

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

NOVEMBER 2022

Volume 63, Issue IV

8th Grade Camp Reflection

by guest contributor, Zoe Merkel '23

I write this to share my experience as a counselor at 8th-grade camp as well as encourage others to take up the role in the future. One thing to note about any event is the quality of the food. At camp, one will not go hungry as there is a breakfast/ salad bar along with each main meal. Snacks are also provided after dinner. Each meal was quite tasty especially since we were constantly doing activities, leaving us hungry. My table ate the most apple crisp out of all the tables and by the end of dinner, we had nine of bowls of apple crisp at our table! Besides the food, the people at camp were great! For the most part, the kids listened very easily; sometimes counselors would repeat themselves, but campers tended to listen by the second time. It was plain to see, many of the kids wanted to be there and were loving it! The group of 8th graders I walked around with went above and beyond while prepping for their skit and respect song. When it was time to perform, each group did very well. Biased as I may be, I believe that my group's skit got the most laughs. Their new song, "Let's Respect", to the tune of "Let It Go" was long but they came up with it 100% on their own! I absolutely loved how interactive and engaged all the kids

Inside This Issue:

SV Football Season Recap

Advice Column

New Teacher Interviews

were. The teachers and counselors all got along well and were able to make jokes with each other. I loved camp and I am sure you will too! Sadly, as a senior, I will not be able to go back after I graduate this year. For the juniors and seniors of the future, I highly suggest being a counselor at 8th-grade camp! It is incredible fun, super rewarding, and the make-up work from the high school is manageable. Have fun in the woods.

SV Football's Successful Season

by Gary Wenzel '23

After a 2-9 2021 campaign for the football team, the Panthers looked to bounce back for the 2022 season and shock the county. The Panthers now under second year head coach Bruce Harbach, worked hard all offseason building team chemistry. Berks football merged with Lancaster-Lebanon to create 5 new sections with the Panthers being placed in Section 5. This matched the team up against new opponents from outside of the local area.

The team started off with a loss to non conference opponents Twin Valley and Upper Perkiomen. Just when it seemed all hope was lost the Panthers didn't give up hope on the season quite yet. The team traveled to Susquenita where they got their first win over the Blackhawks 31-13. This wrapped up the non-conference part of the season with the Panthers heading into section play with a 1-2 record.

Schuylkill Valley opened up section play against the Kutztown Cougars. The Panthers showed utter domination winning 35-6. The team would then travel to Pequea Valley to take on the Braves where the Panthers would score the most points in a game all year winning 55-7. Just like that Schuylkill Valley was tied for first in Section 5 and had a 3-2 record halfway through the season.

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

Advisor: Paige Figueroa

Secretary: Alyssa Armpriester

Editor-in-Chief: Charlotte Baumgard

Assistant Editor: Emily Gao

Manager of Photography: Ashleigh Mask **Communications Ambassador:** Marty Welch

Special Events Coordinators: Phoenix Barlet and Sara Pyne **Sports Editor:** Gary Wenzel

Junior Editor-in-Chief: Izzy Burch

Contributing Pantherette staff: Abigail Angstadt, Miah Delinko, Savannah Derr, Morgan Greiser, Grace Grym, Samantha Hoffert, Amanda Hoover, Nikki Kalash, Jenna Kirby, Ella Klinikowski, Erin Livinghouse, Kaylin Loose, Megan Raifsnider, Randy Rosado, Delenny Rosario, Colin Smith, Nya Solvino, Madison Steingraber, Amber Stoudt, Jenna Strausser, Noah Wamsher, Leiland Wisniewski, and Helene Yerger.

SV Football's Successful Season (Continued)

by Gary Wenzel '23

The Panthers stayed hot to start the second half of the year winning at Northern Lebanon by a score 39-12. Now sitting at 4-2, the Panthers hosted the Columbia Crimson Tide and put up 30+ points for the 5th game in a row to give them the 35-6 way. Both the offense and the defense were playing flawless football.

The 2022 Frost Bowl came early this year as Hamburg hosted Schuylkill Valley week 8. Schuylkill Valley got their first Frost Bowl title since the 2018 season. They defeated the Hawks 44-34 in a thriller.

With Schuylkill Valley still sitting in first place in Section 5, they hosted Annville-Cleona and Lancaster Catholic to close out the season. They suffered a 42-10 loss to Annville-Cleona in week 9 but the Panthers could still win the section.

Coach Harbach came from Lancaster Catholic two seasons ago and he would now host his former team for a section title. Lancaster Catholic came into the game perfect, with a record of 9-0.

Schuylkill Valley jumped off to a quick 14-0 start in the game before the Crusaders came back and took a 41-20 lead in the third quarter. However, the Panthers battled back and tied the game up at 41-41 with less than a minute left. The Crusaders then hit a game winning field goal to win the game. Schuylkill Valley played excellent and fought hard till the end.

The Panthers clinched the 6 seed in the District III 3A playoffs. This set the team with a date at West Perry to play the three seeded Mustangs. West Perry won by a score of 45-21 to advance in the playoffs.

Schuylkill Valley ended their season with a solid record of 6-5. The boys played great all season and worked extremely hard. The future is bright with a strong group of guys returning for next year. The seniors had a fantastic career at Schuylkill Valley and paved the way for the younger guys.

