuustyna Samour Secretary: Kyra Sweetser Treasurer: Theresea Bou Sangayen Student Council Reps: Amanda Doumit, Camelia Dago, Oliver Perez</p>
--

<p>Class of 2027: President: Madeline Dole Vice President: Caroline Czachor Secretary: Lily Giard Treasurer: Yeniela Villaronga Student Council Reps: Chloe Santarpio, Rafy AlMhna, Savannah AlShabab, Siena Firriello, Deviyan Rios, Giana Moore</p>
<p>Class of 2026: President: Gabriel Nyarko Vice President: Alvin Nguyen Secretary: Jillian Tran Treasurer: Dylan Sweetser Reps: Sean Sullivan, Kal-El Ferriera, Grayce Neel, Henane Abouti, Erik Delaney, Jacob Neong, Owen Reilly, Thomas Obrien</p>



Senior Prom!



Multicultural Fair



Winter Guard

Crystal Castro: Harvard Bound



by Janely Sanchez

Crystal Castro, a senior at Methuen High School, has recently been accepted into one of the best colleges in America—Harvard University. The Editor-in-Chief for *The Blue & White*, Crystal has been producing and editing articles since her freshman year. We are all extremely proud of her and her accomplishments, and this interview asked her questions about her acceptance into the prestigious Harvard program. Congratulations Crystal, and good luck!

Q: What’s your major?

A: “Human Developmental & Regenerative Biology, and I am also interested in Political Science.”

Q: What made you decide to send an application to Harvard?

A: “When I was younger, I kind of thought of Harvard as ‘The School’, like I got to apply! There was a point during my summer of junior year where I read a book that advised against applying to Ivy Leagues—and for a little bit I was not going to apply, but then my parents wanted me to apply because I’ve always wanted to go and it’s local, in Massachusetts. I wanted to stay local for college. I also got the Harvard Book Award as a junior, and that also encouraged me to apply. To be honest, I didn’t think I was going to get in, so I wasn’t putting my life on it. I was able to get an interview with a Harvard alumnus who graduated in the 1980’s when he reached out to me.”

Q: What was your immediate reaction to being accepted?

A: “Here’s the story. Ivy Day was also Future Freshman night so I was running a table for BIPOC and to advertise the club to the freshman. At 7 PM, the results came and we were all in the halls and all my friends also applied to Ivy Leagues and were getting their results—but my parents wanted me to wait to get home to open it so I just watched my friends open theirs. Once I got home, I didn’t want anyone around me if I got rejected and I would get all sad and embarrassed, so I ran to a corner in my kitchen while my mom and boyfriend were in the living room, waiting. Once the

decisions were released—I looked at the status update and I saw confetti! I went to my living room and showed my family and I kept on repeating ‘No way I just got into Harvard!’ It still doesn’t feel real, I still haven’t processed it to be honest.”

Q: What programs, classes, opportunities or awards do you think made it possible for you to be accepted?

A: “This is a good question, because I actually thought about this when I got the decision, I was actually thinking about this, like what made them want me? For a Harvard applicant, I didn’t believe my stats were anything out of this world.

“I’m second in my class, Salutatorian. I have a 4.659 GPA, I’m Editor-in-Chief of *The Blue & White*, [and] a BIPOC Officer for three years. I’m not a complete straight A student. My SAT was incredibly below average for an Ivy League applicant. Usually, Ivy League applicants typically range to 1500’s to 1600’s, [and] I got around to the 1300’s.

“As for my [Advanced Placements], I’ve taken 11 AP’s. I’ve only reported my AP Lang., my AP Gov., and my APUSH scores which were 4’s and 5’s; 4 in APUSH and 5’s in Gov. and Lang. I withheld my 3’s in my science AP’s, which I thought would be red flags for them because I’m majoring in Regenerative Biology.

“But what I think helped the most was my interview—it played the biggest role in my application. What I’ve heard is that they look at the applications and decide whether or not it has potential for an interview. I was actually really nervous about the interview, I expected all the questions to be about Harvard—but when I actually had it, it was a genuine conversation about myself. [They were] trying to know who I was personally, [asking] “Who Is Crystal?”. I emphasized BIPOC and my work with that, how I’ve been in BIPOC for four years and my passion for activism [which] started with the murder of George Floyd in 2020 and the revival of the *Black Lives Matter* movement. I stated that those things about me were what set me for high school.

