The Badger Pause

Senior Edition | 14510 N. Cheshire Street, Burton, Ohio | April 2017

Goodbye, Mr. Reedy

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Asst. Editor

As Berkshire's Senior class prepares to part ways with the school for good, somebody else is beginning to pack it up as well. That somebody is none other than the beloved long-time principal of Berkshire, Mr. Reedy. We at ***The Badger Pause*** thought it would be a crime to allow Mr. Reedy to close off his career without a few parting words. The following is a Q+A, with Mr. Reedy himself, containing those words.



Q. What is your post-retirement bucket list?

"More than anything, I want to spend time with my family, but something that I've always wanted to do is travel cross-country and see the Unites States."

Q. What is your favorite memory at Berkshire?

"Rather than just one memory, I think in general, I really enjoyed working with the students over the years, and watching them grow into fantastic young adults."

Q. What has been your favorite Berkshire tradition?

"Spirit week, in general is my favorite tradition at Berkshire. Specifically, toga day, because it's so unique."

Q. What is one thing that you wish you could have done during your time at Berkshire?

"I've always strived to achieve 100% graduation, but always fell short by a bit. Still, I think academically, Berkshire has always thrived, in spite of that."

Q. What was your greatest accomplishment at Berkshire?

"Once again, I think Berkshire's academics is its greatest quality, There has always been a general mentality here that work equals results, and I take great pride in that mentality."

Q. What will you miss the most?

"I'll miss the students, and having the privilege to watch them develop and learn over the course of their 6 years at Berkshire."

Q. What song plays in your head when you drive your Harley?

"It depends on the Harley, but usually just whatever's playing. More often than not, I find myself thinking about how I can better myself and the school.



Mr. Reedy himself, during his first year at Berkshire

Meet the new superintendent, Mr. Stoddard

by Jacob Wichert, BP Staff Asst. Editor

With so many golden days behind Berkshire, due to both Mr. Reedy and Mr Delong parting ways with the district, some cannot help but observe the potential future with uncertainty, and unease. In order to alleviate this uncertainty we reached out to John Stoddard, the newly hired superintendent, to learn about his future plans for Berkshire, and what changes we should expect. The following are some of these questions, followed by Mr. Stoddard's responses.

Q. Why move from Cincinnati all the way to Burton?

A. It has always been a goal of mine to become a superintendent, and I found Berkshire because I saw an article about the PRIME initiative with Kent State. After reading that article, I decided to learn more and then applied for the superintendent position.

Q. What do you know about Berkshire's traditions, such as Toga Day, and Spirit Week? How will you alter them, if at all?

A. I want to learn as much as I can about Berkshire's traditions. I feel that traditions are important for schools. I love spirit weeks and we also have a Toga Day for Seniors at Oak Hills High School (where I am currently the principal).

Q. Will you incentivise extracurriculars, outside of the fine arts and sports? This includes groups such as Care Team, and AC4P.

A. At all of my other schools, clubs and other extra curricular activities were student driven. We have had students request that a club or activity be started, they get a faculty adviser and get other students to join their club and then we officially adopt the club.

Q. Do you aim to improve Berkshire's athletic facilities, such as the track, or the football field?

A. Yes. There will be plans in place to make some improvements to the athletic facilities. We will have to do some facilities reviews first, so that I can get a good understanding of what we have and what we need, then we will make plans for the future.

Q. Do you have plans to better Berkshire's fine arts programs, such as theatre and the various bands?

A. I have made a strong commitment to the arts at all of the schools that I have worked for. I am willing to take on small roles in plays and musicals, and look into new courses that support the arts. I will certainly be a huge supporter of the arts; visual, creative and performing arts.

Q. What will your policy be on snow days?

A. Snow days are a tricky thing to deal with because no matter what decision you make, someone will always think that you made the wrong decision. What I can tell you is that road conditions and safety will be the main factors in making those decisions.

Q. What is your favorite color?

A. My favorite color has been blue since I was a kid. I think it's blue because I loved Spiderman and his costume was blue and red.

So there you have it. All of your questions about Mr. Stoddard, answered. With any luck, this article will have alleviated any uncertainties still lingering within you, as to what the future may have in store for Berkshire. That future seems to be looking rather bright, even with such significant changes being made.



