



THE BLUFFTON TELEGRAPH

For the Bobcats, By the Bobcats

Teacher of the Year: A Special Award for a Special Person By Katelyn Paschal

“Teaching is the one profession that creates all other professions.” -Unknown. In short, this quote means that if teachers never existed, all of these other jobs would never come to fruition. Every current employee needed to be taught to get where they are now. Despite their significance, educators don’t always get the appreciation they deserve, but Bluffton High tries to remediate that with the “Teacher of the Year” award.

The title goes to the teacher that students and staff think is the best one of the entire year. This time, Jeron Martinez - leader of the fire program - won. He has worked as a fire safety instructor here for five years now, and he’s still astonished that so many people voted for him. “I’m in a bit of shock, disbelief,” he said. “I’m still in the surprise phase of it. Definitely 100% honored that faculty and students see me as a teacher of the year.”

Mr. Martinez mentioned why he thinks a multitude selected him for the award. “I’d probably say (because of) the amount of demand I require out of the fire program students, and I show that I care about their well-being outside the classroom as well as at school.”

Speaking of his students, the teacher said his biggest challenge was keeping all of them “in tune”.

“One of the challenges was to get all the students on the same page because that’s a big part of the fire program,” he stated. “They require teamwork and some things they do are graded by the state.” Additionally, Mr. Martinez brought up why he feels like he won. “[The way] I’m able to relate with the staff here and the students.”

One thing to keep in mind, though, is that all good teachers are inspired by another. Mr. Martinez talked about his own role model. “I’d say my mentor, Mr. Granquist. He’s pretty much the one that ushered me into the high school here.” Mr. Martinez’s love for teaching actually started early. “It’s been in the back of my mind since I was in the Marine Corps,” he said. “I enjoyed working with the Boston school system and teaching the high school students, and when I retired, the position for my field (here) was available, so it was a no-brainer to hop on it.”

Speaking of his field, the teacher also said he didn’t plan on deviating from it too much. “I want to keep doing the same way I run the program. [However] I want to get them [the students] more involved with the community.”

Last but not least, Mr. Martinez supplied some advice for pupils who want to win any big achievements. “Just give 100% of themselves, no matter what type of award it is.” To sum it all up, the Teacher of the Year title seeks to give educators the attention they deserve. It truly is a special award for a special person.

Girls Varsity Softball & Soccer Make Playoffs

By Rachel Nix

The regular season has come to an end. Playoffs give top teams the chance to play after the regular season and determine championships for different levels. At Bluffton High School, girls varsity soccer and softball have earned the chance to compete in playoffs once again.

Girls varsity soccer at Bluffton High has competed many times in the playoffs. Brian McCarthy, head coach for the past four years, has led his team to playoffs three out of four seasons along with assistant coaches Kristy Barton and Brittney Pacifica. This year's team is made up of predominantly juniors and sophomores and in the past, has been a young team. Most recently this season, the team made it to the playoffs after winning 13 of 20 overall games and 8 out of 12 region games. On Tuesday, May 3, 2022, girls soccer traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C. to play North Myrtle Beach in their first playoff game. Bluffton won by a score of 7-0 and will continue in the playoffs. In the past, girls' varsity soccer has made it to the playoffs in 2006, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2021. In 2019, the Bluffton girls varsity soccer team was region champs and finished in the 3rd round of playoffs. Girls varsity softball has made the playoffs almost every year since 2004 when Bluffton High first opened. The team has been a participant in the playoffs for many years in the past including 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019. Of those years, Bluffton has been region champs in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2014. In 2014, the team earned the title of runner-up after the state championship playoff game. Coach Billy Rose, head coach for the past four years, and assistant coaches Debra Saunders and Rachael Zeiders have led girls varsity softball to the playoffs once again this year in 2022. This year's team is young, with no seniors, nine juniors, and the remaining underclassman. On May 4, 2022, Bluffton lost their first playoff game with

a score of 10-0 against West Florence High School. This past Thursday, May 5, both girls' varsity soccer and softball teams lost their second games of the playoffs. In a double-elimination bracket, the softball team lost 4-3 in the 8th inning against Beaufort High School. Soccer traveled to South Aiken High School and lost by a score of 4-3 in a single-elimination bracket. Congratulations to both teams for their hard work and dedication throughout the Spring 2022 season!



