

PANTHERETTE

- SCHUYLKILL VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL -

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What is Normalcy?

by Emma Ertel '22

If I were to ask you two years ago, "What is your definition of normalcy?" your answer would probably be automatic and nonchalant because no one ever gives much thought to life's ordinary routine. Everyday is expected to be a smooth road of regularity, never faltering, never falling off course. However, if I were to ask you the same question today, how long would it take for you to generate an answer? More importantly, would your response even begin to surface your old definition of ordinary?

Over the past two years, I've learned that no one acknowledges the impossible, until it actually happens. We watch the news and mold ourselves into this source of sympathy that can comfort, but never relate. Tragedies are disheartening, so in an attempt to project our compassion to the world, we send a message that says, "I feel so bad for you. I can't imagine what you're going through." While this is thoughtful, it's apparent that the possibility of our own heartbreak rarely crosses our mind.

In March of 2020, all of us got an unexpected dose of the impossible. Faced with a reality we'd never known before, we had no choice but to blindly jump and hope for the best. Those two weeks of the impossible turned into two months, and soon days intertwined together, creating a warped sense of reality. Eventually, teachers started to post assignments in an attempt to somewhat regenerate their lesson plans. However, although expectations were high, motivation was not. Some students utilized their new-found freedom to stay up late playing video games, while others made an effort to navigate their suddenly critical world of technology.

Inside This Issue:

p.3- The Frost Bowl

p. 8- *Dune* Movie Review

p.10- HOCO Recap

p. 12- New Staff Spotlight

p. 13- Facebook Whistleblower

When you really think about it, technology is the one thing that's both broken and repaired our communication.

Without it, where would we be? Online school would've never existed, diminishing our chances at continuing a quarantined education.

On the contrary, our everyday communication skills have severely declined. We rely on technology, and we use it as a crutch to dodge social interaction. (continued on page 2)

What is Normalcy? Continued

by Emma Ertel '22

Instead of addressing teachers in person, we sneak to our next class and send a lengthy email. Instead of telling our friends that we're angry, we wait for the chance to trap our feelings in a text. Technology acts as a backbone that soothes our nerves, because its presence eliminates the need to speak. We don't have to maintain eye contact, or keep composure when someone says something unexpected. Technology is a safety net that allows us to hide behind a screen instead of using our voice as power.

The rise of COVID-19 increased this truth about technology, and we're witnessing the effects of it now more than ever. Although returning to school in person has created a sense of normalcy, I can't help but feel that part of us remains online. Physically, we are present, walking through the halls and laughing with friends. However, when a situation arises and we truly need our communication, what do we resort to? Are we able to approach others without glancing at a keyboard? Can we be assertive when someone disrespects us? Do we possess the speaking skills essential for everyday life? I've gained a lot of insight on these questions over the last year and a half, and I can say with confidence that the answer is no.

Throughout life, we cross paths with a multitude of perspectives, all containing opinions on what normal should be. However, the world has morphed into a globe of uncertainty, along with our definitions of ordinary. COVID-19 has not only endangered our health, but also the fundamental base of communication. If we don't have the ability to socially connect with one another, how will we ever come together to overcome challenges? The impossible is always possible, and the unexpected is never beyond reach. It is time to evoke our true potential, and make communication the new normal.

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The Frost Bowl

by Sarah Gilbert '22

The Frost Bowl: a long-standing rivalry between our treasured Schuylkill Valley and one of our closest neighbors, Hamburg School District. Annually, the two schools face off in a traditional game played towards the end of the football season. Out of the past 50 face-offs, Hamburg won 28 of the games, and the Hawks have held onto the trophy since 2019. This year's game fell on Schuylkill Valley's senior night, honoring seniors Drew Campbell, Kyle Spotts, Michael Krishock, Avery Adekola, Gustavo Salas, Dashaun Davis-Thomas, manager Riley Slifer, and the beloved and missed Conner Kleffel. The wind, rain, and chilling temperatures drove most of the fans away, save for a select few, and though that did play a role in calls, the boys were not deterred.

