

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

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A Fond Farewell

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

In sixth grade there were days when I would come home from school, sit alone in my dim bedroom (darkened by the too-thick curtains I bought to feel edgy), and do nothing but imagine a world where I could fast forward to graduation. For me, middle school was an exhausting, laborious, and panoptic purgatory where a perpetual anxiety and sense of doom followed me like a shadow. It was awful. A comfortable life inside the walls of a middle school or even a high school felt unbelievably unattainable and I spent a majority of those years waiting for them to be over. I truly thought that they would never end. Now, as I'm writing this reflection with only a few days left of high school, I'm finding it genuinely difficult to process the fact that my time at SV is coming to an end. I've spent the last thirteen years of my life within the walls of this school district and even if many of them felt long and unbearable, many of them were wonderful and incredibly productive. The years that we're caught in the throes of school, puberty, and coming of age are undeniably difficult to navigate but certain teachers and certain events have helped me retain my sanity throughout them and shape me into the (hopefully good) person that I

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am today. In elementary school, Mrs. Townsend's unending support and enthusiasm helped me gain confidence in myself and my opinions and her dedication to introducing children to the wonders of reading helped foster the strong love I have for literature today. In middle school, my English teachers helped me refine my writing skills and allowed me to take pride in my work and Mrs. Makosch helped me grow from a kid

who was awful at music but loved it into a kid who is pretty alright at music and still loves it. In high school, participating in Pantherette and Epiphany has helped me find my future career path and has introduced me to the sheer power of journalism. Participating in PoP has helped me become more confident in myself and my public speaking skills and it has introduced me to some of my best friends that I hold incredibly dear to my heart as we near graduation. Also, Mrs. Figueroa, Ms. Antallosky, Mr. Bagenstose, Mr. Drake, and countless other incredible high school teachers have shown me continual kindness, support, and understanding throughout my time at the high school that has allowed me to work to my full potential and understand my true worth as a human being and as a writer. I truly cannot thank them enough for all that they have done.

So even though I spent a lot of my time at SV as a pessimistic, anxious, and miserable wreck, I have learned so much here and I would not trade this experience for anything else. Everything here has shaped me into the person I've become today and everything I end up doing in the future will be because of the teachers, students, and staff of this school district. I am forever indebted to those who have taught me, befriended me, believed in me, and supported me throughout the years — even when I made it difficult to do all of those things. I go into these last few days of high school as an excited, nervous, sad, happy, humble, and confident young woman who is more than happy she wasn't allowed to fast forward to graduation.

*The **Pantherette*** is published by students of Schuylkill Valley High School, Leesport, Pennsylvania, 19533.

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Letter to My Freshman Self

by Kaylin Loose '23

Dear Freshman Self,

Who would have ever guessed sitting in first-period bio freshman year that you would be sitting in study hall senior year thinking “That wasn’t too long ago.” Freshman year feels like a million years ago and just yesterday at the same time. No one would have ever guessed that a worldwide pandemic would cut Freshman year short, or had you doing school virtually for the entirety of sophomore year, or wearing a mask for the majority of junior year. High school certainly wasn’t what any of us expected, but as is life. Life throws unexpected things at you and you are gonna make it through just fine. You made it through a pandemic, you can make it through high school. Over the next few years, you are going to make new friends and grow closer to the friends you have. You will have triumphs and defeats, joy and sadness, good days and bad. But it will be worth it on graduation day sitting in your cap and gown just waiting for your name to be called one final time as a panther. Enjoy it and roll with the punches, because you will be there one day and when you get there it won’t seem like it was that long ago that you were stressing about the first day of high school as you count down the days until your last.

Your Senior Self

Advice to Freshmen

by Helene Yerger '23

My entire high school experience has been a lot of downs and not many ups. High school will probably be the most socially degrading, depressing, and stressful years of your life. There are many expectations, opinions, and hate you will face. But in the face of adversity, we rise! When faced with social issues, depression, and stress, you will learn to become resilient, independent, and focused. But again, high school will chew you up and spit you out without thinking twice. You must hold your head high, even when you feel like all hope is lost. I highly recommend a job, at least part-time, to keep busy and make some money. It is always early enough to start saving!

Also, clubs. JOIN CLUBS! I have had the privilege of being an officer of PYEA and the president of the LEO Club. All the clubs have great things to offer, there is no wrong answer. My top three clubs to join though would be PYEA, LEO, and Pantherette. I also recommend being a part of the school play! I only did it this year, but I loved it! The energy everyone brings is contagious! When it comes to school in general, I truly hope that things become better for SV. We have had trouble keeping a steady administration and unfortunately lost precious teachers and faculty in the process. I would love to hear that SV has blossomed into a safe and welcoming environment. Finally, my biggest advice would be to be kind. It's not hard. Do not assume you know everything about someone without even getting to know them. Never assume. Be kind!