The Panthers clinched the 6 seed in the District III 3A playoffs. This set the team with a date at West Perry to play the three seeded Mustangs. West Perry won by a score of 45-21 to advance in the playoffs.

Schuylkill Valley ended their season with a solid record of 6-5. The boys played great all season and worked extremely hard. The future is bright with a strong group of guys returning for next year. The seniors had a fantastic career at Schuylkill Valley and paved the way for the younger guys.

Spirit Week Recap

by Marty Welch '24

October 17th

The week started off strong with Jocks vs. Nerds day. From varsity jackets, footballs, and jerseys to glasses, sweaters, and pigtails: Schuylkill Valley saw both sides represented on Monday!

October 18th

Did you show up on Tuesday in a leather jacket and Doc Martens? Or did you throw on a lei and Hawaiian t-shirt? With a popular theme of Surfers vs. Bikers, students and faculty got to decide whether they would rather ride a motorcycle or a surfboard!

October 19th

Wednesday had famously been known as Western Day at SV for quite some time, but to keep up with the “versus” theme this year, the student council decided to have a Country vs. Country Club day instead. It seemed a popular decision, with many students dropping the flannels and boots for a tennis skirt and a sweater!

October 20th

SV student council decided to implement this popular theme day seen on TikTok; Barbeque dads vs. Soccer moms into our own school! The students and faculty did not disappoint with their attire– vests, tracksuits, spatulas, and Bermuda shorts crowded the hallways on Thursday.



Spirit Week Recap (Continued)

by Marty Welch '24

The week ended with our classic school spirit day: red and black. Overall, this year's spirit week seemed to be popular, with participation coming in from every grade level as well as teachers. On October 29th, students got to have fun at the Halloween-themed homecoming dance. Over 300 people attended to dance to the catchy playlist the DJ played. It was definitely a year to remember!



Does Desantis Mark the Descent of Democracy?

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

Disclaimer: This editorial does not necessarily reflect the views of The Pantherette or its staff.

Talk of a Ron Desantis 2024 presidential campaign has been fervent and frequent since he was recently reelected as Florida governor in a 59.4% to 40% landslide vote over democrat Charlie Crist. News outlets are releasing strongly worded Op-Ed's about the potential campaign, former president Donald Trump is threatening him not to run, and GOP support for Desantis is only growing; the entire situation is utter pandemonium.

Granted, this clamor is merely hypothetical; Desantis has not announced any official desire to run for president. Though, there is value in examining the implications of a Desantis presidency. The Florida governor, best known for signing Florida's so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill into law, poses potential threats to the LGBTQ+ community across America. The "Don't Say Gay" bill forbids educators from discussing anything pertaining to gender or sexuality with students from Kindergarten to third grade. This means if a male teacher has a husband, he cannot so much as tell his students about the person he's devoted his life to without getting fired. This also means that if a student has same-sex parents, a teacher cannot mention the parents' existence in front of the class without getting fired. It's a tyrannical, undeniably homophobic bill that harkens back to California's Proposition 6 era of the 1970s. Proposition 6, more formally known as The Briggs Initiative, was a proposition backed by Anita Bryant, John Briggs, and the homophobic public collective that fought to keep gay and lesbian people out of teaching jobs in attempt to "protect the kids" -- the same argument often used to defend the "Don't Say Gay" bill. The fact that these eerily similar, widely backed political movements exist nearly 50 years apart is depressing and terrifying. Ron Desantis' support of this bill tells the nation one thing (besides, of course, that he is blatantly homophobic); his views and actions aim not to advance the nation but to set it so far back it becomes a mirror image of deeply oppressive times. If he is willing and able to sign this oppressive bill into law, who's to say he isn't

Does Desantis Mark the Descent of Democracy? (Continued)

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

Disclaimer: This editorial does not necessarily reflect the views of The Pantherette or its staff.

willing to restrict other rights of people in the community... this time across the entire nation?

Nothing about Desantis' previous or current actions suggest that he will stop backing these bills that limit the freedoms of Americans -- the very paramount of democracy he was elected to protect -- and that fact alone should be enough to sway the general public from viewing him as a viable presidential candidate. As a collective nation comprised of many sexualities, races, and religions, we must ask ourselves: do we really want a president who will actively choose not to protect certain populations?

In this day and age, I'm sure we all know a gay person and I'm sure we all love and care about a gay person. Think about that person. Really, really think about that person. Think about the fond memories you share with them, think about the kind and selfless things they've done for you, think about all of their favorite things and the way their face lights up when discussing their passions, think about all the great things they've accomplished, think about the fact that in at least one state in our nation they are not even allowed to be discussed in a classroom, think about the potential for that to reign true all across the nation, and think about if that's the future you want for America.



Grace's Guidance

by Pantherette Staff

Dear Grace,

I have feelings for this girl. I don't think she shares the same feelings as I do. What should I do?

Dear Anonymous,

You shouldn't lose all hope on this girl because you have a feeling she doesn't like you back. There still may be a chance for you and this person. What you should do is ask her if she feels the same way. If she says yes, then you know your answer. If she says no, sadly, everyone has to deal with rejection. Although it will take time, you will end up getting over it. Channel all the negativity and turn it into something positive. Focus on all the things in your life that are important to you. You are the only person who gets to control how you feel. I hope everything goes well.

