



## SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

### QUARTER II - 2022

### MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISORY UNION

*As I write to you with my first report as your Superintendent, we have just begun the second half of a school year that has been unlike any we have ever experienced. The global pandemic has upended and disrupted our learning, our work, and our home lives in ways that no one could imagine two years ago! Yet, despite all of this, I can assure you that our schools are stepping up in a heroic way every day to provide the rock solid education the children of Barre have expected for generations.*

You are about to read an Annual Report that will outline the celebrations and challenges our schools are experiencing now and will face in the years ahead. And there is so much to celebrate! I mentioned above that everyone in our community - our kids, our staff, our families - have been heroes during this pandemic, and I have been inspired every single day by the heroism I see! The heroes who have impacted my life and inspired me the most have given everything of themselves to help others, and this heroism clearly defines who we are in the BUUSD. From the school nurse spending her evenings and weekends reaching out to families to make sure they are OK to the neighbor who helps with child care so a parent can go to work, these are just two examples of the hundreds of selfless and heroic acts we witness daily.

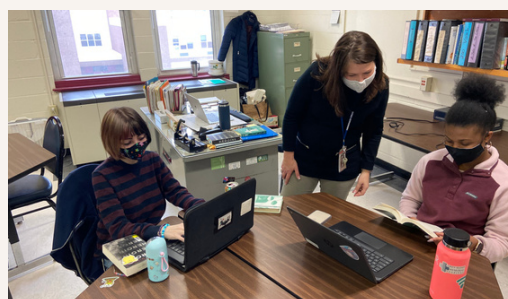
But to be fully transparent, none of this has been easy, and the challenges we are facing are real. Unprecedented staffing shortages that are impacting schools nationwide are very much in play in Barre, and we will need to do everything possible to retain, support, and recruit the best available teachers to work with our kids. Having the skilled educators in place to support our students with the social-emotional struggles and very real learning loss that they have experienced these last two years is our top priority. Meeting these challenges will require the Barre community to rally for our schools in ways many of us have never been called on to do before. We will need people to openly get behind our principals and teachers, offer help where needed, volunteer in our schools if you can, and, yes, fully support and rally for our school budget. Never has such community-wide heroism been needed more than now.

What you will see in the report ahead is that our schools are a resource and asset that are worthy of our tax dollars. Our schools are places of learning that we can be truly proud of! The tables and charts in the following pages will tell a story of a fiscally responsible budget that will meet the needs of our students and support us as we come out of this pandemic. You will see that we will be looking at lower educational taxes this year as a result of our efforts.

I want you to know that I genuinely thank you for your support of our schools and our students! I am honored to be your superintendent, and I thank you for taking the time to consider that getting fully behind our schools is an investment in the future of Barre.

Respectfully and with gratitude,  
Chris

### Prepping for Presentations



Soul and Grace reflect upon their writing with Mrs. Tosi (above left) while Dante, Cole, and Carter work on their final presentations for English.

### BE IN THE KNOW

**1st Day Back after February  
Vacation** Wednesday, March 2nd

**Winter Playoffs** For the most recent news and updates, click on the VPA's website that is listed below:  
<https://vpaonline.org/athletics/sports-rankings/>

**Parent Conferences** Thursday,  
March 17th from 12:30pm - 7pm

**No School for Students** Due to Staff  
Development on Friday, March 25th

**Spring Sports Tryouts** Monday,  
March 21st & so check your email  
dated from February 9th from AD  
Soffen in regards to Signing Up

**Academic Planning** For rising  
Juniors & Sophomores, see schedule  
for Course Registration with Your  
School Counselor below:

**Class of 2023**  
March 7th - March 15th

**Class of 2024**  
March 16th - March 24th

**Class of 2025**  
March 25th - April 1st

Parents/Guardians are encouraged to attend  
Junior or Sophomore Nights; a virtual session  
in regards to course registration and planning:

**Junior Night**  
March 3rd from 5:30PM-6:30PM

**Sophomore Night**  
March 8th from 5:30PM-6:30PM

**Senior Corner** Mark Your Calendars  
for Saturday, June 18th for  
Graduation



## SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS



### Sara Ford, Financial Literacy & Civics

One might claim that Sara Ford is *Spaulding High School's* renaissance woman based upon her interests, abilities and of course, her affinity for Pancake Rupert...