“My personal statement was about how my curly hair is a symbol of my pride for my Puerto Rican heritage. My application had a very cultural theme and I tied in the Science aspect and I talked about health disparities faced by people of color and the things we talk about in BIPOC. I do believe they could see my passion and activism through that and that was possibly intriguing to them.

“It’s not always just your statistics, it’s also your passions and goals. It’s all about being honest with them. One of the questions was literally, “what are some things you would tell your roommate?” and I just said I loved vanilla scented lotion! I wasn’t trying to make them believe I was someone that I wasn’t—I wasn’t trying to sound overly pretentious, or like ‘a Harvard person.’ I was just being myself.”

Q: Any advice for other students?

A: “My biggest advice is, if you are a freshman, branch out as much as you can, explore as many clubs as you can handle—don’t overwork yourself but tackle all the things that interest you. Then, when sophomore and junior year comes, you can pick which ones you are truly passionate about because I think it’s better to do something you have a genuine interest for rather than doing something that will make you look good. You will perform better and be more motivated to do something you actually care about.

My freshman year I was in so many clubs, like two clubs a day. I was trying to figure out what I was interested in, [and] this also included sports. By the time I got to my junior year, I really picked two clubs, *The Blue & White* and BIPOC, the ones I could really commit to. I recommend having great relationships with my teachers, they are the ones who are going to write your letters of recommendation, and you might go to Harvard!”

Special Feature



Senior Prom!



All images courtesy of
Ms. Melanson and Blue
& White Staff.

Seniors dance the night
away at the 2025 prom.





Senior Sunset!



Images courtesy of
Blue & White Staff.

Seniors gathered on the baseball field on Monday, June 2nd to celebrate the end of the 2025 school year.



Methuen High’s 39th Annual Science Fair

by Crystal Castro

Methuen High School hosted its 39th annual Science Fair on February 3rd, 2025. Participation in the Science Fair is required for all students enrolled in an AP science class, but any student enrolled in a science course, including Biology, Chemistry, Anatomy & Physiology, Environmental Science, Physics, Forensic Science, and Biotechnology, has the opportunity to showcase their knowledge! Students have the option to put together their choice of a Lab Experiment, Engineering Project, Lab Demonstration, Data-Based Learning Project, or Service-Based Learning Project through the College Board for the Science Fair.

Students also had the opportunity to qualify for and move on to the Massachusetts Region IV Science Fair at Tufts University on March 7th, and the Massachusetts State Science Fair at Gillette Stadium on April 4th!

We asked some science fair participants their thoughts on the science fair. Here’s what they had to say:

What was your favorite part about this year’s science fair?

Juan Polanco, Participant (Bionic Arm): “My friend Nas’ project on Quantum Field Theory was my favorite part. I found it very interesting and he explained the concept very well. It was very unique from everything else.”

Desmond Csizmadia, Participant (Effect of Air Flow on Model Plane Wings): “I liked how everyone supported each other during the awards!”

Divier Ramos-Delgado, Participant (Building a Starfider): “I liked seeing people happy and excited and interested about my project.”

Sloan Farrell, Award Winner and Regional Science Fair Qualifier (Reflecting Brilliance: Engineering a Solar Tracking Heliostat) “I got to talk to a lot of people about my project and that was really cool because they were really interested in it. I love talking to kids about science!”

Do you have any suggestions for next year?

Desmond Csizmadia, Participant (Effect of Air Flow on Model Plane Wings): “I wish there was an opportunity for the science fair participants themselves to see each other’s posters without worrying about leaving theirs unattended.”

Divier Ramos-Delgado, Participant

(Building a Starfider): “During the day, there should be a better schedule for more classes to come. It felt rushed.”

Sloan Farrell, Award Winner and Regional Science Fair Qualifier (Reflecting Brilliance: Engineering a Solar Tracking Heliostat): “Very loud. I felt like I couldn’t hear myself think. I also think there should be more awards because the students who actually want to do the science fair do stand out and deserve an award”

What was the best project that you saw?

Desmond Csizmadia, Participant (Effect of Air Flow on Model Plane Wings): “Thomas and Tayyab’s project on utilizing magnetohydrodynamic propulsion to achieve next-generation solid-state water transportation. I appreciate how in-depth it was and how well they understood their topic.”

Divier Ramos-Delgado, Participant (Building a Starfider): “Bionic finger was my favorite because I thought it was interesting how it was able to move and how it could be used in the future to build a whole hand.”

Sloan Farrell, Award Winner and Regional Science Fair Qualifier (Reflecting Brilliance: Engineering a Solar Tracking Heliostat): “Marlee’s project about fertilizing plants. She over fertilized and under fertilized plants and it was cool.”