Dear Grace,

I'm a ninth grader, and being in high school is scary. I don't know if I'll ever get used to it. How do you get through high school?

Dear Anonymous,

Being a junior in high school is far different than being a freshman. All upperclassmen remember what it was like to be in your shoes. You have more freedom, clubs, and new schedules. To get through high school, you have to get enough sleep. If you're too tired one day, it may ruin your day. High school is a lot more fun when you get involved. You could join a club, participate in spirit week, and go to school games. All these things make high school a little less stressful and more fun. You should also make a good balance between studying and socializing. High school is what matters. High school isn't as bad as it seems; just have fun with it.

New Photography Teacher: Mrs Hallman

by Kaylin Loose '23



Where did you go to school?

I went to school at The College of New Jersey for my undergrad, and I also went to Nottingham Trent University in England for a semester, and I got my masters from Grand Canyon University.

What made you want to be a teacher?

In high school, I had a student teacher for my tech ed classes and he suggested to me, if I like this stuff, why not teach it? Honestly, I wasn't sure if I wanted to be a teacher at first, but I liked the subject area, and once I got into it I really enjoyed helping students and helping them find their full potential.

What drew you to the art of photography?

I just find it fun, I find it intriguing, I find it enjoyable. I like that you can capture a lot of different things in one photograph and that photograph can have so many different meanings to so many different people.

What is your favorite part of teaching at SV so far?

The people, I really enjoy the people I work with and I really enjoy getting to know the students. I like being back at a high school level, I like the age group here.

What is the one piece of advice you would have given your high school self?

Dream Big.

Is there any piece of advice you would like to give the seniors?

If there is something that is in their dreams that they should go for it because being happy with your job and your life is so, so important. You have to do what makes you happy.

Is there anything else you would like the student body to know about you?

I have two kids, one is a Senior at Fleetwood and one is a Freshman. I'm married. I like to travel, and my favorite past time is sitting around a fire with my family making s'mores, and spending time together.

New Vice Principal: Mrs. Crater

by Grace Grym '25

Tell me about yourself.

Let's see so a little bit about myself. I have been in education for twelve years. I was in Reading school district as a teacher And Pottsgrove as a teacher; before coming to Schuylkill Valley. I have three girls, and my husband is also a principal.

What motivates you to be a good vice principal?

What motivates me to be a good vice principal? I think the thing that motivates me the most is wanting students to be excited about coming to school. To be able to come to school where they feel safe and supported, where they enjoy going to their classes and just being a part of that.

What did you do before you came to SV?

Before I came to Schuylkill Valley, I was an Earth and space science teacher and taught science my entire career. I also coached cross country and track and field.

What do you like to do outside of school?

Outside of school, I love spending time with my family. So I typically go to my daughter's swim meets or cross country meets, but I also enjoy running. I'm actually running my first full marathon in a couple of weeks in Chicago. So I enjoy running, baking, and being outside as much as possible.

What makes a good student?

I think a good student is somebody who can focus on their angle, so what they want to achieve as a student. Whether it be getting a job right out of high school, going to college after high school, or whatever they decide to do, keeping that goal focused. A good student is also someone who can learn from their mistakes.

What college did you attend?

So I attended Shippensburg university for my undergraduate degree, and then I attended Kutztown university for my master's.

What high school did you attend?

I attended Bishop McCort High school.

New Vice Principal: Mrs. Crater (Continued)

by Grace Grym '25

Was being a vice principal your dream job? If not, what was it?

Ever since becoming a teacher, this was my first dream. I had to stand in front of a faculty meeting and talk about where I saw myself and my career in five or ten years. Being a principal was always a part of that plan. My first goal was always to become an assistant principal; hopefully, someday, I'll become a building principal. I've always wanted this opportunity to be a school leader, especially at a high school level.

Do you like any sports? If so, which ones?

I do; I love so many sports; I love watching football; that's one of my favorites. Swimming, running, I love watching baseball. Really most sports, I will go to any type of sporting event.

Do you like it here in Schuylkill Valley?

I love Schuylkill Valley so far. So Schuylkill Valley is definitely a lot smaller of a school than previous schools that I have worked at. Overall I really have to say I'm so impressed with the students here. I think we have great teachers and other staff members here who love the community they work in, so I am really enjoying my time at Schuylkill Valley.

Do you have any advice?

Do I have any advice for our students? I think the best piece of advice I can give is to be yourself, try your best, and have fun.

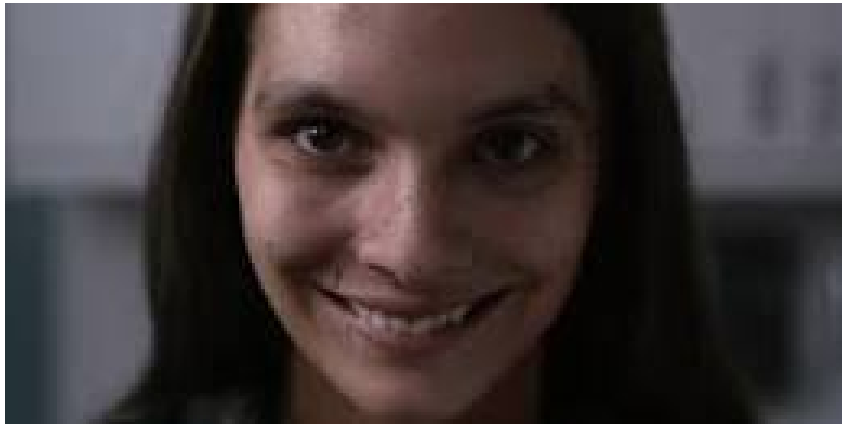
Do you have anything else you'd like to add?

