

At a Glance

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High School
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SLUH Day raises over \$570,000 with help from school community

BY LUKE DUFFY AND JACK EVANS
WEB EDITOR, REPORTER

Last week brought #SLUH-day back to social media feeds when the student body was once again encouraged to promote the fundraiser on all social media platforms. After a week of alumni donations, St. Louis U. High Day has raised a whopping \$576,418 with 996 donors.

SLUH Day was established in 2018 by the City of St. Louis to celebrate the school's 200th birthday and has become an annual fundraiser for the financial aid program. This year, SLUH did not have a goal for the number of dollars to raise but rather for the number of individual donations. An ambitious goal of 800 alumni donors was set for this year's SLUH Day donations.
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SLUH has a historic weekend at annual Missouri Youth and Government Convention



MOYAG students in Jefferson City. photo | Courtesy of Craig Hannick

BY ALEX PREUSSER AND MARK WAPPLER
CORE STAFF, STAFF

A group of 33 SLUH students put on their best suits and masks last Thursday and boarded a bus to Jefferson City. The students were part of the St. Louis University High School delegation, representing

the school at Missouri YMCA's 73rd annual Missouri Youth and Government (MOYAG) Convention held at the state capitol.

After last year's virtual convention, SLUH was pleased to send their delegation to an in-person conference for the first time since 2019. In Jefferson City, the group enjoyed

meeting students from other schools while walking around downtown for lunch, debating bills on the floors of the Senate chamber, arguing a case on the Fourth Amendment, or by just running into them at the Capitol Plaza Hotel, where all the schools' delegations stayed.

The SLUH delegation, split
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Strategic Summit update: Grade Level Guides

BY JACKSON COOPER AND BILL ALBUS
CORE STAFF, REPORTER

Editor's Note: This is the third installment in a series about the school's Strategic Summit initiative. The Strategic Summit is focused on five areas of the school and seeks to understand how that area can improve. This week's article concerns the Grade Levels Guide of the Strategic Summit.

Every St. Louis U. High

student has a unique experience, as the school's abundance of co-curriculars, athletic teams, and student organizations allows everyone to find their own path. As a part of the Strategic Summit, the Grade Levels Guide committee has begun taking steps to create a more cohesive way of ensuring that all students have access to the quintessential Jr. Bill experience.

"In short, we want to provide students with the neces-

sary foundation to be successful throughout their school career and to strive in every other aspect of their lives," said college counselor Dan Shields, who co-chairs the Grade Levels Guide committee alongside science teacher Megan Menne.

Coming into SLUH as freshmen, students are often unsure of what exactly they want to do with their time in high school. Led by Menne and Shields as co-chairs, the committee hopes to provide

an aid to improve students' individual experiences. Additional help creating and mastering the role of the guide will be provided by the Grade Level Guide committee members: campus minister Simone Anzalone, social studies teacher Sarah Becvar, theology teacher Lindsay Kelleher, Director of the Learning Center Tim Curdt, and English teacher Adam Cruz.

The Strategic Summit
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Turkey for me, turkey for you, happy Thanksgiving, to all at SLUH

BY JACK FIGGE
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Food, football, and family have developed into the defining trademarks of the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. Yet, over the past two years, it has become difficult at times to recognize the blessings in one's life amidst all of the horrors and struggles that everyone has undergone. As we emerge from this pandemic, students and faculty have begun to reflect and give thanks for areas of their lives that they often overlooked before the pandemic.

"I have spent a lot of time thinking about this question," said St. Louis U. High president Alan Carruthers. "I think there's a variety of things that I have learned to value even more because of the pandemic."

For Carruthers and others, the pandemic made them more appreciative of their families and their presence. Many have family members that live out of state, or in Carruthers's case, outside of the country.

"My parents are visiting me and my family right now and they hadn't seen
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PN Investigates: Admin undecided on snow day protocols for AY 21-22

BY MICHAEL BAUDENDISTEL AND AUSTIN WALD
STAFF, REPORTER

According to NOAA, there is a 20 percent chance that St. Louis will have a White Christmas this year. Even though the odds are not great that we end up with a snowy winter, Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy and the rest of the administration have been working on plans for possible snow days in the coming months.

"Obviously the best scenario is to not need any snow days," said Foy. "But we aren't so much in control of that, so when there are days that the snow is too bad, then we have to have a plan."

There are a lot of different ways that Foy, Assistant Principal for Student Life Brock Kesterson and Principal Fr. Ian Gib-

bons SJ, are considering how to deal with snow days. Depending on when a snow day occurs,

continued on page 4



art | Leo Smith

Strategic Summit charter, Grade Level Guides, seeks to help students foster deeper sense of community

(continued from page 1)
noticed that some students, particularly underclassmen, needed an immersive guide to help them navigate the many co-curricular activities and sports teams SLUH has to offer. Once the criteria is developed, the hope is that this guide can personally connect with students, and to keep them motivated and on track to accomplish their graduation requirements and overall goals.
“(The guide) is somebody whose job it is to really understand the experience of whichever class level. We call it a guide because the idea is that they sort of walk alongside the students, and to truly understand what there is for each grade. What is there at the freshman level, for exam-

ple: what’s the experience in academics, co-curricular, the pastoral team?” said Menne.
In addition, the Grade Levels Guide committee is hoping to provide a basis through which the administration can ensure that all students are exposing themselves to all SLUH has to offer, and that they are approaching things the right way.
“Essentially, the hope is to cultivate themes, experiences, and goals for each grade level, to really foster leadership and faith, and to examine what we’re hoping to get out of each grade level. So, once you’re done with freshman year, you should have (been exposed) to these themes and these goals through leadership experiences. (Students) also should keep an open growth mindset, espe-

cially within faith, to go on and be successful in the following year,” said Shields.
Especially in a world emerging from the pandemic, student life at SLUH is more difficult to navigate than ever before, as many clubs and co-curriculars were effectively forced into year-long hiatuses. As such, the process of students becoming involved in clubs has changed, prompting the committee to look into developing guidelines to establish a “guide” for each

“The hope is to cultivate themes, experiences, and goals for each grade level, to really foster leadership and faith, and to examine what we’re hoping to get out of each grade level.”
-Daniel Shields

grade level. This guide would be a particular faculty member assigned to a particular grade who is dedicated to ensuring that every student can find his own group at school, and that all are finding enjoyment in the realm of student life.
The grade levels guide will be conducted and carried out grade-by-grade. Every grade will have “different goals mapped out for them,” says Shields.
Such a guide will help the committee truly “under-

stand what is really there,” said Menne. The students at SLUH would benefit from having a guide that understands what they are experiencing at SLUH at a given grade level. The grade levels guide will be able to oversee what the class is experiencing as a whole, and how this can be changed for the betterment of the grade.
Finding the happy medium between how a student as an individual feels and how the class as a whole feels is important as well. Menne said that one of the big concerns the committee has is “how do we make sure every student feels like they are part of a community here at SLUH, whether this be a sports team, co-curricular, or an alternate community, we want to make sure every student feels

known.”
As a part of the larger Strategic Summit aiming to take a step back and revise SLUH’s approach to 21st-century education, the Grade Levels Guide committee has worked in conjunction with other Summit committees to ensure that their approaches are streamlined and cohesive.
“Overall, this committee is very well-aligned with several of the other Strategic Summit committees that are going on right now,” said Shields. “So, we have been doing a lot of collaboration and we’ve been working well with each other to make sure that our goals for 21st century skills are all overlapping with the other committees’ goals for curriculum and schedule, for example.”

After dropping first state playoff series, consolation wins lead SLUH Rocket League to fifth place

BY JACK KUHLMAN
REPORTERS

The Varsity Blue Rocket League team took fifth place in their state playoff last Saturday after cruising through the consolation bracket following a tough opening round loss to Rock Bridge Gold.
The tournament followed a standard bracket setup, with No. 8 seed SLUH stuck in a matchup against top-seeded Rock Bridge Gold.
Just a minute in, Rock Bridge capitalized on the early nerves that SLUH was trying to fight off and put up the first goal of the series. But only a few seconds later, senior Cam Gegg (Viznari) was able to sneak around a Rock Bridge defender and put a ball up to sophomore Hunter Mueller (TJ74), who tied the game up at one. Shortly after, Gegg put up a goal of his own, giving SLUH a lead that would never be broken. Mueller scored two more times to seal the game and give SLUH a 1-0 lead in the series.
Game two looked to be headed in a similar direction as sophomore Zeke Esswein (Mr-Panda) gave SLUH the early lead, followed by a goal from Mueller to put SLUH solidly up by two. The SLUH defense looked to be holding solid until halfway through the game, when RBHS finally broke through. A quick kickoff goal tied the game up at two and RBHS carried that momentum through the rest of the

game, putting up an impressive six goals to tie up the series.
Captain Hunter Mueller looked to fulfill his title in game three, putting up three goals, but SLUH continued struggling on defense and RBHS took the lead in the final minute to take a 2-1 lead in the series.
While Mueller found another goal in game four, SLUH found themselves down 3-1 in the final minute. Gegg pulled off an impressive double tap to put them one closer, but a fourth goal from RBHS put the nail in the coffin as they took the series.
While the team was a bit disheartened from this loss, it wouldn’t be the end of their day as they participated in a separate consolation bracket. Their first consolation match was against Francis Howell, who had fallen to defending national champs Hickman High School in the main bracket.
Game one started out slowly, as both teams decided to start off defensively and no one applied any real pressure. The first goal came over halfway through the game as Mueller took out the defender while Gegg put a shot on net. This ignited the offenses for both teams, with Francis Howell striking back with three goals of their own. With one minute remaining, Mueller had a stylish redirect, backflipping his car to put the ball into the net. Francis Howell looked to get back on the offensive, but Esswein found a huge clear that flew perfectly