Continued on pg 5...



All Images Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

MHS students presenting at the Region IV Science Fair at Tufts University on March 7th.

Methuen High’s 39th Annual Science Fair, Cont.

With the science fair, comes a selection of winners! Congratulations to the students recognized in the 2024/25 MHS Science Fair:

First Place Individual Science Fair Project: Yasmine Bridaa, “Taking Safety to the Next Level: The Design and Safety Assessment of a Magnetic Levitation Elevator”

First Place Team Science Fair Project: Thomas Le and Tayyab Afzal, “Utilizing Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion to Achieve Next-Generation Solid-State Water Transportation”

Outstanding Biology Award: Lana Nakkoul, “The Effect of Different Concentrations of Pollutants on *Daphnia magna*”

Outstanding Environmental Science Award: Khloe Goggin, “How Does Smog Affect the Growth of Coral?”

Outstanding Chemistry Award: Crystal Castro and Anwar Mamdouh, “Crystal Clear: A Natural Alternative to

Commercial Skincare”

Outstanding Engineering Award: Sloan Farrell, “Reflecting Brilliance: Engineering a Solar Tracking Heliostat”

Outstanding Research Project: Sophia Ferrara, “What is the Best Treatment for Alzheimer's Disease?”

Outstanding Laboratory Project: Jaqueline Mastro, “Fingers Crossed: How Weather Changes Fingerprints”

The students listed below are regional science fair qualifiers. Regionals will be held at Tufts University and states will be held at Gillette Stadium!

Milo Isaacs & Elias Castillo: “Green Solution: Use of Algae to Reduce Carbon Dioxide”

Anthony Czyzewski: “Vertex Box”

Harry McPhee: “Biodegradable Hydrogels and Water Conservation”

Hajar Damir: “Green World Hypothesis in a Computer Simulation”

Sloan Farrell, “Reflecting Brilliance: Engineering a Solar Tracking Heliostat”

Crystal Castro and Anwar Mamdouh, “Crystal Clear: A Natural Alternative to Commercial Skincare”

Yasmine Bridaa, “Taking Safety to the Next Level: The Design and Safety Assessment of a Magnetic Levitation Elevator”

Thomas Le and Tayyab Afzal, “Utilizing Magnetohydrodynamic Propulsion to Achieve Next-Generation Solid-State Water Transportation”

Shoutout to each MHS science fair participant for the time and dedication they invested into putting their project together. All projects made for an incredible science fair; your hard work does not go unnoticed! Here’s to many more science fairs to come!

2025 Multicultural Fair



All Images
Courtesy of
Blue & White
Staff

MHS students
and staff tour
the many
cultural displays
in the cafeteria
on April 17th.

Methuen Winterguard: Happier Than Ever

by Elier Jaquez Guante

The Methuen Winterguard has had an amazing season, winning first place at all their NESBA (New England Scholastic Band Association) competitions. They earned 3rd at the WGI (Winter Guard International) Regional, with 4th overall in the country in their division. The Methuen Highschool Winterguard also had a strong finals performance, getting first place with a score of 92.5.

Winning finals meant a lot for the team, as they had never held the first place title in the past 20 years at a NESBA competition. Last year the team was close to their first ever victory but sadly ended up second place with a 93.84, losing to first by only tenths of a point. The hard work and dedication the team and

the coaches put into this season showed, winning the attention, emotions, and cheers from many watching on the bleachers.

We can reflect on the hard work this team has put into this season. With countless hours under their belt, each performer shows what true hard work and dedication is, and it shows.

Their performance, Happier Than Ever, tells a story about a toxic relationship between two lovers, and how destructive such an emotional bond can be, not just to you but to the ones around you. The show starts together, giving us a preview of the toxic and abusive relationship. As the show goes on we see the isolation and the emotions that come with each part of the show. Each member of the team portrayed the rollercoaster of emotions this show has to offer.





Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

Stage Door 22: “No Show!?”

by Kaylie Lam

On Friday, April 11th, and Saturday, April 12th, Stage Door 22 held their annual Spring Musical. This year’s Spring Musical, named *No Show!?*, was a musical mashup of fan favorite Broadway musicals, including *Mean Girls*, *Newsies*, *Wicked*, *Legally Blonde* and *The Greatest Showman*, and was written personally by theater director Joan Walsh, otherwise known as Mrs. Walsh.