I think the only thing that I would like to add is that I'm excited about growing here at Schuylkill Valley myself and watching all of our students' achievements this year. I'm excited to watch our senior class walk across the stage at graduation.



Horror Movie Review

by Leiland Wlsneiowski '24



It's spooky season! Which means spine-tingling and soul-wrenching movies are at an all time high and are a must do! I have seen a ton of movies so far this season including, *"The Barbarian,"* and *"The Invitation."* Both were great and really got me into the Halloween spirit. However, the one movie that really got me spooked was *"Smile."* Written and directed by Parker Finn, this movie has already made \$167.8 million and continues to bring in more every week. Thanks to the great marketing on TikTok and Youtube, this movie did not disappoint. The film turned an everyday thing into something way more sinister. While some argued the trailers showed "too much" of the plot, I'd argue it showed just enough. I went into the movie with a basic knowledge as to what I was going to be seeing. And I walked out of that theater numb, while "Lollipop" by the Charlottes played in my head.

Now, how scary was it? I would give it a solid 8/10. Jump-scares were in more creative shots than other movies and the visuals were shockingly beautiful. *"Smile"* went in some directions I have never seen before in a movie. Which is a breath of fresh air in the horror community when the same ideas keep getting reused. In conclusion, if you like the more creative side of gore (but not too much) and would like to slightly change your opinion on smiling, go see this movie!

New Social Studies Teacher: Ms. Miller

by Samantha Hoffert '25

Where did you graduate from?

I graduated from Mansfield University.

Why did you choose to teach history?

I have always loved history and it has always been my best subject.

Why do you like teaching?

I like teaching because something new happens everyday and the students make teaching fun.

Do you have a favorite holiday?

I like Halloween because dressing up can be fun. Some Halloween movies I like are Hocus Pocus and Halloweentown.

What are your hobbies?

I like doing anything outdoors, painting, and reading.

What are your goals as a teacher?

To help students enjoy learning history. I try my best to have fun activities that can make my class fun.

Why did you choose to teach at Schuylkill Valley?

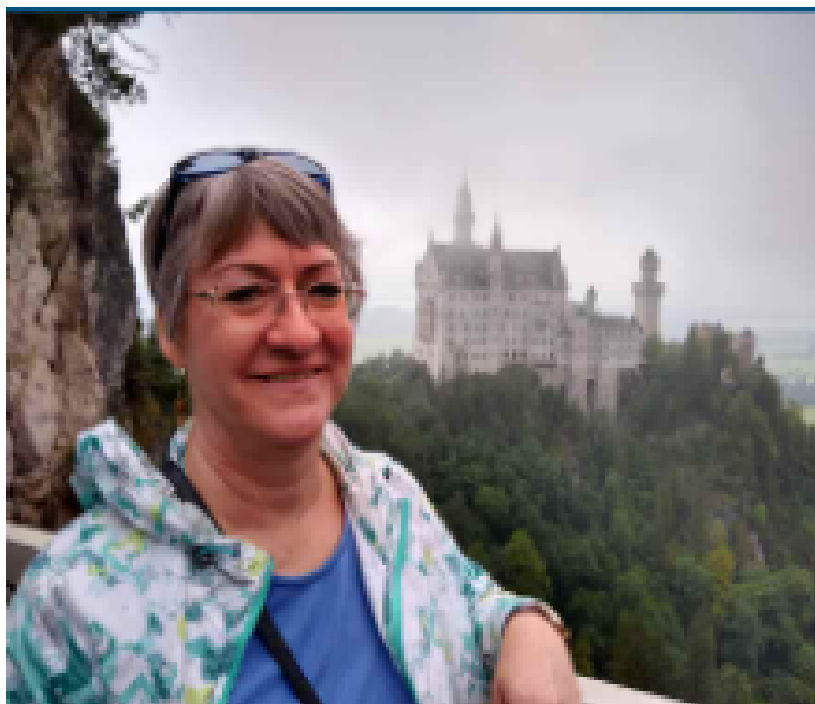
I chose to teach at Schuylkill Valley simply because I love the community. I went to Schuylkill Valley, my family is close, I'm familiar with the building, and it's interesting being able to teach with some of my old teachers.



New German Teacher (Ms. Alderfer)

by Ashleigh Mask '25

Let us welcome Ms. Alderfer to the Schuylkill Valley School District. Frau Alderfer teaches German I, II, and III here at the high school; and teaches 8th Grade Exploratory German at the middle school. Apart from the classes she teaches, she is an upcoming gifted student mentor. Additionally, she created a French Club for students to explore a new culture. Ms. Alderfer encourages you to try and learn a new language. She says that learning languages is like unlocking a secret code, proven to grow your brain's strength. In former years, Ms. Alderfer has brought students on trips to Germany, France, Austria, and Switzerland. Some of her favorite sites to see were St. Malo, a smaller town in Northwestern France, and Mt. Pilatus atop one of the several peaks a cable car rides through the Swiss mountains. She enjoys traveling because of the people she meets and the perspectives she gains. Frau Alderfer often says how Americans overwork themselves so outside of school, she tries to relax and spend time with her family. Ms. Alderfer brings positive energy and a comfortable learning environment to her classroom. She is always considerate of her students' academic and personal lives. We thank you and are excited to have you here at SV.