Sara attributes her upbringing in Lincoln, New Hampshire and notes even though our community was very small; only graduating 22 Seniors in 2017, this did not limit her from pursuing her academic dreams.

For Sara, having *Northern Vermont University's Johnson* campus nearby and having access to Early College, "a worthwhile investment" as her eyes light up.

"I was able to take courses that pushed me and gave me the opportunity to learn about the past, which I am fond of."

So fond of, Sara is actively involved in *Renaissance Fairs and Expos* throughout the region while teaching Financial Literacy, Civics, and History courses.

But for Sara, it's a great challenge and she's committed to providing her students with vicarious experiences like maintaining a budget, participating in a Model UN activity that she participated herself in, or raising awareness about political issues facing students today while reflecting upon the past.

She noted her own training and 1st year teaching experiences have been interesting due to COVID. However, her beloved Pancake Rupert, an eleven year old Persian has been her constant cuddle bug that has helped her navigate the world of education.

Pancake Rupert has been with Sara since 7th grade and has 1000 Instagram followers who light up people's day with various shots of his personality, especially when seeing virtual mice on a screen. Her hope is to bring him to a Renaissance Fair as he continues to learn how to walk on a leash in public. For those who want to learn more, stick with Pancake Rupert and Ms. Ford.



### Marcus Holmes, Physical Education

Like the courses, *Tools for Healthy Living & Cooperative Activities* within the Physical Education Department, Marcus Holmes tries to understand the skills needed to manage his time and how he can modify traditional games in order to be in accordance to COVID guidelines within his department.

For Marcus, he is very excited to be back at *Spaulding High School* and the district because prior to his current position, he was doing his student teaching at *Barre Town Elementary & Middle School* and working part time at *Olympia Sports*.

He reflects upon his student teaching fondly and values the importance of physical fitness and establishing relationships with his students. He feels fortunate to have the wisdom of Nick Ross, his colleague within the Physical Education Department.

He hails from Johnson, Vermont and attended *Northern Vermont University* that enabled him to gain the skills and knowledge to become an educator. And he understands the importance of having sports in one's life. As a soccer and lacrosse player from *Lamoille Union High School*, he credits the lessons he learned that can be applied later in life, such as strong communication, executing plays, and teamwork. But more importantly, he believes *Spaulding High School* is a good fit for him and he hopes to lead by example, especially maintaining a healthy lifestyle and coping with stress with his loyal dog, Chico.



**Returning Home with Music: Eleanor Steinman, Class of 2025** Since middle school, music has been a passion for Eleanor, but when her brother, Jeffrey asked her to join the production of the *Sound of Music*, musical performances became her thing.

Upon reflection, Eleanor's face lights up as she discusses the sounds and sensations of putting on a production. She loves stepping into the footsteps of a character and seeing the reaction of the audience. For her, these experiences have sparked joy during her high school career.

However this all ceased due to COVID. No *Mamma Mia*, no Winter Performances, and no singing in the halls, but more importantly, no daily interaction with her peers. She credits 'improv' games helped a little, "but it just wasn't the same."

"I am a musical person. I love singing in the hallways as I travel to each class. I love being in performances, and being in my *home away from home*" referencing the *Drama Club*.



In turn, for Eleanor, she was so appreciative of being

able to perform in *Alice in Wonderland Quarter II* because like her peers, they could all return home.

# ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

## Winter Concert



Anticipation fills the *Spaulding Auditorium* to see Band and Chorus performances return over the Winter.