up to Mueller, who found a second goal to send the game to overtime. Neither team wanted to let up a goal, but after an intense three minutes of overtime, Gegg found an opportunity up the middle and cleanly wrapped up the game for SLUH.
Games two and three were much cleaner for SLUH, as they knocked out Francis Howell 2-0 and 4-2.
The team had to wait for another consolation match before they were up. After a heated matchup, it was decided that SLUH would be facing off against Blue Springs South for fifth place, a team that had beaten them earlier that week.
Both teams started off defensively, trying to feel out each other’s strengths and weaknesses. Gegg was the first to light up the scoreboard off a backboard pass from Mueller. With 30 seconds to go, the SLUH defense couldn’t hold BSS out of the net as they picked up another two goals to take game one.
SLUH looked like a whole different team in game two, as all three members of the team scored at least one goal to win 4-2.
The third game of the series saw BSS gain a 2-0 lead to force SLUH to bring back their aggression. SLUH scored immediately off the kickoff to bring it back within one. But SLUH’s aggression came back to bite them as Blue Springs capitalized on a fast break to take the game to 3-1.

With less than a minute to go, there was a strange occurrence that sparked quite a bit of controversy. Somehow, a second controller became connected to the screen of one of the players from Blue Springs, causing his monitor to go split-screen and a fourth player to appear on the side of BSS. SLUH worked through the chaos and put in another goal, but it wasn’t enough to come back and BSS took the match and to push the series to 2-1.
Early in game four, it looked like SLUH had met their match as BSS took a 1-0 lead and were applying intense offensive pressure. Esswein finally put SLUH on the board halfway through the game on a mis-hit from BSS. SLUH’s next goal came as Mueller bumped a defender out of the way to open up the net for Gegg. After BSS found the equalizing goal, Mueller scored with only ten seconds on the clock, granting SLUH the win in game four.
Game five would be the last of the season for this team no matter what, so they pulled together all they could muster and scored two goals early on. They held their defense tight enough to close out the game 2-1, taking the series and fifth place in the tournament.
The tournament win capped off an impressive first season for the SLUH Rocket League Program, and they will look to improve next season with many returning players.

Central-Southern province features story on Kovarik, recognizes commitment to diversity in education

BY MICAH DOHERTY AND
THOMAS JUERGENS
REPORTERS

St. Louis U. High English teacher Frank Kovarik was recently honored in an article written by SLUH alumnus Jerry Duggan ’16 and published on the Jesuit Central-Southern province website. The article covers Kovarik’s work as Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion to make SLUH a more inviting place for all.
“I chose to write about Kovarik because I wanted to recognize all the good work that he does at SLUH. His daily witness to the ‘faith that does justice’ and his efforts to make SLUH an inclusive and welcoming environment for all make him an exemplary Jesuit educator,” said Duggan.
The article highlights Kovarik’s work as an English teacher (he teaches the senior African American Voices elective), former moderator of ACES, and Director of Diversity Equity and Inclusion.
“I thought it was a nice article, and it was very enjoyable and meaningful to sit down with the writer and answer his questions and review the years of work that I’ve had on this

mission,” said Kovarik.
Kovarik has worked with SLUH for several years and is passionate about his mission, but he is not alone. Kovarik has a strong team that supports him in his pursuit to make SLUH a more inclusive place.
“While the article was very gratifying to read, and I’m very grateful for it, it did make me a little embarrassed because I definitely see myself as being part of a team of people working on these issues and helping SLUH,” said Kovarik.
However, the article is far from the end of his objective. Kovarik continues to be diligent in completing his mission of division, equity, and inclusion.
“We want to make SLUH a place where all are welcome and can thrive,” said Kovarik.
To find the article, simply go to the Jesuits Central and Southern website, and search for Frank Kovarik or scan the QR code below.



What’s that thing? Band program purchases anvil

BY LUCAS HAYDEN AND
ANDREW HUNT
REPORTERS

SLUH has a spectacular band program, unchallenged by that of other area schools. But one recent instrumental acquisition for the Jr. Bills’ symphonious stockpile has put them even further above the rest: an anvil.
Anvils have long been used as percussion instruments, back to being first documented in the 1800s. It contributes to any ensemble with its bright, bouncy, metallic sounding beats.
“It is really a completely different sound than any other,”

said band director Jeff Pottinger.
SLUH first got it’s appetite for an anvil back in the beginning of 2020, when the band program was tasked with playing music that required one. Back then, they were using a frying pan and a hammer, a sad substitute.
English teacher Chuck Hussung was walking along the band hallway and was captivated by such a loud, metallic sound.
“I love those sounds that are made in the percussion section of the orchestra,” said Hussung. “I just find them fascinating.”
Soon, he discovered with disappointment that the band

was not in possession of a real anvil. However, driven by his love of percussion instruments, Hussung offered to pay for an

anvil for the Band Department. Before the anvil could be purchased, the pandemic hit. Due to the pandemic, the search



The band’s new anvil.

photo | Andrew Hunt

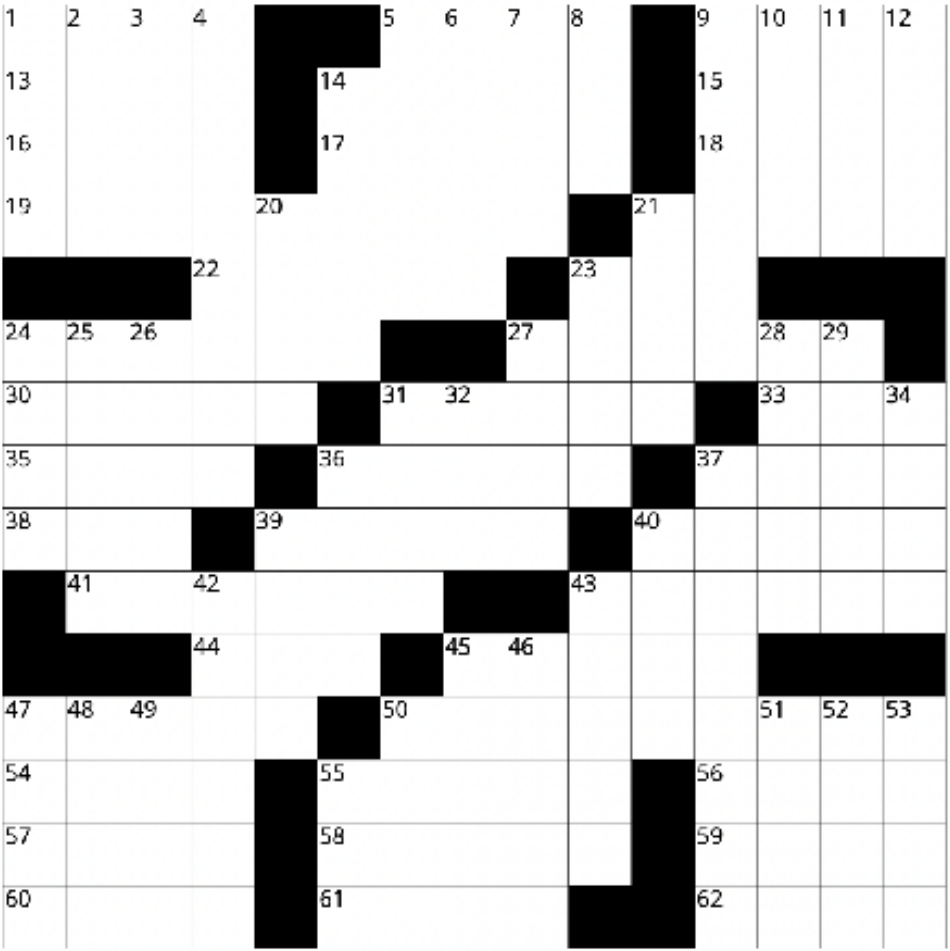
for an anvil slowly lost its momentum. But last summer, band teacher Michael Faris stumbled upon an anvil on a farm in Virginia while he was on vacation. Anvils tend to be fairly expensive, but this one had a cheaper price tag of \$125.
“I think (the anvil) was part of a railroad track,” Hussung said.
Faris had \$50 and a \$75 Red Lobster gift card. Fortunately, the seller liked Red Lobster. Soon after, Faris found himself lugging the anvil to his car and bringing it back to St. Louis.
Once the anvil was at SLUH, there was one last challenge.

Although the solid metal was incredibly heavy at 60 pounds, the anvil could be fit into a small backpack. Except for an unnecessary piece sticking out at the front; Faris made a call and Assistant Principal for Academics Kevin Foy, was able to cut it off with the help of tools from the Theater Department. At the same time, Foy polished and prepared it for instrumental use.
So goes the legend of the SLUH anvil. To this day, it lies dormant in the band room, waiting for its debut performance.
“We will definitely (be finding more songs that use the anvil in the future),” said Pottinger.