Song Suggestions

by Helene Yerger '23

If you haven't already listened to the new, hot, sensational *Unholy* by Sam Smith and Kim Petras, DO IT NOW! If you need a pop bop, this is it! I have been listening to this every morning to start my day. Super catchy and definitely a song you play too much and get sick of after a week!

For our chill vibes crowd out there, I suggest *Under The Influence* by Chris Brown. Super laid back, great rhythm, gets you in the feels.

I am not the type to listen to one genre of music, so for our soft metal heads, *THE DEATH OF PEACE OF MIND* by Bad Omens, HITS! Bad Omens has been my go to for the past month! Their lyrics are phenomenal, definitely MAX volume!

For those of us who know a gamer, *PS5* by Salem Ilese, can soothe all those long nights alone while your gamer is attached to their console.

(She also has a Nintendo Switch version!) Her rhymes and relatability in the short 2:29 minutes are goddess level.

For our 90s jazzers, *Ants Marching* by Dave Matthews Band will have you listening to all his albums on repeat for a week!

I have always been a HUGE fan of Dave, I just saw a concert this summer,

and it was s.e.r.v.i.n.g! Very chill, laid back,

long car ride music. No matter what mood I'm in,

Dave always gets me to sing out loud!



New Special Education Teacher: Ms. Bressler

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

Ms. Bressler is new to the Schuylkill Valley School District this year and she has been teaching outside of the district for 8 years. I had the privilege of asking her a few questions about her experience so far at SV!



Based on your time here, what is your favorite part of SV?

My favorite part of SV so far is the tight knit feel of community. Since it is a smaller school, everyone seems to be very close and all the teachers know who all the students are, even if they haven't taught them. I think that's awesome, because I went to a huge high school where that was not my experience and the last school I taught at was a larger district so I didn't know who all the students were, especially if I didn't have them in a class. Everyone here has also been extremely helpful and friendly, which I have greatly appreciated!

Why did you choose to become a Special Education teacher?

When I was a senior in HS, I was able to participate in a program called Career Study. It was essentially an internship program. Going into my senior year, my plan was to be a social studies teacher. So, I had arranged to complete my Career Study program with my 9th grade social studies teacher. When I started my internship with him, I got to experience some co-taught classes (he shared teaching the class with a learning support teacher). I really enjoyed not only working and learning from him, but I really liked the learning support teacher that he taught with. She was awesome. I also really enjoyed working in small groups with the learning support students in that class. Due to that great experience, I then pursued a dual major degree program in Special Education and Social Studies 7 – 12.

What is something you wish more people knew about teaching?

I wish more people knew that teaching is not as easy as it is often portrayed in the media/society. There are a lot of moving parts and factors that go into being a good teacher and we spend time over the summer working and planning for the next school year.

Tell us about something you're passionate about!

There are a lot of things that I like to do in my spare time. I enjoy baking and cooking. I also go to the gym almost every day (Friday is my off day!). I do yoga once a week as I find it to be a big stress reliever. I also always enjoy a trip to Homegoods and Target! Lastly, I'm 100% Italian, so I have been trying to re-learn the language (my Grandpop taught me how to speak some Italian when I was little). My mom and I went to Italy for two weeks this past summer, so leading up to that trip I started practicing on Duolingo. So far I have a 208 day streak! I'm still practicing it each day as it's something I'd like to pass onto my children one day.

Is there one piece of media that has had a great impact on you?

I have a lot of favorite books, movies, and TV shows, but the one that has had the greatest impact on me is *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I read it for the first time when I was in 8th grade and I found the story to be impactful.

New Social Studies Teacher: Mr. Ford

by Madison Steingraber '24



Where have you gone to school?

I attended an American school in Chengdu, China for high school. I then graduated from Messiah University.

Why history?

I love history! Learning about the past is amazing, and it gives us the opportunity to celebrate it and reflect upon it as we forge our way into the future. I hope that my passion for social studies inspires my students to appreciate our history and understand it in a deeper way.

What do you like most about SV?

I have had a great time getting to know my students, and have come to appreciate the various ways everyone seems to get involved in the community. I am also grateful for the kindness shown to me from both students and staff here.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

Serving as Director of Campus Life at an American boarding school in China and Korea.

What advice would you give to the general student body?

Be kind to one another and cherish the time that you have here; it will fly by quickly!

What is a fun fact about yourself that you would like others to know?

I have a twin brother who also teaches high school social studies.

The Anatomy of a Young Artist: *Sing Street*'s Naive Optimism

by Charlotte Baumgard '23



Doused in guitar riffs, eyeliner, and teenage bravado, John Carney's 2016 film *Sing Street* croons a sweet tune of love in every form, exploring brotherly relationships, making new friends, navigating romantic relationships, and most importantly, harboring a deep adoration for art. Set in 80's Dublin, *Sing Street* operates under the pretense of a devastating recession, forcing its main character, Conor, to transfer from his clean private school to an oppressive, inner-city alternative. As he's thrust into this new environment, he struggles to navigate school bullies, his parents impending divorce, and ruthless school teachers. Just when he feels completely disillusioned with the world, he meets a stunning, mysterious model. Hoping to impress her, he lies and tells her that he's in a band. In a cinch, his new friends help him scour the school for students suitable to form a band. Once they've gathered the necessary members, they decide to name the ensemble *Sing Street*. With the help of Brendan, Conor's music-obsessed older brother, *Sing Street* grows from a run-of-the-mill high school cover band to an established group producing original songs with passion and personality emanating from every note.

