The Badger Pause

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Val & Sal 2015: A Neck and Neck Battle

by Zak Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

As the school year enters its final few weeks, it is again time to make preparations to say farewell to this year's senior class. Graduation day looms on the horizon, and many seniors are preparing to leave the school a few weeks early in order to participate in the new Senior Shadow Project. The Badger Pause is saying its own goodbye with this Senior Edition paper, and as per tradition we are including an article about the valedictorian and salutatorian of the graduating class.

That task is not as simple as it seems. As some may have noticed, there has been no official announcement about this year's valedictorian or salutatorian as of yet. This is due to a few factors, one of which being that, with the aforementioned new Shadow Project, the Senior Edition of our newspaper is being released earlier this year. What seems to be the biggest factor, however, is that the competition is just too close to call.

Yes, in a class that is known to many students and staff as a battle ground of academic prowess (okay, maybe I'm being a bit over-dramatic here), the race for the top has been brutal, and whoever ends at that number one spot has fought hard to get there. There is, currently, no definitive answer or even solid basis for prediction. The best that we can give you is the top two prospects.

So, without further commentary, let me introduce you to the two main competitors for the top of the class and the titles of valedictorian and salutatorian: Megan Arnold and Zakari Martinjako.



Pictured to the right is Zak Martinjako (currently ranked second in the class) and to the left is Megan Arnold (currently ranked first).

Zakari Martinjako

The student placed second in the class, again at the time of writing, is Zakari Martinjako, otherwise known as me. Which means I'm about to sound horrendously conceited, so I'd like to apologize in advance.

Admittedly, I'm quite well known for my grades, and from seeing other people's reactions there really isn't much surprise that I'm a contender for valedictorian/salutatorian. I've taken some considerably challenging courses throughout high school, including Honors/AP English, Calculus, Honors Algebra II, and AP Biology. I generally took the highest level courses the school offers for required classes. Electives, on the other hand, I chose more for my interest in them. Outside of class, I'm involved in CARE Team and have been inducted into National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society (in which I serve as the treasurer). As for sports, well, I haven't really been one for athletics since elementary school.

(I'm not quite as impressive as Megan, I'm afraid.)

The most stressful aspect of high school for me has been homework, especially projects, due to the sheer amount of time they consume. I like to get work done as fast as possible so that it's out of the way, but I also want it to be done exceedingly well. Add that to my propensity to procrastinate, and it doesn't end well.

Looking back, I believe the two most difficult classes I took were Honors English III and Honors Algebra II. My reasoning is much like Megan's, English III was just a huge spike in workload, and Algebra II had difficult subject material. My favorite class was definitely Creative Writing. It was nice to get to write artistically (not much room for that normally, and no, essays do not count), plus I loved reading other people's work.

I will be attending Hiram College to study Computer Science.

Megan Arnold

Megan Arnold is, at the time of writing, the student currently ranked first in the class. To those that know her, this probably doesn't come as a surprise. Arnold has consistently challenged herself throughout high school, taking upper level classes such as Calculus, Physics, Honors/AP English, and AP Chemistry. Yet despite the challenge of her course load, she has maintained an incredible standard for her grades. On top of her challenging coursework, Arnold also has an impressive repertoire of extracurricular involvement. Throughout high school she has been a member of student council as well as the class president. She's been inducted into both the National Honor Society and the Spanish Honor Society. Additionally, she's a member of both CARE Team and Actively Caring for People. On top of all of that, she played basketball and volleyball throughout high school, and served as a varsity captain on both teams. Oh, and she's also a peer tutor and a volunteer at Burton Congregational Church. Did I mention she's held a couple jobs?

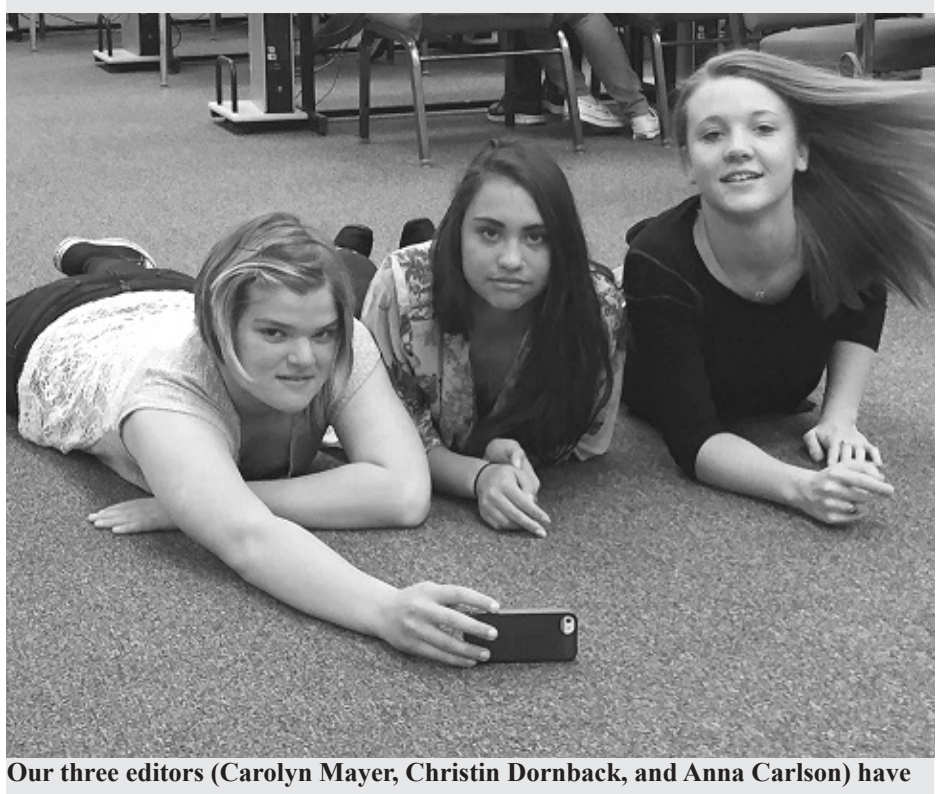
(If your head is spinning from the sheer amount that she's done and been involved with, it's okay, mine is too.)

According to Arnold, the hardest aspect of high school for her was time management. It's pretty easy to see why. On the topic of difficult classes, she said the two that stood out to her the most were Honors English III, due to the leap in workload from previous years, and Calculus, because of its challenging subject matter. On the flip side, Organic Chemistry was her favorite class "because it's not a HUGE workload and I can just learn chemistry and enjoy it. Going at a slower pace in an interesting class makes it more enjoyable. Plus the labs were intriguing."

Arnold will be attending Allegheny College to study Chemistry and Pre-Medicine.

Once again, it's important to remember that this information is not finalized. It will all come down to the grades in these final few weeks. As one of the competitors, I would like to say good luck to Megan Arnold, and may the best man, or woman, win.

The Senior Editors' Last Will and Testament



Our three editors (Carolyn Mayer, Christin Dornback, and Anna Carlson) have some last requests before they leave.

Read it on page 9!

Check out these articles!

Curiouis about Senior Superlatives? See them on the back page!

The seniors bid you all a fond farewell on page 4!

Oh the places you will go! See the benefits of travel on page 5!

Saying goodbye to our super-librarian, Mrs. Arnold, on page 6!

Berkshire's collegiate athletes

by Emily Shantery, BP Staff Writer

Of the many talented athletes graduating from Berkshire this spring, few are going on to play college athletics. Playing at the next level in sports can be nerve-racking yet also very exciting. It takes a special kind of person not only to make it onto a college sports team, but also to love a sport enough to commit to it on an even higher level. In light of this, The Badger Pause would like to recognize some of the best athletes from the Class of 2015.

Suzanne Koziol



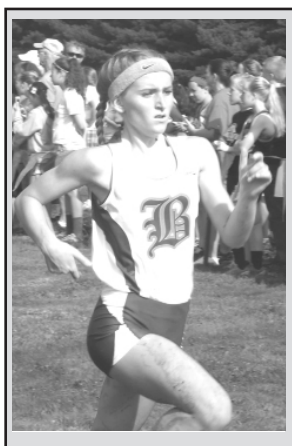
Suzanne Koziol has committed to Youngstown State University where she will run track and cross country. During track she will focus on the 3k steeplechase. Although she has been running since the seventh grade, Suz, as she is affectionately called, hasn't always wanted to run in college. It wasn't until she realized the opportunities it held for her financially and with traveling that she decided to run at this level. Suzanne plans to major in dietetics and is most excited for meeting new people and experiencing new things. She also stated that she doesn't have a favorite athlete, but that "runners around the world are all super cool and inspirational, and the running community is a huge inspiration."

Christin Dornback



Christin Dornback will be attending Arkansas State University in the fall, and she will major in Marketing with a minor in Communication. Dornback will continue to run track and cross country there, and her track events will most likely be the 800 and the 1500. Dornback stated that her favorite athletes are Craig Rupe, Eric Rupe, and Julie Cole. While she hasn't always planned on running in college Dornback said that she decided to because "it's definitely advantageous financially, but at the same time running is a big part of my life, so I don't think I could give it up and be happy with myself."

