

# The Oracle

The Rochester High School Newspaper  
Editor and Chief: Amarina Simoni



## 2022 Homecoming Court

Pictured from left to right: Amarina Simoni, Austin Hewitt, Isabella Seybert, Alex Reeher, Alisha Miller, Aric Alberts, Nya Martin, Anthony Puniak, Samarra Garcia and Shannon Zawislak

Pictured above is the 2022 Rochester High School Homecoming Court. Nya Martin was crowned Homecoming Queen at the football game on September 22, 2022. Alisha Miller was crowned princess that same night.



### Dancing the night away

Sneak Peek at the 2023 Winter Semi- Formal article in the winter paper



To read the Senior Spotlight Check out page 2



### Homecoming 2022

Pictured above:

Queen (right): Nya Martin

Princess (left): Alisha Miller

## Austin's Joke Corner



WHY DON'T SCIENTIST TRUST ATOMS?

Because they make up everything!

WHY DOES A DOG DO SO WELL IN SCHOOL?

Because he was the teachers pet!

## Senior Student Spotlight

### Seniors Dominick DeLuca, Duke Mullins and Parker Lyons

Dominick DeLuca is a senior on the golf team. He believes he did pretty well this season. He is proud of himself for “making it to WPIALS for the second year in a row.” Dom is planning to continue his education at The University of Pittsburgh dual majoring in Accounting and Finance.

Duke Mullins is a senior on the football team. He told an Oracle writer, “I met all my personal goals this season; he wanted ten touchdowns and got thirteen. Duke is planning on continuing his academic and athletic career at Mercyhurst University. He received a full-ride scholarship for football and hopes to keep his same jersey number.

Parker Lyons is a senior on the baseball team. Though he was injured during football season he is on the mend and plans to play baseball in college. On a generous scholarship, he is attending Westminster College to continue his athletic and academic career. Parker plans to major in Special Education.



## The 2022 Homecoming Dance

Students of all grades kicked off the evening dancing the Cha-Cha Slide. As the night carried on, high heels were lost, but the dancing never stopped.

When asked about the 2022 Homecoming Dance, sophomore, Gianna Sisco said, “The decor was beautiful, the food was good and I had a blast dancing the night away with my friends”.

We asked senior, Aric Alberts, what surprised him the most about the dance. He told one of our reporters, “I was surprised by the atmosphere, I had a lot of fun!”



Bronc Tomochak and Family



Keiarra Farren and Family



Jordan Schinke and Family



Dominick DeLuca and Family



# The Teacher Scoop

Read articles about your favorite teaches, new teachers and administration you've probably never met. Next time you see them in the hallway say "Hello!"

## Mr. Matthew Yunt: Accounts Payable Coordinator

Many new people have come to the school this year, but we will be meeting Mr. Yunt. His position in the school is the accounts payable coordinator. You might be asking yourself, what is an accounts payable coordinator? An accounts payable coordinator facilitates paying the schools bills, handling incoming invoices that require payment.

### When did he start and how long has he been here?

Matthew started his position here in April of 2022 but has lived in Rochester for about 13 consecutive years. He used to reside in New Brighton, as that's where he grew up. He lived there for most of his life but now is one of Rochester's many residents. He works mainly with adults and faculty but sees the students and interacts with them. He enjoys his work environment saying, "Everyone has been super nice and helpful".

### How would one attain this job?

He obtained a business degree at Point Park University. Point Park is located in downtown Pittsburgh and is known as a small and private institution that has a great performing arts program. To gain a business degree you have to complete 120 credit hours, which if you're a full time student will take four years as you earn 15 credits per semester. Mr. Yunt attended college right after graduating high school.

### Why did you want to work here?

Matthew wanted to work at a school for some time and just never got around to it until recently. His position here is very important and valuable, without him, we would have many problems forming around us. If we didn't have Mr. Yunt sorting everything out, all the bills would build up which could lead to losing companies who have trusted us for many years. But thanks to Matthew we don't run into any of those problems.

