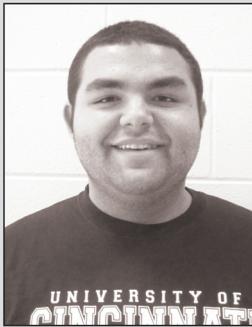## Person of Interest

Senior Alex Rabah is an involved singer and actor, inside and outside of MHS, who said performing has shaped who he is today.

Describe your experience in theater.
"I really like to sing and perform. [They are] definitely [things] I want to keep on doing throughout my life, whether it's [with] community theater or theater in college. …I like the freedom you have to be whoever you want. With theater, you can just take on a lot of different characters and personalities and you can just be someone different for the time that you're on the stage. I think that's a really fun thing to do."

What has being in Noteorious been like?
"Noteorious was definitely something I won't regret doing. It's really different from traditional choirs because we explore more contemporary music and sounds as opposed to classical song. So we get to do popular top 40 songs that everyone enjoys listening to, so we can definitely get into the songs a lot more than we would in a classical piece. It's just a completely different type of choir that I found enjoyable."

What has been your favorite part about MHS theater?
"[I] definitely [liked] meeting new people. My freshman and sophomore year, I wanted to do it but I was really, really shy. I would always go to the audition rehearsal and I'd learn all the music and learn the lines [then] I'd sign up for an audition but I'd just panic and I wouldn't end up going to my audition. Junior year I finally just bit my tongue and did it. I was definitely happy I did it."

If you could be a musical instrument, what would you be and why?
A cello. That is my favorite instrument by far. I just love [how it has] such a mellow sound, but it's a very powerful instrument at the same time. I'm in love with cello orchestras. I could listen to them all day. I just love the cello.

compiled by Corynne Hogan

TECH SPEAK
Technology influences modern language and conversation

Rebekah Barnes | Online Editor

As students become attached to their phones, computers and their social media sites, the technological vernacular is beginning to stick in everyday conversation.

"Tweet" and "retweet" are now in Merriam Webster's Dictionary. With the integration of technology-based terms from sites like Facebook, Twitter, Istagram and Tumblr into every day speech, Mason High School students like senior Lynn Lipps are hearing it more frequently.

Lipps said that she uses terms used from the photo site, Tumblr.com, with her sister, junior Katie Lipps. Tumblr.com, uses a blog formatting were people can "blog," "reblog," and posts media and as of April 30, 2012 has 22,141,199,529 posts on its site.

"I use Tumblr a lot…so my sister and I always say 'reblog' and 'dash'…[which is] your dashboard where everything shows up [on Tumblr;] we always use those in every day conversation," Lipps said. "If we see something we like, Katie's [says,] 'reblog.'"

Lipps said that there is almost a family aspect with her and others who also use Tumblr.

"People from Tumblr, it's like a little community," Lipps said. "Everyone…knows all the same words and phrases and we talk to each other that way."

According to Facebook.com, in December of 2011, there were 845 million monthly-active members, spanning across the globe, yet the "Facebook language" can seem foreign to others. While technology has created a connection among those who participate, Lipps said she admits that this generation's language may not make sense to all.

English teacher Amanda Bross said that she understands this evolution, but emphasizes an awareness of audience and occasion with her students and their speech.

"[The change to technological speech] isn't a bad thing because I think people are still communicating," Bross said. "We're in constant communication more so than we were before, and it's just the way language is evolving to make it most appropriate for that medium."

Both Lipps and Bross said that they think this integration began with the use of AOL Instant Messaging, created in the 1990s. According to Bross, this started a new way to approach language "when we started to have this really condensing of what we were trying to say."

Lipps said that she finds this constant use of technology terminology as a step backwards for our language, where students cannot seem to separate the world in the classroom, real life and the computer.

"I think [using technological terms is] a step backwards actually," Lipps said. "It makes you sound way less intelligent and eloquent, and you just come across as [if] there's no other way to convey your words without relying on [technology] phrases."

Bross said she has seen these terms and more integrating themselves into students' writing and tests.

"Where I notice it the most [in my students] is not so much in their speaking… I notice it the most in their writing to be honest; it's interesting," Bross said. "[I don't notice it is] usually an issue on stuff that they type so much but anything that is written in class it kind of blends the worlds."

And while this language is continuing to become more popular, Lipps said that she doesn't see it dying off as students' grow up.

"I don't think we will forget about [this language]," Lipps said. "Our parents still say stuff from…Fonzi and we still quote old things no matter what, if we're growing up with it and it stuck in our vocabulary, it's always going to be a memory that we have that we say when we're around our friends and our kids are going to think we're weird unless the technology survives."

photo art by Jami Bechard and Erica Boden