AMDG

Volume 86, Issue 12

PN Puzzle: Event Horizon



crossword | Paul Baudendistel

- ACROSS**

 - 1. *Powerful strike
 - 5. Sneaky glimpse
 - 9. *What a tap empties in
 - 13. Its borders include the Mississippi and the Missouri
 - 14. Comment that breaks the fourth wall
 - 15. Bears, in Latin
 - 16. Dot on a guitar neck
 - 17. Drooping
 - 18. Afrikaans or Flemish brother
 - 19. **Miner warning
 - 21. **Paper tool
 - 22. “Pam, you failed art school,” e.g.
 - 23. Mongrel
 - 24. Fall chore
- 27. *Alice chased a White one
 - 30. Paradises
 - 31. Sailboats, in Texas hold ‘em
 - 33. *Nemesis of Boggis, Bunce, and Bean
 - 35. Smelting waste
 - 36. Made this puzzle’s theme
 - 37. Current living quarters of the Class of 2021
 - 38. *Part of a split
 - 39. Wards (off)
 - 40. Actor Nick who was a three-sport college athlete
 - 41. *Dot on a paper list
 - 43. Amplify
 - 44. Mouth, informally
 - 45. _____ of *Ice and Fire*
 - 47. **A collapsed star ... and two
- DOWN**

 - 1. *Back to the Future* bully

- 2. Shark Greiner or USWNT defender Chalupny
- 3. One in debt
- 4. *Using a can
- 5. Exams for jrs.
- 6. A figure in figure skating
- 7. Perimeter
- 8. **Opening in a door
- 9. Florissant, e.g.
- 10. Earth’s core, mostly
- 11. How long it takes light to go 30 cm
- 12. Friends : _____ :: family : kin
- 14. Hit _____ (delay)
- 20. Unbalanced atoms
- 21. Taverns
- 23. **One of two in Texas hold ‘em
- 24. In that order (abbr.)
- 25. Improvise
- 26. He portrayed Ted Logan in 1989 and 2020
- 27. Regrets
- 28. Dropout’s declaration
- 29. Rich cake
- 31. SLUH’s official one is Geared Slab
- 32. Authorized, in brief
- 34. Logan, a.k.a. Wolverine, and companions
- 36. **Opening in a door
- 37. *Something dunked
- 39. Tiny projectiles
- 40. Pronoun that can be singular or plural
- 42. Hall that bears lectures, in Latin
- 43. Former teen idol Lindsay
- 45. Bit of buffoonery
- 46. Court reporter
- 47. Exhaled
- 48. Cray-cray
- 49. Pirate’s exclamation
- 50. Waitress in *Garfield* and neighbor in *Hi and Lois*
- 51. One who observes
- 52. “... so long _____ both shall live?”
- 53. Dis and dat
- 55. **Tap in

Red alert: Core Staff review *Red (Taylor’s Version)*

BY JACKSON COOPER AND ALEX PREUSSER
CORE STAFF

For over 15 years, essentially the entire living memory of any current St. Louis U. High student, the voice of Taylor Swift has graced the airwaves as possibly the biggest cross-genre star of all time. Her music catalog is incredibly diverse, ranging from country albums like 2008’s *Fearless* or 2010’s *Speak Now*, to recent indie-pop releases *folklore* and *evermore*, to arguably the greatest pop album of the new millennium, 1989. However, only one of Swift’s albums exists as a direct hybrid of her country and pop spheres: 2012’s *Red*, which she remastered and re-released last Friday as *Red (Taylor’s Version)*. The new take on some of Taylor’s biggest hits, as well as the addition of eight new bonus tracks, has taken the music world by storm for much of the last week. As such, two of the *Prep News*’s resident Swifties have wrapped up in their red scarves to offer their thoughts on the album. Of the album’s 31 tracks, the one that has emanated into pop culture most over the last week has been “All Too Well (10 Minute Version),” which chronicles Swift’s ill-fated relationship with actor Jake Gyllenhaal and was released

alongside an accompanying short film. Though the relationship met its demise over ten years ago, the release of the extended track provided more insight into the causes of their break-up. Musically, the song is reminiscent of songs off of Taylor’s recent indie-pop albums, featuring a slow blend of acoustic guitar, piano, violin, and drums that provides a perfect base for Taylor’s tell-all lyrics and iconic vocals. This ten-minute masterpiece, which Gyllenhaal has yet to tear up, was turned into a short film written and directed by Taylor herself. It stars Sadie Sink as a girl, symbolizing a young Taylor, plus Dylan O’Brien as an unshowered, misogynistic heartbreaker. We do not recommend viewing this film until you have already purchased a pack of *Red (Taylor’s Version)* tissues from her online merch store. Otherwise, once equipped with this essential, you are morally obligated to enjoy the film with a group who will not judge you when your heart is broken like a promise, and your tears begin to ricochet. The album is a roller coaster of emotions, making Swifties happy, free, confused, and lonely at the same time. The album is a conflicting mix of heartbreaking, emotionally taxing ballads and the kinds of hits that make you want to

dress up like hipsters and fall in love with strangers. The juxtaposition of her softer, tearful songs like “Treacherous” and “All Too Well” between the marvelous tunes of “I Knew You Were Trouble” and “22” make for a harrowing journey through the album. While Swifties were ecstatic for the re-release of their favorites from 2012, a highlight for many was the new release of vault tracks that did not originally make the cut. The first vault track added was “Nothing New,” featuring indie rock singer-songwriter Phoebe Bridgers. This particular song surprised many fans because of the amount of time dedicated to Bridgers. In past collaborations, as with the features of artists like HAIM and Colbie Caillat, Swift has dominated the track, with her supporters simply providing background vocals. For “Nothing New,” however, Bridgers was given a verse and a chorus, which allowed her to show off her immense vocal talent. Another shining star of the vault tracks rose to view this past Monday morning with the surprise release of a music video directed by Blake Lively: “I Bet You Think About Me.” This country ballad, with tinges of pop, had flown under the radar initially, but now it is being analyzed and admired

from every angle by fans. The Taylor Swift fandom is notorious for conspiracy theories, as Swift is known for subtly dropping easter eggs for future projects or deeper insight into her songs. While often many of the theories expressed on Twitter or Tiktok never come to fruition, Swifties have not been deterred, because every so often, they hit the mark. The “I Bet You Think About Me” music video had a plethora of symbols that point to what may be her next re-recording, or even an entirely new creative endeavor. In short, *Red (Taylor’s Version)* has music that can be enjoyed by all, with music ranging from slow moving, tear-jerking ballads to remastered versions of some of the early 2010s’ biggest hits. Even if you typically don’t find yourself enjoying Swift’s music, give this album a shot. It’s good, we promise. **AP’s faves:** 22, Stay Stay Stay, Starlight, The Moment I Knew, Nothing New, Message in a Bottle, Forever Winter, The Very First Night, All Too Well (10 Minute Version) **JC’s faves:** Red, Treacherous, 22, We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together, Everything Has Changed, All Too Well (10 Minute Version)

Behind the Scenes: A closer look at the most remarkable moments in *Wait Until Dark*

BY LUKE DUFFY
WEB EDITOR

As anyone who viewed the production of *Wait Until Dark* last weekend can attest, the show employed many special effects to keep the audience on edge. Between starting fires, turning out the lights, and having a blind character, the cast and crew had to stay on their feet to be able to produce such realistic and seemingly impossible scenes in front of the audience. One early scene featured an apparently small detail that took a lot of behind the scenes work to bring to life. Sam Hendrix, played by junior John Madalon, lit a cigarette and then put it in an ashtray, where it continued to smoke during the scene. Pulling off a complicated scene like this involved a lot of practice on Madalon’s part and some special effects on the part of the crew. “The idea behind the cigarette was to give the people the feeling of being in the same room as us,” said Madalon. “The seats were up on the stage, super close, so we wanted you guys to be immersed in the 60s feeling that the play was supposed to bring and the cigarette smoke brought the scent element.” Madalon used an herbal cigarette containing herbs without nicotine. This way, the cigarette produced a tobacco-like scent but was safe to use. When he set it down in the ashtray, the tech crew took over to create the illusion of burning. “We took these micro foggers and we put a little quarter inch hose on it, drilled a hole through the safe and drilled the hole through the ashtray and covered the hole with some trash in the ashtray so the audience really couldn’t see it,” said Director of Theater Operations Tim Moore. “When the stage manager called the cue, the guy backstage hit the remote and smoke went through.” Another memorable scene that came later on was the namesake of the play.

When Susy Hendrix, played by Nerinx Hall senior Maclean Blanner, had to fight off Roat, played by senior Donovan Meachem, at the end, she used darkness to her advantage. She turned off the lights in the scene, and all of the lights in the theater turned off. For a few tense minutes, Susy and Roat had to duel in complete darkness. “Even though all the clutter was set the same way every time you practice, it still took you a while to get used to it,” said Meachem. “Our stunt coordinator, Sean, he’s saying you need to act like you’re in the darkness, literally. So we practiced in the dark, but it was still just hard to just feel around and get around.” Luckily, if any audience members did notice the actors stumbling, it would look natural since their characters in the scene were supposed to be feeling their way around the dark room. “It was really helpful to just practice in the dark so we could kind of get used to ourselves, but there were still some surprises at it,” said Meachem. “Even sometimes when I was in the dark I would hit something when I didn’t think I was going to. But it just adds to the scene because it’s more believable.” For Blanner, it was more difficult because she had to act like she was in the dark for the entire play since Susy is a blind woman. “We did at some points put a blindfold on her because she was supposed to be super familiar with the space on top of being blind,” said Whitaker. “She worked that way on occasion. Most of what we worked with on her had to do with how an actor can kind of alter the focus on their eyes.” With such an ambitious play to recreate, it came down to practice and teamwork to pull it off. The cast and crew were in constant coordination with each other before and during the show so as to place the audience in 1960s New York City and tell the harrowing story.