Katelyn Luther



Katelyn Luther is a Berkshire runner who will continue to run throughout her college career. Katelyn, known as Cluck by her closest friends and fellow runners, will run cross country and track at Walsh University where she will be majoring in pre-physical therapy. For track, Katelyn will be focusing on long distance events such as the 1500, 3k, 5k, 6k, and possibly 10k. Katelyn has been running track since the seventh grade, and cross country since the eighth grade. She says that she has always wanted to continue running in college. Cluck is mostly excited for having more freedom and independence as she prepares for her freshman year as a Cavalier. Her favorite athletes are Alexi Pappas and Jordan Hasay.

David Pelletier



David Pelletier is yet another Berkshire runner who will continue his track and cross country career at the college level. He will attend Cedarville University, and he will be in the Allied Health Program there in order to become a chiropractor. His events will consist of long distance and the steeplechase. David has been running since the seventh grade and says that he has always planned on running collegiately. He is looking forward to hanging out and getting to know the guys cross country team at Cedarville, but he will miss the camaraderie and the bond he has with his Berkshire team. More specifically, David will miss man nights every weekend and forking people's lawns with the team.

Ben Blechschmid



Ben Blechschmid will be attending Baldwin Wallace University this fall. He will be a running back for their football team and majoring in Sports Management. Blechschmid started playing football when he was only six years old, and he mentioned that he has always wanted to play in college. Blechschmid also said that he is most excited to be living away from home, and that his favorite athlete and biggest inspiration is Reggie Bush. His favorite moment of his senior season was tying the scoring touchdown record at Berkshire.

Rebecca Porter



Rebecca Porter has had a different kind of high school sports experience being the only swimmer to represent Berkshire for most of her high school career. Porter has decided to swim for Allegheny College where she will be double majoring in English and Art. Her events at Allegheny will be the 200 breaststroke and the 400 I.M. (Individual Medley). Porter has been swimming since she was seven years old and has thought about swimming in college on and off throughout her life, but she has always gone back to it. Porter is excited for having a real team as she approaches her freshman year of college because she never really had one in high school.

Nick Paul



Nick Paul has been playing golf for 12 years and has always planned on playing collegiately. Nick will attend John Carroll University where he will major in Accounting with a minor in Spanish. Nick says that he is very excited about his freshman year at J.C.U. He is specifically looking forward to being independent and making his own decisions. Nick also mentioned that his favorite athlete who inspires him most is Rory McIlroy.

Berkshire's own athletic director, Mr. Hiscox, provided some words of wisdom for these future college athletes. Being a former baseball player at Otterbein, Hiscox is excited for what the next four years hold for these students. Hiscox advises that "you need to be able to manage your time...practices are going to fluctuate. Secondly, make sure you get enough sleep. Know that you're there to get an education first and foremost." Hiscox went on to say that "to be a college athlete takes a specific skill set and a specific mentality. Everybody that we have going to play at the next level never gets too high and never gets too low during a game. That is a big thing if you want to be successful at anything that you do. They are all hard-working kids, and they don't want to be average. All of them have the [drive] and want to be the best that they can be." Best of luck to all of the soon to be college athletes in continuing their careers at the next level!







Standout Senior Athletes

To honor some of Berkshire's graduating athletes, the coaches of all sports were asked to select a standout senior athlete and explain why he or she stood out.

by Kayla Hadlock, BP Staff Writer

Girl's Golf: Carolyn Mayer

Coach Bomback chose Carolyn Mayer as the standout senior athlete for the girls' golf team, saying "She conducts herself with poise and is one of the most "sportsman-like" athletes I have ever worked with. She looks out for her teammates and always gives her best effort. Carolyn is a model golfer and will be sorely missed next year, for her leadership and work ethic." Carolyn has played golf for four years and has four varsity letters. She was awarded 2nd Team All CVC and was a captain this year.



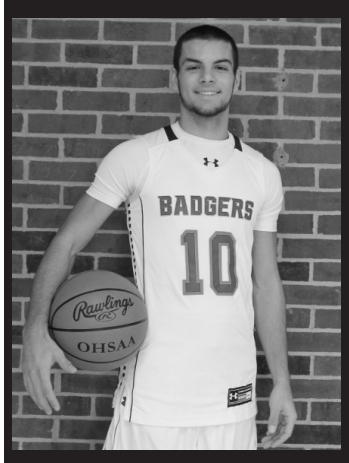
Girl's Soccer: Everyone

Coach O'Brien was so impressed with this year's senior soccer players that she could not choose one that stood out beyond the others. She says "When it comes to the girls soccer team I cannot say that there was just one standout senior player. Each one of my 8 seniors led in a specific way that was very vital to the team success and personal success. The seniors were not only standout players on the soccer field they were exceptional leaders in the classroom and in the community. The seniors had a combined GPA of 4.32. They are active in many clubs, extra curricular activities, and 4 are a part of national honor society." The soccer team's eight seniors are Anna Carlson, Alivia Alfredo, Grace Noce, Hannah Bucholtz, Ashley Curry, Alexis Johnson, Abby McDermott, & Vanessa Zelle.



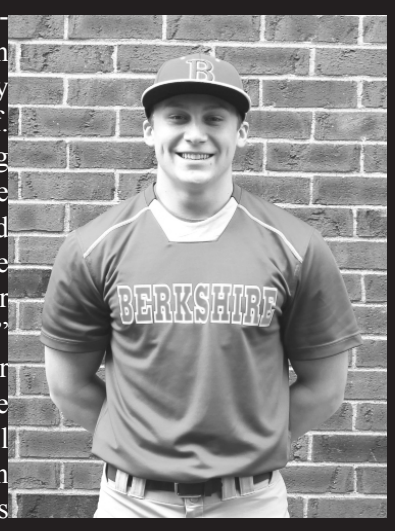
Boy's Basketball: Mitch Freeman

Mitch Freeman was chosen by Coach Clapacs as the standout senior basketball player. He says "Mitch is the only senior in the program that played all four years. His dedication and love for the team are second to none. Mitch showed unbelievable determination and toughness in enduring some difficult losing seasons without experiencing much success coming into his senior year. Mitch's faith and effort never wavered as he worked extremely hard to help turn our team around." Mitch helped lead his team to a 12-11 record and winning the CVC Valley Division Championship. He's been playing basketball for seven years, has three varsity letters, and was awarded Honorable Mention All-League.



Baseball: Connor Dudinsky

Connor Dudinsky is the baseball team's standout senior athlete. "It is the 3rd year with Connor and seeing him mature in baseball has been of great joy for me and my coaching staff. He has made his way into being our leadoff hitter the last couple years and has done a very good job. He has been a leader on the field and a good role model for the younger kids on the team," says Coach Smetana. Connor has been playing baseball since he was three years old, and will have three varsity letters when this season is over. He was awarded Honorable Mention CVC for outfield his sophomore year, 2nd Team CVC for outfield his junior year, and he's hoping to receive 1st Team this year.



Football: Frank Kaschalk

Coach Josh Deweese chose Frank Kaschalk as his standout senior football player. He went into detail on why Frank stood out, saying "In looking back at this past football season Frank stands out as a leader on and off of the field. On the field he worked tirelessly to perfect his craft. Off of the field he was always there for his teammates in high and low times. He also set the bar high for what was expected out of his teammates." Frank has played football all four years of high school and was captain this year. He received several awards including First Team County, First Team CVC, and Honorable Mention All Ohio.



Cheerleading: Alex Berman

Alex Berman was chosen by Coach Pam Pfiester as the standout senior cheerleader. "She is a great cheerleader, she has stuck with the sport many years, always a great role model, represents the school in the best possible manner, juggles activities efficiently, and does everything with a smile! Wears purple and gold with pride, and will be missed," says her coach. Alex has cheered three years in high school in addition to cheering in junior high and elementary school. She has two varsity letters and was captain of the cheerleading squad this year for both football and basketball.



Boy's Cross Country: Adam Thompson

Coach Cole chose Adam Thompson as the standout senior athlete for the boys' cross country team. She says Adam "stood out because, as a senior, he set the goal to qualify for the state meet. He showed quite a bit of personal growth and determination to make it happen." Adam has been running cross since 7th grade, has four varsity letters, and was co-captain this year. He's qualified for state and was awarded 1st Team CVC.



Softball: Samantha Cannella

Samantha Cannella is Berkshire's one and only senior softball player. Her coach, Shannon Moore, says "Samantha is a standout senior softball player because she is always cheering and motivating her fellow players. She is the first player to scream out encourage words during a game or keep the girls heads up during practice. She is energetic and knowledgeable about her position. Sam takes control and leads/directs the outfielders during games." Sam's first year playing softball at Berkshire was her junior year, so she will have two varsity letters after this season. She's been playing softball/baseball/tee ball since she was five years old and is a captain this year.



Girl's Basketball: Alexis Johnson

We already know that Alexis Johnson is a phenomenal athlete, considering she won most athletic for senior superlatives, and now she's been chosen by Coach Lory as the standout senior athlete for basketball. "Alexis practiced and played all year with a severe injury to her right hand which is her shooting hand. So she basically played all year one handed. Her leadership and practice habits never wavered even though she was in a tough situation. She worked as hard as anyone and was at her best in the games that counted the most," says her coach. Alexis has been playing basketball since 7th grade and has two varsity letters. She was captain this year and was awarded CVC Honorable Mention.