A tight first half started off with a fumble recovery leading into a 25-yard touchdown rush by the Hawks, answered by an 81-yard touchdown reception from Michael Goad to Kyle Spotts to tie up the game, 7-7. The second half was eaten up by two touchdowns by the Hawks, and a quick last effort by Schuylkill Valley to make the score 21-13 in the final minute. Despite the conditions, dedicated students, parents, and alumni alike stuck it out to support players and coaches alike on both sides of the turf. The conditions alone made the game one for the books.



Adele's New Song "Easy On Me"

by Emma Walsh '22

You do not have to be an Adele fan to love her new single. After six years of virtually no music, she comes out swinging with a lyrical tune that has already reached Billboard's Hot 100 Singles chart. During its first day out, the contemporary song had already broken Spotify's record for the most streams in 24 hours, with 24 million listens throughout the world.

The classic piano ballad ignores the majority of aspects that are embedded into traditional pop songs which are constantly repeating on the radio. With a steady beat, listeners are able to take a few minutes and live in the moment while relating the inspirational lyrics to their own life.

"Easy On Me" thoroughly explains Adele's divorce in that what she's singing about is a direct consequence of her and Simon Konecki's split. The piano-led tune was written for their son, Angelo, as she struggles to explain why she decided to split from his father and choose a refurbished path for the two of them.

During the 6 year gap that the prodigy took, she attempted to tuck her personal life away from the media. Ironically, in 2019, a new story broke that after 11 years together, she and Konecki are beginning the process to become divorced, with the situation being finalized in March 2021.

Feeling compelled to inform her devotees of her abrupt break, she created a song that delicately paints a glimpse of the emotional headspace of the singer as she strives to reveal the story of her past. This is the first song to be dropped from her album "30", which is set to release on November 19th.

Adele will never cease to amaze the public with her unique style of music production. Although she took a brief hiatus, her fan base is enthralled that she made a grand return, as well as looking forward to her next musical offering.