Though I could go on for days about this film's testament to brotherhood and its commentary on teenage relationships, what I love most about this movie is that it doesn't revolve around the music industry. Unlike many other films set to a musical backdrop, *Sing Street* has nothing to do with the harsh realities of the industry or bands fighting tooth and

The Anatomy of a Young Artist: Sing Street's Naive Optimism (Continued)

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

nail to seal record deals. It's sweetly and simply about a group of friends having fun and making music. That sentiment is represented so well by the film's young characters. Young people -- at least most of them -- don't start creating art because they want to make a career out of it, they start creating art because they love the art they've seen and they want to somehow emulate that magic. This movie perfectly reflects that. When his brother shows him a Duran Duran music video, Conor is absolutely enthralled with the band's artistry and he begins writing songs that mirror their specific style. Throughout the course of the rest of the film, Conor is introduced to new bands and new styles and he continues to show up to school decked head to toe in new outfits and new makeup styles similar to the ones those bands wear as well as writing new music that is heavily inspired by those bands. It's adorably naive and strongly reminiscent of how my peers and I are heavily affected by the media we consume. When I was in 10th grade, I listened to The Strokes a lot and I began dressing in exclusively jeans and ratty band t-shirts and all of my writing reflected their lyrics. I've observed my friends watch *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and begin writing every essay and journal entry as if it were a nostalgic, existential coming-of-age monologue (I am also guilty of this). This film's young, romantic, bright-eyed, and bushy-tailed protagonists teach us the beauty of indulging in this naive way of consuming and enjoying art. They teach us the importance of truly finding joy in art. They teach us the importance of using art to express love to those around us. They teach us the importance of using art as a vessel for making life more rich.

Sing Street is a breath of hopeful, optimistic fresh air amidst an adult world filled to the brim with gloomy jadedness. Its characters fully believe in the art they are creating and they fully believe in the possibility of a happy ending. With the current calamitous state of the world, I believe we all could use some of that magic.

Through its beautifully naive protagonists, *Sing Street* gives us a glimpse into the love that permeates all art and inspires us to channel that in every aspect of our lives.



Student Spotlight: Nikailyn Madden

by Sara Pyne '25 and Pantherette Staff

Nikailyn Madden is an avid skier/snowboarder. She has been in Ski and Snowboard club since middle school. When she is in action, what does she enjoy the most? (She enjoys cruising down the slopes and the beautiful views as well as the calming nature around the trails.) Whenever she gets out to the slopes/mountain, she practices her incredible skills. Nikailyn loves the hobby of snowboarding because of how she feels flying through the slopes and trees amidst a snowy backdrop Overall, she says her passion for skiing stems from her being an adrenaline junkie. Another passion of Nikailyn's is cooking. Nikailyn is in the Culinary Arts program at BCTC and is incredibly passionate about this industry. She was also recently accepted into the Culinary Arts Institute of America! Congrats, Nikailyn!



New Social Studies Teacher: Mr. Fisher

by Madison Steingraber '24



Where have you gone to school?

I went to Bloomsburg University for a BA in History.

I went back to Bloomsburg for a Master's in Education.

Why history?

I have always loved history. I like to know why humans do the things they do. We study history so we don't repeat the past.

What do you like most about SV?

The students and atmosphere.

What is your greatest professional accomplishment?

I don't really have one, yet.

What advice would you give to the general student body?

Work hard. Don't give up. You will never accomplish anything without effort.

We are so glad you have entered this building, now, where do you see yourself 5 years from now?

Hopefully, here teaching history and enjoying every minute of it.

New Music Teacher: Mrs. Makosch

by Pantherette Staff



Where and when did you start teaching?

I began teaching in January 1996 in the Hempfield School District in Lancaster. That fall, I started at Schuylkill Valley Middle School.

What's your favorite teaching memory?

When I got married, I had Valley Voices under the direction of Mr. Buterbaugh sing at the ceremony, my color guard from marching band held up gold flags that we walked under as we left the church, and my Jr. High Softball team blew bubbles as we walked through the flags.

What do you enjoy about teaching your subject?

I enjoy working with the chorus students toward a performance/concert. I love the rehearsal process and helping the kids work toward a successful performance.

What advice do you have for students?

I was talking to my son about what advice he wishes a teacher would have given to him in high school.. He said he wishes someone (other than his mother) said "Don't wait until your junior year to start working hard in school. Playing catch-up isn't fun. Work hard from the beginning to achieve your goals."

What's your favorite book, movie, or musical?

My favorite musical is "Something Rotten". It's kind of like an ode to musicals while also poking fun of William Shakespeare-like writers. My favorite movie is "Shawshank Redemption". My favorite book is Stephen King's "Salem's Lot."

What are your hobbies?