Mr. Stoddard, the future Superintendent of Berkshire

Best of Seniors

Val and Sal 2017

By BP Staff Editor,, Julia

Melissa Braun is headed for greatness. As this year's graduating class' valedictorian, she has show this to be undeniably true throughout her high school career. An early honors student, to one of AP Chemistry and calculus her junior year, Melissa has continued to challenge herself her senior year with AP calculus, advanced spanish, and a full schedule of other advanced classes. She cites math and science as her favorite subjects, because "Its what I like to do and what I'm good at." Though the math department has been her favorite throughout the years, she also will think back on AP chemistry, "[It was] pretty cool because of all the different experiments done and new material introduced." In the fall of 2017, Melissa will continue pursuing her love and ability in the field of mathematics as an accounting or actuarial science major at Ohio University.

A member of Student Council, National Honor Society, and Spanish Honor Society, peer tutoring, as well as working at a local restaurant, in addition to her class load, Melissa knows that balance is important in maintaining a social life, grades, and overall wellbeing. She advises others to "make sure to balance school work and friends. Don't always put one above the other because sooner or later you're going to miss the memories you could have made with friends but instead spent on school work. But also don't ignore assignments and then wait till the last minute to do them."

Melissa is outstandingly bright when it comes to schoolwork, but showing a more laid back side of the Valedictorian, she says some of her favorite times have been "any goofy lunch time memories with [her] friends." That being said, Melissa says she is also excited to meet new people and try new things at her home of Ohio University next year. With that in mind, she will also miss how close everyone is in the senior class, and knows that will be very different next year. As the first to attend college in her family, Melissa will do what she does best, figure it out as she goes, and by "doing her own thing." As she heads into next year's uncharted territory ready to continue her learning, Melissa will have one more impressive accomplishment under her belt, and the support of many behind her.



Melissa Braun and Kylie Scott, poised for success.

Kylie Scott has long known the dedication and hard work it takes to be at the top. In this case, it's the top of the Graduating class of 2017. Kylie has shown dedication to her studies throughout high school by being in advanced math and science classes including AP Calculus, physics and body systems this year. Kylie also fondly remembers her AP Chemistry class, "because [Ms. K] is super cool and I love chemistry and doing experiments." Outside of the classroom and laboratory, Kylie is also a member of National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, Student council, Actively Caring for People, and Relay for Life. Athletically, Kylie is a member and captain of the Cross Country, Track, and Softball teams. Throughout her athletic career, she has received numerous honors and awards, including competing in the State cross country tournament all four years of high school.

Next year, Kylie will attend Cleveland State University to major in pre-med and run cross country. She is looking forward to the freedom and responsibility college will bring, and says "I can't wait to meet new friends and make new memories." As Kylie continues her legacy, she says her inspiration thus far comes from her parents, "They instilled hard work in me and are great role models." Looking back, Kylie says she will miss her class and how they are all friends. She reminisces, "All the good times we had in and out of school mean so much to me." She says, "Just being with my friends and making life long memories in sports and school" will always be valuable memories from high school.

The hard working and ever dedicated Salutatorian has some wisdom for others following in her footsteps, "prioritize your school work but don't forget about your social life and becoming involved, those are the times you'll never forget. Honestly, balance is key (and sleep is just as important as school work by the way…)" This wisdom and has gotten Kylie far indeed, and as she continues on in her future, making waves with her talent, genuine kindness, and work ethic, there are plenty of well wishes going her way.

Senior editor *Last will and testament*

by BP Staff Editors, Abby Carlson & Julia Losasso

As graduating Senior editors of 2017, the following will and testament shall be carried out as per our wishes.

To Claire, Lexi, and Jacob we leave the stress, panic attacks, frustration, and hectic job of being Editors.

To Rachel we leave athletics articles and dad jokes… A lot of them.

To Hey Hull we leave students forever willing to procrastinate till the day their articles are due, and never start their articles with anything but, "It's that time of the year again…"

To Sam we leave really, really, REALLY long articles that are filled with hidden sass and sarcasm.

To Mrs. Hunter we leave a bottle of Tylenol and matches for all of her students essays.

To Mrs. Maske, we leave students forever cherishing their sexy visorgogs and your taste in music.

To Mrs. Guthrie, we leave millions of ninth graders who will someday appreciate your patience, and Seniors who already do.



To Mrs. Kleinhenz, we leave longer periods for AP classes, less meetings, and perfect eyeliner.

To Mrs. Leikala, we leave the Beatles, Monet, and the tuna fish can.