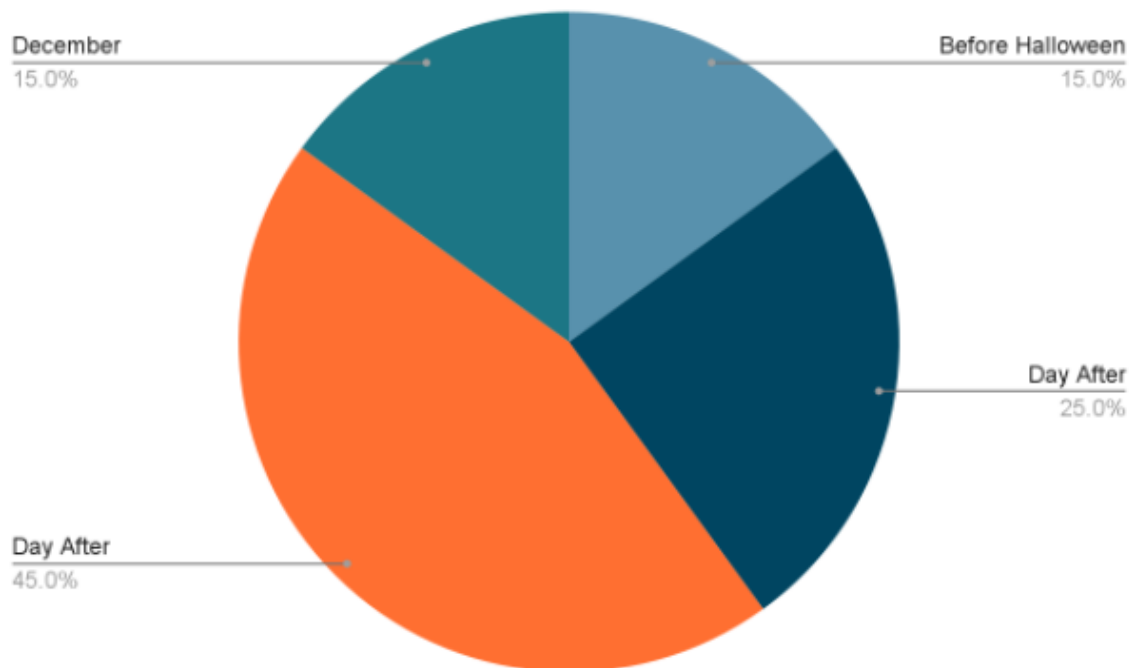


Holiday Student Survey

by Katie Eisenhofer '22

Each year brings about the same debate about the seasons: When does fall end, and when does Christmas time begin? From the Christmas fanatics already counting down the days, to the Halloween overachievers refusing to throw out their rotting pumpkins, no one seems to be in agreement on when the switch of holidays officially occurs. Between four choices, the results were overwhelmingly in favor of the day after Thanksgiving. Out of fifty people, eighteen said it was only appropriate to start the Christmas celebrations after cutting the turkey. It is also noteworthy to mention that the five teachers who took the survey all said the day after Thanksgiving or December. Maybe they're just still in denial that it's already winter...

Before Halloween	Day after	Day after	December
6	10	18	6



President Biden Attends UN Summit Against Climate Change

by Isabella Burch '25

On Tuesday, November 2, 2021, President Joe Biden's Plane touched down in Glasgow, Scotland where he attended a U.N. summit on limiting methane emissions to slow climate change. Methane is a greenhouse gas, responsible for 25% of global warming, and is produced by oil drilling, agriculture and livestock, and landfills. It disperses into the atmosphere twice as fast as carbon dioxide and is at times purposely released into the air during the drilling process, making it the second most common greenhouse gas corroding the atmosphere. The US government had previously started working toward this goal around 2015 by passing a number of laws regulating methane discharge. This effort was halted during the Trump administration but is now set to continue for the foreseeable future.

Over 100 countries attended the Congress to discuss climate change, promising to lessen emissions by 30% in 2030. President Biden called this "a game-changing commitment," and it is certainly an ambitious plan, as the US produced more greenhouses than any other country in the world. Though, legislation in the US has been slow to follow, and so there are not yet any laws to support Biden's goal of cutting methane flow down to 50% of what was being emitted in 2005. In support of these goals, the US Department of Transportation has introduced new regulations to limit emissions from cars, and the US Department of agriculture vows to work with farmers to mediate methane from livestock. Most significantly, though, the E.P.A. has drafted new regulations that will reduce 41 million tons of methane emissions from 2023 to 2035. This is more than all the carbon dioxide released in the exhaust of cars and commercial planes. President Biden is ecstatic about this new strategy and says it will be great for the economy, boosting the number of jobs available as new, more efficient production plants are built.

In contrast, critics strongly disagree. Republican Senator John Barrasso of Wyoming argues, "The President wants to kill abundant and affordable U.S. energy sources like oil, natural gas, and coal that Americans depend on." In short, Senator Barrasso thinks this is a terrible idea and will reduce the availability of affordable energy in America. Other senators say it will destroy the economy, as it will demonetize the industry that drives America. Small oil companies fear that this move will put them out of business. Though, the President's actions have drummed up loads of support, too. Pundits of the oil industry such as David Lawler, president of BP America, and Karen Harbert, president of the American Gas Association, support this course of action, claiming that this is a vital step to reducing the global population's greenhouse gas emissions. Others, such as Barry Rabe, a professor of ecology at the University of Michigan, support the decision, but recognize the potentially vast field of hurdles that lie ahead. "As a president tries to use unilateral executive powers, there are immediately a set of hurdles," he says. "It's not going to be an easy transition."

In addition to this, one effort in Congress has the oil industry frantically scrambling to change our legislature's mind. The bill would impose a significant fee for methane leaks, which have short-term effects of migraines, nosebleeds, and asthma attacks. So, not only does this affect the environment, but also holds potentially detrimental effects on the health and safety of the public. The fee would target larger companies and initially cost \$900 per ton of methane leaked, eventually rising to a \$1500 fee per ton in 2026. The bill sets out to create a strict regulation system that stops methane leaks quickly and prevents them from happening in the future. Some say this is a crucial step towards preventing climate change; others claim it will raise energy prices and destroy jobs. Either way, citizens can look forward to fewer greenhouse gasses and a cleaner planet to call home.

