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Headlight



Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community

2025-2026 Issue

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Where is the Class of 2026 headed?

Anna Cruikshank, Assistant Editor, Sophomore

After four years of early mornings, finals weeks, and everything in between, the Class of 2026 is ready to move on. Thanks to the Instagram account @mhs2026futureplans, which has been collecting submissions from seniors all year, we now have a pretty clear picture of where this class is heading after graduation. I used data from this account to put a spreadsheet together of the most common states, colleges, and majors.

It’s no surprise that Massachusetts is by far the most popular destination state. Between UMass Amherst, UMass Lowell, UMass Dartmouth, Northeastern, Bentley, Wentworth, Salem State, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, and a handful of others, a large portion of the class is staying in-state. For a lot of seniors, the combination of close to home and lower tuition makes them choose to stay in-state.

If there is one school that dominates the class list, it is the University of Massachusetts Amherst. More seniors are heading to UMass than any other school, with students planning to study everything from computer science and chemical engineering to psychology and microbiology. It is close, affordable, has strong programs across the board, along with familiar people.

While plenty of seniors are staying local, others are heading in every direction. South Carolina is a hot destination this year, with the third largest amount of students committed, largely thanks to Clemson University. This group in the south is joined by lots of students going to college in Florida. Wisconsin and the midwest is another popular pick, with several students going to UW-Madison. Colorado draws a group of 8 students heading to CU Boulder. New York was the second largest pick, sending students to Syracuse, NYU, Fordham, Colgate, Pratt, LIM College, and Parsons School of Design.

When it comes to what people are actually studying, business and STEM fields are the two biggest categories. Business majors are going into marketing, finance, real

estate, entrepreneurship, and international business, among other tracks. On the STEM side, students are pursuing computer science, engineering, chemistry, bio-engineering, and more.

Health and science-related fields make up a strong third category, with pre-med students, nursing majors, kinesiology students, and future veterinarians represented. Another solid group is heading into the humanities and arts, including film, journalism, history, fashion design, communications, and political science. A handful of students are going to be studying education, which the school will no doubt appreciate someday. If you’re still figuring it out, don’t stress. Plenty of seniors listed their major as "undecided," and that is completely fine; it can be good to give yourself time to explore before locking anything in.

Some seniors are taking paths that stand out from the crowd. John Schieffer is heading to the United States Naval Academy to study naval architecture and marine engineering. Lillian Reddy is going to Massachusetts Maritime Academy on a Navy ROTC track. On the creative side, Sadie Beane and Lucia Gaunt are both heading to Parsons School of Design in New York City. Izzy Pricher is going to Pratt Institute for fashion design. Nic Flores is heading to Berklee College of Music. And Matias Watts Cruz is pursuing film and television production at Chapman University in California.

To conclude, the Class of 2026 is going to over 80 different schools, across more than 20 states, plus Canada. Some are heading to large research universities, some to small liberal arts colleges, some to technical institutes, and a few to military academies. There is no single mold this class fits into, which shows the wide range of interests MHS students have. Whatever comes next, this class has earned it. Good luck to all seniors, wherever the road takes you.

Senior Project Gallery Walk - 2026



Marblehead JV Baseball caps off strong 12–5 season under Coach Strzempek

Jack Buckley, Reporter, Sophomore

Marblehead's JV Baseball team under Coach Strzempek put together an impressive 12-5 record this season, with players stepping up in important moments throughout the year. From experienced upperclassmen to younger players earning their roles, the team received contributions from all parts of its roster.

Nolan Glass, the star freshman catcher, really helped out the team this season. With varsity carrying two catchers, Glass stepped in and caught more than half of the JV games.

The two junior stand-outs were Pete Rhodes and Sam McComish. The first baseman, Rhodes, hit .438 with an OPS of 1.031 throughout 10 games with the squad. The hard-hitting 3rd baseman, McComish, slashed .439/.489/.585.

Trusted lead-off hitters Yanzel Fuentes and Kyle Pitzer always found a way to get on base. Pitzer led the team in hits with 20, with his elite bat-to-ball skills. Fuentes hit .406 and capitalized on his hits by swiping 10 bags.

Marcus Waiketous led all pitching with a 0.4 ERA across 17.1 innings pitched. Lucas Riley was another do-it-all guy who started and came in in relief. Junior Ryan Stockbridge also turned in a solid season on the mound, posting a 3.50 ERA while giving the team reliable innings throughout the year. The team had a great depth chart of pitchers, and many guys were rotated in throughout the games. Alec Griffin was one of these dominant pitchers, striking out 25 batters across the season.

The outfield trio of Cole Benedeto, Zachary Chipman, and Aidan Aniello was a no-fly zone this year. With Max Wales and Jovani Quinonez also rotating in, this outfield impressed throughout the year.

Short Stop Jack Murphy was the heart of the team this spring. The best fielder on the team also helped out behind the plate and on the mound.

Overall, the team experienced a lot of growth over the season. This spring was a great season for the JV team, and we can't wait to see what they will do next year.

Signing off from the newsroom: What two years taught me

Evan Eisen, Assistant Editor, Senior

I first discovered the MHS Headlight when I noticed an issue hanging in the hallway. What started as simple curiosity quickly became one of the best decisions of my high school career. Headlight became a place where I could share stories, ask meaningful questions, and connect with my community in ways I never expected. Now, as I write my final article as an assistant editor, I’m reflecting not only on what this newspaper has meant to me, but on why journalism still matters.

When I first joined, I mainly wanted to improve my writing. I expected deadlines, edits, and interviews and those were definitely part of it, but I soon realized journalism is much more than putting words on a page. It’s listening, understanding different perspectives, and telling stories that deserve to be heard. Reporting pushed me out of my comfort zone. Interviews helped me build confidence and communication skills I’ll carry long after high school.

Each article challenged

me to think critically and pay attention to the world around me. Every story, no matter its size, held value because it reflected the experiences and concerns of our school and community.

Becoming an assistant editor in my second year gave me a new perspective. Instead of focusing only on my own writing, I had the chance to support other reporters and help them find their voices. I learned how to lead by example and work toward a shared goal. Watching each issue come together showed me the dedication behind the scenes from late night edits to making sure every piece had purpose.

Looking back, Headlight gave me far more than writing experience. It gave me friendships, memories, and lessons I’ll take with me. In a world where misinformation spreads quickly and attention spans shrink, student journalism remains essential, especially because it highlights stories that might otherwise go unnoticed.

For anyone considering journalism or looking for a place to belong, I encourage you to give Headlight a chance. You don’t need to be a perfect writer just curious, dedicated, and willing to learn. Joining this newspaper has been one of the most rewarding parts of my high school journey, and as I finish my final article, I know I’m not just leaving a club, but a community that helped shape who I am today.

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