The Bluffton High School softball team after one game

Club Spotlight: National Art Honor Society

By Nicolle Lopez

The tears and tribulations of children are seen and heard all around the world. At Bluffton High School, The National Art Honor Society is more than just an art club. NAHS helps orphans and kids all around the world by bringing some light into their lives of darkness.

The National Art Honor Society is a group of talented high school students who are passionate about art and focus on making a difference for people all over the world. Many are invited to join based on their excellent artistic skills and good grades in art classes. While many are invited, some can also ask to join. The only requirements to join NAHS are to have taken three art classes

and getting letters of recommendation. Students need 35 hours of community service by the end of the year and must take five art classes throughout high school. NAHS notices and recognizes artists who have true talent and will work with them to help bring some positivity into other kids' lives.

NAHS at Bluffton High School works with an organization called Portraits of Kindness every year and they make it a top priority. Portraits of Kindness is a non-profit organization where students and teachers create portraits of children around the world who have gone through life-changing or traumatizing experiences such as neglect, abuse, or loss of parents. At Bluffton High School the students make portraits for kids in orphanages all over the world. "The students get to choose whom they will make a portrait of," said Mrs. Pejeau, the NAHS advisor and art teacher at Bluffton High School. They then create portraits of the kids based on pictures that were sent in of them. Each artist makes the portrait in their own style. Students will use watercolor, oil pastels, markers, paint, colored pencils, or any type of color media that they prefer. Students put a lot of time and effort into their portraits to make sure they show and represent the children in the best light. After the portraits are made, they get sent off to the children to hopefully brighten their days.

Along with Portraits of Kindness, students also make artwork for veteran nursing homes across South Carolina. NAHS does a lot of community service around the community and is committed to giving back with anything they can. NAHS students help at local art shows or art galleries. This year NAHS students will have a chance to show off their own work at the National Craft Show at Shelter Cove in May.

NAHS is a way students can express themselves through art while giving back to people who have gone through a lot in their lives. For too many people, art can seem like a hobby, something that people do just to pass the time, but for NAHS students at Bluffton High School, art can be a life-changing experience for them and for others.

Dear Upcoming Freshmen,

Hello and welcome to Bluffton High! You may have heard different stories about our school; trust me, I know. Whether you are coming from McCracken Middle, Bluffton High, or even River Ridge, you have heard it all. Well, I want to lay down four basics I have learned from my time here at the school. The idea of high school might seem intimidating now but it really is not as bad as it seems.

First, the classes here are challenging in a good way. Don't take this information the wrong way. All classes you take in high school can be difficult if you do not apply yourself. Here at Bluffton High, the teachers will push you to do your best in every class you can. Therefore, pay attention to the syllabus and stick to it. Believe me, I know what not reading the syllabus can do for your grade. My best advice for you academically is to keep your end of the bargain, that is the syllabus. Make sure you do your best to do well in any class. To be honest, any of the classes offered here could be an A for you only if you do all that is expected and do it well.

Secondly, get involved. Whether it's sports, art, clubs, or music, join it. Don't get into the mindset that no one will want you to come because you are a freshman. It is the complete opposite. The clubs I am involved with beg for freshmen to join and give a new perspective to the club. Speaking of clubs, I would really join Student Council if you really want to have a say in what happens in the school. There is a club for every interested student and if you can't find one, create one. I created (or started it up again) the newspaper club which publishes the school newspaper monthly. It helps to have a group of people that share at least one common interest with you. Find that passion and pursue it. Colleges love the extracurricular activities that you are involved in so do it!