To Mr. Guthrie we leave students with ear buds and sound proof walls for your classroom.

To Mrs. Hansel and the guidance office, we leave fun desk toys, a fashion sense worth noting, and all the knowledge in the world.

To the entire student body, we leave procrastination, an undying hatred for Huskies, and a day when you all will appreciate your memories and teachers at Berkshire.

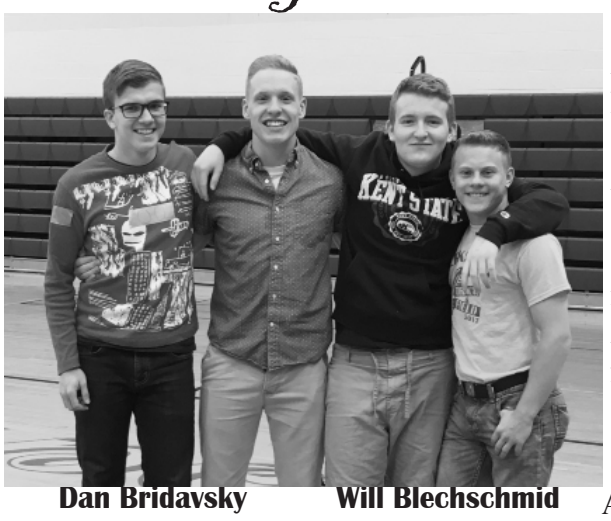
May your days be happy and your homework load light, and for now, goodbye Berkshire.

Prom Court Candidates

Q. If you could bring one celebrity to prom, who would it be, and why?

Q. How do you think you got here today?

Kings



Dan Bridavsky
A. Jennifer Lawrence, because she's hot.
A. On the generosity of others and my tweet.
Q. If you could be one TV character who would you be?
A. Tyrion Lanister, from Game of Thrones

Will Blechschmid
A. Justin Bieber, because he'd be a courteous and fun date.
A. My lord and savior, Emil Hess.
Q. Pizza or chicken nuggets?
A. Pizza.

John Kuhmer
A. Kevin Hart, because he's funny as hell, and little like me.
A. I had to bribe a lot of people.
Q. What is one summer goal?
A. Have fun, and go fishing.

Spencer Adams
A. Selena Gomez, because she is HOT!
A. I drove here in the best car in the world!
Q. Now that you're royalty, what would you say to the queen of England over tea?
A. Yo bruh, wanna go fishin'?

Olivea Scott
A. James Franco, because he's dreamy.
A. My friends and family.
Q. If you could be one TV character who would you be?
A. Serena Vanderwoodson

Kylee Minick
A. Chris Evans, because he's my favorite actor, and I would love to dance with Captain America.
A. Breathing/living.
Q. Now that you are royalty, what would you say to the queen of England over tea?
A. What's kickin' good lookin'?

Queens



Malia Miller
A. Francisco Lindor, because he is a legend, and cute.
A. Family, friends, and faith.
Q. If you could trade lives with one TV character, who would it be?
A. Garcia, from Criminal Minds.

Lauren Parrish
A. I would take Dave Franco, because he is very attractive.
A. Well, I was running late.
Q. Now that you are royalty, what would you say to the queen of England over tea?
A. Do you want to trade crowns?

Princesses

Kaylee Carmigiano
Q. If you could bring one celebrity to prom, who would it be, and why?
Usher, because he is a good dancer.
Q. How do you think you got here today?
Hard work and never giving up.
Q. If you could trade lives with one TV character who would it be?
Kourtney Kardashian

Rachel Breckenridge
Q. If you could bring one celebrity to prom, who would it be, and why?
Lebron James, because he is my inspiration.
Q. How do you think you got here today?
I drove here.
Q. What is one summer goal?
To be fully cleared to get back to basketball by July.



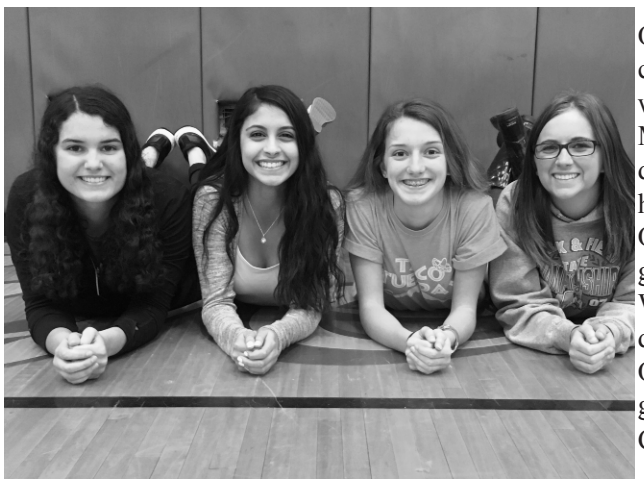
Princes

Jared Hinkle
A. Selena Gomez because she's hot.
A. My car.
Q. What is one summer goal?
A. To have fun.