Song Recommendations

by Alyssa Armpreister '23

90's Hip Hop

- Still Dre - Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg
- Hypnotize - Biggie Smalls
- Family Affair - Mary J Blige

Modern Hip-Hop/Rap

- Lil Peep - Star Shopping
- Wishing Well - Juice Wrld
- Sad - XXXTENTACION

Alternative (Dad) Rock

- Nothing Else Matters - Metalica
- In bloom - Nirvana
- Animal I Have Become - Three Days Grace

Indie

- Touch of Grey - Grateful Dead
- The Less I Know the Better - Tame Impala
- Sofia - Clairo

Country

- Beers and Sunshine - Darius Rucker
- Heartache On the Dancefloor - Jon Pardi
- Do I - Luke Bryan

Punk Rock

- Basket Case - Green Day
- All The Small Things - Blink-182
- In Too Deep - Sum 41

Video Article: You Are Beautiful

by Isabella Burch and Morgan Greiser '24

Inspired by a viral Internet video, we would like to share an uplifting video with you that involves us going around the SVHS building with the following premise: "Today we are taking pictures of things that we find beautiful. That would be you." Please click [HERE](#) to view our social experiment! Thank you to everyone who was involved in the making of this video.

***Dune* Movie Review**

by Evan Duda '22

Denis Villeneuve's adaptation of the 1965 science fiction novel *Dune* hit theaters this October and it certainly left an impression on audiences. The movie follows Paul Atreides as he travels to a dangerous planet in order to protect his family and his people. The planet houses a valuable resource known as spice, which has been a source of conflict for years now. Paul must fight physical and political battles in this sci-fi adventure. The movie has generated great hype among critics, but does it live up to expectations? I'll try to answer that question.

WARNING: Spoilers ahead! *Dune* does a lot of things right. The first thing that will quickly become apparent is the scale. There's a certain cinematic grandiose that you can pick up on from the trailers. Massive spaceships and imposing structures give you the sense that this world is bigger than you realize. There are many movies that I feel comfortable streaming, but this truly is a movie that deserves to be seen on the big screen. The scale is simply incomparable. Furthermore, every scene has a certain artistic quality. The shot is perfectly angled and the colors compliment and clash each other perfectly. Another strong suit of the movie is the score. The soundtrack is developed by Hans Zimmer, well known for his works on everything from *The Lion King* to *The Dark Knight*. It always complements the theme of the scene and immerses the viewer in the world. *Dune* also features an all-star cast with the likes of Timothée Chalamet, Zendaya, Rebecca Ferguson, Jason Momoa, Josh Brolin, and Dave Bautista all playing significant roles. The performances help you feel attached to the characters. However, with so many parts to be played, the viewer is left wanting more character development for certain characters. And with that said, I'll segue into some of the drawbacks of the movie.

The first drawback is beginning from the get-go: this world is so complex and the casual viewer can easily get lost in it. Phrases such as Arrakis, Shai-Hulud sandworms, Spice Melange, and Bene Gesserit pop up every 30 seconds, and audiences not familiar with the source material are left somewhat confused. This complexity does contribute to the creation of a believable and interesting universe, but it's probably too much for casual audiences. My biggest upset with the movie was the ending, or rather a lack of a conclusion. From the opening sequence, fans know this is a part 1. Unfortunately, while the ending is organic, it's still not satisfying. I was left wanting more. The movie spent 2 hours building up the plot and then casually stopped. This was likely pretty difficult to avoid, considering the source material is a very long book. Nevertheless, it's disappointing. I was excited for a sequel, but I knew I wouldn't get it for at least another 2 years. While the movie suffers from being derived from a long and complicated novel, it does an excellent job of translating that book into a movie and transporting the viewer into the world of *Dune*. In conclusion, I'd give the movie a 7/10. However, depending on how the sequel plays out, I could bump that up to a 8/10. I'd definitely recommend it to a friend though, so check the movie out! In my opinion, it's worth a watch.