Nerinx Senior Maclean Blanner.

photo | Luke Duffy

SLUH delegation performs admirably at annual MOYAG Conference



Tag Arens (upper left) presiding over the floor. photo | Courtesy of Craig Hannick

(continued from page 1)

accordingly into the legislative and judicial branches of government, and dominated the chamber floors and the courtrooms respectively to bring home a number of personal accommodations when the convention ended on Saturday, Nov. 13.

From the beginning of the school year up until the convention itself, the legislative branch of SLUH's delegation would meet every week to learn the bill writing process and proper parliamentary procedure to use when on the House floor. Senior Taggart Arens, who was voted one of the two Speakers of the House for this year's convention, served as the official leader of SLUH's legislative branch. Being his fourth year as a SLUH legislator, Arens (who earned the appropriate nickname of "Yaggart" over the weekend) took pride and joy in his positions.

"The program has been such a great experience for me over the years," said Arens. "It has taught me to use my voice to speak with confidence to really understand the issues that are facing our world and then to interact with my peers and my community to figure out how to deal with those issues."

Working countless hours writing and debating bills as if in the House of Representatives, the SLUH legislative branch was ready to showcase its bills at the convention and utilize the parliamentary procedure they had learned in the weeks leading up to the convention. SLUH's bills ranged from the practical—such as junior Ben Croatia's bill to adjust protocols for public school funding—to the unorthodox—such as junior Alex Deiters' bill to allow the research of the effects of psilocybin mushrooms on humans.

"It was a huge step up from last year to be able to write a bill

and actually present it on the Senate floor rather than on a Zoom conference," said Deiters.

When the legislative branch arrived in Jefferson City Thursday afternoon, delegates from each participating school were split up into four committees where they would present their bill to a committee of about 20 other legislators that was led by two committee chairpersons, who would meet later in the night to discuss which bills they deemed debatable enough to make it to the actual House floor the following day. In these committees, the SLUH delegates were able to ask questions and debate bills presented by delegates from other schools. Seniors Francis Alford and Mark Wappler led one such committee, moderating healthy and productive debate of each bill.

"Being able to sit in front of the room and lead the committee after years of being among the delegates was powerful, exhilarating, and a little nerve-racking," said Alford. "It really felt like a full circle experience to be in both positions of the legislative branch."

Friday morning, the legislators trekked up to Capitol Hill in their formal attire for another session of debating and voting on bills in the Missouri State Capitol building. The legislative branch had to meet in the Senate Chamber because of renovations being done in the House of Representatives Chamber. There, delegate junior Alex Brinkman formulated written speeches of opposition for several proposed bills, successfully shooting them down before they were voted on. Furthermore, seniors Joey Meehan and Alford led much discussion throughout the afternoon, asking many well developed and even provocative questions towards bill authors.

"It made me feel official to

be sitting in the capitol building interrogating and arguing with bill authors," said Meehan. "It was a cool experience that I wish I could have done with my friends in previous years."

All the while, juniors Connor Whalen and Deiters represented SLUH as Senators in a smaller meeting room in the state capitol building. There, they helped continue debate on bills passed in the House of Representatives, eventually passing several bills that went on to be signed by the MOYAG Governor.

"I definitely preferred being in the Senate chamber this year," said Whalen. "I felt like the Senators were engaged in more productive and intelligent debate than in the House and avoided all the stupid stuff."

As the SLUH legislators were discussing their bills in the Capitol building, the judicial branch, nicknamed SLUHdicial, was also locked in fierce debate. Early in the school year, a few months prior to the convention, the year's YAG judicial case was released, sending high school delegations across the state into a flurry of law interpretation and studies of case law.

Each year, students pair off into teams to begin preparing their case arguments using the provided materials—the stipulated facts and attorneys' briefs of the case at hand, plus a collection of previous cases to use in support of the current one. This year, the case focused on the legality of a drug dog sniff. Judicial Jr. Bills jumped into the work, forming arguments to prove whether or not the dog's sniff provided probable cause to search a vehicle and home, and if a drug dog sniff constitutes a search under the fourth amendment.

At last year's convention, senior Jack Feise was voted into the position of Attorney General for this year, and combined

with the formidable Louis Cornett and inimitable Luke Pierson, made a leadership team capable of guiding the SLUH delegation to victory.

"It was a huge advantage to have myself and Will Broun as two returning judges," said senior Cornett. "Plus Luke and Jack as returning lawyers allowed us as a delegation to really hone in on the specifics of both sides. Having the two perspectives of judge and attorney really helped us to prepare well."

With the guiding principles of these senior SLUHdicial veterans, the delegation worked in the true fashion of St. Louis U. High—completing case arguments on the bus Thursday morning, just hours before some attorney teams had their first trials.

"When it came down to it, pretty much on the bus, I had my argument written," said senior Jacob Sander. "We had this moment where the entire bus ride, all of us were sitting comparing our cases, improving and building on each other's arguments. Overall we all developed really strong arguments based off the bus ride."

Once in Jefferson City, judicial delegates cracked down on their cases and prepared for their first trials. Each team of two argued in two to three cases, spanning from Thursday afternoon to Friday afternoon.

"I love arguing, so it was a great way to express myself, in that sense," said sophomore Tim Browdy. "I liked the competitive style of argument against other schools and I wasn't expecting that, but it was super rewarding."

The seniors who acted as judges in the trials, though their tasks were different, were immersed in the YAG adventure as much as the attorneys were. These upperclassmen are in charge of presiding over the trials, providing feedback and guidance for the attorneys, and ultimately evaluating them on their performance.

"I think that was like the best experience I've had yet so far, because I actually got to mentor the younger attorneys," said senior Evan Yalavarthi. "I got to be a leader in the SLUH delegation and also ended up going on to the finals and winning an outstanding judge award. So that was a great experience."

In some cases, the actual trials which the delegates had spent so many hours preparing for were not the highlight of

many Jr. Bills' trips.

"The food," said sophomore Ethan Herweck when asked his favorite part of the trip.

Physically being in Jefferson City, surrounded by like-minded high school students from across the state, built a unique and amazing community experience. In addition to the immersive nature of lawmaking and politics, the trip was very much a social experience.

"I loved getting into meeting new people and getting closer to some SLUH kids," said junior Owen Fitzgerald. "It was a great experience working with new people I've never met before."

"That's really what I felt made it so special this year," said Feise. "It's just those in-person connections. Just walking into people's courtrooms and sitting in the back and talking to people, hanging out with the judges in person."

After the trials concluded, the judges convened to discuss quite possibly the biggest decision of their lives: the semifinalists of the YAG 2021 judicial convention. Taking on the daunting task, the judges nominated attorneys based on their presentational skills, knowledge of the case and case law, persuasiveness of the argument, and ability to answer questions asked by the judges.

In the end, a whopping three of the eight semifinalists were Jr. Bills—sophomore Grayson Stevenson, junior Owen Fitzgerald, and senior Sander. With the teams scrambled, and new partners from Visitation Academy and Cor Jesu Academy, the semifinalists spent their Friday night diving deep into case law yet again.

"My favorite part was the semifinals, that hour and a half of preparation time," said Stevenson. "We were all in there, the judges were all having a good time. They were all super nice and were able to help us and it was really nice to work with my partner."



Senior delegates. photo | Courtesy of Craig Hannick.

The work paid off in the end, because both Stevenson's and Sander's teams advanced to the finals, giving SLUH a guaranteed championship, the first for the delegation. After battling it out in the courtroom, pulling out all the details from case law, and even continuing the presentation through an interruption of music over the speakers, the judges made their ruling.

Sander came out on top with his partner from Visitation Academy.

"As a senior Jacob really took it upon himself to be a leader for everyone else, including the underclassmen," said Cornett. "It really showed off in his case, he was confident, he knew it very well. That's the reason he got to the semifinals. And once again, he was just a great role model for what we want every attorney to be—confident, polite, asking questions. That's what got him in the finals and that's what allowed him to win it."

At the end of the convention, SLUH was unarguably the most successful delegation. At the closing ceremony, SLUH delegates in both judicial and legislative branches got a series of rewards. In the legislative branch, Whalen and Wappler both won two of the three "Outstanding Bill" rewards, which were selected from a collection of more than 100 bills. In addition to the judicial semifinalists, finalists, and champion, a variety of honors were awarded to Jr. Bills. Freshmen Michael Fallert and Marshall Prost and senior Nick Fischer won "Outstanding New Attorney," seniors Henry Dowd and Billy Wappler won "Outstanding Attorney Team," and seniors Luke Pierson and Evan Yalavarthi won "Outstanding Judge."

"The preparation and execution of this convention was entirely student-led," said YAG moderator Sarah Becvar. "They put so much work into it, and it really paid off. They couldn't have done any better."

Congratulations to the following Band members who were recognized by the All-District Band!