Mekaylie Idamarco
Q. If you could bring one celebrity to prom, who would it be, and why?
Zac Efron, because he is beautiful.
Q. How do you think you got here today?
With friends and family.
Q. Pizza or chicken nuggets?
Chicken nuggets.

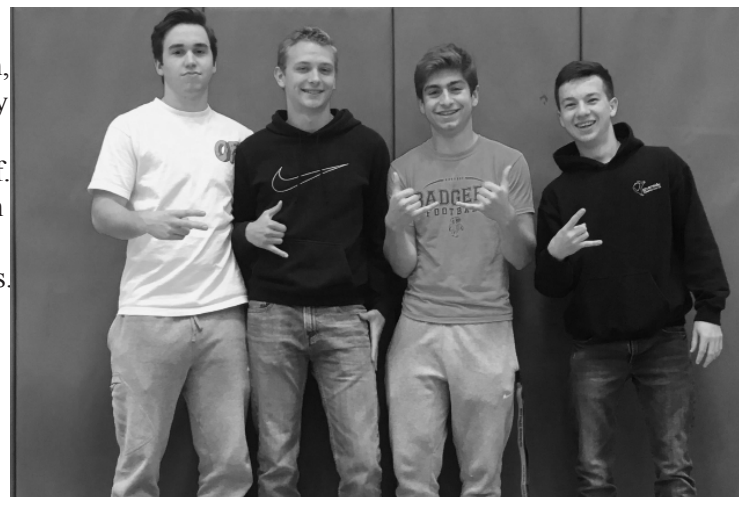
Hunter Geber
A. Selena Gomez, because she is my celebrity crush.
A. When a mommy and a daddy love each other very very much…
Q. Now that you're royalty, what would you say to the queen of England over tea?
A. Nice to be here.

Logan Byler
A. James Spader, because of how classy he is.
A. Well, it's not because I'm nice to everybody.
Q. What is one summer goal?
A. Make enough money to buy a small Mexican village.



Natalie Girolamo
Q. If you could bring one celebrity to prom, who would it be, and why?
Mila Kunis, because my date would rather go with her.
Q. How do you think you got here today?
With the help of McKenna's dog Randy.
Q. Pizza or Chicken nuggets?
Chicken nuggets.

Ryan George
A. Jennifer Aniston, because she's pretty good looking.
A. By being myself.
Q. Pizza or chicken nuggets?
A. Chicken nuggets.





Fun things about our Seniors

by Stuart Horvath, BP Staff Writer

Being a senior is such a monumental year. It's your last year of high school, and there is a lot of anticipation to be done with school and off to college.

This month's ***Badger Pause*** is all about seniors and how they thrive over others. In this article you will read about some senior fun facts and how the seniors are different from the underclassmen in the building. Some of the seniors' fun facts are very interesting!

For example, lineman Riley Carey's fun fact is that he is very chill, and can chill very hard. Many people from Berkshire said what Riley said.

Some others would include Kylie Scott's ability to ride horses very well, and Isaac Bryant's ability of being able to write amazingly without even trying. Emil Hess is very proud of his fun fact which is he is able to touch his nose with his tongue

All of the seniors have something about them that is specifically fun to them, and that they like. I feel as though everyone that reads this has something about them they love and is a fun fact as well.

Spencer Adams talked about his love for fishing, and how catching fish is very fun to him.

Samantha Hargis talked about the 14 rabbits she has and how they are very fun. Many interesting things at Berkshire High School. From all of the underclassmen to seniors: we wish you good luck.

Senior Confessions

by Claire Milano, BP Asst. Editor

"Sra. Rea caught me making memes of her on my iPad four separate times."

"Freshman year, during a summer league basketball game, I shot in the wrong basket and made it. I wound up quitting two years later though."