Senior Year Reflection

by Kaylin Loose '23

Well, seniors, we made it. This year was a lot of things; stressful, exciting, fun. Stressful because of the push to set the course our lives will take over the next few years. Exciting because we were preparing to leave high school and start our lives. Above all, this year was fun, we took classes we actually care about and made the most out of every opportunity they gave us. It started with the senior sunrise on the first day of school, the feeling of catching up on what everyone did over the summer, and the excitement that we were finally seniors. As June approaches, teachers say that our senioritis has set in. But I think we have been looking forward to graduation for years, and we have worked so hard for four years to be able to relax for this last month. We had senior nights, homecoming, spring break, and prom. We have made memories that will last us a lifetime and friendships that will get us through good and bad times. Now is a time to look forward to the future, while learning from the past. As First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt once said "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their own dreams." Today, the future belongs to us.

Goodbye to SV

by Kaylin Loose '23

Charles Dickens once said, "Life is made of many partings welded together." Saying goodbye to high school is bittersweet. On one hand, I'm excited for what is to come, and on the other terrified by the uncertainty of leaving what I have known for so long. High school has been an experience that I will never forget -- although there are some things about it that I would like to. What happened over the last four years in these hallowed halls has shaped us into the people we are now. We found our place in this school, and now as we prepare to find our place in the world, we think back to the good times we had here. We remember going to football games, to mini-thons, to pep rallies, to dances, to field trips, and to school plays. We remember the teachers who looked out for our best interest whether in their class, other classes, or just life. We begin the next part of our lives now.

Words of Advice

by Brandon Lennon '23

Being a student at Schuylkill Valley High School has been nice. My words of advice are about the same as anyone else's. "Join some clubs" "Get out there to the games" "Talk to new people". There's really not all that much to it. You can, of course, be silent and that's fine if you prefer that, but it's good to meet new people and say "hi" once in awhile. Plays are fun to watch. You'd get a little booklet that says who's in the cast and you can see your friends up there if you're not in it yourself. Personally, if I was starting over, I'd participate in a play or two. At least stage crew. Consider starting up a club. With a handful of people and a willing teacher I'm sure any club could be arranged. Consider seriously if you want to go to BCTC. If you're interested in a trade go for it, but don't just do it to have fewer classes or whatever. I went in for a backup to college just in case I decided against going by the time I was a senior. Backups are a good idea, however, it was unnecessary in my case. If you find yourself being a senior and you don't want to go to college, you are able to learn trades through jobs after you graduate. Like, I picked Electrical Occupations and it led to a fun summer job and a bit of electrical knowledge. I wouldn't have done the same looking back. If I didn't go to BCTC and decided I wanted to become an electrician after high school I would still need to go to a separate school afterwards to learn the trade. I still would in this case too, at the end of my curriculum here, to become certified. You, as a student, are able to do anything with yourself and that's something to always keep in mind. It's never too late to change paths and you don't need to know what you want to do with your life for a long while. Many people don't know what they want with life till long after high school and often swap paths.

College Application Advice

by Amanda Hoover '23

The application process can be intimidating at times. However, it is important to get it done as soon as possible, that way you can enjoy the rest of your senior year. The summer before entering 12th grade, I recommend making a list of all the colleges you want to visit and apply to them. Try to limit your choices to 3-5 schools. When the time comes to start applying, it is easiest to use the Common App because it allows you to apply to multiple colleges all at once. Make an account on the Common App website, and then select your schools that you are interested in applying to, and begin to fill out your information. Once you have filled out your applications you can now relax until you hear back from the colleges. During this waiting period, try to pick your top one and two choices of colleges. The next step is to file your FAFSA. Students must fill out this form in order to get financial aid for college. Usually, the FAFSA application opens October 1. It is very important to file it as soon as possible so 1- colleges can process your financial aid packages, and 2- filing it early increases one's chance to qualify for financial aid.

Important terms to know for the application process:

Rolling admissions: this means that colleges/universities review applications and release decisions as they receive them - whereas some colleges have specific deadlines and will not release decisions until after

Early decision: when someone applies early decision, it is binding, which means that if you get into the college/university then you will be attending the college

Early action: this option allows for applicants to receive their decision on their application early, and allows them to commit up until the usual date of decision, May 1st

RM Palmer Chocolate Factory Explosion

by Ashleigh Mask '25

Tragedy struck locally on Friday, March 24, 2023. Only minutes away, in West Reading, PA, the old RM Palmer Chocolate Factory was in ruins after an explosion. Lots of property damage not only to the factory but the neighboring buildings. There are several lawsuits regarding the damage and neglect to the property. As of today, the seven victims have been identified, with many others injured. Statements from the company claimed they are “devastated by the tragic events at one of our West Reading facilities and we are focused on supporting our employees and their families.” An NTSB investigator believes there was an accident involving a natural gas pipeline. Terry Wakefield, a business consultant and food scientist, ensures that the shock wave from the initial explosion (possibly from natural gas) could have picked up dust and starches from the factory. This heavy amount of starch would then combust, creating explosion clouds that “move faster than sound and they have unbelievable force.” Some factory workers told others that they smelled natural gas the day before the blast. UGI received no reports of a gas leak. In a lawsuit, workers claimed to have notified RM Palmer of the gas smell, but the factory “did nothing.” The lawsuit states the Pennsylvania candy maker now bears responsibility for the explosion at the factory after ignoring warnings of a gas leak. To all the employees, families, volunteers, first responders, and others affected by the disaster, we are thinking of you and hoping for a healthy recovery.