District Orchestra

Lauer Stix, '22 - second Chair Cello (2nd in District)

District Jazz Band

Evan Mullins, '25 - first alt. Alto Sax (3rd place)
Nathan Rich, '22 - second alt. Tenor Sax (4th place)
JT Emke, '23 - first alt. Drum Set (3rd place)
Alex Wentz, '22 - second alt. Drum Set (4th place)

District Concert Band

Isaiah Hinkebein, '23 - 6th chair Flute
Nikolas Berndt, '24 - 4th chair Bassoon
Joseph Blase, '22 - 11th chair Trumpet
Ryan Jackson, '23 - 12th chair Trumpet
Andrew Moffett, '24 - 4th chair Trombone
Joey Hanks, '23 - 7th chair Trombone
JT Emke, '23 - second chair Percussion

Virtual school still possible as snow day plans are finalized

(continued from page 1)

whether it is during exam week or in the middle of two block schedule days, Foy, Kesterson, and Gibbons could use a variety of different solutions.

"It's possible that we could do a seven day period to make up for both an A and B day," said Foy. "And it's possible that we could push everything back. There isn't a 'we will always do it this way.'"

The SLUH community proved over the course of the pandemic that online school options could work as well.

"We're still in the mode of things can be flexible," said Foy.

"We still have virtual options. We know that the online stuff works pretty well. We could go back to the Faber Day model where students stay at home, and everyone Zooms in. The problem with this option, from a teacher perspective, is if you created a certain experience for your A Day students, you may not be able to replicate that, virtually, on a B Day."

Foy also presented the possibility of anticipating a winter storm, and calling multiple days as snow days.

Should a winter storm hit St. Louis, Kesterson and Gibbons would make the safety decision

as to whether or not to hold a school day in-person. If it is determined that a snow day would work best for the safety of the SLUH community, Foy would make the choice to continue that day with virtual classes or call school off.

Last year, the abolishment of snow days was unpopular to say the least. Students spent their snow days on Zoom looking out their windows, wishing they could have slept in before sledding and building a snowman.

"Not having snow days last year was a bummer especially because it would have been

some sense of normalcy during Covid," said junior Spencer Johnson. "If we get them again this year, I'll enjoy the time off and catch up on rest."

While many students will take the time to rest and recuperate, others enjoy taking the opportunity to be charitable men for others in their communities.

"If we get snow days this year I will go back to shoveling all 607 houses' driveways in my county of Richmond Heights while making hot chocolate for all the kids in the neighborhood," said junior Kyle Verzino.

AMDG

Pandemic helps SLUH community realize what they are grateful for

(continued from page 1)
their grandchildren for two years now and I hadn't seen them in two years," said Carruthers. "So just the ability to see one's family, and just to be with them is so great. I am so grateful for that opportunity, and have learned to appreciate it."

Students, though, have a completely different reason for a new outlook of gratitude for their families. During the pandemic and quarantine, the only social interaction students had was with their families, leaving many to develop deeper and more meaningful relationships with their parents and siblings.

"I am really thankful for my parents because the pandemic was a tough time where I didn't really see any of my friends or really go anywhere," said senior Chris Brooks. "I became more connected with them emotionally, just because I talked to them so much and spent a significant amount of time with them."

While the pandemic provided newfound opportunities to grow in relationships with one's family, it created a period when bonding with friends was limited to FaceTime and texting.

"I have become so grateful for being able to see people face to face."

-Matthew Kluba

"I have become so grateful for being able to see people face to face," said senior Matt Kluba. "When you see somebody's eyes you can only tell part of their story and only connect with them on one level. But when you see their nose or mouth, their cheeks, you get the full pie, not just two pieces."

During the height of the pandemic, when one had the chance to see their friends, these encounters often had to be extensively planned out. Gone was the era of spontaneous meet-ups and frequent adventures with friends, a luxury that most took for granted before the pandemic.

"I am grateful for spontaneity. I felt like the pandemic made it so that everything had to be planned," said Math teacher Tracy Lyons. "You had to know who was going to be there? Where had everyone been before? I like to be able to just go, 'oh, we're gathering here. Great.

I'm ready. I'm coming. I'll be there when I get there.' But for a while that luxury disappeared."

"This year I am extra grateful for mobility," said senior Ismael Karim. "For the ability to go where I want, when I want in order to see the people that I love."

Separated from their beloved members of the SLUH community, the pandemic made many realize just how grateful they were for in-person learning and the community of SLUH.

"I am just so grateful that I get to come here everyday and see you boys. That is truly a great and incredible gift."

-Kathy Hylla

"I realized the positives of in-person learning compared to online learning and am so grateful for being in a classroom with my fellow students and teachers," said senior Jared Thornberry. "I realized that a key part of my learning came from being in a classroom and seeking one on one help from a teacher."

Over the course of the past two years, the school has undergone many intense shifts, forcing teachers to adapt to teaching in a block, hyflex model. These switches threw teachers into uncharted territory, and relied on their fellow faculty members for assistance.

"I'm very thankful for Mrs. McBride, Mr. Dickmann, and Mr. Griggs from the IT Department. Technology is not a strength of mine," said Social Studies teacher Tom Kickham. "We have had to rely on them a lot because of the pandemic and they've always been very available and very patient to help keep us going."

SLUH is formed of many different vibrant communities, and these communities helped keep many of the faculty and students encouraged in even the toughest times.

"I'm grateful for this community of Jesuits that I live with," said Principal Fr. Ian Gibbons, SJ. "And for the great witness that we've been to the city in our responses. They have been a great source of comfort for me in the pandemic and I am truly grateful for that."

"I am grateful for my good health and for this community," said Food Service Consultant Kathy Hylla. "The fact that I maintain not getting sick with all you guys, thank you so much. I am just so grateful that I get to come here everyday and see you boys. That is truly a great and incredible gift."

Admin, city partner to conduct study on protocols; school hopeful to make impact on greater St.Louis region



art | Will Blaisdell

(continued from page 1)
ally struggled," Gibbons said. "Our vaccination rates are by far the highest in the region."

Talks between SLUH and the university have progressed since then, and now SLUH is poised to begin a study in the coming weeks. According to Gibbons, though, the specific details are unclear, as much of the project lies in the hands of the group from SLU. Possible scenarios involve monitoring selected groups of students and checking in on their health as well as monitoring the health of SLUH's population as a whole.

What the study will not include, though, is an experimental return to Condition II, which featured a mask recommended policy. The proposed study instead aims to analyze the current protocols put in place by the administration and assess their effectiveness in the new Covid landscape. Still, the study could have potentially significant effects on policy at SLUH and in the surrounding area. It was, after all, published studies that allowed SLUH to move from 6 feet social distancing measures to 3 feet, making the full return last January possible.

"These studies are a ma-

jor benefit," said Gibbons. "It would be great if we could be a part of a study like that, one that would help our community and the country better understand what safety measures work. It's looking at our plan in the bigger picture, at each of the steps we've taken that have allowed us to reopen and also remain very safe."

Another benefit is that the results of the study will be watched carefully by policy makers in the city. Once results come, it could influence all of the schools within the city and shape the city's laws. Things are moving slowly,

though. SLU is continuing to work on creating a plan that respects both the safety of students and the replicability that a valid study requires.

"There's a lot more details to it than some of what we initially considered," noted Gibbons. "It takes a lot of work to study these things. There are no playbooks for this stuff. In public health, surprises are typically not a good thing."

"It would be great if we could be a part of a study like that, one that would help our community and the country better understand what safety measures work."

-Fr. Ian Gibbons

A start date for the research is not yet set, but Gibbons suggested that it would not be until next semester. Until then, SLUH will continue to operate at its current protocol level.

Propelled by over 900 donors, fourth annual SLUH Day proves successful

(continued from page 1)

Two men from the Class of 1970 each agreed to give \$75,000 to the event if the school met its 800-donor goal.

"That was a huge motivator," said Director of Alumni and Parent Giving John Penilla. "That was really the rallying cry for a lot of our alums."

Penilla played an integral role in facilitating the events of SLUH Day. The main outreach strategy for the event was contacting alumni volunteers to reach out to their former classmates.

"Within the last couple of weeks I've been sending them information to say that SLUH Day is coming up," said Penilla. "Make sure you're spreading the word and it can be as simple as a mass email to your class or it can be as personal as going down the list and calling or texting everybody on it"

Hundreds of alumni donations helped propel the donation sum to such an impressive level. The initial goal of having 800 donors proved to be a strong motivator for

alumni to contribute in any way they could; over the 50 hours of the event, a steady flow of donations both large and small contributed to this achievement.

"We hear a lot, especially with our younger alums, you know, 'I can't make a gift that's going to be meaningful to SLUH,'" said Penilla. "Certainly all of the gifts that we get are (meaningful), but when you can make a ten dollar gift and you know it's going to help us get to \$150,000, that was a big motivator for people to make their gift this year."

The website featured many figures to help motivate alumni to donate, including a gift tracker, class leaderboard, and map with the number of donations per state.

"You know how SLUH students are: SLUH alumni are the same," said Penilla. "We're competitive and we'd like to see the number get up there."

SLUH day was not only to raise money for the school. By reaching hundreds of alumni, it was a way of showing off the many achievements of the

community.

"Part of it is spreading the word about what we're doing here," said Penilla. "It's celebrating our history. It's a way for us to ask our alumni to

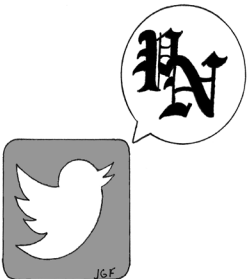
help support today's Jr. Bills. There's marketing and messaging to it; we want everybody in the community to see the good things we're doing."



J127 poses on SLUH Day.

photo | Courtesy of Chase Hatch

Interested in writing, photography or creating art for the Prep News?
Email prepnews@sluh.org to get involved!