Thirdly, get out of your comfort zone. Believe me when I say high school is the best time in trying out new things. Before you take it out of context, I am referring to meeting new people, trying different classes, and exploring different interests.

Most of the people I have met in the last three years are people I would have never dreamed of meeting if I had stayed with people whom I was comfortable with. The friends I have made here were worth the uncomfortable feeling of talking to a stranger. My advice to you is to talk to that new classmate or person you pass in the hall. Before you strike down the idea of trying new classes, consider the fact that high school is your last chance to truly figure out what you want to do. College, of course, gives you the option of changing your degree but it's preferable to have an idea of what you want to do. For those who love history, go for that AP World History class and government, AP Comparative Government. Our school offers great opportunities to expand your knowledge in whatever you choose.

Finally, enjoy a healthy balance between school and life. For me, I treat school as my job which means I invest in it even on the weekends. However, I have come to realize there needs to be a balance between my school load and my life outside the building. You should have time reserved just for your friends and family. Play with your pets. Explore outside with your friends. Don't push everything else out because of school work. You can never relive your high school years again.

Enjoy high school! I can not wait to see and meet some of you, including my younger sister. Feel free to say hi to me in the hallways if you see me.

**Lots of love,
Hannah Lawson**

The Best Summer 2022 Bucket List **By Natalie Duran-San Miguel**

Summer break. It is only 77 days long and it is entirely up to you on how to spend your days. But what if you just moved here like me? Or if you don't know what you want to do this summer? I asked students and teachers, here in Bluffton, how they spend their summer to compile the best summer bucket list.

- **The beach.** The South is known for its hot weather and anywhere on a coast is known for its beaches.

Here in our small county, there are many beaches available. The number one tourist attraction beach is Coligny Beach. The sand is solid right up to the shore with the added bonus of free parking. On Hilton Head, there is another less-known beach called Folly Beach. There are many attractions and activities on Folly Beach including fishing on the pier. Some resorts own their little strip of beaches. Hilton Head beaches also include Burkes Beach, Westin Beach, and Bradley Beach. Beaufort has beaches as well including Harbor Island Resort Beach, Lands End Beach, and the Sands Beach in Port Royal.

- **Travel.** While many people do travel from everywhere to the south or to the coast, some people leave in the summer. If you have lived in this state your whole life, why not try a new environment? The change can be as simple as one state over or as big as going to a different country. There is always something new you can learn or discover in a different place than you are accustomed to.

- **Camps.** There are many camps you can participate in or help in. A cooking camp called Taste of Grace teaches younger kids to cook. Food such as chicken pot pie, cake, sushi, and teriyaki chicken is taught. This camp allows younger siblings to do something this summer. There is a Vacation Bible School at Community Bible Church in Beaufort. It is a five-day daytime Bible camp with music, food, and crafts.

- **Volunteer Work.** Many people are a part of the National Honors Society, want service hours for colleges, or just want to volunteer. The PAL Thrift Store and the PAL Animal Shelter are always looking for volunteers. When the PAL Thrift Store was interviewed in the first newspaper of the 2021-2022 school year, it was mentioned that volunteers were needed and they do service hours.

- **Drive-ins.** Drive-ins are fun and are different from watching movies in a movie theater. In a drive-in, you sit outside in your truck or in chairs on the

the ground. A movie or two or maybe three will play at sundown. You can bring your own food and blankets but there is almost always a food concession stand. There is one close drive-in movie theater, located in Beaufort, called Highway 21 Drive-In. If you love the outdoors and movies, this could be the right place for you.

- **Amusement Parks.** Amusement parks are fun and for groups of people. There are rides and games to spend your time and money at. Located in Pooler, Georgia, a place called Fun Zone is an option. At the Fun Zone, there are go-karts, an arcade, and mini-golf. On recommendation, go to the Fun Zone at noon when it first opens. If you want rollercoasters, there are a few in South Carolina and North Carolina. In Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, there is Family Kingdom Amusement Park. In Charlotte, North Carolina, there is Carowinds.