### *Finally Having the Chance to Sing & Play their hearts out*

The feeling of camaraderie has returned to Mr. Booth's, fondly known as Bobby and Mrs. Elgood's rooms, especially for the Performing Art Students.

As **Haley MacAuley, Class of 2022** noted, "... the sense of togetherness and being able to practice as one, just a good thing," especially for her peers who love to sing or play a wind instrument.

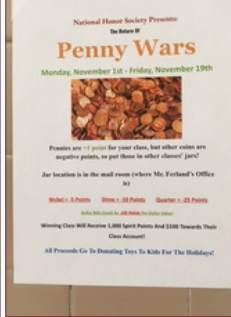
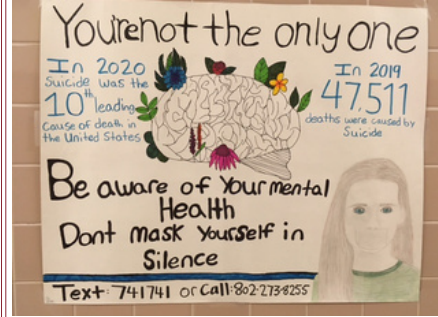
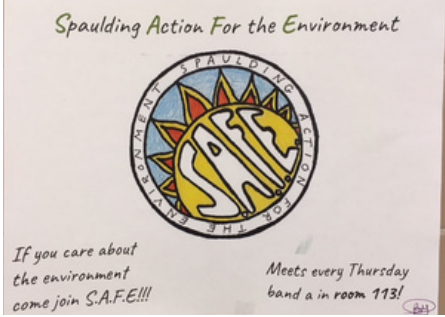
For many of the students, just singing and playing music makes them realize how much they love music and how much they missed it over the past year at *Spaulding High School* due to the COVID recommendations for Performing Arts programs.

Freshman newcomer, **Camille Marineau, Class of 2025** appreciated the warm welcome she received from Band and Chorus members this year, along with working hard, practicing hard, and believing in self.

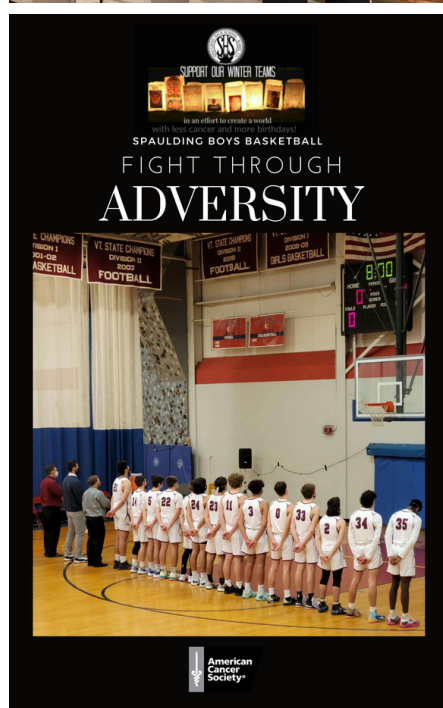
"Just starting my day in Chorus is an awakening experience and it's just fun," stated Camille. **Matt Toborg, Class of 2022** echoes this sentiment and reflects upon his Senior year in the program.

"It's just fun..." referencing his friendships and being able to incorporate his own style into a musical piece. He encourages others to join and spend time learning how to read sheet music or playing a musical instrument. In other words, there are no strings attached and it's a chance for students to have another creative outlook as do many in Band, Jazz Band, or Chorus students do now.





## SPREADING TIDE PRIDE



**Doing what I love, what I am interested in, and what I want to do are important** to members of *Spaulding High School*.

*Let the tsunami begin against cancer!*

Tide athletes have multiple missions to not only support their teammates and win games, but also combat childhood cancer.