Senior Cooper Scharff after winning the State backstroke title

photo | Miles Schulte

Swimming secures third at state; Scharff shines as team shatters three state records and outperforms expectations

BY ALEX WENTZ
REPORTER

On the horizon a squad emerges, drenched in success, hoisting a wooden Missouri shaped trophy triumphantly in the air, the largest anyone has seen all year. Last Friday and Saturday the St. Louis U. High Swim & Dive team claimed third place in the state, while setting three new state records in the process.

“(The meet) was great.” said head coach Lindsey Ehret. “It surpassed my expectations. It was nice that we could settle into third pretty comfortably. We had pretty much best times, except for a couple, so it was a great meet overall.”

Finals kicked off with diving in the morning, allowing SLUH to start on top. Senior Sebastian Lawrence utterly demolished his competitors, claiming the state title for yet another year. Akin to a great white, Lawrence is an apex predator in the world of diving, having no competition in sight.

“I’ve just been doing my best,” said Lawrence. “(My goal) is always to beat my scores and work hard during the season, which I did.”

The first swim of the meet, the 200-yard medley relay, set the precedent for greatness. Astonishing all, the terrific team was composed of senior Cooper Scharff on backstroke, senior Ned Mehmeti on breaststroke, senior Jonas Hostetler on fly, and junior Jason Cabra closing on free. With a nail biting photo finish, the Rockhurst and SLUH relays tied for second place, both with times of 1:34.97, meaning that Rockhurst received far fewer points than they were planning, and that our boys in blue were closer to the top than expected.

“I started swimming when I was 8, so I have been around swimming (for a long time) and it is rare that I see swims that are breathtaking like Cooper’s and the (record breaking) relay were. There was so much improvement on already fast times, and records broken by a lot, that the whole meet really just took my breath away,”

said JV coach Rob Hill. “This is my third time in a row seeing this meet, and I love seeing the improvement, records, and cheering from the team.”

While the team had no swimmers in the 200 free, they compensated with three participants in the 200 IM. Both freshman Ben Chumley and junior Gavin Baldes rose above their seeds in prelims to tie for 15th and 16th place, each with a time of 2:02.56, claiming the final two qualifying slots. In the top heat, SLUH had the esteemed Mehmeti plow through the water to secure sixth place at 1:56.31, putting him as the first individual on the podium.

“My first 100 was really nice, but then breaststroke hit, which is not my strength, so it started to hurt,” said Baldes. “Then for free I just had to push to the end, for the team.”

In the 50 free, Cabra swiftly claimed victory in his heat with a time of 21.58, a time so fast he would’ve gotten sixth if not constrained to his heat, which put him at ninth. Hostetler blazed through the water with such speed that he nearly evaporated the pool, slamming into the wall at a 21.33, earning him fourth place overall. Furthermore, the pair competed in the 100 free where Hostetler finished eighth and Cabra 13th, leaving each of them with motivation to improve in their final events.

“The team did very well,” said Hostetler, “I expected us to do well but even then there were so many swims that just far exceeded all expectations. There were things that could’ve gone better (throughout the season), but overall I am happy where I finished. At the end of the day I just wanted to spend (my senior season) with (my teammates) and I got that.”

The tension in the air was palpable leading up to the 100 fly. Lee’s Summit West’s crown jewel, Caleb Ellis, the top seed butterflyer who had dominated the event all year, was being challenged by SLUH’s Cooper Scharff, someone who had never even swam that event at State before. As soon as the starting beep was set off, the venue erupted in cheers. Go-

ing into the first wall Scharff and Ellis were nearly even, but Scharff’s explosive stroke kept putting him further ahead at each turn. In a historical display of skill, Scharff claimed first by nearly a second, and shattered the previous State record, performing the greatest 100 fly anyone in the state has ever seen with a time of 47.56. Baldes also supported the team in fly, placing eleventh and putting up a 54.46.

“My strategy was mainly just to stay with Caleb the first 50 then come back faster,” said Scharff. “A lot of the time during the season you are wondering ‘Is all this work really doing anything, is it worth it?’ So as soon as you are able to finish the race and look up to see the time that you just made, it is a really rewarding and gratifying experience. All the work has been put in for that, its amounted to something.”

“Cooper’s 100 fly was within the top 75 swum ever in high school in any state,” said Hill. “How about saying that for somebody, a swim within the top 75 ever swum by a high schooler (in the nation), that’s crazy.”

The distance dudes dominated in the 500 free. Junior Brendan Schroeder exceeded his seed and held up the rear at 16th place. Freshman Greyson Mueller galavanted through the water with the speed and endurance of a bluefin tuna, shaving a whopping 7.24 seconds off of his best time and winning his heat with a 4:51.85. Mehmeti once again massacred his competition to earn sixth place, putting up a time of 4:40.90.

“Overall it was an amazing meet,” said Mueller. “I was mostly just doing an all out sprint, giving it my all for a best time.”

Just as dolphins become formidable opponents when in a pod, so too did the squad of sophomore Henry Unger, Baldes, junior Solomon Shelton, and sophomore Kearney Foy form a spectacular state 200 yard freestyle relay. The group shot through the water with such speed that their heat winning time of 1:30.03, earning them ninth on the scoreboard, would’ve gotten

them seventh in the top heat. Each member of the relay went a sub-23 second 50 free, leading to them to drop 1.20 seconds. What makes this win even more astonishing is the fact that Shelton did not swim this event in prelims, and was only subbed in to give Chumley more rest before the 100 back, a strategy that paid off in many ways as they both pulled through.

“It was really fun,” said Baldes. “(There) was a lot of adrenaline coming from all of the really exciting (previous) events, so in finals we did really well.”

The 100 back was another highly anticipated event. Chumley snuck into finals earning 16th place, but the main event was Scharff vs. MICDS’s Lee Naber. This time, Scharff was the defending champ, having won the event at state in the two years prior. In prelims, Naber set a new state record, and surpassed Scharff to become the first seed going into finals. It was apparent that Scharff had no intention of letting that stand. A flying fish careening through the air, Cooper leaped off of the wall and slid into the water as though he relied on it to live. Naber and Scharff remained side by side as they submarined through the pool. As Scharff shot into the wall for the finish, he not

only earned gold for the third year in a row, but set a new state record with a time of 48.12.

“Cooper showed up big,” said Ehret. “That was the best meet he’s had in four years, and he’s had a lot of good meets, but this surpassed all of them. He did a lot of things he hadn’t done before, and it went really well.”

The energy in the SLUH stands as the 400 free relay approached was utterly unmatched. All of the U. High spectators’ hands were upright in the infamous U formation, accompanied by a large yell as soon as Hostetler catapulted off the block for the first leg of the relay. Hostetler streaked through the water in a blur, posting a 46.85 split, a huge improvement from his earlier 100 free. Cabra then joined the fray, holding the team’s position steady with a 47.83. Mehmeti, who is traditionally a distance monster, put up an immensely fast 48.16.

Going into the final exchange, the MICDS and SLUH relays were essentially even, but then Scharff entered the arena. Contributing the insane split of 44.02, Scharff closed out the relay to win by over two seconds, and shatter yet another state record. Immediately every SLUH swimmer flocked to the side of the pool, screaming “Oh

When The Bills Go Marchin In” at the top of their lungs, while being given a reverent silence by the announcers and onlookers. The spirit of SLUH had center stage as the team revealed the depth of their brotherly bond to the state.

“It was great whenever I was able to finish and see (the team) cheering for me,” said Scharff. “Before I got on the block everyone was watching me, knowing I could do it, it’s just nice to have some people that have faith in you to go fast. I kind of feed off that team atmosphere.”

This season will go down in history. A third place finish at state, three new state records set, and a class of eight irreplaceable seniors that helped lead the team along the way. At last there is peace, no impending battle, no war on the horizon. The SLUH squad has achieved victory in countless ways this year, and now has the opportunity to rest knowing they have truly done their best.

“I think the season went really well,” said Ehret. “Fourteen weeks is a long time, but as soon as it is over you really miss it. I’m really proud of the guys. There were some challenges, but it was great to be back at FoPo and have a season that was pretty normal. (The team) drives me a bit crazy, but they all impress

MCC Conference Selections

Football

First Team Offense

WR Chris Brooks, Jr.
WR Ryan Wingo
RB Derrick Baker
OL Kylend Watson
Brown

First Team Defense

DL Cayden Owens
LB DonTavion Sullivan
SS Phillip Bone

Second Team Offense

QB Luke Johnston
ATH Andre Tucker
TE Zach Ortwerth
OL Vince Chappuis

Second Team Defense

DL Pierston Sanders
LB Louis Kertz
LB Zach Ortwerth
FS Tommy Etling

Second Team Specialist

P Ryan Wingo

MCC Co. Player of Year

Chris Brooks, Jr.

Soccer

First Team

F Stephen Saladin
F Grant Locker
D Ben Ridgway
D Christian Thro
M Evan Yalavarthi

Second Team

F Tyler Van Bree

Honorable Mention

F Johnnie Ferrara
GK Chris Lewis

—Special thanks to Mr. Adam Cruz for help compiling

After a year of incredible stats, football’s season ends against CBC

BY COBY SPRATTE
CORE STAFF

The Jr. Bills playoff run came to a halt with a 21-42 defeat against top-seeded CBC last Friday. Yet, this monumental season will be remembered for much more than the team’s final loss.