Poetry Column

by Izzy Burch '25

To Daffodils

by Robert Herrick

Fair Daffodils, we weep to see
You haste away so soon;
As yet the early-rising sun
Has not attain'd his noon.
Stay, stay,
Until the hasting day
Has run
But to the even-song;
And, having pray'd together, we
Will go with you along.



We have short time to stay, as you,
We have as short a spring;
As quick a growth to meet decay,
As you, or anything.
We die
As your hours do, and dry
Away,
Like to the summer's rain;
Or as the pearls of morning's dew,
Ne'er to be found again.

Tips for Spring + Summer Fun

by Savanna Derr '25

As the weather gets warmer and days get longer, it's time to start thinking about outdoor activities for you or your friends and family. Here are three ways to enjoy fresh air and have fun outside!

1. Going out for a bike ride around your nearby playground or out on a trail to give your legs a great workout and enjoy the breeze.
2. Chalk art is also a great way to let your imagination take flight on the sidewalk or driveway.
3. Another great way is to just socialize with friends, maybe go out to a nearby creek and see who can skip stones the farthest or have a sleepover.

As possibilities are endless, those are just a few to start you off in spring!



PROM: Tips and Tricks

by Helene Yerger '23

This year's prom has the theme "Take me to the Moon"! In the spirit of another year coming to an end, let's make this year's prom an out-of-this-world experience! To begin, if you have not gotten a dress or tux yet, GET ONE NOW! Absolutely you must get a dress that makes you feel special and for yourself or your date, a tux that matches! Personally, I recommend Bella Jules in West Reading and if you need tailoring (which you probably will), visit JP Tailoring for a 20% discount if you buy from Bella Jules! I've also heard King of Prussia Mall and Macy's have beautiful dresses as well. Now that you have the dress or tux, I recommend if you wear heels, to bring flats of some kind for the endless dancing. Your feet will hurt! After the outfit is squared away, the hair and makeup are next! Last year, I got my hair and makeup done by Lords and Ladies in Sinking Spring which is very close to where Prom is. They did a great job and I worshiped the makeup! Highly recommend it! I would also consider a boutonniere and corsage for you and your date! I went to the Centerport Flower Shop! Next, pictures, some people already have a spot picked out with family, but if you're looking for one, there is a church very close to the Green Valley Chato that I took my pictures at last year. It was beautiful and all the flowers and trees were blooming! I know many people, including myself, will be going to Rebers Bridge for pictures. I suggest a church, a field, a flowery place, or somewhere with a great sunset! Now, this next idea is all up to you and if you have a date. Some people show up in limos, party buses, or showy cars. It is a great and fun time if you can because I think it adds to the special and pampered factor of Prom! If not, no biggie, no one really cares what you show up in! Once at prom, you will have to wait to be called for food, so in the meantime socialize and take pictures with friends! Take a lot of pictures and videos to remember the night! The music will be bussin' and everyone will be throwing it back, so you definitely should too! Always remember to be safe and make this a night to remember under the stars!



POP's Radiant Rendition of *Mamma Mia!*

by Lexi Good '23

As I watched *Mamma Mia The Musical* for the first time with my best friend by my side, all I could do was smile. I've been watching *Mamma Mia* the movie since I was a little girl, but POP's version was fantastic. The cast on stage performing was bubbly and extremely talented. As I have a personal connection to many of the cast members, I must say their roles fit their personalities. I couldn't help but dance and sing along to all of the songs. Everything about the musical was perfect. My favorite part was definitely the disco ball and every single song. If I could choose which musical was performed at my high school for my senior year, I wouldn't have picked any other musical. Each cast member delivered their parts with enthusiasm and showed their talent. I would watch them all perform a million times and never get tired. This performance gave me butterflies and brought out my internal joy. I am beyond proud of every cast member in the show, they all did an outstanding job. Thank you for making my childhood come to life.



Swiss Bank Crash

by Leiland Wisniewski '24

In the month of March, the second largest bank in Switzerland collapsed. Credit Suisse has had many scandals in the past years and they just continue to add up so this crash really just brought the final blow. Scandals such as spy relations, yet another collapse of investments, and a lot of rotations with their group executives. After the bank collapsed, it was then bought by a rival (pretty scandalous if I do say so myself) for 3 billion CHF which is 3.3 billion USD. They had 50,000 employees total and was divided into five divisions with 150 offices in over 50 countries around the world. Over the pandemic they lost a ton of money and employees. Along with another executive officer. Loss after loss for this company seems to just be the end for them. No one really knows the future for this bank. The timeline of the collapse really goes back until 2019 with their countless financial troubles from the start. Could it have been prevented over those years? Possibly. But with covid and all the scandals happening, who really knows? Overall, Switzerland's reputation for having a pretty strong and reliable banking system could be severely changed.