For some, this is a personal mission, for others a worthy cause to raise awareness. In the past, Tide athletes have sponsored a *Luminaria* event in the spirit of *American Cancer Society's, Relay for Life*, which has been impactful seeing various luminarias lit up in honor of friends and/or loved ones who had cancer and/or were survivors.

However, knowing that COVID continues to impact programming and being mindful of safety, Tide athletes brainstormed various ways to raise awareness and do something good with the thought of *Nights of Hope*; a series of designated nights where athletic competitions took place at *Spaulding High School*.

And so, with the support of the *National Honor Society*, students were encouraged to wear pink or TIDE swag by showing up at a competition and demonstrating school spirit as they watched their peers compete on the court, on the mat, or ice.

For those Crimson Crazies or fans who wanted to share out good thoughts virtually, Senior mothers like **Amanda Pierce** and **Diane Solomon** embraced this idea and composed messages to support their sons' teams in Wrestling & Boys Hockey.

However, under Coach Willard's leadership he recommended *Coaches vs Cancer- a fundraiser* from *American Cancer Society* for those who wanted to make donations. As noted by **Tavarius Vance**, *Class of 2023*, "It's for a good cause" and he was in agreement with Coach Willard's idea.

Tavarius stated that "Coach cares... he is able to provide the support we need and knows our strengths and weaknesses in order for us to become a team." So much so, as this newsletter goes to electronic press, Varsity Boys Basketball is 13-2 within Division II; hoping to gain two home playoff games.

According to Tavarius, "We can make it to the championship as long as we play with heart and determination" like the Winter Athletes are with *Nights of Hope*.



## ACADEMIC PLANNING



**Madame Marineau** of the *World Languages Department* & **Mr. Crawford Stempel** from the *Science Department* understand the value of being a global leader, so much so, they ache for the past...

In the Spring of 2020, their programming for overseas travel to either Quebec City or Costa Rica ceased due to the pandemic emerging in the United States. Like many across the nation and worldwide, individual safety and health was on the forefront of everyone's mind, so all programming for cultural immersion ceased.

This clearly was upsetting to not only them, but several French and Marine Biology students because both Madame Marineau and Mr. Crawford Stempel have a wonderful reputation of providing their students with enriching experiences, along with fostering the skills needed on how to navigate different cultures.

For Madame Marineau, her goal is "to expose and educate students" with experiential learning opportunities that enable them to practice their linguistic skills whether it be engaging in conversation in French, playing a game, reading a passage, and/or practicing conjugations. But more importantly partaking in some scrumptious French culture like consuming a buttery crepe or croissant, especially knowing that her students are unable to travel this year.

On a more personal level, Madame Marineau understands the importance of French culture based upon her own upbringing by her family in Barre. She reflected upon this in the past and views French as an important language based upon Barre's French heritage too.

Like Madame Marineau, Mr. Crawford Stempel values lessons of life, but maybe a bit deeper like the sea or an ocean. Even though he may crave the warmth of the sand running through his toes, singing Glory to Spaulding with his Marine Biology students as they kayak in clear blue waters of St. John, or exploring the tropical rain forests of Costa Rica, he dearly misses witnessing his students' eyes open up to another culture. He enjoys students engaging in the outdoors and learning about conservation projects like working with sea turtles.

As he looks over to his fish tanks fondly because he knows that virtual tours and lessons are not the same... from witnessing and experiencing weather patterns to flora or fauna or learning about a community's efforts in conversation.



But he does not give up and continues to navigate like a scuba diver watching sea creatures dance among a kelp forest.

In turn, for those students who are interested in immersing themselves in other cultures, please click on the link below & check out the *Program of Studies* and learn about the French Courses, along with the Marine Biology Course or see your School Counselor as you begin to plan for next year.

[Program of Studies 2022/2023](#)



# Vote Before Vacation!

## VOTE BY MAIL OR VOTE IN-PERSON

Call **802-479-9391** or go to **mvp.vermont.gov** to request a ballot to be mailed to you.