From the start, the Jr. Billikens knew the game would be a challenge. Even though SLUH started with a strong defensive stop on CBC’s first drive, a 35-7 scoring run ensued to quickly put the game out of reach for SLUH. By halftime, SLUH was already down by four scores. It seemed hopeless, but even in the face of adversity, both sides of the ball fought hard for SLUH, which was a theme of this year’s season.

Senior wide receiver Chris Brooks led the offensive charge with 13 touches for 186 yards and 3 touchdowns and senior strong safety Phillip Bone capped off the defense’s valiant second half effort with a goal line interception of CBC quarterback Patrick Heitert. Senior place kicker Thomas Ziegler also broke the SLUH career record for successful extra points, booting 97 through the uprights the last three seasons.

“Sure we would’ve liked to go farther, but we put up a great fight against a really good team,” Bone reflected. “I’m proud of what we did as a team this season.”

And proud they should be. SLUH reached the District Championship for the first time since 2011, defeated Chaminate for the first time since 2012, put up the most wins since 2015, and completely turned the program around from their 1-9 freshman season. Brooks attributes this previously unprecedented success to the senior class.

“Since freshman year, the

seniors have had a vision of SLUH football and what it could be. We worked hard over the years and led SLUH to a place we haven’t been in over a decade,” Brooks said. “I’d say this senior class will go down as one of the most impactful senior classes SLUH has ever had.”

On top of the impact and leadership from the seniors, the team backed it up on field, as SLUH boasted 14 players on the first or second team MCC All Conference lineups.

On the defensive side of the ball, senior Tommy Etling was awarded second team honors at free safety after posting 90 total tackles, 4 interceptions, and a scoop-n-score touchdown this season.

Junior Louis Kertz was selected to the second team at linebacker. He boasted 5 sacks and 21 tackles for loss with 125 total.

Senior defensive lineman Pierston Sanders was named to the second team. Sanders put up 5 sacks and 65 tackles, including 18 tackles for a loss.

Junior Zach Ortwerth received second team honors at linebacker, virtue of 76 tackles, 14 of which were for a loss, 2 sacks, and 1 fumble recovery. Senior Cayden Owens was selected to the first team due to his breakout season for the Bills. Owens posted a SLUH record 12.5 sacks, along with 19 tackles for a loss of his 85 total tackles.

Senior Phillip Bone landed on the first team thanks to his ability to fill the stat sheet week after week. Bone had 3 interceptions, 1 sack, 1 fumble recovery, and 10 tackles for a loss of his 115 total tackles.

Rounding out the defensive honorees is senior linebacker DonTavion Sullivan who was awarded first team All MCC honors. Sullivan posted 2 inter-

ceptions, 5 sacks, and 19 tackles for loss of his 116 total.

This was the first time this century that a SLUH defense had three players with 115+ tackles individually: Bone with 115, Sullivan with 116, and Kertz with 125.

Aside from the standout honorees, it is worth recognizing those who fueled the defense that went unmentioned, including sophomores Jacobi Oliphant and Archie Caruthers, juniors Dillion Ramella and Danny Campbell, and seniors Alex Shelton and Donovan Raymond.

On the other side of the ball, senior leader and quarterback Luke Johnston was named second team All-MCC. Johnston threw for 25 touchdowns and 2,324 yards this season, the most yards passed for at SLUH in a decade.

Ortwerth, along with being named as a second team All Conference linebacker, was named a second team tight end, as well. Ortwerth grabbed 20 catches for 298 yards this season and had 4 receiving touchdowns.

Senior Andre Tucker was named second team as an athlete. Tucker rushed 25 times for 293 yards and two touchdowns, snagged 7 catches through the air, had 1 interception, and 67 tackles, along with contributing to the Jr. Bill special teams.

Two Jr. Billiken offensive linemen were honored for their stout blocking for Johnston this season: Veteran senior left tackle Kylend Watson-Brown on the first team and newcomer sophomore center Vince Chapuis on the second team.

Senior running back Derrick Baker was named to the first team lineup in his first full season with the Junior Billikens. Baker led the Bills’ backfield with 1003 yards and 12 touchdowns at 7.3 ypc clip. He

was the first 1000 yard rusher at the U. High since Andrew Clair rushed for 1,661 in 2016.

Sophomore Ryan Wingo was named first team All MCC at wide receiver. Wingo dazzled with his big play ability, as he posted 32 catches for 638 yards and 14 total touchdowns. He was also placed on the second team as a punter, averaging 42.11 yards per punt.

Outside of the All Conference honorees, sophomore receiver Joe Harris and senior receiver Craig Ortwerth made clutch contributions to the offense throughout the entirety of the season.

To round out the offense, Brooks not only was named to the first team All Conference as a wide receiver, but was also named MCC Co-Player of the Year. Brooks tallied 22 carries for 176 yards and 12 touchdowns on the ground, and a remarkable 49 catches for 959 yards and 9 touchdowns in the air, the most receiving yards in a single SLUH season since Mitch Klug and Stefan Sansone each logged 1,026 in 2011.



Sophomore Jacobi Oliphant going up for a catch.
photo | Vic Lewchenko

St. Louis U. High faced their fair share of adversity this year. They lost senior two-way stud Isaac Thompson in just the second week of the season, and dealt with numerous other injuries that lingered through the season. With this adversity came an underdog mentality once the playoffs rolled around. Nobody thought the Jr. Bills would make it past the first round, nonetheless all the way to the championship. Johnston, Brooks, and Bone all agreed that SLUH’s 28-0 win against Lindbergh was the defining game of the season.

“We branded ourselves as a team that could win and play well when it counted most,” Brooks said. “No one expected us to get past the first round, and we did exactly that.”

Bone added, “It felt great to avenge the seniors from last year and to also shut them out made the whole experience perfect.”

Years down the road, players on the 2021 St. Louis University High Football team will remember the hard fought wins

and losses and individual accolades, and they will be remembered as the team that turned this program around.

“I’ll definitely remember this year as the season where SLUH football was no longer known as the laughingstock of the MCC,” Bone said. “I think everyone will remember us as a legit football team who could contend with anyone in the state.”

Yet, down the road, what these players will cherish most is the unique camaraderie and brotherhood that can only come from the gridiron.

“I’ll carry the bonds I’ve created during this season and throughout my entirety of playing for SLUH,” Brooks said. “I’ve gotten close with people I probably wouldn’t have talked to had they not played football this season or any previous season.”

“I’ll carry so many memories with me,” Johnston added. “Most importantly the relationships I was able to make with my teammates.”

SLUH tweet of the week:

“Mr. Lewchenko came out in 110 degree heat index games, 35 degree games, every Friday night to take pictures of our kids. A true man for others. From all of @SLUHfootball, thank you!!!”

-@CoachAdamCruz1

Thank you for the pictures, Mr. Lewchenko!
-PN 86

Hockey scores 12 in first two games, falls to rival CBC in close contest

BY NATHAN RICH AND
LOUIS CORNETT
SPORTS EDITOR, CORE STAFF

SLUH Hockey is back on the ice in a big way. In their first three games of the season, they dealt crushing blows to Francis Howell and Marquette and just narrowly lost to perennial powerhouse CBC. With a 2-1 record and 12 goals already, this year’s team, packed with seniors, is ready to turn heads and make a deep run at state.

Although the team did not see any real action during the offseason until their first game two weeks ago, they had still been hard at work for several weeks before the season opener against Francis Howell. This year, due to Covid concerns, many of the team’s pre-season games were cancelled. As a result, the hockey team spent much of October in a sea of SLUH jerseys at practice. When the time finally came to take the ice against an opponent, the team was more than ready.

“Everybody was pretty fired up (to play) after last year’s loss to Marquette,” said senior Ben Winkelmann, referring to the three game se-

ries that the Jr. Bills lost in last season’s quarterfinals.

As a result, the Jr. Bills came out swinging against Francis Howell. One minute into the game, smooth passes allowed senior captain Maxwell Sextro to find the back of the net. Sextro’s goal set the momentum early for SLUH. Two minutes later, sophomore Logan Petlansky scored on the third shift, putting the Jr. Bills up by 2.

“You could tell in the locker room that we were ready to play a game,” said head coach Steve Walters. “To come out in the first and third shifts and do everything we’ve been working on and get rewarded for it, we couldn’t ask for a better start.”

SLUH went on to win 5-1 against Frnacis Howell, thanks in a big part to Winkelmann, who had a hat trick on the night. Winkelmann’s goals came off assists from senior Ryan Spinner, junior Luke Gund, and freshman Patrick Vogl. Each goal showed the skilled passing and quick movement of SLUH’s lines.

“It was a really good game,” agreed Sextro. “The team was playing really well and I feel like we were play-

ing with good chemistry. We could trust anyone who we put out on the ice and it could have been much more than 5-1.”

The Francis Howell win was a strong statement for a SLUH team who was coming off an early playoff exit the past year. This year’s team features a strong, skillful senior class and Walters is relying on them heavily to lead his team through the season.

“We’ve got a lot of highly skilled seniors and this team is not going to succeed without the seniors,” he said. “That’s going to come from both off-ice and on-ice roles and I feel very positive that they’re ready to take on that role.”

This year’s captains are Sextro and fellow senior Mario DiMaggio. For Sextro, the role of captain will actually be an easy one.

“There’s a lot of seniors on the team and we’re really just trying to lead by example and get the guys ready to play,” he said. “We don’t have to do much because everybody’s super excited to play every game.”