Senior Bequeaths

Alyssa Armpriester bequeaths Softball pants that aren't stained from caulk to **Elyssa Sellers '26**

McKaylah Booth bequeaths her leadership skills in cheerleading to **Kylie Gunter '25**

Emily Gao bequeaths her coolness and amazingness to **Gabriel Martin '25**, a donut to **Annie Gao '24**, and nothing to her **AP Government Period 3 Class** (because she has already trained them to become her successors)

Megan Raifsnider bequeaths her iconic colored hair to **Leiland Wiesnewski '25**

Jadon Swain bequeaths the squat rack to **Nickolas Moyer '26**

Alexis Good bequeaths her hard-work, kindness, and football manager skills to **Brynley Kleffel '24**

Helene Yerger & Zoe Merkel bequeath their fundraising endeavors for PYEA to **Sierra Merkel '24** and **Madison Steingraber '24**

Leila Howe bequeaths her acting skills and the spotlight to **Gracie Torres '26**

Zoe Merkel bequeaths her field hockey skills and her ability to magically pull field hockey supplies out of her bag to **Sierra Merkel '24**

Maria Armenta bequeaths her height to **Rhiannon Bresler '24**

Allison Harmuth bequeaths the table seat in Mr. Chillot's room to **Meghan Wickersham '25**

Gabrielle Cline bequeaths her card deck to **Aubrey Bensinger '26**

Charlotte Baumgard bequeaths the fight for the arts to **the PoP underclassmen** and being basilly to **Laura Schlappich '24**

Advice for Rising Seniors

by Kaylin Loose '23

Juniors. In just a few days, you will be moving from the junior lot to the senior lot. You will be the oldest student's in this school. It will be scary at times as people encourage you to plan the entirety of your life out now. You don't have to have all the answers. All you have to do is have a general direction. College or work? Once you answer that question, more questions will appear -- like which college, or what job -- but as long as you realize that you can take these one at a time, it gets less scary. I suggest if you plan to go to college, start applying in the first quarter of your senior year using the early application option so you get the college's decision months before the college needs your decision back so you have time to think about it. Also, have fun; plan fun stuff to do throughout the year with your friends. By the time you graduate most of you will legally be adults, so enjoy the last year as kids. Soon enough, you will be finishing your final papers and projects for your senior year. All I hope is that you look back and have happy memories of your senior year.

Senior Survey: What are you looking forward to after high school?

Zoe Merkel - going to college and experiencing new things, new friends, and new places

Allison Harmuth - living in a new area and living on my own

Jadon Swain - visiting other continents like Australia and Europe

Emily Gao - doing random things

Alyssa Armpriester - not being up until 1 am doing homework

Helene Yerger - having the freedom to find myself

Leila Howe - meeting new people

Alexis Good - being more independent in college

Megan Raifsnider - meeting new people, having a fresh start

Maria Armenta - not having a jam-packed schedule

Charlotte Baumgard - furthering my writing career and broadening my horizons by traveling

Panthers Competing in College Athletics

Alyssa Armpriester - Softball, Division III (Penn College of Technology)

McKaylah Booth - Cheerleading, Division I (Saint Joseph's University)

Christian Davila - Rugby, Division I (Kutztown University)

Allison Harmuth - Field Hockey, Division III (Framingham State University)

Paul Engleman - Football, Division III (Lebanon Valley College)

Brock DeJesus - Golf, Division III (Penn State Berks)

Daymond Hiester - Ice Hockey, Division III (Alvernia University)

Noah Wamsher - Soccer, Division II (Lock Haven University)

Jacob Stelluti - Rugby, Division I (Kutztown University)

Emma Deyarmin - Track and Field, Division III (West Chester University)

Spring Sports: Baseball

by Jacob Zimmerman '24

The baseball team comes into the 2023 spring season with an experienced team of 9 seniors. The seniors on the team include: Eli Houser, Kelton Faulk, Brock Dejesus, Max Lawler, Caden Moser, Gary Wenzel, Caden Moyer, Caden Kline and, Colin Stoudt. The team is coached by Mark Dietrich. For Kelton Faulk, expectations are high “Our chemistry is strong, and most of us have been playing ball together since we were little. Our expectations are high because each person knows what the team is capable of accomplishing this year. For us seniors, it’s our last chance to show people around here that SV baseball can really be something so it’s important that we play with a chip on our shoulder.” When asked about the importance of a large group of seniors, Eli Houser said, “ It’s something that we’re very fortunate to have. We’ve developed so much chemistry with each other that when we play it’s so much more fun and we all play better.” Mentality is an important aspect of the game for the Panthers. “We have an underdog mentality going into the season, last year being 6-13, we want to work harder.” said team leader Caden Moyer. The team looks to put together a strong 2023 season!