I have a lot of hobbies. I teach indoor cycling, participate in sprint and olympic length triathlons, scuba diving, skiing, running, hiking, volunteering at the ARL, and playing pickleball. My family also travels a lot. We try to see a different country each year. Our favorites were the Galapagos of Ecuador, Peru, Costa Rica, and Belize.

What superpower do you wish you had and why?

I would love the superpower of flight. It would be so freeing and exhilarating.

Philadelphia Sports Success

by SV Sports Staff



2022 seems to be the year for Philadelphia sports fans as all five of the major sports teams from the City of Brotherly Love are in action and are having success. Philadelphia is used to championships over their history as they rank 7th all time in major sports league championships in North America by city.

Despite a rough start to the 2022 campaign for the Philles, they had a late season push to clinch themselves their first playoff birth in over a decade. The postseason race was tight at the end of the year but the Phillies got themselves a Wild Card spot. The Phillies rode their postseason momentum into the playoffs meeting with the Astros from the American League. The Astros ended up beating the Phillies in 6 games to take home the 2022 World Series. The Phillies have a bright future ahead of them with young guys who stepped up late in the year.

While the Phillies were slugging it out in Houston, the 19 regular season Philadelphia Union from the MLS was competing in their championship against Los Angeles FC. The Union were hot, working their way to a 3-3 tie in the championship game. However, in the shootout, the LA FC took the MLS title over the Union. It was a double heartbreak Saturday night for Philadelphia fans with both the Phillies and Union losing.

The next day the sun still rose on Philadelphia, with hopes for the 76ers, Flyers, and Eagles still alive.

The Eagles are red-hot and the best team in the NFL sitting at 8-0 with the best record in the NFL. The Eagles have high hopes for the rest of the season with the 30th hardest schedule in the league. However, one of the easiest schedules in the NFL will put them up against teams they haven't seen in the postseason.

On the ice, the Flyers are having a good start to this season with a winning record. They have a new head coach and a young core that will be most likely battling for a playoff spot later on.

The 76ers are struggling to find their way yet, with a record a little below .500. The club has the tools to turn it around once they fit all the pieces together.

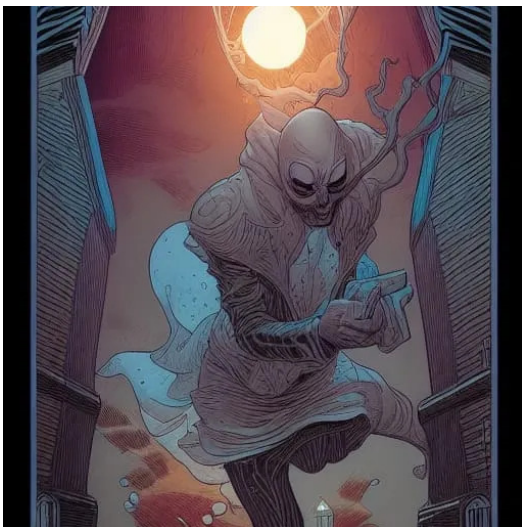
Shout out to Mr. Metz who was able to see the Phillies play in Houston and get to meet Mr. October Reggie Jackson. The best experiences are never planned.

Halloween Costume Ideas

by Randy Rosado '26

Have you ever asked yourself “What should I wear for Halloween?” I know it's past that time by now but realistically you can plan to be anything next year from a taco to Benjamin Franklin with nobody around to judge you. I'm the type of person who likes to stick with the classics and would like to help you find out the type of outfit that is right for you because there are too many costumes out there to even comprehend. Top picks this year were Spider-Man, Stranger Things, dinosaurs, fairies, and pirates. But here are some suggestions of the things I would enjoy wearing:

1. I start this off with Just a simple ghost all you really have to do is put a bedsheet over your head, cut a couple of holes, and there you go!
2. There is the makeup route instead to a costume like Frankenstein. All you really have to do is use face paint to paint yourself green and add scars around the face and arms. If you are really feeling it, go ahead and put on some sort of collared shirt to maximize the outfit.
3. You could also go with the humor route and go as something like an inflatable chicken which I have surprisingly already seen someone wear.
4. You can also just buy yourself a shirt that says "This is my costume" which is definitely the easiest option since all you really have to do is wear a shirt and walk around.



NFL Trade Deadline

by Gary Wenzel '23

Every year in the NFL the trade deadline comes and goes in what seems to be no time. This year the NFL trade deadline came on November 1. This 2022, NFL teams made a lot of moves leading up to the trade deadline in what has been one of the bigger years in a while.

Former Pittsburgh Steeler Wide Receiver, Chase Claypool, got traded to the Chicago Bears to give Justin Fields an asset at quarterback. Claypool had 1 touchdown for the Steelers before being traded to the Bears. This should help the young Justin Fields in Chicago.

The Ravens defense also picked up a few guys before the deadline getting Jason Pierre-Paul and Roquan Smith, adding to an already solid defense. Pierre-Paul is getting older in age but he will be a valuable asset to the team for leadership. The Ravens have already blown two leads of over 15 points this season so far and these guys will help out.

Most notably this trade season, one of the best passing offenses in the league got another pass catcher to add to their already loaded core. The Vikings went out and got former Lions tight end, TJ Hockenson, who is arguably one of the top tight ends in the NFL. With Justin Jefferson, Dalvin Cook, TJ Hockenson, and a struggling NFC North, the Vikings are set up for a great rest of the season.

