

WEST STREET JOURNAL

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL !

by Tam Marien

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Welcome to MHS! The school year has just started and so is our newspaper club! We at West Street Journal are ready to bring you creative writing of any sort! To those who are new to our school, welcome!

We encourage you to feel the Spartan spirit. Go to a football game. Join a club team. Take a gym class, hit the books or slow things down in a painting or pottery class. There's no shortage of ways to have fun, make new friends and get excited about Milford High School.



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Source: [progameguide.com](http://progameguide.com)

## Pop Culture Review: MultiVersus

by Jason Lewicki

*(This is just my opinion, feel free to think whatever you want!)*

**Summary:** "Legends collide as the stars of Warner Bros. Studios go head-to-head in a fast-paced brawl! Go it alone or team up with a friend as you play as and battle against superheroes, cartoon characters, warriors and celebrities in a fun and action-packed platform fighter!"

Rick And Morty to the roster, and with many upcoming fighters such as Black Adam from DC and Stripe from Gremlins confirmed to be coming soon, I thought now would be a good time to talk about this game I have come to love so much. MultiVersus is a fighting game, and it's what's known as a 'platform fighter', very similar to Super Smash Bros. The focus of the game is using your character's various attacks and abilities to rack up damage and K.O. the opponent by sending them flying off the stage into a designated 'blast zone'. There's one high above the stage, two on either side of the stage, and one below the stage, giving you numerous ways to knock your opponent out.

Unlike many other platform-fighters, however, MultiVersus places a heavy emphasis on playing as a team, with two-on-two fights being the primary mode emphasized by the game and its promotional material, though one-on-one fights are still available for those who prefer that method. MultiVersus is also a crossover fighter, in which most of the fighters are actually characters from Warner Bros. properties, such as Batman and Shaggy, and each character has a class that is meant to represent their role in the game: Bruiser, Assassin, Tank, Support, and Mage.

Now that I've given a brief explanation of the game itself, what do I believe are its pros and cons? Well, for some of the pros, the gameplay is very fun and engaging, the characters are all distinct in both their playstyles and appearances, and the artstyle helps bring all of these unique characters together into one game in a very believable way. As for a few cons, there does exist some balance issues in regards to how good certain characters are in comparison to each other, with some feeling way too strong while others feel relatively weak in comparison, and there are some microtransactions, such as the numerous cosmetics that you can only buy with real-world money. However, the game itself is very enjoyable, and could even dethrone Super Smash Bros itself if it continues to receive the same attention and quality that it is now.

Overall, I'd give it an 8/10, and I'll see you guys next time.







## Pop Culture Review: Stardew Valley

*by Sophie Loss*



Source: gamespot.com

Stardew Valley is a farming game that can be played on both console and PC. The story follows a young office worker who is tired of everyday city life. When their grandfather sadly passes away, they inherit a small cabin along with a vast amount of land. They take the risk of moving to this new town in order to change their regular routine. When they arrive, the farm is in shambles. There are weeds everywhere and it is very much overgrown. In order to make a steady living, the farmer must clear the farm and make it their own. With the help of the town villagers the player is able to completely design their own personal farm while making friends with the NPC's.

In the journey to customize their life, the office worker, now farmer, must go through challenges that involve fighting in the unexplored mines, fixing up the broken down and abandoned community center, putting the town's rival shop out of business, filling up the museum with treasures, and much, much more. The adventures of this farmer are perilous, and as difficult as it seems, the tasks are very straightforward and fun. It may take a few in-game years to accomplish but it is very rewarding to finally see a museum, or community center full of exhibits and people enjoying the scenery.

Overall this game is great, from the storyline, to the secret messages you can find hiding around the map. The scandals and action are enthralling and each character has their own growth and plotline of their own. Everything in this game works together, and it's honestly just a good way to pass the time. It's calming and it is a long term game, but it is an entirely worthwhile journey to go through just to experience finding the mystical secrets that are hiding in the background.

# MYTHS OF NEW ENGLAND

by Payton Burke



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New England is one of the oldest regions of the country and thus is home to quite a few interesting, unexplainable, or all around creepy tales. So, sit back, relax, and enjoy these spooky stories from around New England.

## THE LADY IN BLACK

Last year me and my brother spent an overnight in my father's childhood town. It was a beach town and the weather was just starting to chill. After a bit of driving around as he showed us his old schools, we came to his high school, and from the parking lot you could see the island that Fort Warren sits upon. That day my father told us the story of the lady in black.