Underclassman Spotlight

Name: Colby Crills

Grade: 11

Position: Catcher

What is your favorite early memory of baseball?

“My first home run ever was a grand slam in our 11u championship game”

What were your personal goals for the season?

“Stay consistent with hitting, allow 5 or less stolen bases”

What is the best part about the team?

“The chemistry and dedication we have to win”



Spring Sports: Boys' Track and Field

by Emily Goetz '24

The 2022-23 Schuylkill Valley boys' track team is coached by Allyson McKechnie, Terry McKechnie, Mr. Reinert, and Mrs. Cammauf. This year's seniors are Michael Goad, Cohen Glassmire, Will Johnson, Hayden Bojako, Logan Kraus, Michael Orth, and Nii Larkai. "The dynamic of a track and field team is very different from most sports teams due to the individuality of the sport. In most cases your success is never determined by someone else, it is determined by the personal growth of an athlete", said by Michael Goad. As much as the sport is individual, the boys are looking ahead to have a successful season this year as a team. Will Johnson communicated that their team expectations are to keep working hard and to push themselves to their limits. As a team, they are hoping "to increase the number of qualifications for districts and to have an enjoyable experience for all," said Hayden Bojako. One battle on their way to achieve this goal was overcoming injuries, communicated by Cohen Glassmire. With the positive attitude that the team has for the season, they have great potential to have a promising season. Good luck, Panthers!

Underclassman Spotlight

Name: Luke Martinez

Grade: 11

Years Played: 2nd Year

Events: Long Jump, Pole Vault, 4x100 Meter Relay

Favorite Memory: Beating his personal record twice at districts last year for pole vault and jumped 12 feet.



Spring Sports: Girls' Track and Field

by Olivia Kraus '24

Schuylkill Valley's girls' track team is coached by Allyson McKechnie and Terry McKechnie. Mrs. Cammauf is the throwing coach. The girls had an amazing past couple of years. The team is still doing well regardless of the graduating seniors from last year. Many of the team's runners graduated but underclassmen have been stepping up. The seniors this season are Tori Reali, Emma Deyamin, Nia Wagner and Reese Gauby. Tori Reali states, "The team environment is great, everyone is always so supportive no matter who's running what. We always try to see everyone's events." Nia Wagner added, "The team environment is cheerful and enthusiastic." The girls are all striving towards big goals this season. Reese Gauby said, "My goals for the season would definitely be to improve my times and get better." Many of the girls have made amazing memories over their years on the team. Emma Deyarmin states that her favorite memory is, "At districts on my last throw I had to PR by 5 feet to out throw the second seed girl and I ended up winning." Their team is very-well rounded by having successful athletes in both the track and field events. Good luck to the girls' track team this season!

Underclassman Spotlight

Name: Alexis Seymour

Grade: 11th

Event: 4x8, 1600, 800, and 4x4

Best part of your sport: Connecting with new people that I don't see throughout the school day.

Favorite memory: Going to districts with the 4x8 (Averi, Sarah, and Jadyn) and placing 4th two years in a row.



Spring Sports: Boys' Lacrosse

by Kalika Kauffman '24

Seniors: Paul Engleman, Daymond Hiester, Sabier Mateo, Jacob Miller, Tyler Smith, Gage VanKeuren, and Noah Wamsher.

Schuylkill Valley's Boys' Lacrosse is returning this season from making districts last year. In previous years, the lacrosse team has had its ups and downs. Last year the team made districts for the first time in its history! Their head coach, Josh Pokrywa, led last year's team to a winning record of 9-6. In their league, the team was 5-4. The team lost a few seniors which helped them succeed in making school history. The upcoming boys will have to step in to fill their roles! This year's seniors are Paul Engleman, Daymond Hiester, Sabier Mateo, Jacob Miller, Tyler Smith, Gage VanKeuren, and Noah Wamsher. Midfielder or attack, Noah Wamsher, joined the team this year and is enjoying his experience. "Since it's my first year, honestly just spending time with my teammates." Paul Engleman plays midfielder and long pole. Paul believes the key to success is, "Playing as a team. Playing as a unit. Not individually." Jacob Miller is the goalie for the team and added, "My favorite memory was last year's district playoff game, although we lost in the first round I enjoyed being a part of that team and making team history." Best of luck to the team this season!

Underclassman Spotlight

Name: Lex Crespo

Grade: 11th

Position: Midfielder

The best part of your sport: "Being able to get on the field and have fun, bond with my teammates, and get the rush of adrenaline before every game."

Favorite memory: "In freshman year, I got my first shot in the goal. I never felt so accomplished and fulfilled by it just from my freshman year."