Staying with strong offenses, the Bills also went out and got another offensive piece. The Bills made a move for former Colts running back, Nyheim Hines, who is a pass catching back. He will be a good addition to Buffalo as they continue their quest for a Super Bowl.

On the flip side of the trade deadline, there are a few teams and players who lose at the trade deadline. One of these teams is the Green Bay Packers. The Packers receiving core took a hit last year after Davantae Adams went to the Raiders. Now the veteran quarterback, Aaron

NFL Trade Deadline (Continued)

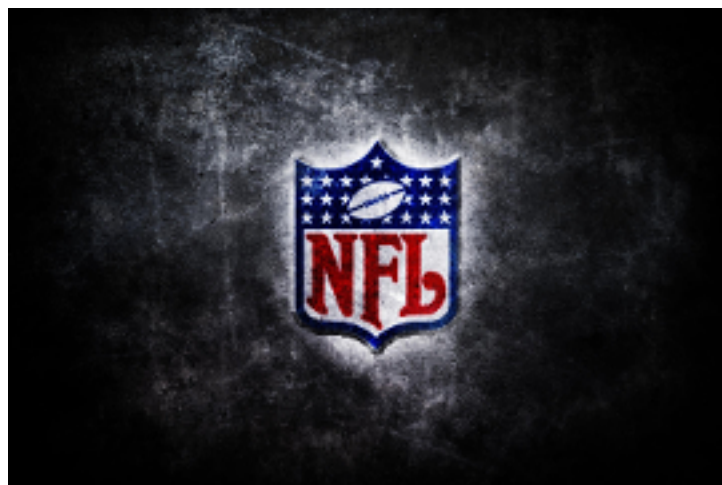
by Gary Wenzel '23

Rodgers, has a young group of receivers trying to find their way still. The Packers were expected to try and make a move for an experienced receiver at the deadline but they didn't get one leaving them with a young, injury burdened group of receivers.

One of the receivers who could have been an option for the Packers was Texans receiver Brandin Cooks. Brandin Cooks has already stated that he wants a trade out of Houston but Houston did not let him go. He was inactive for the Texans recently due to "personal reasons" and a wrist injury that caused him to miss practice.

Browns running back, Kareem Hunt, also took a personal loss at the trade deadline. He is a solid running back who serves as a running back two behind Nick Chubb. He has the potential to be a lead running back on another team but with Nick Chubb above him, he gets less touches. However, Cleveland opted to keep Kareem Hunt.

As the NFL season continues on the Vikings and Bills went out and made moves to improve their team as they are top contenders in the league, Other teams like the Panthers, have started to trade guys away for draft picks to begin the rebuilding process for draft picks to rebuild for the future.



New Counselor: Mrs. Musket

by Alyssa Armpriester '23

Why did you decide to jump from teaching PE classes to being a counselor?

I have had my Secondary Counseling Certification since 2005 and this is a role I've wanted to engage in for a while. The timing was right this school year to make the change.

What's your favorite part of the job so far?

My favorite part of the School Counselor role so far is helping students in a variety of ways to help each one of them start off the school year on the right foot and tone. Student interaction and seeing a student smile always make the day brighter.

Do you miss teaching PE?

There are always pros and cons in making a change and Of course, I miss being outside and the activity piece along with the initial student interactions during class time. I try to pop into PE classes here and there when the time allows.

What goals have you set for being the new A-K counselor?

Surviving year 1 in this new role! One of many goals I have for this year is to get to know as many 9th graders as I can since I won't have the daily interactions I used to. I plan on doing this by being present in classrooms, and hallways, and popping into homerooms to say hello!

How many years were you a PE teacher, and how many years do you hope to fulfill the counselor position?

I've taught Wellness & Fitness for 22.5 years all at SV. I plan on being in my current School Counselor role until retirement....whenever that may be. But who's counting?



New Science Teacher: Mr. Worrell

by Alyssa Armpriester '23

As many changes have been happening around the school involving teachers coming and going, Mr. Worrell has been welcomed to the high school to pursue his career. Out of the many new teachers, I chose him to be interviewed for a staff spotlight position. For students that aren't familiar with her, Mrs. Miller was the previous chemistry teacher before Mr. Worrell. For anybody that's interested in getting to know their new teacher a bit better, I've asked him a few questions to provide for everyone to read.



What classes are you teaching this year?

I am teaching two sections of honors chemistry, two sections of academic chemistry, and one section of biology.

Your goals for this year:

Since this is my first year at Schuylkill Valley, my focus is to establish strong foundational curricula for each of the three courses I am teaching.

Do you enjoy what you do at SV?

Absolutely. Look, everyone gripes about their job here and there. Sometimes you have a bad day; it's going to happen, but here most days are good. That's because of the people. I work with talented and helpful colleagues and good-mannered and hard-working students. It's a nice place to work.

What are some of your hobbies?

I try to visit my dad and stepmom a couple of times a month or so. We always have fun hanging out. I enjoy playing golf whenever I'm able to get out there. I used to be in drumline in high school and I instructed a high school drumline for a few years back in the aughts. So, I pick up the sticks and throw them down on my practice pad when the mood strikes. I'm a huge Phillies fan, so I'm excited to see what they can do this October. I also love watching football with my core group of friends. I'm a big Eagles fan and Florida Gators for college football (gator chomp)!