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022**  
**7:00 AM to 7:00 PM**  
Barre Municipal Auditorium  
or Barre Town School

## Understanding The Ballot When You Vote

### BALLOT

Shall the voters of the Barre Unified Union School District approve the school board to expend **\$53,254,319**, which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$16,252 **per equalized pupil**. This projected spending per equalized pupil is **5.99% higher** than spending for the current year.

When calculating spending per student, Vermont uses "equalized pupils" rather than an actual headcount. The formula gives less weight to pre-kindergarten pupils and extra weight to students in secondary schools, those from economically deprived backgrounds, and those whose first language is not English. The principle behind the weighting is that it costs more to educate students in certain categories.

**\$53,254,319** includes approximately \$6,000,000 of grant funding. This funding operates two elementary and middle schools, a high school, an alternative school, and a central office. This value provides economical and quality education for approximately 2,300 students.

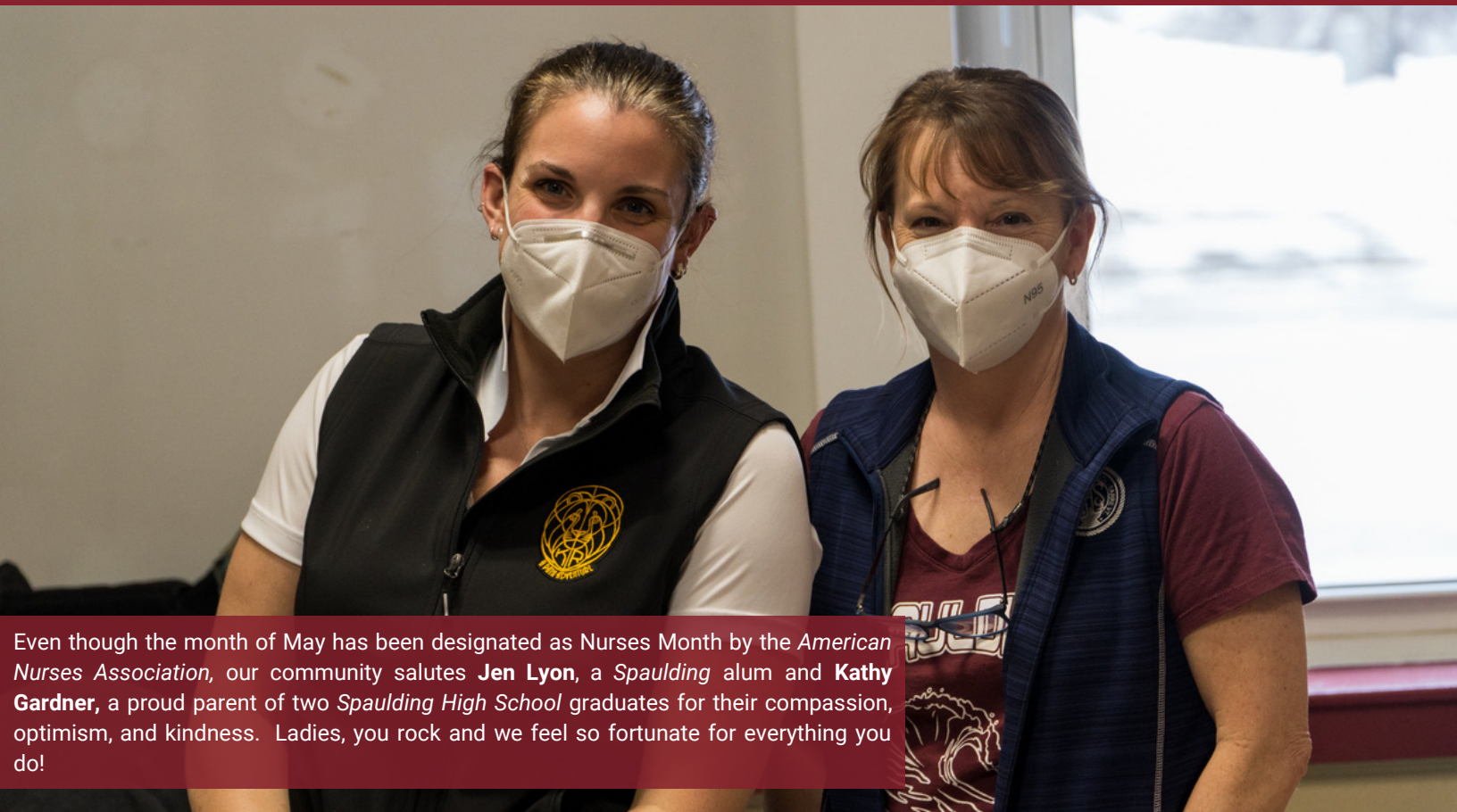
Your educational taxes are **not** going up **5.99%**. 5.99% is the percentage increase in spending per student from FY 2022. Our expenses are only increasing by **1.95%**, but because of lower tax rates, **educational taxes are actually going down**, as you can see below.