Spring Sports: Boys' Volleyball

by Courtney Zimmerman '24 and Julia Missimer '24

The Schuylkill Valley boys' volleyball team is excited to play this season after almost qualifying for playoffs last year. Last year's seniors left big shoes to fill this upcoming season. This year's seniors for the 2022-2023 season are: Mason Bagenstose, Landon Weaver, Keegan Weeks, Chad Gangewere, Aiden Ring, and David Kramer. "My favorite part is the positive environment on the court and the competitive nature of the whole team," Chad stated after asking him what he likes most about being on the team. Landon is expecting the team to put up a tough fight and make it to states. Senior Mason Bagenstose says getting better as a team overall and working together in order to win the important matches needed for playoffs is the expectation for this season. "Being a leader and making friends with a different group of kids than I would not normally talk to is my favorite part. Volleyball cheers me up and keeps me in a good mood." Mason added. Best of luck with your remaining season boys!

Underclassmen Spotlight

Name: Owen Raifsnider

Grade: 11th

Position: Setter

Favorite memory: Coming back from 0-2 to beat Brandywine at home.

Best part: "The environment that the school and my coaches provide for our team."



Spring Sports: Girls' Softball

by Natane White '24

The softball team, coached by Rich Sensenig, is looking to improve upon their last year's record of 4-12. With five seniors this year, the team has strong leadership qualities and is looking forward to a fun and productive season. Continuing to build on their skills, the girls have big expectations for themselves as well as the team. "For my personal goals, I would like to improve my skills and become the best player I can be. As for the team, we need to come together and push out hard-earned wins," said senior Lindsay Kachel. Although they are coming off of a losing season, the team has a lot of heart. "I love the game itself. I have been playing since I was in third grade and still love it. The friendships I have made at softball would not exist without the connection over the sport," said senior Jordan Shekalus when asked what she likes most about being on the softball team. The team is ready to face any challenges that come their way. Good luck this season, ladies!

Underclassman Spotlight

Name: Courtney Zimmerman

Grade: 11th

Position: Catcher

Best part of your sport: Meeting new people

Favorite memory: Hitting my first homerun my sophomore year vs. Blue Mountain



Spring Sports: Girls' Lacrosse

by Caden Moyer '23

The Girls Lacrosse Team, led by coach Rob Newpher are hoping for a successful season. The team is in a very challenging division. Last season the team was led by multiple seniors. The team is led by two seniors Zoe Merkel and Bailey Unterkofler. The team will need to win tough games to make playoffs this year Senior Bailey Unterkofler believes, " Our teams biggest game this season is our Senior Night Game. We play Daniel Boone who is always a close competitor for us. This is one of the games that the team always looks forward to playing. Senior Night is always a big event and we are super excited!" The team is looking forward to this game and Senior Night is always such a big event. The team is always looking to improve, any way they can, Senior Zoe Merkel said," Our team needs to improve on direct passes and ground ball pick up." The team is still very young and has a very bright future. Goodluck to the Girls Lacrosse Team.

Underclassmen Spotlight

Name: Reese Weddle

Position: Attack/Mid

What does your team need to improve on? Our team is very young but athletic. I think we just need to improve ourselves

Favorite Memory? Our win against Daniel Boone last year on senior night. The energy was great and we played amazing.

Future Plans? I plan to continue playing Division II lacrosse at the University of Mount Olive and hopefully win a conference championship when I am there. Also, I hope to hit my 100th goal this year or the next.



Pantherette Seniors

Charlotte Baumgard has been a Pantherette member since her freshman year. She was a sophomore editor-in-chief, junior editor-in-chief and **now our amazing senior editor-in-chief.**

After graduation, she will be attending Alvernia to study English and possibly a minor in Communications. Her favorite Pantherette memory was getting to go on the DC trip after not being able to take a club trip for the past three years. It was so rewarding to finally get to go on a trip after putting so much time and effort into the club over the past four years and it was very exciting to get to explore the nation's capital and everything it has to offer. Her most memorable article written is the one she wrote this year about the arts in our schools. It engaged a lot of the district in a positive and productive discussion about how the arts, arts students, and arts teachers are treated within school settings. Writing that article and witnessing the waves it caused allowed her to see the true power of journalism firsthand and made her feel as if writing has the power to positively impact the community around her.

Charlotte's advice for you younger Pantherette members — especially fellow young women who are often labeled as difficult and rude if they have an opinion? "Be critical. I've read so many student-written opinion editorials that are afraid to actually develop an opinion. They often concede from what they truly think and pander to both sides of an issue because their writers are scared of the repercussions of expressing their own opinion. I want you all to know that having an opinion, expressing it effectively, and gracefully facing any consequences that may come as a result of it is far more productive (to your craft as a journalist and to yourself as a developing young adult) than shying away from any opinion or criticism in





Alyssa Armpriester has been a Pantherette member since freshman year and served as Treasurer her senior year. She will be attending Penn College of Technology earning a dual degree in welding and diesel technology. She will also be playing Division III softball. Her favorite high school memory is when best friend asked her to prom during the track team's senior night, and her most memorable Pantherette articles are the ones she got to write about climate change. Her advice for younger Panthers? Use the time in high school to find yourself and what you really want to do in life. Don't let other people's opinions get to you.