Now Fort Warren has too fascinating of a history. For this tale though the base was being used as a military training camp and prison during the Civil War. One of the confederate prisoners was the husband of one Mrs. Melanie Lanier. Upon hearing of her husband's predicament she began to plan his escape. Managing to get messages to her husband to tell of her plan they reunited one night as she scaled the walls disguised in men's clothing. For this plan to work they and the other escapees would be attempting to tunnel beneath the large walls of Fort Warren. However their digging soon caught the attention of the guards. Chaos ensued and, while stories differ on the how, they all agree that Melanie ends up accidentally fatally shooting her husband and she along with the remaining escapees were captured.

Melanie was sentenced to be hanged for her treachery, and when asked if she had a final request, she asked to be allowed to be laid to rest in a proper dress. The only dress available, however, was a black gown from the fort's old theater productions. Nonetheless, Melanie was hanged and laid to rest in that dress, buried on the island to this very day. To this day reports come in of a lady in black stalking the halls or standing above the entrance to the fort where she could never escape.





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# MYTHS OF NEW ENGLAND (cont.)

by Payton Burke

## MADAME SHERRI'S CASTLE

Madame Sherri was a famous costume designer and one of the most infamous partiers of the time. After the death of her husband in 1924 she sought solace and fell in love with Chesterfield, NH. She would eventually come to buy 588 acres of land in order to build her "Castle". When completed, however, it would be a breathtaking piece of work having three floors each extravagantly furnished, and the most iconic feature being the long outdoor staircase that led to Madame Sherri's private quarters on the third floor.

It was here that Sherri would throw her legendary parties throughout prohibition. Some say she would watch said parties from a cobra backed throne dubbed "The Queen's Throne". After prohibition, the parties wound down and in 1957 Sherri lost the funding to her lavish lifestyle quickly causing her to go broke. In 1959 the Castle had been vandalized, breaking most of the furnishings. This broke Madame Sherri's heart and she vowed never to return. By 1961 a fire caused the whole thing to burn to the ground leaving only the legendary staircase and the stone framework remaining.

Madame Sherri didn't live much longer after the destruction of her castle and the land, after passing hands various times, came under the National Forest Society and was dubbed "Madame Sherri's Forest" where there are various trails today and you can even see the ruins of Sherri's castle. Rumor has it that if you were to walk up the staircase (which is currently off limits as the upper portion collapsed in 2021) you would feel a ghostly presence, or even see the Madame herself staring from the top of her grand staircase. Some even say if you listen closely you can still hear the laughter and music from another of Madame Sherri's grand parties.

### Sources:

- <https://bostonghosts.com/bostons-lady-in-black/>
- <https://forestsociety.org/property/madame-sherri-forest>
- [https://www.reformer.com/local-news/gravity-wins-again-madame-sherri-stairs-partially-collapse/article\\_5f53a500-e29b-11eb-bf1a-47ad3d005be2.htm](https://www.reformer.com/local-news/gravity-wins-again-madame-sherri-stairs-partially-collapse/article_5f53a500-e29b-11eb-bf1a-47ad3d005be2.htm)
- <https://hscconh.org/empowered-women/madame-sherri/>





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## Flower Language

by Riley Weiss

Everyone knows what a red rose symbolizes but what about other flowers? Aster flowers are the small flowers with thin, densely packed petals. They commonly appear in bouquets and represent wisdom, faith, and valor. Buttercups, a common wildflower, represent joy, happiness, and friendship. Carnations are another flower where the meaning changes with the color. Pink is for motherly love, white for good luck, and a dark red one symbolizes romantic love. But these are not the only things flowers can mean. Morning glory, for instance, can mean love, life, or even death. A petunia can mean hatred or anger. Next time you buy someone a bouquet, think about what flowers are being used.

## On Volunteering

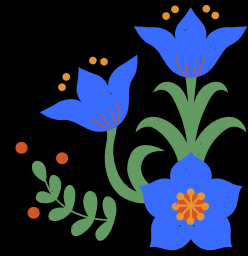
by Anon



Why does volunteering work? Volunteer work is helpful to everyone, especially the community, but it can also be helpful to you believe it or not, if it goes through the school that is. Imagine this, you're sitting bored on a cold school weekend with nothing to do. You think for a moment and regret your decisions. Earlier that week you walked past the volunteer stand, didn't think anything of it, but if you had looked and tried to sign up ( with consent from a parent or guardian of course ) you might have had something to look forward to... Speaking of looking forward, volunteering looks amazing to colleges. A college wants you because people like you and it makes them look better. I know it's boring and "dumb" but trust me, it's well worth it and who knows you might even end up having a good time!



# Artsy Things



## Featured Works

### Shadow

*by Alistor*

This creative corner covers all types of drawings, photography, and art! To submit your work, send them via email to [cmarien@milfordk12.org](mailto:cmarien@milfordk12.org) or [ekelley@milfordk12.org](mailto:ekelley@milfordk12.org).



**Zelda**



**Pumpkin**

# THE EDITORIAL STAFF SY '22-'23



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