This musical was written to show each part of theater, from the actors to the set crew, and showed how each group of theater comes together to perform, personalizing the musical for many. Along with this, Mrs. Walsh personalized each character of *No Show!?* to the personality of the actor playing the character, adding to the personal feeling of this musical.

The story behind the creation of *No Show!?* is a chaotic one. As explained by stage manager Sophia Polit, “So it all started in the first few months of this year. We were supposed to do a show called, ‘Peter and the Starcatcher,’ which is basically an off-brand Peter Pan. But Walsh was unable to direct, and so, we needed to hire a different director.” Sophia went on, “Originally we had someone (director), but the school took too long to process her, as she had applied in October, and so, she ended up getting a different job.” This meant that there would be no director for the musical, and therefore no musical. “Walsh stepped up and said that she would direct- but nothing on too large of a scale,” said Polit.

“We couldn’t really do anything big, extravagant, musical production with a big set, crazy lighting, or detailed costumes because we were running out of time,” Polit explained. However, Stage Door 22 didn’t let this stop them.

Mrs. Walsh addresses the Stage Door cast and crew.

According to Polit, "Walsh took her own hand at it and wrote her own production. She warned us ahead of time that it would be a work in progress, calling it a 'workshopped production,' which basically is where we work on the scenes as we come along." Stage Door 22 worked tirelessly to put together a show of improvisation and music culture, which came together to create *No Show!?*

Despite the challenges Stage Door 22 faced in putting on a musical in such a short time, the group was able to pull off an extraordinary performance! “These actors and crew members would work hours on end from the start to the end of the week, including weekends,” Polit said. Using their wits, the group worked together to put *No Show!?* together and captured the essence of the strong bond of Stage Door 22.

Polit noted the struggles of putting a show together so quickly, saying that, “Teaching proper etiquette of theater during this time was unachievable with everything else we had going on.” Combining the skills of veteran members and newcomers was not an easy feat, but Stage Door 22 were able to come together, pulling off a musical in half the time they originally would have. They ultimately delivered an amazing performance, which left many smiling after the performances of *No Show!?*



Courtesy of Blue & White Staff

The cast of Stage Door 22 performing *No Show!?*

Albums of Spring

By: Sloan Farrell

The Devil And God Are Raging Inside Me by Brand New
This album is the ultimate bus-ride-home or outside-on-a-spring-night vibe. Give it a listen if you like post-hardcore or emo music.



EUSEXUA by FKA Twigs
Walking you through the mind of FKA Twigs, it's like going through the 5 stages of grief. Whether it's your break up album or for getting ready before a night out, you're sure to enjoy the journey.



Dots and Loops by Stereolab
Stereolab pushes boundaries in all of their work, merging genres and testing the waters in pop, rock, and avant-garde. Dots and Loops is the band's biggest album and sound blooms as the flowers do this spring!



MELTING MOMENT by POiSON GiRL FRiEND
A very interesting listen, providing a binaural beats experience with some fun bubbly vocals resembling an 80s synth pop album with a twist. To be listened to on a cloudy, rainy April morning.



The First 10 Years by Joan Baez
So much culture and political activism is shown through Baez's lyricism. Written over the course of ten years, this collection album is Baez's first release and has a wide variety of her sound. It has a fresh and chill sound that's perfect for this season.



Newspaper Staff

2024-25

Superintendent:

Dr. Brandi Kwong

Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning:

Dr. Lisa Golobski Twomey

School Committee:
Chairperson:

Mayor David Beauregard, Jr.

Laurie Keegan

Mary Beth Donovan-Grassi

Kristen Maxwell

Daniel Shibilia

Ryan R. DiZoglio

Kenneth Willette

Principals:

Mr. Anthony Curet

Mrs. Glenda Javier

Mr. Kevin O'Loughlin

Ms. Jackie Rubino

Mr. Matthew Curran

Athletic Director:

Mr. Thomas Ryan

English Department Chairperson:

Ms. Christine Dumont

Faculty Advisor:

Mr. John McKenna

Editor-In-Chief:

Crystal Castro

Digital Editor:

Sophia Polit

Feature Editor:

Sloan Farrell

Sports Editor:

Joshua Najeeullah

Opinion Editor:

Kaylie Lam

A&E Editor:

Emma Lam

Staff Writers:

Chloe Cochrane

Eleanor Kreis

Samantha Lima

Janely Sanchez

Luisaura Candelaria

Hannah Ali

Olivia Wells

Brielle Amadis



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 for more info!



The 2024/25 Blue & White Staff