

# Verbatim

adjective | ver·ba·tim | 축 어적으로 | literalmente | 逐字 | doslovně | 逐語的 | từng tiếng một  
: being in or following the exact words : WORD-FOR-WORD  
// a *verbatim* report of life at Cardigan

Monday  
April 10<sup>th</sup>,  
2022

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Monday  
February 21<sup>st</sup>,  
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AUGERE VIRTUTEM-DIRIGERE MENTEM

62 Alumni Drive, Canaan, NH

## Next Steps for Cougars, Class of 22 and Class of 23

Reporter: Mateo Escalante

April 10th marks the culmination of the Cardigan class of 2022's secondary school journey, as this is often the deadline for students to commit to their next home. Verbatim staff was able to sit down with Mr. Langetieg P'24, director of secondary school counseling on the eve of decision-making to find out how the process unfolded.

### As we edge into the last hours of April 10th, can you share a summary of our class of 2022's outcomes in the secondary school process?

It's important to know that we're not done. We're still working on some waitlists for some kids to finalize their homes and that's always something that comes down to the wire on 9th or the 10th and it's important to note too that most waitlists don't convert so it's a challenging time for kids who have their hearts set on places. But more than anything, *as you look at the class of 2022, you see a group that was recognized in the secondary school landscape as a community-minded cohort who understood relationships and shared purpose.*



### Did COVID present many challenges to the secondary school process this year?

COVID has continued to present challenges. The most drastic ones are over-enrollment and rises in applications. Schools are up 25% to 50% in their applicant numbers, many schools moving over 1,000, 2,000, or 3,000 applicants, and more and more schools are admitting under 10-20 percent which is an

impressive landscape! When you look at over-enrollment, it affects no grade more heavily than 10th and we have a lot of qualified applicants applying for 10th. So, when you then look at how things panned out for class of 2022 and recognize that there are even fewer spots, outcomes are even more impressive!

### Can you tell us about the upcoming 8th Grade Secondary School Fair?

We are hoping to have 75 to 80 schools at the fair, 60 have already replied. We were geared up to do an 8th grade fair in the Spring of 2020 but it was put on hold by the pandemic. So, this is something that we are kicking off to provide early access to students to really branch out and visit with the schools from all over the country and places that have been particularly popular with our applicants. Another cool thing is that it will be held in the evening so it won't conflict with the academic day and lunch. *That will allow the class of 2023 to enter into our fall mini-fairs with a whole new perspective.*

### What is one piece of advice that you would like to give to the rising 9th graders?

There's no one better to receive advice from than the current 9th grade class that just finished the process, but I would hope that the advice should center on specific schools but rather the experience. Start thinking about what you are doing now that centers entirely around Cardigan. *What opportunities are you taking advantage of, what do you plan to do to broaden your special interests?* Are you self-advocating? Are you getting extra help? Are you doing your best? That's important as you enter the summer break, take advantage of everything because it is still going to be really challenging to get into schools next year. Don't wait! Don't expect to be invited and don't take time and say I have next week, next month, next fall.

### What is your favorite part about being the director of the Secondary School Office? And how many years have you been serving in your role?

I've been involved in secondary school counseling for 7 years. There are two sides of my favorite parts of the process. One of them was actually helped by the pandemic because it enabled me to get in front of classes with the applicants once a week and spend time together. I get to know the applicants better through it. My next favorite piece is representing all of the applicants externally with Mrs. Day and Mrs. LeRoy, *talking on each kid's behalf and it's a really powerful experience for me.* I'm able to talk in depth on who you are as community members, your growth, your academic proclivities and trajectories, and everything else. Not everyone has the opportunity to go out and say "these are my guys, let me talk about them."

# News

## The World According to Mr. Gartner

Mr. Gartner | Ph.D. in Knowledge

- 1) The elves are the real MVP's.
- 2) Gingerbread houses don't taste very good.
- 3) Grilled cheese is better when made with shredded cheese instead of sliced cheese.
- 4) Snakes have legs.
- 5) Skim milk is lying about being milk.
- 6) All surprises are unexpected.
- 7) It's a water heater, not a hot water heater.
- 8) Americans waste 600 million Gallons of water waiting for the water in their shower to warm up.
- 9) Fire doesn't have a smell, but smoke does.
- 10) Popcorn is a vegetable.

## Inside Look on Volodymyr Zelensky

Reporter: John Murphy

On January 25th, 1978, in Kryvyi Rih, the sixth president of Ukraine was born. Ukraine was then the Ukraine Soviet Solicits Republic. Zelenskyy was born into Jewish faith in a country known for its antisemitism, meaning Jewish people have been discriminated against in Ukraine for years. Zelenskyy spent four years in Mongolia before entering school in Ukraine. He grew up speaking Russian and at the age of sixteen, he passed the Test of English as a Foreign Language. He was not able to use the educational grant he received to study in Israel and ended up studying law in Ukraine. He then became an entertainer. He was the founder of Kvartal 95, a comedy outfit. He spent 1995 to 2003 competing in comedy competitions. Zelenskyy co-founded Studio Kvartal 95 which became a top Ukrainian media company, where he worked as an artistic director. In 2012, Studio Kvartal 95 partnered with fellow Ukrainian network 1+1. At that time Zelenskyy started acting. In 2014 Viktor Yanukovych, the current President was overthrown after protests. Peter Poroshenko was out in his place. Also, at this time Ukraine was engaged in conflict with a Russian Insurgence at its Eastern Border. The decisive moment was when the television series "Servant of the People" became popular. The New York Times described it as a cross between "Monty Python " and "The West Wing". He played the everyday man. In the show, he was a history teacher who went viral after a student recorded a speech he had in class. He was talking against a corrupt government in that speech. In the show, he was then voted as president after the speech. The show gained popularity after many Ukrainians thought the show reflected their government and Zelenskyy was a good president. Zelenskyy used his growing fame to create his political party. He named it "Servant of the People " after the show. He ran for the presidency in 2019 and was endorsed by the billionaire owner of Network 1+1. The network ran a documentary supporting Zelenskyy the night before the election. He won in a landslide with over 73% of the votes.

Then, after months upon years of tension on February 22nd of 2022 Russia officially invaded Ukraine. Zelensky proved to be a top-class leader. When the American government offered to help him leave the country he now famously responded, "I need ammunition, not a ride." As many Ukrainian women and children left the country. Zelenskyy's martial law does not let any man from age 18 to 60 can't leave the country. Many women are also volunteering to fight. Zelenskyy has used social media to send videos of motivating speeches, him walking on the front lines, and visiting wounded soldiers. He has helped inspire non-military members to help the war effort by way of fighting, or making goods for soldiers. He has done all of this through numerous assassination attempts.

Volodymyr Zelenskyy is a national hero who has drawn comparisons to Abraham Lincoln and Winston Churchill, not just due to his leadership. Also, due to humble political origins. He showed the best leader is not always the most qualified or experienced. He is an example to prospective leaders anywhere, including at Cardigan. Cardigan leaders may not be leading a country through war or using social media to inspire people, but they need to stand up for what they believe is right.