A fond farewell: Senior editon

By: Clare Lynn, BP Staff Writer



Carolyn Mayer poses with her favorite teacher, Mrs. Hull.

Adios! Farewell! It's been great, truly. The school year is dwindling down fast and it's time for the seniors to say their goodbyes before leaving the lovely nest of Berkshire High to seek employment, head off to college, or watch anime in their mother's basements. Seniors, for the first time, have the chance to spread their wings and fly... or crash and burn. Not only will fellow seniors be leaving their tiny town of Burton, and their relieved parents, but also the teachers that they've become close to over the school years. Berkshire students seem to create special bonds with their teachers, and so, unsurprisingly, many seniors wished to personally say goodbye to their favorite teachers. Here are some of those goodbyes.

Carolyn Mayer: "Dear Mrs. Hull, you've made my high school experience one that I'll never forget. You supported me when I was a measly sophomore in Journalism and now you are my favorite teacher who has helped me through many existential crises. When I go to college, I know that I'll be prepared because of your AP English class. I will never forget the Europe trip two years ago, and I'm really looking forward to the trip this summer. Soon, I'm going to have to leave my home in Room 204, but I know that I will always be welcomed back with open arms. You're the bomb."

Corey Mraz: "Dear Mr. Higgs, your classes were super interesting, especially History of the War on Terror. I wish that class could've been two semesters instead of one. I wish the best for future classes, and learning about the War on Tera (inside joke). From your friend and student, wishing you the best."

David Pelletier: "Dear Mr. Lester, you made math class not only bearable but even fun. I regret not taking AP Calculus because I miss you."

Ryan Zeitler: "Dear Mrs. Maske, goodbye. You were a chill teacher. Also you're a very lovely and energetic person in the morning after your cup of coffee."

Zak Martinjako: "Dear Mrs. Koler, creative writing was the best class I've ever taken. I really wish I could've taken Mythology. Goodbye, I'll miss your classes."

Jessi Simon: "Dear Mrs. Hunter, hey, thanks for being cool and not lame. I'll miss you."

Gwen Losasso: "Dear Senora Rea, I am not even sure where to start, except to say that you have taught me so much. Not just about writing and conversing in spanish, but also about outlooks on life and how to be a better and more well rounded person. I can be easily distracted and a lot to handle sometimes, but you always seem to keep me moving forward in the right direction. I always enjoy hearing your opinion on things, but hearing about your family and where your adventures have taken you is by far my favorite. I hope that you always keep your sense of humor, fabulous style, and adventurous spirit! I will miss you dearly, and I can only hope that one day I can be half the inspiring individual that you are. Stay golden!"

Clare Lynn: " Dear Mr. Deweese, over these past two semesters you've created a learning environment in which I thrived. I was able to openly voice my opinion. Loudly. And you often supported both Grace's and my opinions. I'm glad that Grace and I were able to entertain you for so long. Remember that time Josh talked about corn casserole the entire period, and I told him to shut up about it? Ah, good times. I guess to sum up how I feel about you in a single word, I'd have to say that you were pretty chill."

To all the teachers who were not personally said farewell to in this article, do not fret. The seniors will make their gratefulness for having you as a teacher known, afterall, graduation is right around the corner.



Mr. DeWeese will be saying goodbye to Clare Lynn.

Teachers offer words of wisdom for graduating seniors

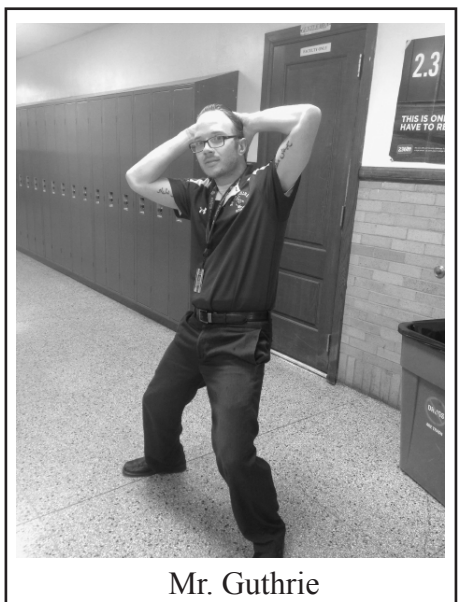
As seniors take the leap from high school to the real world, some teachers have a final lesson for them

By: Jessi Simon, BP Staff Writer



Ms. Bomback

I cherish the time we had together. I wish you the perspective to apreshiate this special moment in your lives.



Mr. Guthrie

Don't waste your energy worrying about things you cannot control, but strive to always improve yourself toorrow.



Mr. Lester

Always believe in yourself and always search for new opportunities.



Ms. O'brien

We all have finish lines in our lives. What matters is not so much when we cross them, but that we keep running the face towards them.

Seniors: get your senior pictures into Mrs. Arnold ASAP!

Everyone: Order your yearbook! There will be no extra copies!

Open your mind, travel the world



by Lauren Peterson, BP Staff Writer

It has long been said that travel expands the mind. Travel has not only been proven to make you smarter, but more open-minded and creative as well. The experience of another culture provides us with a valuable open-mindedness which allows us to recognize that a single thing can have multiple meanings. Open-minded is defined by dictionary.com as "having or showing a mind receptive to new ideas and arguments; unprejudiced; unbigoted; impartial". Not only does the experience of travel force you to be more open-minded, but it's important to go into the experience willing to accept new ideas – I cannot stress the importance of this enough.



Why do we travel? Sometimes it's for work, sometimes it's for family; but mostly, we travel because we want to, because the annoyances of getting through the airport are outweighed by the thrill of being somewhere unfamiliar. Travel is a basic human desire; we are a migratory species – to put some distance between ourselves and everything we know is a natural craving. But is this urge to travel a worthwhile compulsion? Yes. Pleasure is not the only consolation of travel. It's about the act itself, putting some space between all you know. The unfamiliar is an essential practice of effective thinking. Travel and the unknown can be terrifying; being open-minded does not necessarily mean you lack fear of the unknown, but rather have a tolerance of the unknown. When we escape from the places we spend most of our time, our mind is suddenly made aware of all those wayward ideas we have suppressed – we begin thinking of obscure possibilities. Our mind is likely to solve our most difficult problems while sitting on edge of the fountain at the Louvre in Paris.

"The world is a book, and those who don't travel only read one page."
-St. Augustine

Travel changes you. It changes the way you see things and the way you think. "Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry and narrow-mindedness. And many of our people, right now, need it sorely on those accounts", according to Mark Twain, it makes you a more tolerant, open-minded person. It removes your prejudice and makes you appreciate the small similarities that everyone across the planet shares. The world is a melting pot of ideas and beliefs, travel is about seeing life through those alternative points of view. Earth becomes smaller when you travel.



So, again, why do we travel? We travel because we need to, because distance and difference are the secret stimulant of originality. When we get back home, everything is still the same. But something in our mind has changed, and that changes everything. Thus, travel. Or don't. Just think for yourself and keep an open mind. Everyone will have their own experiences with travelling; there's no right or wrong way to do it.



Memories worth making: A bucket list for college bound seniors

by Lauren Peterson & Suzanne Koziol, BP Staff Writers

The majority of the senior class has been a part of the Berkshire School District since kindergarten, that's almost thirteen years, the majority of our lives! But as we leave to begin our exciting new lives we need to remember that **we will miss high school**. Everyone has a favorite teacher, subject, or just an aspect of school that they will eventually start to miss. So in order to truly make these last few months before college truly count, try to check some of these little things off your "senior bucket list."



First of all, **take a lot of pictures!** Take pictures with your friends. Take pictures with your family. Take pictures of the places you go. Take pictures of mean people from bad angles. Just take pictures. Memories will fade but pictures will help them last a lot longer.

Another good idea is to try to **go a day without technology.** Leaving the world of social media and expensive gadgets will help you to actually connect with your friends and yourself; you may be surprised by how much fun you have. Technology is a huge distraction. Forget about it for a day and you'll notice all of the little things that you've been missing. Next, t**ake a day out for yourself**. Set aside at least one day for you and you only. It is important to connect with yourself and come to terms with all of the changes that are about to happen. But on the flip side, **spending quality time with your family will be something you *won't* regret**. We know it doesn't seem like a big deal now, but remember that you won't be seeing them every day. As much as you hate to admit it, you'll miss them.

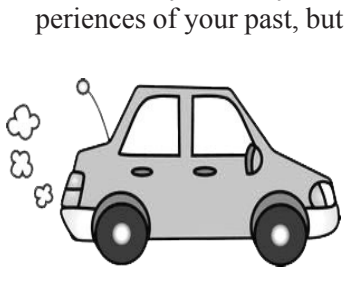
Do something you've always been too afraid to try. Whether it's telling that special someone how you feel or skydiving, just do it! Time is running out - you may not have this chance again. Let go of your fears and do the things that you've always wanted to do. Nothing will ever be exactly the same as it is in this moment. Carpe Diem.

Go on an adventure! Get in your car and drive without a set destination, stop and take in the scenery of an unfamiliar place. Go to a concert and experience the exhilarating feeling of the music racing through your veins and the bass bumping in your chest. Spend time outdoors, breath in the fresh air, and let the cool breeze wash away your worries.