Emily Gao has been an active member of Pantherette all four years. Her junior and senior year, she helped out as an editor. She will be attending Bucknell University beginning in the fall to study pre-med to eventually become a radiologist. She has received multiple scholarships for her talent as a pianist, two of them from the Reading Musical Foundation and one from Bucknell. Her favorite high school memory is the day the mask mandate was finally lifted in school. She wrote a memorable article about holiday traditions during junior year where she learned a lot about different Christmas traditions in various countries, and her advice to underclassmen is: Don't give up when you fail.



Amanda Hoover has been in Pantherette for 2 years. She has written so many thoughtful articles as a club member. Next year, she will be studying at Albright College where she will major in Secondary Education to prepare to become a history or English teacher. The thing she will remember most about high school is enjoying the time she got to just hang out with friends. Her most memorable article she wrote for Pantherette was advice to seniors on the application process. Her advice for underclassmen? Try to always stay positive and have a good headspace about things. Don't beat yourself up over bad grades.

Nikki Kalash has been with Pantherette for all 4 years of high school, and she has contributed to countless editions. Next year she will be attending West Chester University to study Biology Medical Lab Sciences. After earning her Bachelor's Degree, she will go through a 2-year program to become a Physician's Assistant. She earned an academic merit scholarship for WCU. One of her favorite high school memories was Pantherette's end-of-year party that took place at the same time that Mrs. French's and Mrs. Boyer's AP classes battled each other on the kickball field. Her advice to underclassmen is: take every opportunity presented because you don't know if that opportunity will come around again.



Erin Livinghouse has been an active club member for 3 years and has brought a ton of creativity to Pantherette. She will be attending Shippensburg University to study Biotechnology and would like to do medical research. She is a recipient of Shippensburg's Presidential Scholarship. One of her favorite Pantherette memories is the holiday cookie exchange during her junior year, and her most memorable article written was the survey of SV's ideal travel destinations. Her advice to underclassmen? Do your work!

Kaylin Loose has been in Pantherette for 2 years and has contributed so many thoughtful articles during that time. In the fall, she will be attending Alvernia to major in Computer Science, a field she first became interested in because of her dad. Her favorite Pantherette memory is climbing to the top of the Washington Monument on our field trip to Washington D.C, and her favorite article was her Holiday Traditions piece that was featured on the front page. Kaylin's advice to the underclassmen is: Get involved! Because you don't realize what you're missing out on!





Megan Raifsnider has been a valued Patherette member and has written many articles for various editions. After highschool, she plans on going to college. In fact, she is committed to Penn State University Park for an undergraduate degree. As a career path, Megan wants to go to medical school to specialize in Ophthalmology, or a doctor who specializes in diseases and conditions involving the eye. Megan's favorite Pantherette Memory was when Mrs. Figueroa brought the Figlets to the end-of-the-year party last year! And finally, Megan's advice to future Patherette members and younger high school students is to try to step outside of your comfort zone!



Jenna Strausser has been a Pantherette member for 2 years. After graduating from SV, she will be attending the Reading School of Health Sciences where she will begin her journey of becoming a radiology technician. Her favorite Pantherette memory is seeing Ford's Theater and listening to the tour guide talk about Abe Lincoln on the D.C. trip her senior year. Her advice for younger Pantherette members is to participate and sign up to write an article because you only have four years here!





Gary Wenzel joined Pantherette during his senior year and served as our Sports Editor in Chief. After graduating from SV, he will be attending North Greenville University to study Sports Media and eventually become a sports broadcaster. He has earned the SV Youth Baseball scholarship as well as the North Greenville President's Scholarship. His favorite high school memories include all of the assemblies, especially his senior year when he commentated Battle of the Classes with Michael Goad. The most memorable article he worked on was the March Madness Week article, and his advice to future seniors is: get involved with a lot and make the most of your time here.



Helene Yerger has been a dedicated Pantherette member all four years of high school and has written countless articles from advice to editorials and lots in between. She will be attending East Stroudsburg University to study Communication Science Disorders. Helene is the recipient of the SV Art Award as well as the Presidential Academic Achievement Award for ESU. After graduating from college, she plans on working as a Speech Language Pathologist (SLP) so she can help people regain their speech and provide therapy for those who struggle with speaking and swallowing. Her advice for underclassmen is: be kind and don't judge because everyone is going through something. One of her favorite high school memories was the glass blowing field trip at the Goggle Works with her art class.



Best of luck, seniors. You will be missed!