Grammy Nomination Predictions

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

2021 has been a fantastic year for music, and with the end of the calendar year drawing near and with the eligibility cutoff date (September 30th) already behind us, it's time to begin thinking about this year's Grammy nominations. The Grammys are the self-professed "music's biggest night" and this year's awards take place on January 31st, 2022. The announcement of all nominees is quickly approaching on November 23rd, 2021. The awards should make for some intense competition due to LP releases from veteran Recording Academy winners such as Taylor Swift, Billie Eilish, Kanye West, Megan Thee Stallion, and Lizzo, along with newcomers Olivia Rodrigo, Lil Nas X, Bo Burnham, and Conan Gray, who all made large splashes in the music and entertainment industries this past year.

As an amateur music critic, here are my predictions for this year's nominations in the main 4 categories:

Album of the Year

- "Sour" by Olivia Rodrigo
- "Donda" by Kanye West
- "Evermore" by Taylor Swift
- "Montero" by Lil Nas X
- "Planet Her" by Doja Cat
- "Happier than Ever" by Billie Eilish
- "Good News" by Megan Thee Stallion



Song and Record of the Year

- "Drivers License" by Olivia Rodrigo
- "Leave the Door Open" by Silk Sonic
- "Kiss Me More" by Doja Cat feat. SZA
- "Happier Than Ever" by Billie Eilish
- "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)" by Lil Nas X
- "Bad Habits" by Ed Sheeran
- "Willow" by Taylor Swift

Best New Artist

- Olivia Rodrigo
- Saweetie
- Conan Gray
- Blackpink
- Maneskin
- Clairo
- The Kid Laroi



Homecoming Recap

by Helene Yerger '23

Hello everyone! If you need a refresher of the homecoming celebrations, I am your girl! There was an amazing turn out at the homecoming football game Friday night with everyone dressed in head to toe pink! Keep up that Panther spirit! The game was played with all of the boys' excitement and perseverance, holding a strong lead in the first half. By the end of the third quarter Fleetwood succeeded us with an end score of 30-21. With only two minutes and fifty seconds left in the third, Paul Engleman was seen on the ground and not moving. He was carted on an ambulance and taken to the hospital. He showed the crowd he was alright by raising his hands in the air, which struck the crowd with thunderous applause. Great game Paul! As we dove into the last quarter, Kyle Spotts took a nasty tumble with Fleetwood, but pushed through to the end. The Panthers put up a great fight, but Fleetwood came out on top with an end score of 43-27. Keep up the fabulous work Panthers!

I would like to present this year's 2021-2022 Homecoming Queen... Lekaiah Solomon! Congratulations Lekaiah. You are a beautiful, strong, intelligent, young woman. Good luck to you after high school! The runner up for Homecoming Queen was Mara Nagle. Congratulations Mara! Keep that magnificent spark of perseverance, kindness, and intelligence. We all wish you the best and all of the luck in the world after you graduate. Fabulous job to both women!

The moment everyone has been waiting for, maybe for a year and a half, the annual Homecoming Dance. The dance began at a slow pace, but soon picked up when "YEAH" by Usher came on. Heels off and hands in the air everyone! The courtyard was filled with students looking to take a breath of fresh air, which was much needed after the "Cupid Shuffle." A wondrous two and a half hours with classmates finally able to come together to get loose, get down, and sing out loud.



Above - Lekaiah Solomon, HOCO Queen 2021

Left - Paul Engleman showing the crowd that he is alright

Alumni Interview

by Delenny Rosario '24

The years can fly by, especially after you graduate, so here's some insight from one of the years that came before. Rosaly Diaz, who graduated from SV in 2019, participated on the Swim Team, LEO, PYEA, and the Honors Society. Rosaly is currently studying to be a family doctor. Without further ado, here are the questions you came for:

What Teacher/Subject do you miss the most, and why?

I would have to say, Theatre with Ms. Heffner, because she taught valuable lessons not just about acting, but about life.

What do you miss the least?

The lunch lines (Me too)

What did you like the most about being a senior?

I liked some of the freedom that it brought.

If you could go back and tell your freshman self anything, what would you say?

To make sure you do the things that you want to do so you don't have any regrets.