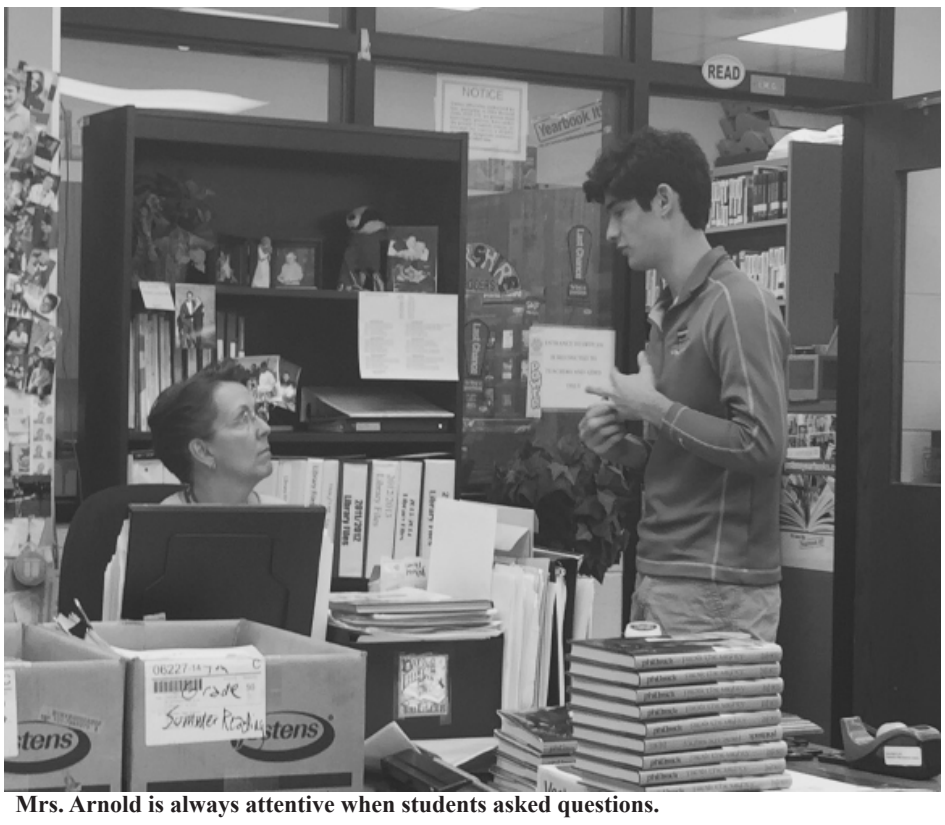
Finally, **say goodbye**. Say goodbye to your friends that you've seen every year since kindergarten. Say goodbye to your family, your pets, your teachers; anyone who you feel deserves a real goodbye. Tell them how they've impacted your life and why you're going to miss them. Tell them everything! Just let them know that they're important and will be missed more than they think. College is full of fun, new people, and new experiences. The opportunities you will be given can, and will, change your life. Lastly, ***don't forget where you come from***. Although Burton is a small town in the middle of nowhere, big things happen in this little community. This place is what made you who you are. Don't disregard the experiences of your past, but continue to look forward.





Goodbye, Mrs. Arnold

by Jessi Simon, BP Staff Writer



Mrs. Arnold is always attentive when students asked questions.

After 30 years, Berkshire says goodbye to everyone's second mom. The beloved Mrs. Arnold is retiring at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. This teacher-turned-librarian has done so many things for Berkshire's students and staff such as being the Advisor for Student Council and Yearbook, and the Head of the English Department. Over the years she has also worn the hats of the Thespian Director and Class Advisor. As much as Mrs. Arnold has given to this school over the years, Berkshire has given back. In fact it is in this building that Mrs. Arnold found her husband, the equally as wonderful, Mr. Arnold. Together, they have two children- Brian and Megan Arnold.

Going around talking to teachers and students and hearing their sincerest compliments about Mrs. Arnold is more of a testament to her than anything that can be put in to words. When they hear that I want to talk about Berkshire's greatest treasure leaving, their shoulders slink down, their smiles fade away, and for many people, tears are brought to their eyes. This just shows what kind of person Mrs. Arnold is. She's been a friend and someone to look up to. Mrs. Arnold inspires people to be better, help others, and make the best out of every day.

This article was the hardest thing I have ever had to write for many reasons. Not only did I have to take frequent breaks because it's hard to type with tears blurring my vision, but because I worried that it wouldn't be good enough. I have known Mrs. Arnold for thirteen years, and she is a very important figure in my life. There are no metaphors, allusions, or phrases that can bring to light what an incredible human being Mrs. Arnold is. It was hard to write about this huge change in not only my life, but also the life of Berkshire. This being said, I know that we all wish her luck, and will miss her dearly.


Mrs. Arnold smiles in the last school picture she will ever take.

An open letter to Mr. Higgs

by Zak Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

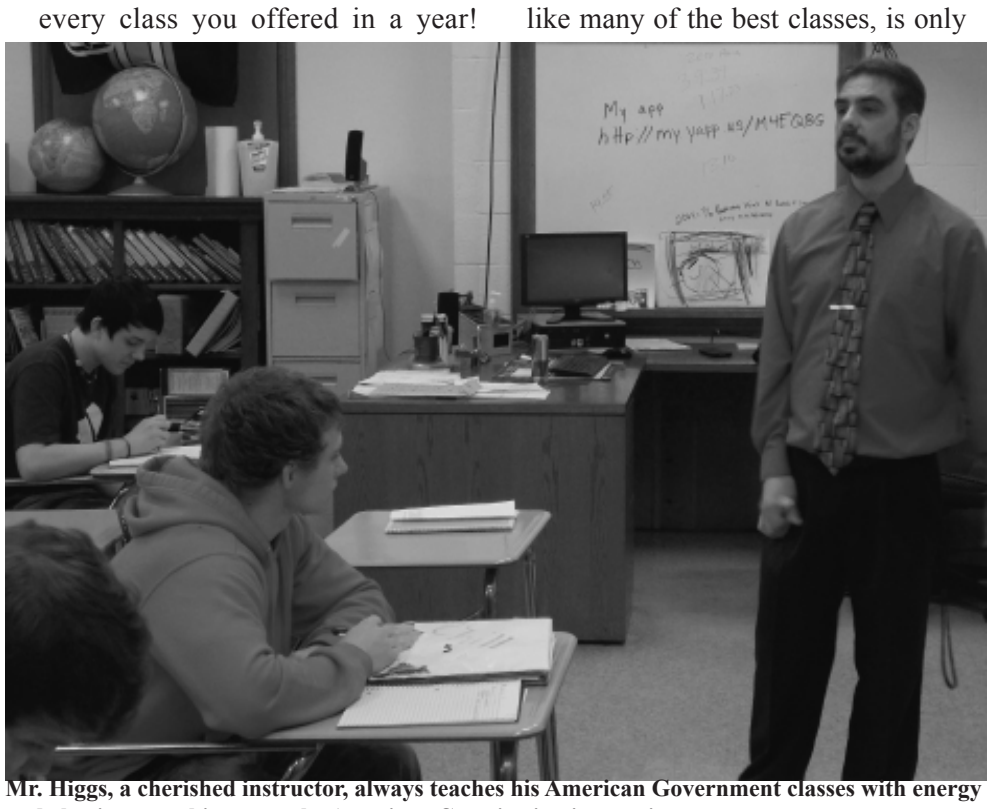
[Note to other teachers: by no means is this an act of favoritism, all of you are awesome!]

Mr. Higgs,

Hey there, it's been awhile (years, in fact). The last time I was in your classroom was sophomore year. Your classes remain among the most enjoyable that I have taken at Berkshire. Government and Economics were essential topics to cover in order to become a responsible person and citizen. Of course, many would also consider those topics to be unimaginably boring, yet you were able to inject some much needed fun and vitality into your classes.

You also have the awesome History of the War on Terror class, which I have personally recommended to many people. The information students learn in this class is, in my opinion, vital in forming an accurate understanding and informed opinion on terrorism and the United States government's efforts to combat it. Plus, learning about such a vastly different culture is truly fascinating.

Despite all of this, or rather because of it, I've got a bone to pick with you. You simply do not teach enough classes. I burned through every class you offered in a year! Other electives, such as Journalism and Current Events, allow you to take them more than once. History of the War on Terror (or HotWoT as many affectionately call it) does not, and, like many of the best classes, is only one semester long. Once someone passes Government and Economics, they only have the opportunity to spend one more semester in your room EVER. For those that take HotWoT sophomore year (like me) are even more out of luck, they only get one year out of four with you!


Mr. Higgs, a cherished instructor, always teaches his American Government classes with energy and charisma, making even the American Constitution interesting.

The answer to this problem is, of course, that you need to teach more classes. Maybe a class that covers another culture/religion of interest (similar to HotWoT)? An expansion of Government, focusing on foreign governments (as opposed to just American government), perhaps? Really, there's just so much potential. Sure, it might take a bit of creativity with the scheduling and a little bit of finagling with the schools system of breaking up Government and Economics, but I think it'd be worth it. Oh, and I suppose it'd probably increase your work load as well... But hey, if it's fun, it's not really work, right?