"Within the first few weeks of my freshman year, I was walking out of my history classroom when I tripped over Ryan Johnson's feet and went flying across the hallway. I kind of flipped and landed on my butt. I was just sitting there, humiliated, with my books in four different directions. Everyone kept walking by, glancing at me as they passed. I quickly got up and scampered away."

"One time I wore my favorite jeans that were a little small and worn. I bent down to grab my books and they ripped! Thank god my friend saved me with her hoodie."

"Freshman year."

"A 7th grader stopped me in the hallway and asked me if I liked memes. I ran into the bathroom and hid for 10 minutes."

"So I was in the bathroom alone and after doing my business I realized that there was no toilet paper. I thought I could shimmy my way to the next stall to get some more. I pulled my pants half up and waited to see/hear if anyone was there. I didn't hear anything thing so I opened the door and I almost buckled over when I saw my friend. I screamed and ran to the stall and she started laughing at me!"

"I was really sick on toga day this year. In fact, I probably shouldn't have come to school. Anyways, I was in Miss Bomback's room when I got really nauseous. I tried to make it to the bathroom, and as you can imagine, I didn't. I made it to Mr. Deweese's room and vomited all over the wall, door, and floor."

"I let one rip in Ms. Rice's class during a test."

"I've always thought Ms. Ray was pretty interesting, and would like to know what she is like outside the classroom."

"One time I was walking out of the bathroom and I looked out the window. There was a sudden flash of light (lightning, duh) and I got so scared I started sprinting and I hit the door."

Seniors' next big steps

by Kody West, BP Staff Writer

The month of May is ***The Badger Pause's*** senior issue. That means that many of the articles will have a senior focus. One of the biggest things on most seniors' minds is, "What's next?" In this article we take an in-depth look at what a few select seniors have planned for the next big step in their lives.

Marge (1939)- Marge plans to spend her remaining days eating applesauce, taking naps, collecting coins, and trying to call her grandson Michael, who is in college.

Richard (1948)- Richard has plans of moving down to Florida and dedicating what time he has left to learning new skills, such as shuffleboard and learning "The Google".

Ethel (1941)- Ethel will live out the rest of her days gardening and talking to her cat Simon. Ethel will also spend time trying to Facetime her grandson Christopher.

Alfred (1944)- Alfred has decided to follow his passions and spend the rest of his time reminiscing about "the good old days" and yelling at those darn neighbor kids to get off his lawn.

Betty (1951)- Betty will spend her days reading the newspaper, checking her email, and knitting.



Photo courtesy of newswire.com

Eugene (1943)- Eugene wants to spend his time becoming increasingly aggravated with society in general, and die bitter and frustrated with the direction the nation is going.

Wow, looks like these senior's have a lot going on! I'm sure they will have a fun and fulfilling retirement. Afterall, it's not what you do, it's how you do it!

Media

Upcoming Movies for Summer 2017

by Isaac Bryant, BP Staff Writer

This summer the Seniors of Berkshire High School will be coming out into adulthood and along with them some long awaited movies. Some of the best movies for 2017 are set to come out very soon. Here is a look into what to look forward to after you toss the cap into nothing but free time that you would probably use procrastinating and partying anyway.



The first one of the movies coming to the box-office is the *Guardian's of the Galaxy Vol 2* coming out May 5th. The Guardians movies will tie into *Avengers Infinity War,* which started production Easter weekend and is expected to be in theaters of summer 2018. The new Guardians movie is a set up for Infinity Wars which will involve the Avengers' fight to find the Infinity gems and beat the galactic tyrant Thanatos before he has the chance to erase life in the universe.

The hugely anticipated *Fate of the Furious* came out April 14. It is the 8th movie in the Fast and Furious franchise, which in itself is self-explanatory. In this installment, Dom is on his honeymoon but a mysterious character shows him something that shatters his own code and makes him do the unthinkable: turn on his family. Dom's team must try to stop him before he is forced take out the world.

Movies coming this May include the newest *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie *Dead Men Tell No Tales*, set to be released on May 26th. In *Dead Men Tell No Tales* Jack Sparrow's old enemy has escaped the Devil's Triangle and is out to kill every pirate on the sea. Jack's only hope at stopping him is to find Poseidon's Trident and take control of the seas.