### Other little things to know.

In his spare time he enjoys coaching our youth sports teams. Mr. Yunt is an assistant coach for many different sports in this school. He helps coach our basketball and football teams. As he enjoys coaching them, he used to enjoy playing all these sports as a child. He was mainly into basketball and baseball as a kid but he had the passion for football as well. Matthews' son, Dylan Yunt, is one of the beloved students of Rochester as many know him from all the sports he plays. Unfortunately, he is leaving us next year because he's a senior.

By: Casey Richko

## Ms. Maria Young: Sixth Grade English Teacher

Ms. Young is the new 6th grade teacher in Rochester Area School District. She attended Duquesne University for her teaching degree. She decided to come to Rochester because she likes the small community and the very supportive staff we have here. She has two goals for the school year. One is for herself which is to be more organized this year and the second one is for her students. She hopes to help them become more confident in their reading and writing abilities.

### Have you taught anywhere else before coming to Rochester?

Ms. Young has taught around the Pittsburgh area for sixteen years. Ten of the years were in McKees Rocks, and she has subbed for two years.

### What are her favorite things?

Ms. Young's favorite sport is hockey, but she enjoys watching football and basketball too. Her favorite hockey team is the Pittsburgh Penguins. Ms. Young says her favorite food is chocolate and Reese Cups. Her favorite books and movies are the Harry Potter series. Fall is her favorite season because of the colors. Ms. Young also likes the colder temperatures and being able to sit around a fire. She loves Washington DC. Moose tracks with whipped cream is her favorite ice cream and topping. Ms. Young's favorite quote is "be the change you wish to see in the world" by Mahatma Gandhi.

### What made you want to become a teacher?

Ms. Young's second grade teacher influenced her decision to pursue teaching. She also loves reading in general, so teaching it is all the more fun.

### Fun facts about Ms. Young:

- She has read and watched all the Harry Potter books and movies.
- Ms. Young played three sports while she was growing up; basketball, softball and she ran cross country.
- She has no pets and does not live in Rochester.
- She has been to Ireland and Australia.
- One thing on her bucket list is to travel more, and she thinks a cruise would be fun to go on.
- She prefers listening to music over listening to podcasts.
- Out of all super powers, Ms. Young would pick to be able to teleport.
- Chocolate is one thing she cannot live without in life.

By: Gianna Sisco

# The Teacher Scoop

FALL 2022 RECAP

## Mrs. Shannon Stewart: Middle School Life-skills Coach

There is a new teacher in the middle school. Her name is Shannon Stewart or Mrs. Stewart as the students would know her. She is a life skills coach and emotional support teacher for the 6th, 7th, and 8th graders.

Mrs. Stewart chose this career so she could make a difference for the students who are transitioning from elementary to middle school. Since moving from elementary to middle school can be scary, she helps them calm their anxiousness and worries. She wants to be there for them emotionally when it comes to these problems and give the students someone to talk to and trust. When she can make a very stressful situation better for the students and parents, it is always a big accomplishment for her.

When she was in high school her favorite class was actually Journalism. She loved to write. Mrs. Stewart went to Penn State Beaver to get her degree in Psychology. She actually wanted to be a Child Psychologist, but she realized there would be a lot of sadness to that and things she couldn't fix. She didn't think it would be the right fit for her but working here at Rochester is perfect. Mrs. Stewart is still in her first year working here at Rochester and she is still learning the ropes of the school.

When asked who or what inspired her to get this job, she said "My stepdad; he was a teacher for over 35 years." Her step dad taught in Monaca for a majority of his teaching career. He also taught at Riverside for some time. He jumped around different grades while he was a teacher. She looks up to her step dad in every way and he has helped her become the teacher and person she is today. Mrs. Stewart really loves her job, her family, and everyone who works or studies at Rochester. She would not want to change her job or move to a different school because she has made so many connections and friendships with the students and staff. It brightens her day when she gets to help students and see them smile.