Sincerely,

Zak, on behalf of every senior who wishes they could've had another class with you.





Hindsight is 20/20

Advice from Berkshire alumni

by Kaitlyn Moses, BP Staff Assistant Editor

Graduating and transitioning to life after high school can be an exciting time albeit a bit frightening for those participating. But never fear! There are some who have already made it through, some of Berkshire's alumni offer a bit of helpful advice, relevant regardless of what path you choose to walk after high school.

Adapting to the change in schedule is a difficult task to conquer for many after Berkshire. Brooke Sell (Class of '13) said the hardest part of being out of school is transitioning from "the routine of going to school everyday to now being able to create my own schedule and work everyday." Chase Rowell who graduated the same year said, "the hardest part for me was having too much control. It was the same routine almost every day for twelve years, so going from that kind of confinement to total freedom became overwhelming. I had to create a new routine for myself just to stay sane." Perhaps scheduling your day out in order to manage work, school and life could prove helpful.

Leaving high school means leaving many friends, teachers, and memories. Kaileigh Rowell, who graduated in 2012, said, "I honestly do not miss high school, I miss the people and the teachers but I have the memories and I'm glad to be moving on and doing new things." High school can't last forever and when it is time to move on, it's nice to feel like you've made your peace with it and can start a new chapter of your life.

That new chapter could mean college or work or something else entirely. Tyler Moses, who graduated alongside Kaileigh, advises, "college is not for everyone, don't waste time and money on doing something you feel forced into. Whatever you do, do it to the best of your ability. Respect is earned by being passionate about your actions." Kaileigh agrees as she says, "when choosing what you want to do you have to think about where you want to be. Don't worry about other people, it's your decision. Go out there and view your options. Take the tours. Check out tech and trade schools and community colleges. You are paying for your education and it's important to think about where you want to spend that money. If college is what you want to do, ensure that you are ready, it's not just high school anymore, it's real. You can make a career out of anything as long as you have a passion for it. I wish I would have known that it doesn't matter what you choose to do as long as it's what you truly want. For me, I felt a lot of pressure to choose a school and a career when I had no idea what I wanted. Don't be afraid to do what you really want, even if it's not the traditional way of doing things." Chase adds, "the best advice I could give for life after high school is don't be afraid to express what you really want. Do what you're passionate about, even if it sounds crazy and unachievable. And if you don't know what you're passionate about its okay; your journey will lead you there! Listen to yourself and don't worry about the opinions of others. As long as you're happy and successful with what you do, no one can tell you that you made the wrong choice."

After attending Berkshire, Moses and Sell took classes at the Kent Geauga branch. Moses says, "the most difficult thing I had to cope with at first was going to the Kent Geauga branch instead of the main branch. I now realize that not only did I save about $15,000, but it was also a great transition from high school to college. I didn't do as well as I could have in high school because I didn't take it seriously. Needless to say, college was a big eye opener." He then moved on to the main branch where he is majoring in accounting. Sell stayed at the Geauga branch and is graduating this spring with her Associates Degree in Business Management Technology. She says, "I will be taking Real Estate classes in the fall. I am very happy with the choice I made because I was able to save money and work full time. In the beginning it was difficult for me seeing all my friends go off to school but in the end this was the smart option for me." Options such as attending some or only taking classes at the Geauga branch can be very beneficial and save a lot of money.

Siblings Kaileigh and Chase Rowell took a different path. Chase explained, "after graduating I took eight months off to do freelance graphic design. In that time my sister and I decided that we wanted to become hairstylists, so we enrolled into the Brown Aveda Institute. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made because it was a new kind of art that forced me to become more social. Now I get to work with people and create art every day! I love it! I'm also the lead designer for a tee shirt company, so I still do a lot of graphic design." He works with Greater United Front, a company some Berkshire students have modeled for. Kaileigh also loves what she does. For her it started when she went to Brown Aveda to become a nail technician; it was a backup job she planned to have while in school, but fell in love with and decided to go back for her cosmetology license. She adds, "I still love it! Best decision I ever made."

In high school there are cliques and groups, barriers appear to exist and seem relevant to many, but those are torn down and abandoned after graduation. Kaileigh said, "when you look back at it, it just doesn't make sense; they don't mean anything. If you can look past the cliques you realize how many friends you're missing out on." Sell added, "I think there will always be social groups and sometimes it is unintentional. After college I have realized that you shouldn't [have] secluded yourself off to one social group, and that it is important to be friendly with everyone. After high school and college sticking to one social group is not going to get you very far in life." Moses spoke about his experience as well: "I think the graduating classes of 2012 and 2013 were actually pretty nice. I don't think I ever really fit directly into a clique myself; I kind of scratched the surface on several different groups, which I enjoyed because I had a decent amount of friends my senior year."

When asked if he'd like to share any additional advice, Moses replied, "I wish I would have known how important good grades were at the start of my college experience. I'm now playing a catch up game and its beyond stressful. You don't need a 4.0 in every class, but don't take anything lightly." Sell would like to add: "Don't be reluctant to live at home while attending college. It saves money and allows you to focus on getting ready for the future. I was embarrassed as I am sure most kids are but after getting over that I have realized it was the smartest decision I could have made." Kaileigh ends with, "enjoy it! Graduating and your senior year is so much fun! Don't stress too much about the future, everything will work itself out and end up the way it's supposed to."



Chase Rowell, Kaileigh Rowell, and Tyler Moses (left to right) offer the graduating seniors of Berkshire some friendly advice about their futures.

Be your best self: You don't need an excuse to be a better person

by Gwen Losasso, BP Staff Writer

The problem with "starting over"
by Gwen Losasso, BP staff writer
A small pet peeve of mine is people saying "I can't wait for college. I'm so ready to start over." I'm not quite sure why this gets on my nerves as much as it does, but I know that it has something to do with the idea of starting over.

For a bit of background, this idea of starting over is not something that I am a stranger to. My family has moved multiple times, in and out of different states throughout my childhood. With each move came new neighbors, a new school, and a new me if I wanted it, I guess. The only problem was that I didn't want it. Although everything changed around me, I did not change. Looking back, I am not sure why this is except for the plain and simple fact that I did not want to change.

Now, I understand the idea of needing something new, and believe me when I say that right now I am definitely feeling it. I regret to say that this is not something that college will automatically relieve. Sure, college will undoubtedly be a new experience, however that does not mean that you won't be used to it after a year (or even just a couple of months). The person that has to keep things intriguing and holding on to that new feeling is YOU. Only you can keep yourself interested and occupied, while also maintaining and optimistic attitude. Although college seems like a great time to start, it follows a similar plan to the new years' resolution. The "new year, new you" montage only gets you so far. After a while, you slip back into your old habits and everything goes back into the same old routine you had been living in before. The college version of this idea is the "new school, new you" or "better school, better you". Sorry fam, but this isn't reality. Your closet doesn't automatically update, you don't become highly sophisticated, and those highlights or that gold MacBook Air doesn't get you all the popularity and positivity you need. I mean honestly, not even the university sweats will make you feel better about yourself or eat healthier.

The reality of the situation is that college is not a way of completely starting over. Although you can use it as a way to surround yourself with more positive people, or make goals to do your homework on time, the only way that these things will actually happen is if you make them happen. So then, I argue, why not make them happen now? Why not increase your positivity? Why not go for a jog after school, or study instead of going to the mall? Going to college or starting a new job doesn't change your mindset. You do. Stop putting your goals off until next year, or your next school, because your life doesn't restart. So seize the day, follow your dreams, and go tackle your goals folks!

Blast from the past

by Abby Carlson, BP staff assistant editor

Populars, geeks, jocks, homework and tests. High school has been around for years, but its constantly evolving.

Pat Klag, a 96 year old Troy High alumni, gives us a glimpse of what high school was like back in 1937. When asked what classes she took in school, she answers with a minimal list. You do have to realize this was nearly 78 years ago, and some aspects of high school life and classes have been forgotten. However, she does recall taking Geography-her favorite class- American history, American literature, Home Economics, Algebra, and Geometry. Not too many, but you must also take into account that her graduating class only consisted of seven kids, so having a large variety of classes and electives would have been rather difficult. Similar to the class variety, sports were also lacking in numbers. The school only offered basketball and baseball, which means no friday night football games! Instead, Pat and her friends would go back to each others houses to play croquet and baseball, fish, swim, or munch on popcorn. She also mentions a club where boys and girls would meet and craft.

During the school day, Pat and her classmates received an hour in the morning and an hour in the afternoon (not including lunch) to socialize with friends in between their classes. For lunch, they almost always went outside, partially due to the fact that Troy had no cafeteria, but also because they wanted a healthy dose of Vitamin D and fresh apples from trees near the school. Besides lacking a Cafeteria, the school didn't have the luxury of indoor bathrooms, which could be rather inconvenient in the winter time. Pat says that when the weather turned cold and grey, and snow began to fall, the students would still go outside during the lunch period, and have snowball fights. How awesome would that be?

So far, it definitely seems that high school in 1937 was a bit less stressful than it is today. Pat says that everyone loved going to school. Sadly, this does not hold true now. I don't know about you, but my nights usually consist of multiple hours of homework and a large serving of frustration on the side.