Finally the last confirmed movie to reign in the summer (along with the Seniors) is *Everything, Everything*. Scheduled for release on May 19th, Everything, Everything is the love story of a girl who is physically incapable of leaving her home and the boy next door can't help but stay away from her. The movie is based off the best selling novel *Everything, Everything* by Nicola Yoon from Random House Delacorte. Madeline's body physically cannot withstand the outside world so her overbearing mother keeps her in their hypo-filtered house where, unfortunately, Madeline's nurse is her only friend. Madeline had spent all 18 years of her life in the house until Olly comes along and starts to turn her world upside down.

These movies are most anticipated for the start of the summer, and luckily are all lined up one after the other so you and your fellow graduates won't be short of entertainment after your prison sentence has been served.

Media Throwback

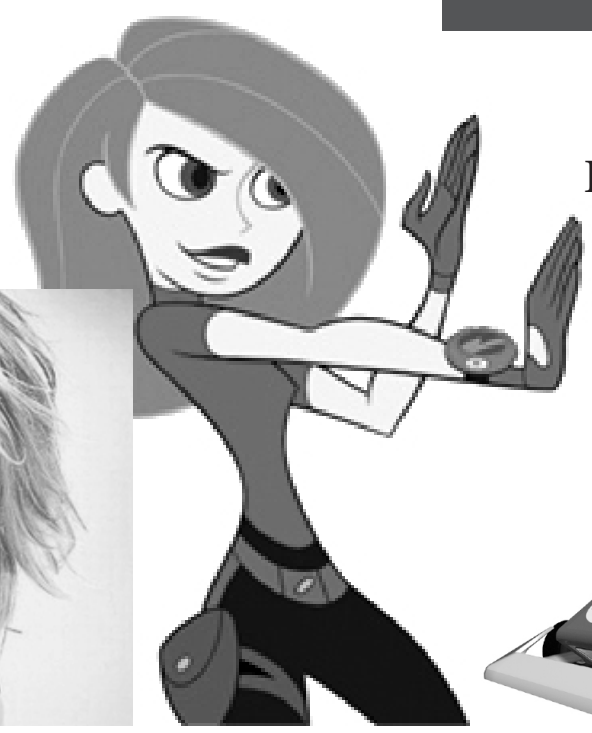
by Lexi Caponi, BP Staff Asst. Editor

Nothing is better than reminiscing about old shows or music from your childhood. I've talked to a decent amount of seniors to gather the most popular TV shows, songs, fashion trends, and video games, and have comprised a list of the top favorites for your convenience.

TV Shows:
Hannah Montana
Suite Life of Zack and Cody
Zoey 101
Dragon Tales
Spongebob Squarepants
Kim Possible
Jimmy Neutron
The Fairly Oddparents
Wizards of Waverly Place
That's so Raven

Music:
Hannah Montana
Taylor Swift
Kidz Bop
Ke$ha
Classic Rock





Video games:
Mariokart
Really any Mario game
Need for Speed
Starcraft
Club Penguin



Fashion Trends:
Skorts
Clogs
Gonchos



Señor Itis is ready to see you

by Isaac Bryant, BP Staff Writer

Sadly many seniors have been and still are suffering from the disease Senioritis. Senioritis completely immobilizes young adults. The disease has been around as long as school itself and has developed into a full scale epidemic; nearly as common as the Common Cold itself.

Very few find themselves unafflicted by the illness but studies show that more than half those cases peaked in high school. Various symptoms of Senioritis include (headaches, anxiety, time management failure, excessive depression, motivation decrease, confusion, broken heartedness, smokers cough, excessive sleeping, mood swings, increased appetite, societal hatred, a feeling of emptiness, spontaneous ADHD, procrastination, and slight diarrhea.) There are many more but these are the most common among the youth.

As far as our Berkshire Chem labs and health classes have researched, there is currently no cure for Senioritis unfortunately. Young adults from ages 13-18 are shown to have the highest stress levels in the nation at over 9000%. The cliche of kids having it easiest has been proven time and time again as false, if not for these young adults being the age they are they would most definitely be trapped within an insane asylum.

Struggling through the damper that is Senioritis is no easy task and eventually it will take its toll. (rest in pieces class of 2016) Although one suppressant of Senioritis is and abundance of supporters called "friends" whatever that medical term means….. Even though this alternative does exist a charity team of doctors have been formed to help find a cure in Seattle.



Photo courtesy of wcmu.org

Pills may be able to cure a disease, but your senioritis is beyond the help of such paltry tablets.