By: Madison Farris



Mrs. Ford: 7th-8th Grade English

## Mrs. Heather Ford: Middle School English Teacher

There are many teachers in the Rochester Area School District. Most of them have been working here for a quite some time, including Mrs. Ford. Some of you may not know this name off the top of your head, but if you have been here for a few years you'll know who she is. It's Ms. Busse. She recently got married.

### Where did you attend high school and college?

Mrs. Ford attended kindergarten through 12th grade at Freedom Area School District. After graduating high school she went on to attend three different colleges to get to where she is today. The Community College of Beaver County (CCBC), Geneva College, and Slippery Rock University.

### How long have you been teaching and how long at Rochester?

This year is Mrs. Ford's seventh year of teaching. All seven years she has been employed here at Rochester Area School District. She used to teach special education for 11th and 12th grade as well as English for grades 10, 11, and 12. For the last five or so years she has stayed at the 7th and 8th grade level.

### When and where did you meet your husband?

Mrs. Ford and her husband, Hank, first met at Ambridge High School while she was substitute teaching and completing her Masters degree. During that time, Hank was finishing an internship for his counseling degree through Geneva. They left Ambridge and lost touch with each other. Around five years later she said a friend of hers through a church group told her she should date one of his friends. Turns out it was Hank! It's crazy how people you met years ago can come back just like that. That's exactly what happened with her and Hank and now they are married. How cool!

### How long were you dating before he asked you to marry him?

Surprisingly, they were only dating for nine months before he asked her to marry him. However, they knew each other for some time before officially dating. They were in Shenandoah National Park in Virginia to hike Old Rag Mountain when he got down on one knee. As anyone would be, she was very excited when she realized what was happening, and she excitedly said yes!

### Where did you go on your honeymoon?

They decided not to go on a honeymoon due to the fact that they were searching for a house alongside planning their wedding. They are planning on going somewhere as a honeymoon/anniversary trip in the summer, but are not sure where to yet.

### When and where did you get married?

Mrs. Ford and her husband got married on June 25, 2022 in Ohiopyle State Park. They only invited immediate family to their ceremony, because they wanted to keep it small and intimate. They did have a picnic style reception a couple of weeks later so they could celebrate with extended family and many friends.

By: Austin Hewitt



## Miss Brunner: High School Lifeskills Teacher

Erika Brunner is a high school life skills teacher. She enjoys teaching children and watching them progress. She wants to one day change a life for the better.

Miss Brunner is originally from Cranberry Township, and she went to Seneca Valley School District. Her first job was at Shop N Save. She said it had its ups and downs. She liked the people she worked with but the work there was just not the kind she enjoyed. Miss Brunner is trustworthy and dependable, and loves to help people in need, especially students. She would rather work alone because she wants to be able to rely on herself and not anyone else's work. If she has to, she will work with someone, but she just prefers to work alone.

When she is in a tough or stressful situation, she enjoys reading because it calms her down and helps her solve the problems. She has three dogs that help her relieve stress.

She is a very kind woman, and she seems like a perfect teacher for the Rochester Area School District. She is in room 1914 and makes her students' lives better. She loves to help students who are struggling and wants to make their lives better.

She once taught in Spain, and she said that was one of the most interesting things she has done so far. It was the most interesting because it was the first time she was out of the country. She got to experience another culture and learned how they celebrate Christmas. She said they do it differently than we do. Each person at the dinner table represents someone different within the Bible.

She likes Rochester a lot. She said it is very different from the schools she has been to and that it is much smaller. Before she came to Rochester, she went to Slippery Rock University. She graduated from Slippery Rock in 2019. After that, she enjoyed crafting because it was fun to her and helped her pass time when she had nothing else to do. In her classroom, she makes sure that the kids are having fun doing work and learning life skills. She does not bore the kids, she excites them.

She does not try to be too strict. She tries to make the students want to learn, and it works. She enjoys it when the kids want to learn because that is the whole point of being a teacher. Teaching children and them actually wanting to learn is amazing. It means that the students are learning a lot and will have this information for a very long time. Mrs. Erika Brunner is a kind and wonderful new teacher. She loves what she does, and the students love having her as a teacher. She really likes it better here than other schools because it's smaller and it has a lot of wonderful staff here. She's still getting used to being here and we are all so glad she decided to work at Rochester.