Fast-forward 23 years, and high school has changed quite a bit from the time of outdoor plumbing. After an interview with Don (graduate of 1960), and Judy (graduate of 1959) Starr, I instantly started to picture scenes from the cherished movie, Grease (set in 1963).

Similar to high school in 1937, school in 1959 and 1960 varied greatly from what it is now. First off, they had no enforced dress code, but the girls generally wore dresses of the time period. Classes also had greater limitations than they have today. Berkshire offered Algebra I and II, Geometry, Chemistry, Physics, and Government, just to name a few of the more prominent courses. However, there was no such thing as AP or CP classes, so everyone took the same courses.

Not only were classes limited, but sports were too, especially for the girls attending Berkshire High. They only had the opportunity to play basketball, cheerlead, and run track, unlike the guys who had football, golf, basketball, wrestling, track, and baseball. Don claims that practices were pretty much the same as they are now and generally lasted about two hours. After friday night football games, everybody would go to The Junction -Junction Auto- , grab a bite to eat, and hang out with friends. The students had the chance to spend time with each other not only on the weekends, but also during the week. Instead of spending hours pouring over math, it was common for the girls to watch American Bandstand and the guys to help out on the family farms. Both Don and Judy recall high school to be a fun experience, with plays, band performances, and a Prom hosted in the school's gym .

Judy says, "we were allowed to be kids, and we weren't trying to be adults". This caught my attention immediately. Too many times, I think, teenagers in high school are expected to act like adults. I'm not saying it's negative all the time, because we do have responsibilities that require maturity, but too often we - and the adults that surround us- seem to forget that we are still kids (although we won't be much longer). We should be able to enjoy it today too, instead of stressing out because we have three tests, an essay, and two worksheets due the following day. Don't get me wrong, I love a good challenge, but staying up until one or two in the morning finishing homework seems a bit extreme, doesn't it? Especially for high schoolers. Basically, high school is 1960 consisted of fun times, memories made, low-stress classes, poodle adorned skirts and saddle shoes.

Jump ahead about 25 years and it's 1985, the year of big hair-do's. After an interview with Nancy Carlson, graduate of 1985, a clear picture of what high school was like formed in my mind. Nancy's high school life was more similar to our's than Judy's, Don's, or Pat's. She had many of the same classes we do today except her choices included Astronomy, French, Single's living, and Typing I and II. She says that she distinctly remembers having a great english department, -nothing has changed there! Nancy also mentions that the pressure in school was not nearly what it is today, but the workload might have taken a little more time to complete than Don and Judy's. Yet it still didn't keep her up until the early hours of the morning to complete. According to her, it wasn't nearly as hard to get accepted to a college as it is today. Since then, they have really raised their standards for entry. As far as sports go, everything was as it is now, except Berkshire didn't have soccer, and had only just gained softball when she was a freshman. Nancy also recalls many more fans appearing at boys' basketball games than girls' games, which sadly, hasn't changed.

For lunch and senior study hall, Nancy and the rest of her peers were allowed in the courtyard. Yes, you read that correctly, Berkshire used to have a courtyard where the offices now sit. How awesome would having a courtyard in your school be? On the weekends, it was pretty common for everyone to hang out at and walk around the mall, or catch a movie at the theatre. I'm not sure how common the whole mall walking thing is anymore, but I know movie theatres still make a killing on Berkshire High's student body. Nancy also recalls, that for her class's senior prank, they released a greased pig in the school. Brilliant!

Our school has gone from a graduating class of seven in 1937, to no AP or CP classes in 1959/1960, having a courtyard in 1985,and finally, to what it is today. High school is an important part of many people's lives, and just like it is important to know the history of the world, it is also important to know the history of your school. Plus,it's interesting stuff!

Back in the Day...

by Lauren Peterson, BP Staff Writer

What was going on in the world when the class of 2015 entered kindergarten in 2002? After quite a bit of research, here is what I found.

Popular children's toys of 2002:

- UNO Attack
- Hot Wheels Cars
- Play-doh Activity World
- Barbie "Shop With Me" Cash Register
- LEGO: Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
- Slush Puppy Maker
- Diva Starz Doll
- Yu-Gi-Oh! Trading Cards
- Care Bears
- Quantum Leappad
- Crayola Crayon Maker

Popular video game consoles:

- Nintendo GameCube
- Xbox
- Game Boy Advance
- Sony's PlayStation 2

2002 pop-culture:

- MTV reality show, The Osbournes, debuted in 2002
- Kelly Clarkson won the first season of American Idol
- Rosie O'Donnel came out to the public as a lesbian

Sports:

- Super Bowl XXXVII champions: Tampa Bay Buccaneers
- 2002 World Series champions: Anaheim Angels
- 2002 NBA champs: Los Angeles Lakers
- U.S. Open Golf Winner: Tiger Woods
- Stanley Cup champs: Detroit Red Wings
- NCAA Football champions: Ohio State
- NCAA Basketball champions: Maryland
- World Cup champions: Brazil

Popular video games:

- Tony Hawk ProSkater 4
- Grand Theft Auto: Vice City
- Pac-Man World 2
- Crash Bandicoot: The Huge Adventure
- Spyro: Enter the Dragonfly

Popular songs released in 2002:

How You Remind Me / Nickelback
Foolish / Ashanti
Hot in Herre / Nelly
U Got It Bad / Usher
The Good Stuff / Kenny Chesney

Popular movies released in 2002:

Lilo & Stitch
Ice Age
Stuart Little 2
Hey Arnold: The Movie
Spider-Man (which was the 2002 box-office blockbuster!)
Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
My Big Fat Greek Wedding
Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
A Beautiful Mind (2002 Academy Award winning film of the year)

Technology:

Social networking really hit its stride with the launch of Friendster in 2002. Myspace, LinkedIn, and Facebook followed years later.

- Apple released the G4 iMac Computer.
- Apple released the second generation iPod. This could hold up to 4,000 songs.
- Apple launched the iTunes Music Store with 200,000 songs at $0.99 each.
- Popular cells phones of 2002 include: Nokia 3510(i), Sony Ericsson P800, Nokia 6100, and Sanyo SCP-5300.

World News:

U.S. and Afghan troops launch Operation Anaconda against Al-Qaeda in Afganistan on March 2, 2002.

Unemployment rate: 5.8%

Average price of gas: $1.34

Well, there ya have it, folks; all the fads of 2002. It's crazy to look at what was popular then versus what's popular now. You may remember hearing some of those songs while riding in the car with your mom on the way to school, watching those cartoons on Saturday morning, or begging for those toys for Christmas. It's fun to think back on the memories of kindergarten, and see how much the world has changed in a short 13 years.

Senior pranks of years past

by Alex Sanda, BP Staff Writer

Sure, classes may be remembered by their high academics, amazing class trips, or maybe their intense spirit week antics, but the student body remembers them by their senior class prank. Graduating classes come and go, but the memories of their senior pranks remain in the halls of Berkshire much longer.

A notable practical joke involved crickets. Mrs. Hunter, the junior English teacher, believes that "the most memorable was when they put the crickets in the lockers." A few years ago, the senior class released dozens of crickets in the school; in fact, students and faculty heard chirping for weeks. Afterwards, as revenge, Mr. Reedy put crickets in the class's scapegoat's car.

Many years ago, there was a class that put a large horse statue (about the size of the one that's in Burton during the Ox Roast and the county fair) on the roof. Mrs. Arnold calls this prank "one of the best year's."

Popular pranks over the years have often included balloons. Seniors have either filled rooms or halls with inflated balloons. Everyone is perfectly fine with this...until it gets noisy from the all popping.



Photo courtesy of imgkid.com

Shoving sticky notes on walls and the surfaces of furniture is a popular, yet painstaking senior prank.

Unfortunately, sometimes pranks can go too far. A joke that puts anyone in harm's way pushes the limit. As long as the joke isn't dangerous to anyone or anything and isn't vandalizing property, it's A-OK. For instance, a while back there was a class that decided to get the stairs in the school soapy. Bad idea. Students ended up slipping and getting hurt.

The biggest reason some seniors don't do the prank is because they're afraid of consequences. The fear of not walking on graduation day is enough to stop many class clowns.

Safe prank ideas are all over the internet, so get to it, seniors. You can put Post-It notes all over the walls, place cups of water throughout the hallways, hide alarm clocks everywhere in the school, flip all of the chairs upside down, or put petroleum jelly on

Seniors confess and express

by Lexi Sell, BP Staff Writer

As the seniors move on to the next adventure, they leave behind the most embarrassing moments and confessions of high school for the rest of us. It's safe to say reading through these surveys, that Berkshire Seniors have definitely had enough embarrassment to last a lifetime, but I guess we were all seventh graders at one point falling down stairs and believing stories of that infamous Berkshire pool.

Confessions:

Connor Dudinsky: "Peeing out the window of the upstairs bathroom." (Let everyone know, he says)

Becca Porter: "Drawing a little turtle in the far left-hand corner of the computer wall behind the Kleenex in Hull's room." (Have a look for yourself.)

David Pelletier: "I stole a tardy slip so I could write my own and get away with it."

Carolyn Mayer: "I convinced Jessi Simon that my grandmother is the queen of England in ninth grade Health."

Anonymous: "I've written papers for people for money." #nomoralsnoproblem

Vince Noce and David Pelletier: “Sleeping in the library; having someone hold the door so I could go to my car and not be buzzed in.”