By donating just $1 a month to the Grey Sloan Memorial student foundation you can help end the plague that has been ruining the self-esteem of teens for centuries. No one should have to suffer through the

Seen your athletes?

by Rachel Breckenridge, BP Staff Writer

Kylie Scott
Cleveland State University
for Cross Country
4 time, State Qualifier for Cross Country
2016 CVC MVP for Cross Country
4 time, 1st team CVC
3 time, Academic All-Ohio

Emil Hess
John Carroll University
for Basketball
2 time, 1st team CVC
2 time, 2nd team CVC
2nd team All District
Honorable Mention All-State

Aaron Pawlak
Mercyhurst NE University
for Baseball
2 time, 1st team CVC
Honorable Mention CVC
2nd Team CVC
Preseason All-Ohio

Jenna Landrus
Ursuline College
for Soccer
Honorable Mention CVC
2nd team CVC
Honorable Mention All Greater Cleveland Conference
All-Scholar Athlete
Team awarded MVP

Julia Losasso
Walsh University
for Cross Country
2nd Team CVC
Academic All-Ohio
State Qualifier





The Fight for the Favorite

by Alexis Caponi, BP Staff Asst. Editor

Many years ago, six to be exact, our very own Berkshire seniors were in elementary school. Thinking back to those years brings nostalgia along with memories. Everyone had their favorite classes, and that usually came attached with a favorite teacher. A lot of our Seniors were spread out in elementary school. We have the Ledgemont kids, the Troy kids, and the Berkshire kids. Here's a few of their favorite teachers.

A popular choice from Troy is Mr. Allison, who taught third grade. Both Sam Hargis and Kody West chose Mr. Allison. Popular choices from Ledgemont are Mrs. Girdler, a second grade teacher, chosen by Jenna Landrus and Anne Ritts. Mrs. Johnson, a first grade teacher, was Anna Loveland's favorite. Anne Ritts says that Mrs. Girdler was one of the people who inspired her to become a teacher.

Berkshire teachers that were chosen are science teacher Mr. Kostiha, courtesy of Dan Bridavsky and Jacob Turk, and first grade teacher Ms. Burzanko, better known now as Mrs. Randalls. She has Brian Malkus, Katie Dingman, Brianna Kleckner, and Breanna Pennypacker all backing her as the best elementary school teacher. Lexi McDermott loves both math teacher Mrs. Duns and science teacher Mrs. Hochschild. Kylie Scott also chose Mrs. Duns.

Even if we forget what we learned in our fourth grade math classes, we carry the memory of the relationships we built when we were younger.



The favorite, Ms. Randals, right there.

Senior *super*latives

Check out this year's yearbook for the full

Most Likely to Succeed
Kylie Scott & David Tucek

Most Athletic
Kylie Scott & Emil Hess

Most Artistic
Kylee Minick & Ethan Durman

Most Likely to Brighten Your Day
Julia Losasso & Tommy Blaha

Most Likely to Stay in Burton
Makahla Ricci & Brandon Adamic

Most Likely to be Late to Graduation
Olivea Scott & Jonny Shantery

Most Likely to Speak Their Mind
Brianna Kleckner & Donovan Springer

Most Likely to Die Laughing
Lexi McDermott & Will Blechschmid

Best Squad
Katie Dingman, Malia Miller, & Kylie Scott

Cutest Couple
Julia Losasso & Kody West

Couple That Never Was
Melissa Braun & Spencer Adams

Tallest and Shortest
Emil Hess & John Kumher

Best Bromance
Nick Guarnera & Noah McCaskey

Best Hair
Anna Loveland & Nathan McFadden

Best Eyes
Cori Rockefeller & Nick Guarnera

Best Smile
Melissa Braun & Aaron Pawlak

Best Car
Katie Dingman, Malia Miller, & Ryan Johnson

Best Dressed
Lauren Parrish & Ryan Johnson

Grad party ideas

by Aiden Burkley, BP Staff Writer

Every senior knows the inevitable is coming (other than graduation, of course) and that's the party they have to throw after all their years of hard work: their graduation party. It's only fitting that most don't even know where to start in decorations, entertainment, food, etc, and it's pretty understandable. So, here's a list of ideas you might want to consider for that good ol' stressor in your life:

1. **Serve some soft-serve**

What guest wouldn't enjoy some ice cream as part of the menu? Many try to pull of extravagant cakes or towering sets of pastries, but this proves to be simple and easy. Put some variously flavored portions in some mason jars and set them in a cooler for guests to pick from.