By: Ethan Sarver

## Mrs. Seezok: Middle School Life-skills Coach

With the new 2022-2023 school year starting it brought it many new students and teachers. Among them was a new middle school emotional support teacher named Mrs. Seezok. Mrs. Seezok's first name is Allison.

In order for Mrs. Seezok to become an emotional support teacher, she had to go to college for a four year degree. She chose to go to Butler Community College for a two-year degree in Early Childhood Education, then continue her education at Slippery Rock University for her Bachelors Degree in Early childhood and Special Education. Mrs. Seezok's desire to become a teacher comes from her grandmother who was also a teacher.

She has a husband named Nate, and two pets. Her pets' names are Zila, who is a cat and Ronin, who is a dog. Zila was found in an abandoned dumpster, and is an unknown breed. Ronin is a four year old Bernese mountain dog that was rescued by Mrs Seezok and her husband. They got Ronin around a year and a half ago.

Mrs. Seezok enjoys going on walks and hiking. When she goes on these trips most of the time she brings the most faithful companion, her dog Ronin, other times she may go with her friend Ms. Brasko and her dog. Another hobby she has is going snowboarding. When she goes snowboarding she brings her husband. While she does enjoy snowboarding during the winter months, her favorite season is autumn. One reason Miss Seezok enjoys autumn is because her birthday is during this season. Who doesn't love a good fall birthday?

When asked where her dream vacation would be, Mrs Seezok said she would choose Austria. She would choose Austria because of the beautiful scenery. Austria is a country surrounded by land located in the southern part of Central Europe. It is known for its beautiful castles and buildings. When Mrs. Seezok was asked who she would take with her and she chose her mom.

When you're bored, you may find yourself wondering what a famous person is doing or what it would be like to switch lives with them for a day, when asked who she thinks of Mrs Seezok said Shania Twain. She said Shania because she loves her music, personality, and her shows in Las Vegas. Mrs Seezok's favorite thing about her is that she's very positive although her life has been challenging. Shania Twain is a Canadian singer who has sold over 100 million records. Selling this many records made her one of the best female artists of all time. How inspiring!

By: Isis Griffin

## Ms. Mouas: Middle and High School Guidance Counselor

Ms. Mouas is our new guidance counselor. She has tons of experience and loves working with kids. Ms. Mouas is also a really nice person and is willing to help others in need.

### What made you come to Rochester?

Ms. Mouas wanted to work in a small school because when you are working in a smaller district you can make personal connections with the students. Ms. Mouas lives near the school which makes her commute a breeze.

### Why did you choose this career field?

During Ms. Mouas' junior and senior years of high school, she felt very anxious, nervous, and disconnected. She felt like she didn't have anyone to help her. Ms. Mouas decided she wanted to be a counselor to help kids not to feel alone or scared. She wants to help guide everyone on to a successful career path. Ms. Mouas also wanted to be a school counselor because she likes working with children.

### What college did you go to and what degree did you earn?

Ms. Mouas obtained a degree in psychology and a masters degree in counseling. She graduated from Geneva College. Ms. Mouas took Psychology because she found the subject very fun and interesting.

### How do you stay motivated during the work days?

Ms. Mouas tries to stay motivated because if she doesn't do well at her job, all of the children in the school will suffer from her shortcomings. Ms. Mouas makes sure that the staff and the children have what they need.

### Do you have a goal for this school year?

Ms. Mouas wants to meet and get to know all the children and staff. She wants to make sure that students graduate with all their credits so they can be as successful as possible.

### Did you teach anywhere beside Rochester?

Yes, Ms. Mouas was a middle school counselor in Onslow County, North Carolina. She then got a job as an Elementary counselor. She was an Elementary and middle school counselor in New Philadelphia, Ohio. Ms. Mouas then went to Chartiers Valley Primary School and was the counselor there, before getting hired at Rochester this fall.