Embarrassments:

Luke Byler: "Walking into a door while in the hallway."

Melissa Koziol: "Dropped my tampon wrapper and it went into the stall next to me, where a teacher was using the restroom." Awkward...

Ben Bresnahan: "When I tripped on the steps at an assembly, tried to catch myself on the person in front of me, and brought them down too."

Anonymous: "Accidentally wore my shirt backwards all day."

Jake Sedivy: "Getting beat by Mr. Hiscox in front of the softball team."

David Pelletier: "I thought it was pajama day and wore my pajama pants to school. Spirit week was the week after..."

Alexis Johnson: "Every time I got caught dancing hard-core in the hallways."

So now that you have had a taste of what the seniors were able to get away with, know that you should never do these at school. And for the embarrassing moments, well, I'm sure we can all relate to a few.

Last will and testiment continued from front page

Three years later, and we’re writing our last words, putting down our pens, and leaving…for good. After three years of rants, interviewing, and perhaps too much alliteration, it is with great dismay that we hand off a figurative torch to the incredible staff that has backed us since the beginning. With that, we thank you for reading our articles, accepting the occasional typo, and for enduring our overly excited, absolutely opinionated rants and musings.

We, the Badger Pause Editors, Anna Carlson, Christin Dornback, and Carolyn Mayer, being of sound mind and body do hereby bequeath the following to whom we leave behind.

To the brave Lexi Sell, we leave Coke runs. May you face the daunting hallways with money in hand and courage in heart.

To the courageous few who dare to be senior class officers, may you have souls of steel and level heads.

To Kaitlyn Moses and Abby Carlson, we leave the Staff Editor titles. May your breakdowns be frequent, your telomeres short, and your tempers even shorter. Mazeltov.

To Mrs. Hull, we leave our distaste for Melville, Valentine’s Day flowers, a lifetime of thanks, and a fence. (For the precipice.)

To Mrs. Hunter, matches to actually build a fire and all the sinners in the hands of an angry God.

To Mrs. Koler, we leave Ritter, red pens, and endless cups of morning coffee.

To Mrs. Kiczek, Honors classes that will be as awesome as ours was. (Fingers crossed.)

To the entire English department, may your skirts be long, and berets all match.

To the upstairs girl’s bathroom, may you always be too hot, and perfect for breakdowns.

To the athletes, may the weight room too dirty, the gym heaters never work right, and the track always be perfect for the stray cat.

To Miss T, we leave the tank tops, the ripped jeans, the yogas, studded cardigans, and letting the seniors finally get away with all of the above.

To Junior High, we leave the deodorant aisle at Walmart, and self-esteem. (You need both.)

To the journalism staff, we leave our passive aggressive article writing skills, love for writing, and hatred of layout week.

To someone, we leave Jessi’s humor. May you find your laugh and let it sound through the building.

To Mr. Keller, we leave dad jokes, manic Mondays, the ability to always be sidetracked by a group of teenagers, getting Rick Rolled, and a toupee.

To Mr. Lester, may Mobi never let you go.

To Mrs. K, may Visorgogs turn all of your students into chick magnets.

To Mr. Higgs, Alexis Johnson.

To Mr. Guthrie, not Alexis Johnson.

To Mr. Reedy, faster reflexes so you can catch the next fainting student.

To Mrs. Arnold, overheard lunchtime topics, laughing fits, crying fits, and eternal patience.

To Sherbondy, we leave leniency, reassuring smiles on bad days, letting us go get “interviews” and coming back with food, and locker combo look ups.

To guidance, Anna’s soul.

We gladly pass on the unbearable fluctuations of temperature in this school, hiding from Miss T, and the comfy chairs in the library, perfect for studying, socializing, but most usually, procrastinating.

Its been six long years of growth and misery, but we promise it wasn’t all bad. Here’s to you, Berkshire, may the rest of your years be as memorable as ours were.

SIGNED AND DECLARED by Anna Carlson, Christin Dornback, and Carolyn Mayer on this day to be their last will and testament.

Weird things from the halls of Berkshire

by Melissa Braun, BP Staff Writer

Let's all be honest here, we all know that Berkshire can be a little weird at times. Everyone can think of at least one time where something happened in school, whether it be whacky, embarrassing, funny, or just plain strange. Because of incidences like this, Berkshire should have its own definition of weird.

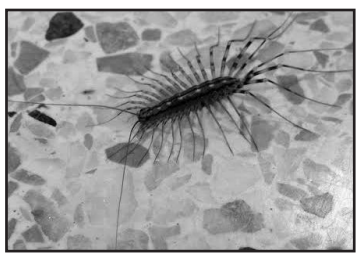
But we're not here to listen to what everyone has to say about the weirdest experiences, most definitely not. No, this is all about the seniors, after all it's their time to shine and share some weird things and more little quirks they've thought of or seen through the years attending Berkshire. So here it is, some insight to what the Senior class of 2015 has to tell;

"Sleeping through the bell and waking up with another class around you."- **Yeah, I could see how that could be a weird experience.**

"Half of the conversations held with Mr. Deweese."

"The lobby bathrooms." -**That's definitely all that needs to be said about that, who knows what horrors have been in there.**

"We have our own badger bug… who even started that?" **- I don't know, but at least I haven't seen it yet. It's kind of funny that most of the school knows about this infamous bug and notes how gross it is but no one knows what it really is.**



The infamous Berkshire bug

"Junior 'camo clan' on a daily basis."- **We all know who those people are! And who are you camouflaging yourselves from anyways?**

"When a bird flew into the cafeteria."- **Fly little birdie, FLY!**

"The broken bathroom doors."

"In between classes one time, some underclassmen ran through the halls screaming with his hands up."- **School probably doesn't get much stranger than that.**

"When Mr. List talks like Ron Burgundy."- **Oh Mr. List, only you would do that.**

"Track and Cross Country are the most successful, yet we don't even have a track."

"The body odor of the Junior High halls."- ***Shudders because of the smell.***

"When [someone] stole my jacket with my name on it."- **Probably not a case of mistaken identity, that's just awkward.**

"Youngen's mad dodgeball skills."

"There is a little turtle in the far left corner of the computer wall in Hull's room, behind the kleenex"- **This is no lie, there's actually a turtle really there.**

"Anytime I heard an underclassman speak."- **WHAT? How crazy is that?**

"The fact that it ranged from 38 degrees to 99 degrees in Higgs's room Junior year."- **We all know Berkshire wouldn't be Berkshire without the problems with the heat and lack of air conditioning.**

"There are actually different climates per classroom."

"The entire school is quirky." - **Yeah, pretty much.**

"The time Mr. Youngen told my gym class that we ruined the economy."- **It was definitely the baby boomers, not us. Thanks, grandpa.**

Others mentioned were "too much purple" but the halls and ceiling aren't painted purple yet. Visorgogs, Toga Day



Clare demontrates her best WTF face

and Tractor Day are definite Berkshire quirks. The most commented answers were the unidentifiable school lunches and the smell that will always stick with us. Certainly this is an end to the seniors' rule of the high school, but the weird quirks and strange experiences from Berkshire High school will never go away, and will be remembered by all after they pass through Berkshire's halls for the last time.

"My dog ate it" just won't cut it

by Lexis Sell, BP Staff Writer

So, you know those days when you had a long weekend of fun and then just happen to remember you had an assignment? Well, our own seniors are here to elaborate on their most common excuses they use when trying to get out of an assignment that seemed to slip their minds.



Now that the seniors are ending their final year of school, they have decided to expose their quick fixes for senioritis or absentmindedness. Jessi Simon says her excuse is "simply senioritis, and that's enough said," while some of the other seniors come up with more elaborate fibs. "Well, see, I was on a ladder this weekend and fell really hard on my ankle leaving me unable to participate in gym today," Clare Lynn said, showing she's one of the more creative storytellers of the graduating class.

A few of the more generic excuses used by the seniors hails from the famous self exemption list: "I sent it to you," (knowing they had enough time to scrape up something C quality and blame it on the Internet's connection), the old saying of "my mom threw it away, she thought it was trash," and the one we have all probably used "it's in my locker," hoping and praying the teacher will say to bring it in tomorrow rather than having us go get it, knowing full well it's not in there, nor will it ever be.

It's not a surprise to teachers we have made up a few harmless lies during a our time in high school. Thankfully, there are always a few cases when you can get out of something clean...or at least that's what they want us to think. As for the excuse makers there also comes the procrastinators who seem to disappear from the classroom.

The recent skipping of classes has become a more common way to procrastinate in the last two years, demonstrated by the self-proclaimed drivers of Berkshire. I myself have skipped a period or two trying to get that excused absence to finish up a dreaded paper.

Advice for the upcoming students is to "just do your homework, that's all you need to do in high school to pass," both Jessi Simon and Lauren Peterson explain. If you miss an assignment here and there it's not a biggie, just don't make a habit of it because that's when it will definitely affect you and your grades. Berkshire teachers are pretty lenient when it comes to assignments (especially when you talk to them). If anything, your score will drop ten percent which is fully understandable. So underclassmen, if something slips your mind, don't worry. We all forget! Just remember, saying "my dog ate my homework" will never work (except if you're Alivia Alfredo). Nor will anything else along the lines of a high school cliché.