How did you decide on your college?

Proximity and tuition were big factors

Poem 1, Emily Dickinson's *Poems*

I'm nobody! Who are you?

Are you nobody, too?

Then there's a pair of us- don't tell!

They'd banish us, you know.

How dreary to be somebody!

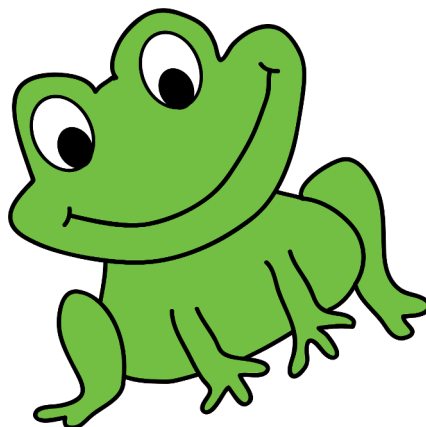
How public, like a frog

To tell your name the livelong day

To an admiring bog!

Poetry Column

by Isabella Burch '25



Staff Spotlight

New IT Staff Member, Ms. Sabulsky

by Alexis Smeck '22

Are you enjoying your time at Schuylkill Valley?: “Yes, I am. I enjoy being in a school environment and interacting with the students and teachers, as part of my job is to report on everyone’s accomplishments.”

Why did you decide to become an IT Staff Member?: “I went to college for media production and my first job was broadcasting. As much as I liked working in the media world, it was demanding, so I wanted a better workload balance. I decided to use all that I learned to become involved here at SV while still doing the job I love.”

Where did you go to school and what for?: “I went to college at Temple University and majored in Media Studies and Production. There were many avenues within that so I decided to go for more of the media and live broadcasting aspect.”

What do you hope to accomplish at SV?: “Being able to spread all the positive accomplishments from the students and share it with the community, using Instagram and Twitter alongside Facebook.”

What is life outside of school like?: “Spending time with friends and family and my boyfriend. I love going to concerts as it’s my favorite hobby. I love music and have a podcast with a friend, where we talk about celebrities and pop media culture. I also loved going to eat with my family or friends. I like to read and nerd out sometimes with sudoku. As long as I’m with my friends and family, life is good.”

Does being an IT Staff Member affect your life? If so, in what way?: “Truthfully, even though I’m on the IT Team currently, I’m more like my own entity. I don’t do what everyone else does, which gives me the freedom to make my own schedule, such as visiting the other Schuylkill Valley buildings. I’m free to do what I need without feeling restricted in any way.”

Anything you’d like to say to the people at SV?: “I would like to thank the students and staff for being so welcoming. I appreciate the teachers who’ve reached out to me and the students who are willing to let me take their photos while they’re in action. I’m also thankful for everyone being so willing to share their greatness with me.”



Frances Haugen: the Facebook Whistleblower

by Charlotte Baumgard '23

Frances Haugen, once an anonymous former employee of Facebook, has recently been outing the company for their self-centered and discriminatory actions. A whistleblower is, by definition, a person, usually anonymous, who informs the public on a person or organization engaged in an illicit activity. Haugen, 37, is a data scientist from Iowa with a masters degree in business from Harvard and a college degree in computer science. 15 years prior to her employment with Facebook, she was also employed by companies such as Google and Pinterest. In May of 2021, after nearly a two-year employment, she quit her job with Facebook after realizing the corruption within the company. She decided she had to take them down in a “systemic way,” as quoted from an interview she did with CBS News. This resulted in the “Facebook whistleblower” situation that stormed the news within the past two months. She released a slew of information and accusations about the companies’ controversies such as violating users’ trust, allowing hate speech, allowing dangerous misinformation, and violating antitrust laws and monopolizing social networks for their companies monetary gain. She claims that they’ve repeatedly proven that they prefer money over their users’ safety and/or rights.