- **Lazer Mini-Golf.** If you like mini-golf, you should try the Glowcountry Indoor Mini-Golf in Beaufort. Lowcountry has neon colors with blacklight golf. People who are military, first responders, teachers, and nurses get in at the same prices as kids. They do offer parties with many included services.

- **Sports Conditioning.** Many sports are put on pause when the break begins but that doesn't stop the athletes. Fellow athletes at this school are committed to sports conditioning to stay fit and ready for the fall and spring seasons to start.

- **Go on a boat.** Down here in the Lowcountry, a lot of people own boats. Summer is a great time to take out the boat and enjoy the sun and water. There are places to take out the boat such as the Port Royal Boat Landing, Broad River Boat Landing, and Grays Hill Boat Landing.

- **Shelter Cove Harbor & Marina Fireworks.** Located on Hilton Head, the fireworks happen weekly. You can watch them at Shannon Tanner, Cappy the Clown, and Parrot Palooza with Shannon Tanner & the Oyster Reefers during designated times. Along with fireworks, there are arts and crafts, live music, and some activities for kids.

- **Annual Beaufort Water Festival.** From July 15 to July 24, the annual water festival in Beaufort has

has entertainment and fun every day. There are tournaments, races, arts and crafts, and a Commodore's Ball. There are things to do on land and in the sea.

- **Escape Rooms.** Escape rooms are teamwork and bonding for 60 minutes in a locked room trying to escape. There are a few escape rooms around here with a variety of escape rooms to choose from. There are escape rooms in Beaufort, Bluffton, Hilton Head, and Savannah.

- **Stay in and relax.** The weather will only get hotter from here. With temperatures increasing to the 80s and 90s, some people don't want to melt. There is always an option to stay inside and find ideas to do here. If you have a joy for arts and crafts, why not start up a project? You could paint something for a friend or family member. If you are more interested in video games, there are many games you can play. You can buy a new game and try to finish it or just have fun. Keep cool in the heat.

Why a Sport?

By Rachel Lawson

Sports are an opportune way to make friends and connect with others based on common interests. Regardless of if you are a reserved type of person or a social butterfly sports can boost your confidence and engrain in you a mentality to push yourself. Here are thoughts on why you should consider a sport.

#1 Character

Character building is a necessary component in sports. You can not separate the two. When participating in a sports practice or event - as you struggle or excel in the skill. Sports let little room for egos. You'll be humbled by criticism and feedback from your coaches and teammates. You'll realize no one is perfect but practice can perfect your skills. You'll always have a teammate who is ahead of you or a rival who expresses more

talent. Don't use that as an excuse to give into fear. Also, endurance and determination are aspects that can be gleaned from sports practice. As you progress into your season you'll realize the standard your coaches set for you. They desire for you to reach a level of confidence in your abilities as well as put 100% of effort into practice. That means less time on break and more time and effort in frequency and intensity in workouts or scrimmages.

#2 Friends

It's not always easy for some people to make friends. It can be terrifying to put yourself out there and open your world up to a stranger. Sports can bridge the gap between introverts and extroverts in terms of friendships. For introverts, the feeling of being connected and included around teammates is rewarding and helps boost one's emotional state.

#3 Self Confidence

You glean confidence from your coach and fellow teammates pushing you out of your comfort zone. Over time as you sharpen your skills you start to congratulate yourself on your endurance and stamina. By the end of your sports season, your body will build up muscle and be conditioned for other sports you are interested in.

What to Do In the Lowcountry During Summer '22 By Reilly Prelich

As the 2021-2022 school year comes to an end, finals are stressing everyone out and seniors are graduating and leaving to go out and explore the world on their own. Now, school should be everyone's main focus to end the school year with good finals scores and overall grades, but as summer approaches, what is there to do? What's the plan for summer? Who's getting summer gigs and who's traveling? Most people may stay for the summer so that they can work and enjoy the beach, so here are some things to do on the days off from work this summer.