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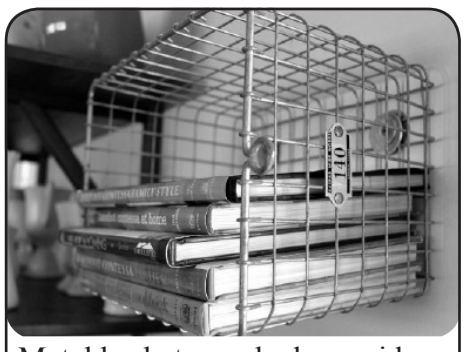
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College Dorm DIYs

For those of you who are graduating seniors heading off to college- firstly, congrats- secondly, good luck if you're living on campus in a dorm! Dorm life probably isn't too bad, although stories about evil roommates, cramped spaces, and strange smells continue to circulate. The showers are horrifying, but many people consider dorm life the best time of their lives. If you'll be living in the dorms in a few short months, here are some handy tips for organization and decoration (the most important aspects of a room) you should know for making the most out of your freshman year.

Organization:



Metal baskets can be hung sideways from the wall to double as shelving. Plus, it adds that industrial look to any room.



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



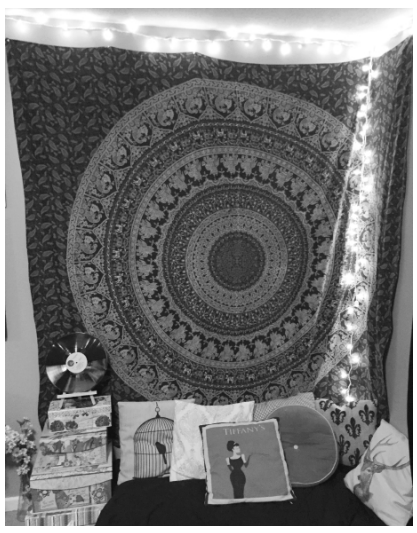
Cork boards are really useful: hang calendars, necklaces, just about anything!



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room

Decor:

Hanging a patterned rug, blanket, or tapestry from the wall helps cozy up a room and can fill wall space.



Posters are a cheap and easy way to cover hideous paint or to personalize a room. Here is Lexi Sell's room!



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



Use ice cube trays or paint palettes to organize little items like pins, paperclips, or even jewelry.



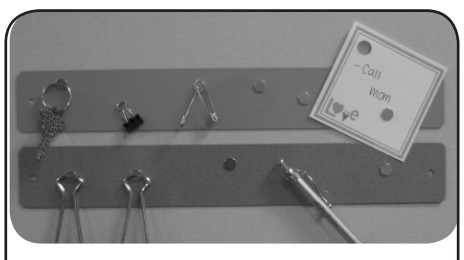
Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



Old drawer handles prove great for holding scarves, keys, and chords. Vintage ones look best. They're a common find in thrift stores and at garage sales.



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



Having a magnetic wall strip can keep many of those little pieces from disappearing like hair pins, paper clips, and nail clippers.



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



Mason jars can be used to make lights, as a vase, and even look cute filled with stones or keepsakes. They can be bought in bulk or individually at Walmart.



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



Senior Book Picks

by Erin Wiggins,
BP Staff Writer

After many years of summer reading and in-class reading assignments, it is an understatement to say the seniors are experts in SparkNotes by this point. Just hearing them talk about it is comparable to pretentious country club goers deciphering which overpriced wine to have with dinner that night. Seniors are the connoisseurs of procrastination. Every so often, however, there are those books, those diamonds in the rough, that people just seem to plow through and actually enjoy. These are the books that cause a frustrated chorus of sighs when the class is assigned a study guide, disrupting the natural progression of the story. Teachers will go to great lengths to confiscate certain people's books (*cough*Anna Carlson) because someone always keeps reading ahead.

An overwhelming amount of seniors said that this book for them was The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. Katelyn Luther said it was "actually interesting and modern." This book is part of the sophomore year english curriculum and highly appreciated by the 2015 senior class. Some of the other favorites include of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck. Jessi Simon stated that she liked it "because it's a highly referenced book."Adam Thompson and Rob Deans both said that they really enjoyed their math text books as well. Another class favorite was Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger. Quentin Caponi declared, "The book has had a lasting impression on me, and it was enjoyable to read."

A large amount of people from the senior class also really appreciated books from the class, Modern Novels. Modern Novels is a course offered here at Berkshire, and can be best described as a book club that you get a grade for. Class consists of reading, answering study guide questions, and having discussions about the books we read. The curriculum changes every year so you can take it more than once (except it's only one semester *sad face*). Some of the class favorites include The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls and Vanishing Acts by Jodi Picoult. I know my personal favorite was The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon, but it is definitely a love it or hate it kind of book. Its told from the point of view of an autistic teen, so if you go in with some appreciation and background information of the way the narrator's mind works, it'll be one your favorites as well.

I've always been a reader, that's not a secret. In fact, the first article I wrote for journalism was a book review earlier this year, so it's only fitting that my last article ever be about books as well. Throughout school I always got really stressed out and would get worked up about projects and homework, sometimes amounting to full-fledged panic attacks. The one thing that always relaxed me and let me escape my world for a bit was reading. Reading was, and still is, my little force-field against all of the bad or stressful things in my life. If I was having a good day I would read, but if I had a bad day I would relentlessly read. I might be a loser for saying this, but it's probably the hardest "drug" I've ever done. I think my quick fix for any situation is Harry Potter; it's my old reliable because I know it's going to make me feel better every time. Some other books I recommend if you're having a bad day would be Freak by Marcella Pixley, The Help by Kathryn Stockett, Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs, A Tree Grows in Brooklyn by Betty Smith, The Pact by Jodi Picoult, War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells and seriously you need to read The Glass Castle by Jeannette Walls, like right now. What I've learned throughout my years at school is that a little escapism can be a good thing. Just remember to read responsibly and do your schoolwork first.



If your dorm doesn't allow candles, use an alternative. There are electric lights that look just like candles, and fairy lights always look cool.



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room



To make your room feel homey, use a knit or a fuzzy throw to cover chairs or hang across your bed. These can be found for cheap at a thrift store, but they're also available at Big Lots for upwards of twenty dollars, (don't worry, they tend to be discounted).



Kaitlyn Moses
Dorm Room

Senior Superlatives

by Suzanne Koziol, BP Staff Writer

Best Smile: Lauren Peterson and Luke Byler

Best Hair: Gwen Losasso and Josiah Sawyer

Best Dressed: Connor Dudinsky and Maddie Cannella

Most Spirited: RJ Maxwell and Sam Jackson

Best Friends: Bobby Bair and Kyle Storm, Grace Noce and Alivia Alfredo, Vince Noce and Ryan Zeitler

Most Changed: Tommy Fabian and Katelyn Luther

Most Likely to Stay in Burton: Kelli Briggs and Paul Davis

Cutest Couple: Luke Byler and Grace Noce

Most Likely to Take Over the World: Nate Walker and Abbey McDermott

Most Likely to Be on America's Most Wanted: Blaire Freeman and Sabrina Flaherty

Most Athletic: Kyle Storm and Alexis Johnson

Best Car: Andrew Cook and Alex Berman

Most Likely to Succeed: Anna Carlson and Adam Thompson

Most Artistic: Becca Porter, Steven and David Stotlar

Friendliest: Megan Arnold and David Cheung

Order your yearbook now to see more pictures and other fun senior activities!



Berkshire's cutest couple poses adorably for the camera.

Common school phrases you can 'catch' these seniors saying: MATCHING GAME

by Sam Hargis, BP Staff Writer

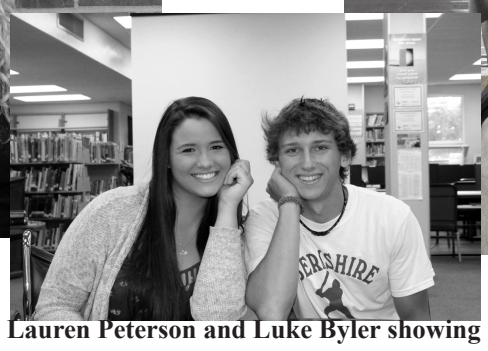
RJ Maxwell	"Get out, as fast as possible."
Dustin Conley	"If you can't dazzle them with brilliance, baffle them with bull."
Kelli Briggs	"Geting my Berkshire edgjmiacatin."
Nikki Reid	"Yee, yee."
Hannah Bucholtz	"Ugh...why?"
Kevin Detweiler	"Oi!"
Nic Parrish	"That's unfortunate"
Karah Toth	"Hey, it could be worse"
Gwen Losasso	"I can't tell you what I learned in school, but I can tell you a story or two."
Zack Martinjako	"Keep calm and copy Nick Paul (he's the only reason I'm a senior)."
Nick Paul	"I can't, I'm going to the barn."



Seniors Dustin Conley and Kevin Detweiler.



Josiah Sawyar and Gwen Losasso with their amazing hair.



Lauren Peterson and Luke Byler showing off their pearly whites.



A spirited RJ Maxwell and Sam Jackson displaying their school spirit

Clare's (last) Comic Corner

by Clare Lynn, BP Staff Writer