Scandals are not in any way shape or form a foreign thing for Facebook. In years prior, they’ve been accused of assisting the Russian’s in their attempt to interfere with the 2016 election and violating users’ privacy rights. Though those previous situations have certainly affected their image, this situation is perhaps Facebook’s most threatening scandal they’ve ever been faced with. These new revelations, on top of their previous wrongdoings, could finally result in the absolute detriment of the company. This continued mistrust the company fosters with their users will undoubtedly drive them away and will certainly cause partners and sponsors to abandon them.



Staff Spotlight

Ms. Antalosky

by Alexis Smeck '22

Graduated: North Schuylkill High School [2016]

Undergraduate of West Chester University (Bachelor of Science in Education. English, and Secondary Education - Working on Masters) [2020]

Years of Teaching: "I graduated in May 2020, got accepted (to SV) in June 2020, and started teaching in August 2020."

Why Teaching?: "Most of my inspiration came from my mom. I looked up to her and saw how she enjoyed making a difference in her students' lives. I knew I wanted to be a teacher and my best subject in school was English, plus I was most passionate about creative writing. I was told in college to do a double major in teaching and English so I could do both in the future, which gave me more opportunities."

What has your experience in Schuylkill Valley High School been like?: "It's been challenging and rewarding. Challenging, because this year is my first year and starting off my career during the (COVID-19) pandemic was overwhelming. But it seemed to only strengthen me to overcome this challenge and be all the more successful."

What advice have you received from other teachers?: ""Please be patient. Soon, it will be a world of difference." I believed in their advice and it did significantly change after the pandemic started to tide over."

Home Life: "I like to spend as much time with my family, my boyfriend Jamie, and my pals. I've recently been into foraging with my father, such as identifying different mushrooms and cooking pasta dinners with them. I also enjoy reading in my spare time. As funny as it is, I like organizing. I also love going on evening walks."

Goals for the Future: "I just applied to get my master's degree to become a more effective teacher for my students. I'd also love to get married and have kids, as well as learn to read music, such as sheet music for the ukulele and piano."

Advice for Students: "Always try your very best but remember to be patient with yourself. We are all going through a big adjustment, so give yourself grace and patience and don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it. Never forget to be kind to others."



End of the Season for Fall Athletes

by Anna Kate Gwiazdowski '22

As I walked off the field for the last time in my field hockey uniform, I couldn't hold back the tears. At senior night, I was all smiles. I don't think reality had set in yet, that this year was my last. I tried not to think about it as the last few games came and went. Even as I stepped on the turf for our district playoff, I knew we had a shot at states; that hope kept my fear at bay. When the score board buzzed with the final score of 2-1, it finally hit me. My time playing in high school was up. With blurry eyes I looked around at the other seniors on the team, all struck with the same realization. We would never play together again. Some of us may never play field hockey again at all. Many of us grew up together, playing with one another from youth league to senior year. Now we all have to learn to let go.

It sounds kind of silly to be so attached to a high school sport, but it really becomes a part of you. Whether you started every game or just did it for fun, the hard work each athlete puts into the season is undeniable. When all that hard work comes to fruition, it's an amazing feeling. Whether it's scoring a game winning goal, getting a best time, or finally earning that captain's band, each sport rewards the time and effort you put in. Surprisingly enough though, my favorite memories have nothing to do with my performance. I'm going to remember running to Sheetz for slushies with the team. Diving headfirst onto the ground while playing goalie. Screaming the words to 2000s hits on the bus. Pulling the sled in the rain. All the little moments that are actually pretty special when you look back. I'll definitely miss the sport, too. I love the competition, the feeling I get when the ball hits the back of the cage. But like everything in life, it was the people that made it.

To every fall senior athlete: it's okay to still miss it. There were days I hated field hockey. The pressure of it, the long practices, the rough games; some days I wished the season would end sooner. Now, I wish I could be a freshman again so I could have four more years. Know that sports aren't everything, but they are a huge part of our lives right now. Don't feel like you need to rush to move on and just forget about it. To seniors with winter and spring sports: enjoy your last season. Savor every moment, but don't stress about it ending before it even starts. The time will come where you wear an SV uniform for the last time. Until then, make the most of your time on the court, the field, or in the pool. Whether your career ends in high school or continues into college, sports aren't forever. The lessons you learn and the memories you make along the way are.