Obviously, since it's the Lowcountry, of all places, drive down to Hilton Head and enjoy some (much needed) time at the beach. Get some sun, tan a little, enjoy the ocean (no matter how murky it is), and dig a hole. Just go out and enjoy the beach, either with your friends, or your family or bring your dog and enjoy some quality time with them and splash around for a bit. Now, since you're on the island already, might as well stay until the sun sets and watch the sun slowly dip below the surface of the ocean, with sand on your toes, listening to the waves crash down on the shore. Also, while you're at the beach, rent a bike and see how far the beach stretches, just cruising through the sand. While you're at it, get a metal detector or two, and challenge your friends or family to see who can find the most treasure, hidden below the depths of the sandy beaches.

Next on the agenda, drive, walk, bike, or ride a golf cart into Old Town Bluffton, which is in the very heart of Bluffton. Walk around for a bit, and check out all of the unique little shops that sit on either side of Calhoun Street. Check out the local parks like the Dubois Park or the Calhoun Street Dock Park. Ride a bike through the tree-shaded roads, enjoying the fresh, southern air. Also, the dock is a perfect spot to hang out with your friends and family, and pets, either fishing, relaxing watching the sunrise or the sunset or gazing up at the stars and the moon late at night. Keep an eye out for dolphins while you're down there too, because they are very common, especially during the warmer months of summer.

Also whilst out and about in the heart of Bluffton, look out for the community events and farmers market events that happen during the week and weekend, such as this past weekend's Mayfest, which had community tents galore. The Bluffton Farmers Market happens every Thursday, which includes fresh produce from our beautiful state of South Carolina, brought to Bluffton for all of us to enjoy with our families and friends. Make sure to check out the art festivals as well. There is always a beautiful piece of art

that is perfect for any individual someone. Now, you have to be quick to buy your things though, because all of those pieces go fast!

If you like playing sports or being active, then there are plenty of places for you to enjoy getting your heart rate up and your blood pumpin'. There are plenty of basketball courts for all of the Bluffton hoopers, and plenty of big, open fields for football players, soccer players, and lacrosse players to enjoy running up and down the green grass. Now, if you enjoy some baseball, there are also a few baseball fields found down here as well, to practice your pitching techniques, practice your batting, or just play catch with your friends or family. Make sure you stay hydrated while you're out too!

Senioritis

By Cynthia Robles

As the school year approaches an end I can imagine everyone happy and excited for summer to start, but for the seniors, it means their adult life begins. The pressure of having a strong plan after high school is there. You might think that if you don't have a plan, you're doomed, but in reality, it's okay not to have one or to have a gap year, or to be undecided about what college you plan on going to after high school. After all these years of homework, projects, and exams, it's okay to be exhausted. Everyone is at their own pace and it's not recommended or required for you to be at the same level or level of readiness for the outside life. It's okay to not want to go to college and want to start your own business or want to go to the military and skip college or go to college for 12 years to become a surgeon.

As long as it's your passion to do so. If you are not sure about what to do after high school think about what you are most passionate about, and what you see yourself doing 10 years from now but think about your future job as something you want to go to instead of something you need to go to because without it you won't have money, make sure what you choose is something you love. Although changing your career halfway through or after four years is completely normal, it's normal to want to try

new, or try something you've recently been eyeing because that's what life's about. Don't let others influence you into something that you might not actually wanna do. Always give your best effort in all the things you do. After 12 years of hard work, it's also okay to want to take a break, trust me I do. So trust your gut and follow your dreams, become a doctor, be an entrepreneur, be a nail artist, go into the military, be a lawyer, whatever it is become the best version of it. When you commit a mistake don't stress over it, we all make them but worry about what you can do better in the future. After walking off that stage you must feel the relief and feel proud about yourself, congratulate yourself for your accomplishments and the hard determination you have earned these past few years. I congratulate you all seniors for sticking on this long and not giving up. I wish you the best of luck.

Have a good summer, Bobcats!
Tag us on Instagram at
blhs.newspaper if you want to
have your vacation photos
featured in the August issue.