CLASS OF 2023: FUTURE PLANS

Albright College

Amanda Hoover - Secondary Education

Brandon Lennon - Biology or Chemistry

Alvernia University

Charlotte Baumgard - English

Kaylin Loose - Computer Science

Emily Fies - Biology + Physician Assistant

Daymond Hiester - Undecided

Bloomsburg University

Leandro Tavaréz - Accounting

Bucknell University

Emily Gao - Pre-Med

Cedar Crest College

Madison Kubacki - Biology

Morgan Clayton - Psychology and Criminal Justice

Delaware Valley University

Alexis Good - Horticulture Education

DeSales University

Bailey Unterkofler - Sports Management Pre-Law

East Stroudsburg University

Helene Yerger - Communication Science
Disorders

Brianna Edwards - Undecided

Framingham State University

Allison Harmuth - Food Science

Full Sail University

Ariana Arias - Entertainment Media

George Mason University

Leila Howe - Forensic Science

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Katie Messner - Interior Design

Juniata College

Zoe Merkel - History/Museum Studies

Kutztown University

Christian Susano - Art

Taylin Kimmel - Psychology

Caden Moyer - Secondary Education

Jacob Stelluti - Business Marketing

Christian Davila - Business Marketing

Maria Armenta - Biology/Pre-Veterinary

Michael Goad - Undecided

Mason Machemer - Cinema, TV, and Media

Lebanon Valley College

Jordan Shekalus - Physical Therapy

Paul Engleman - Criminal Justice

Gage VanKeuren - Psychology

Liberty University

Milcia Caba - Finance

Lock Haven University

Noah Wamsher - Pre-Physical Therapy

Millersville University

Kelton Faulk - Secondary Education - English

Michael Orth - Music Education

Elijah Houser - Secondary Education - Biology

Isata Bah - Biology - Pre-Med

Moravian University

Andrea Galan - Biology

North Greenville University

Gary Wenzel - Sports Media

Penn College of Technology

Alyssa Armpriester - Welding

Peyton James - Plant Production and Landscape Technology

Jacob Miller - Architecture and Sustainable Design

Penn State University - State College

Antonio Calleja - Computer Science

Nia Wagner - Kinesiology

Nii Jarfro Larkai - Biology

Seth Geiger - Pre-Med

Megan Raifsnider - Pre-Med

Cohen Glassmire - Cyber Security

Nick Bhatti - Computer Science

Penn State University - Berks Campus

Brock DeJesus - Cyber Security Analytics and Operations

Lindsay Kachel - Business

Logan Kraus - Cyber Security and Analytics

Maxwell Lawler - Business Management/Finance

Devin Unger - Nutritional Sciences

Point Park University

Delaney Yeakle - Computer Science

Reading Area Community College

Gabrielle Cline - Teaching and Worship Leading

Brittany Wagner - Criminal Justice/Forensic Science

Victoria Lapa - Undecided

Natalie Stahl - Nursing

John Davitt - Business

Keegan Weeks - Undecided

Braiden Lash - Computer Technology

Hayden Bojako - Undecided

Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences

Paige Clayton - Nursing

Elizabeth Zaharia - Surgical Technology

Jenna Strausser - Medical Imaging

Saint Joseph's University

McKaylah Booth - Psychology

Shippensburg University

Erin Livinghouse - Biotechnology

Slippery Rock University

Caden Kline - Exploratory

The Culinary Institute of America

Nikailyn Madden - Culinary Arts

University of Scranton

Emma Stauffer - Psychology

Reese Stauffer - Psychology

University of Tampa

Tori Reali - Nursing

Valencia

Brianna Speece - Interior Design

West Chester University

Sadie Lerch - Sports Medicine and Athletic Training

Emma Deyarmin - Biology (Microbiology)

Nicole Kalash - Biology (Medical Laboratories)

Widener University

Chad Gangewere - Engineering

The Military

Mason Shelak - United States Air Force

David Kramer - United States Air Force (Geospatial Intelligence)

David Rhein - Marine Corps

Students Off to Other Great Places

Teresa Dragan - Gap Year, Graphic Design

Nik Baertschy - Working in welding

Mishayla Altamirano - Cosmetology School

Jacob Zimmerman - Full Time Videographer/Graphic Designer for Full Send Diesel (a diesel performance shop)

Caden Moser - HVAC Apprenticeship

Brayden Woods - Undecided

Wyatt Ballou - Workforce

Finlay Najac - Undecided

Lucas Wargo - Automotive Technology

Nick Hyneman - Workforce

Miranda Schlouch - Build portfolio and get an apprenticeship as a tattoo artist

William Harper - Undecided

Jaxon Kuehner - Zimmerman Masonry

Jacob Bowman - Working at Pro Max Fencing and eventually starting his own business

Anna Lassandro - Gap Year

Aaron Bruchez - Gap Year

Alaina Horning - Workforce - will be successful and happy :)

Colin Stoudt - Balton Construction Inc.

Clayton Kunkleman - Reading Bakery System then eventually underwater welding school

Jalene Burrus - Working and traveling

Sabier Mateo - Moving to Alabama to train to be a lineman

Cayla Duda - Gap year, then real estate

Jeremiah Bowman - Workforce and then eventually starting his own business

William Johnson - Working as a car mechanic

Jason Smith - Working at Redner's, then getting into landscaping and hopefully starting a landscaping business

Mark Rajnath - Workforce and gap year to reevaluate future path and possible additional schooling

Kaitlyn Boyer - Workforce

Lukas Hess - Atonal Painting and Contracting

Sami Wails - Gap year

Jaden Swain - Gap year

Josie Swain - Gap year

Logan Weller - Gap year

Class of 2023 Memories