## Mrs. Dorian: Middle School History Teacher

You may be asking yourself, who in the world is Mrs. Dorian? Jokes on you, you already know her! It's Miss Smith, she got married over the summer. In an interview I asked her about her life as a newlywed and her role here at the school. Before that though, let's learn about Mrs. Dorian before most of us knew her.

### Where did you go to college and what is your degree?

"In 2012 I graduated from Slippery Rock University with a bachelors in History. In 2014 I graduated from Slippery Rock University with a Masters of Education in Secondary Social Studies Education. In 2018, I graduated from Seton Hill University with a specialization certificate in Holocaust/Genocide Studies."

### How many years have you been teaching, and how many at Rochester?

"I have been teaching for eight years, one year in Virginia and seven years at Rochester Middle School."

### Did you grow up around here? Where did you go to high school?

"I grew up in Rochester Township, I started middle school at Rochester and then I went to HS at Quigley Catholic."

Now the juicy questions you've all been waiting for!

### Where did you meet your husband? Do you remember your first date?

"I met my husband over ten years ago at Slippery Rock University. His sister was in my education classes. We had our first date at the Cranberry Sports Grille. This is the first time I got to witness how much he loves pizza." How cute is that?!

### For how long were you engaged?

"We became engaged on May 28th of 2021, and were engaged for little over a year."

### Where was your honeymoon?

"South Coast, Jamaica. We learned how to scuba dive. We went 60ft down, it was a little scary but lots of fun; we saw tropical fish, coral reefs and sand dollars."

### Were you excited to come back to school?

"Absolutely! But Jamaica made it very hard!"

Though she missed Jamaica, Mrs. Dorian was excited to return to school. The middle school house program, which was created just over four years ago, is booming! With activities and incentives, the program has record participation and excitement. Let's see what it is all about.

### Can you explain the house program to those who may not know?

The house system is based off of Harry Potter. There are four houses, each represented by a color. The incoming 6th grade students get "sorted" into one of the four houses. They will remain in these houses throughout middle school. The point is to promote camaraderie throughout middle school, foster good competition and leadership skills, and demonstrate positive behavior expectations!

The houses each year compete for the "house cup". This is an end of the year reward. The winning house gets to choose their reward. The way that you earn points is through good behavior, attendance, and grades all year long. There is a tally in the MS that shows students the point standings all year long. Teachers are assigned houses and two 8th grade students act as prefects for their house. These students work to encourage their house to participate and rally support.



# Meet the Staff

FALL 2022 RECAP

**Editor in Chief:** Amarina Simoni

**Assistant to the Editor:** Austin Hewitt

**Reporters:** Aric Alberts, Madison Farris, Isis Griffon, Casey Richko, Mariah (Leo) Ruth, Ethan Sarver and Gianna Sisco



Standing: Madison Farris, Isis Griffon, Ethan Sarver, Casey Richko and Gianna Sisco  
Sitting: Mariah (Leo) Ruth, Aric Alberts Amarina Simoni and Austin Hewitt

## School Life

E	S	K	O	O	B	I	J	O	U	R	N	A	L
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LUNCH BOX  
GLITTER  
SCISSORS  
BLACKBOARD  
ERASER  
PENS  
SHARPENER  
COMPASS  
GLUE STICK  
JOURNAL  
NOTEBOOK  
PENCIL CASE  
PENCILS  
CRAYONS  
MARKERS  
BACKPACK  
HOMEWORK  
BOOKS

Play this puzzle online at : <https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/37/>

## The Oracle Mission Statement

The Oracle is a student run newspaper that writes to inform, to educate, to entertain, and to provide multiple viewpoints for our community and all Rochester High School students and staff.



If you would like to submit an article of 250 words or less to be published in the Oracle, please email your submission with an original photograph to [lyonsd@rasd.org](mailto:lyonsd@rasd.org) with "The Oracle" in the subject line.