The Jr. Bills were certainly excited for their next game against Marquette last Satur-

day, which was a chance for redemption after last year’s playoff loss. Many students showed up to support SLUH in their home opener.

“We were missing a lot of our best players and we went in a little worried. We were all over the place but we were still confident I think,” noted senior Niko Nadreau. “After our first two goals we were really rolling and it became pretty easy to keep going after that.”

The game was a blowout from the very first period. Behind the strong play of the senior class, SLUH started strong and kept the pedal on the gas through all three periods. Avenging their playoff loss to Marquette last year, the Jr. Bills sent the Mustangs off the ice with their strong play. Will Peterson opened the scoring with a blistering shot from the blue line. From there, five other players found the back of the net, including seniors Gabe Nugent, Zach Petlansky, Sean Wieggers, and Nadreau as well as Logan Petlansky. Nadreau had two goals on the night, and he attributes his success to the game’s atmosphere.

“This was my first time playing in a game with a big

crowd, so scoring was obviously a really great feeling that led to my second goal,” said Nadreau.

The Jr. Bills, led by junior Max Bely, kept their shut-out and went on to win the game 7-0. The win continued SLUH’s momentum and it fueled hype about this year’s season.

“We think we’ve got a shot,” said Sextro. “We think we can take on anybody and we definitely have a chance for state. Our depth is crazy and everything’s clicking well.”

Those feelings were challenged by SLUH’s game last Saturday against CBC, though. Unlike the first two games, this game was ruled by the defense. CBC scored two minutes into the second period and that was the only goal of the night. It was a tough loss for SLUH, but the season is still early and the team is keeping their heads up.

“(The CBC game) didn’t go a hundred percent as planned but that game was amazing. It’s one of the better games that I’ve been involved in,” said Walters. “It was very fast-paced and both teams had a very good defense. It was just a frustrating game

for offensive opportunities.”

It was indeed frustrating for the Jr. Bills, who failed to capitalize on scoring chances all night.

“We’ve got to get better offensively,” Walters said. “We had three really good scoring chances that didn’t even hit the net. That will come back to bite you. We had some scoring opportunities we could have created but we just didn’t get the puck to the net.”

CBC looks to be one of SLUH’s biggest rivals this season. A strong team in their own right this year, the returning state champs are early favorites for this year’s title. It will be up to SLUH to change that over their next few games, which include some important matchups. After a game against Westminster this Saturday, SLUH will take on De Smet, their other rival, next Wednesday.

“It’s going to be a huge game,” said Walters. “Kids are already pumped up for it. We’re not happy with a 1-0 loss to CBC but it has resonated with the boys. They know if we step up our play in a few areas we will be able to compete with anyone.”

XC overcomes brutal weather in Indiana showcase

BY SEAN KELLOGG AND
JOE LABARGE
REPORTERS

Following a great performance at State, some of the top runners on the SLUH cross country programs decided to take their skills up to Terre Haute, Ind. to compete at Nike Cross Regionals at the Lavern Gibson Cross Country Course. Despite having just come off of a hard week competing at state, the team still ran some phenomenal races and managed to come away with the meet with some hardware.

The team left the comforts of St. Louis to go to Terre Haute late last Friday night and got a whole day in Terre Haute to train before their race on Sunday. They were met with frigid temperatures upon arriving at the famous Lavern Gibson Cross Country Course to get in a run and pick up their racing materials. Because of Nike rules, the team was not allowed to compete as a school but rather had to enter as The St. Louis Cross Country Club, sporting their Flopack jerseys and peach running shorts. After getting in a quick practice the team headed back to the hotel and ate dinner

in preparation for the next day's races.

When race day arrived though, instead of ideal conditions for a cross country race, the team was greeted with freezing rain and hail. Temperatures fell below freezing as the team was warming up and the rain made the course sloppy and slick just as the JV squad was going to the line.

Because only 22 teams are allowed in the Championship (varsity) race, many varsity teams from the region were forced into the Open race to compete against SLUH's JV squad, but despite this the team remained focused and put on a show as the race began. Lucas Rammacher had a breakout race and led the SLUH pack the whole time, earning the only PR on the day and running 17:47. Following Lucas was a pack of three SLUH runners: Will Riggan (18:01), Mason Scargall (18:06) and Anthony Zangara (18:08), who all finished within 7 seconds of each other. Nolan Meara rounded out the scoring for the Jr. Bills running an 18:26. In a race that had almost 900 runners and 76 teams in it, SLUH finished in 30th with a score of 872 points.

"I think we raced very well and it's really exciting when you think that there were very few seniors in that group in the open race, so a lot of them are getting some really good experience that can prepare them for next year and years to come," said Porter. "It was a great way to finish out the season and to get those younger guys ready to go for next year's season."

The varsity squad raced next, in the 10th race of the day, and by then the course was torn to shreds. It was hard to even walk around without sinking in mud. To further add to the struggles, the team had to be introduced then stand for almost 20 minutes in the freezing conditions and rain. However the varsity kept their goal in mind and had a day out on the course. The team packed up a little further back in the pack than normal but with the help of senior Joe LaBarge, who was having a breakout race, they moved up throughout the race and managed to finish in very good positions. Sean Kellogg led the way for the Jr. Bills and finished in 39th, running 16:42. Joe LaBarge (68th; 16:58) finished close behind, finishing as the two man for the team for

the first time this season. Baker Pashea (82nd; 17:07) and Grant Brawley (93rd; 17:16) finished close to each other and ran very well to place in the top 100. Justin Glass (130th; 17:43) rounded out the scoring for the Jr. Bills on the day. With four runners in the top 100 and a solid five man team earned the 10th place team finish out of 22 teams, taking down both the Class 4 and Class 5 Missouri state champions from just a week before. They scored 282 points and had a scoring spread of 1:01. Despite the bad conditions, the Jr. Bills rose to the challenge and finished in one of the best team positions that SLUH has had in a while.

With the cross country season wrapped up the team looks forward to the winter off season and track next spring. With fast performances like these behind them the team is very optimistic for its chances during track and looking forward to the 2022 cross country season. With five of the varsity runners being seniors, the team is looking for some new faces to step up and the coaches are confident that they will have a very successful fall season in 2022.

SLUHSERS 12: THE ILLUSION OF FREE TIME



SLUHSers | Jude Reed

Prep News

Volume 86, Issue 12

Credits:
“What are you thankful for?”

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Leo “Mr. Powers” Smith

Alex “Digital Design” Nance

Photographers

Miles “Wii Sports Resort” Schulte

Mrs. Kathy “periodic table” Chott

Moderator

Steve “elves who grade essays” Missey

Calendar

Friday, November 19

B Day

first Possible Winter Sports Contest

LUNCH Special—Baked Cod
Vegetarian—Spinach Quiche

Saturday, November 20

SLUHtique Set up Day

8:20PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Westminster

Sunday, November 21

Service Learning Retreat

11:00AM Mother’s Club SLUHtique

Monday, November 22

No Classes

NO CLASSES-RETREAT DAYS

Service Learning Retreat

Senior Kairos

Freshman Retreat

Tuesday, November 23

No Classes

NO CLASSES-RETREAT DAYS

Senior Kairos

Philia Retreat

Wednesday, November 24

No Classes

NO CLASSES-RETREAT DAYS

Senior Kairos

Philia Retreat

9:30PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs DeSmet

Thursday, November 25

No Classes

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Friday, November 26

No Classes

THANKSGIVING BREAK

6:00PM Varsity Basketball vs Fr. Tolton

Saturday, November 27

7:30PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Kirkwood

Sunday, November 28

Monday, November 29

A Day

Adopt-a-Family Drive

LUNCH Special—Homestyle Meatloaf
Vegetarian—Spinach Portobello Cap

3:30PM JV1-1 Racquetball vs Lindbergh

3:30PM JV1-2 Racquetball vs SLUH JV2-3

3:30PM JV1-3 Racquetball vs SLUH JV1-2

7:30PM C Team (Blue) Basketball Webster Tournament vs Mehlville

7:50PM Varsity Ice Hockey vs Lafayette

Tuesday, November 30

B Day

Adopt-a-Family Drive

Advent Confessions

NIE Second Quarter Meeting

LUNCH Special—Spicy Chicken Wings
Vegetarian—Stuffed Bell Pepper

4:15PM B Team Basketball vs Cardinal Ritter

5:00PM Wrestling (JV/V) vs Hazelwood West

6:00PM Varsity Basketball vs Cardinal Ritter

Wednesday, December 1

A Day

Adopt-a-Family Drive

Advent Confessions

C Team (Blue) Basketball Webster Tournament

Band Rehearsals

LUNCH Special—Chicken Alfredo
Vegetarian—Roasted Vegetable Pasta

3:30PM Varsity 1 Racquetball vs Kirkwood

6:00PM C Team (White) Basketball Timberland
Tournament vs Fort Zumwalt East

7:30PM B Team Gateway STEM Basketball Tournament

Thursday, December 2

B Day-Late Start

Late Start Schedule

Adopt-a-Family Drive

Advent Confessions

Advent Ignatian Evening

Department Meetings

LUNCH Special—Santa Fe Chicken with Chipotle Cream
Vegetarian—Eggplant Parmesan

4:00PM JV2-3 Racquetball vs Chaminade

4:30PM C Team (White) Basketball Timberland
Tournament

7:30PM B Team Gateway STEM Basketball Tournament