2. **Prepare a photobooth**

Memories are the central theme of a grad party. You're celebrating everything you've accomplished in just one night. So in that case, keep the memories! Take pictures, and loads of 'em. Set out a table with cool frames and funny accessories to encourage many to group up and take photos. You can even upload them to Instagram under a unique hashtag, so you can see them all and save them.

3. **Decorate a box for cards**

An old suitcase or a basket lying around would make a great place to have your guests store all their gifts and cards ($$$). Decorate and make it the first thing they see.

4. **Set up a playlist**

If you browse Spotify enough, you'll eventually find something that might be of use. However infinitely more fun picking out songs that meant a lot to you throughout the year and queue them to play during the party.

5. **Tie everything together with a theme**

If everything has a theme, it will all piece together easily! Just browsing around a store will reveal some things that match. With a central idea in your head, your party will be that much better!

6. **Think up some games**

Your backyard might dominate your setting as the weather will be nice and sunny. Games like cornhole or giant dominoes will certainly interest and band guests together.



A snack bar you could have at your party!

How to survive your friends just straight up dying (figuratively speaking)

by Sam Martinjako, BP Staff Writer

Graduation Edition



If you are a Senior, or if you have any friends who are Seniors, then there is one inevitable truth that you must face. Your friends are about to figuratively die, as is customary with graduation. It's tough to see them go forth into the great beyond without you, but you must keep strong for their sake. There are a number of different ways to continue on after that tragic day.

Crying:
You probably already do this one anyway for your own various reasons (lots of homework, lengthy tests, chemistry in general, etc.), but maybe you could spare a few for your deceased friends. Not saying it's a good thing to do, but I still won't rule it out as an option.

Keep their memory:
If you have any photos of them laying around on your phone, take a moment to look over them and remember all of the good times you had. Remember the laughs you had for the jokes they would tell or the light insults they would throw and smile to yourself before going back to the first option and crying anyway.

Make plans with them:
I'm just kidding, this option is completely impossible. You think that your schedule and theirs are going to work well together? Au contraire! You're not seeing them again, they're dead, Jim. You just have to accept it.

Follow them into the afterlife:
This option works better if you are also a Senior on death's doorstep. Check with your friends to which particular place in the afterlife they are headed, see if you are interested in what's offered, and go there as well. Make sure that your friend is cool with that, but it's not like they can tell where you can and can't go.

Replace them with AI:
Ok, I understand that robots aren't perfect. They don't look quite right, they don't actually have any feelings, and they're probably also lizards since they don't like getting wet (a story for another time, perhaps). However, it's the trade you must make for the shallow imitation of who your friend once was. Don't make it awkward if the original gets resurrected though.

Perform a resurrection:
There are a few different ways to do this. One way for certain is to be an adept with the dark arts, like yours truly. Resurrection is a form of necromancy, and to do a perfect one so they don't just end up a zombie takes a lot of skill and practice. If you believe that you can't just take lives back, then you could try giving something first. Get out your chalk and start learning how to draw perfect circles, because you can try to bring them back to life with the power of alchemy! Just put all the ingredients together and watch as your friend comes right back to life! It might cost you an arm and a leg, but hey, at least you have your buddy back… more or less.

Electronically contact them:
Sometimes the spirits of the dead remain on earth, and if we've learned anything from our modern times, it's that nobody should be able to just look through your cell phone. So try messaging them through text or on social media, or perhaps even do something more archaic and try calling them. Their restless souls may be browsing about their phone deleting things so that they can rest in peace and see that you sent them a message.

Write a letter:
You won't do this one, don't even lie. You may try, but you're going to give it up. Also, dead people can't hold writing utensils. They can only hold cell phones out of spite.

Double check that they're dead:
After the day of death, parties are sometimes held in honor of the deceased. Attend your friend's party, for it may be one of the last times you see them in their corporeal form. Use this opportunity to find out if they truly died by touching their arm and seeing if your hand goes through. People who planned on going to afterlives that are nearby tend to not fade as quickly as those who travel away.



Resurrecting your long, lost graduated friend.

And there you have it. If I were any of you, I'd start reading up on some spells and incantations. As I said earlier, resurrection is no joke. Remember that one day, you too will meet the same fate as your friends, given that you're not in the same class. Make sure you like your particular afterlife before you leave the realm of the living.