College bound students interested in enrolling in University of Vermont listen to fellow Spaulding alum, **Genevieve Anthony** who is the Assistant Director of Student Services & College Registrar of the College of Engineering & Mathematical Sciences.



## CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



Even though the month of May has been designated as Nurses Month by the *American Nurses Association*, our community salutes **Jen Lyon**, a *Spaulding* alum and **Kathy Gardner**, a proud parent of two *Spaulding High School* graduates for their compassion, optimism, and kindness. Ladies, you rock and we feel so fortunate for everything you do!

## We are constantly amazed and proud of our community.

*Spaulding High School* is pleased to recognize the following recipients of the *Robert M. Burdett Memorial Award* for Quarter I.

This award is named after former Principal Robert M. Burdett (1971-1979), who believed in the “unsung hero.” The award is presented each quarter to students who contribute to the positive atmosphere of the school. It recognizes students in four different categories:

- Unsung Hero, Good Citizen, Exceptional Growth/Improvement, & Exceptional Perseverance/Resilience

**12th Grade** Aidan Ahearn, Taylor Audet, Lily Beun, Ashley Boisvert, Kyle Coache, Amiya Deering, Steven Derouchie, Kevin Desjardins, Bria Dill, Julia Fewer, Alexander Fleury, Zoey Henry, Kayla Hood, Jonathan Jesmonth, Hayden Kennedy, Isaac Lobb, Haley MacAuley, Brandon Noury, John Poirier, Michael Rea, Samantha Reed, Madalyn Sickles, Jameson Solomon, Marinda Spaulding, Samuel Starzec, Zoe Tewksbury, Christian Titus, & Justice Womer

**11th Grade** Shaylene Abraham, Carter Dayton, Riley Fleury, Ava Guarriello, Mason Keel, Daniel Kiniry, Rayna Long, Cole McAllister, Madison Pembroke, Isabel Preston, Alaina Rueda, Soul Shute, Gabriel Stone, & Tavarius Vance

**10th Grade** Kacie Audet, Avery Bellavance, Zachary Benoit, Isaac Davis, Isaiah Deering, Paige Dickinson, Ian Forlow, Ruby Harrington, Alexa Hricay, Jaelyn Huckins, Madelyn Hull, Jack Kelley, Kayla LaPrade, Allison Longo, Gracie Martin, Phillip Maurice, Caitlin Peacock, Brooke Rayta, Noah Ronson, & Lilly Tewksbury

**9th Grade** Cordell Akers, Alexander Cepeda, Michael Daniels, Madeleine Frost, Shauna Gilbo, Sydney Greaves, Jeffrey Isabelle, Eva LeBourveau, Carson Lewis, Camille Marineau, Brianna Pace, Brodey Priddy, Sahvana Spencer, & Maquedya Sylvester



**Robert Burdett Recipients, Quarter I**