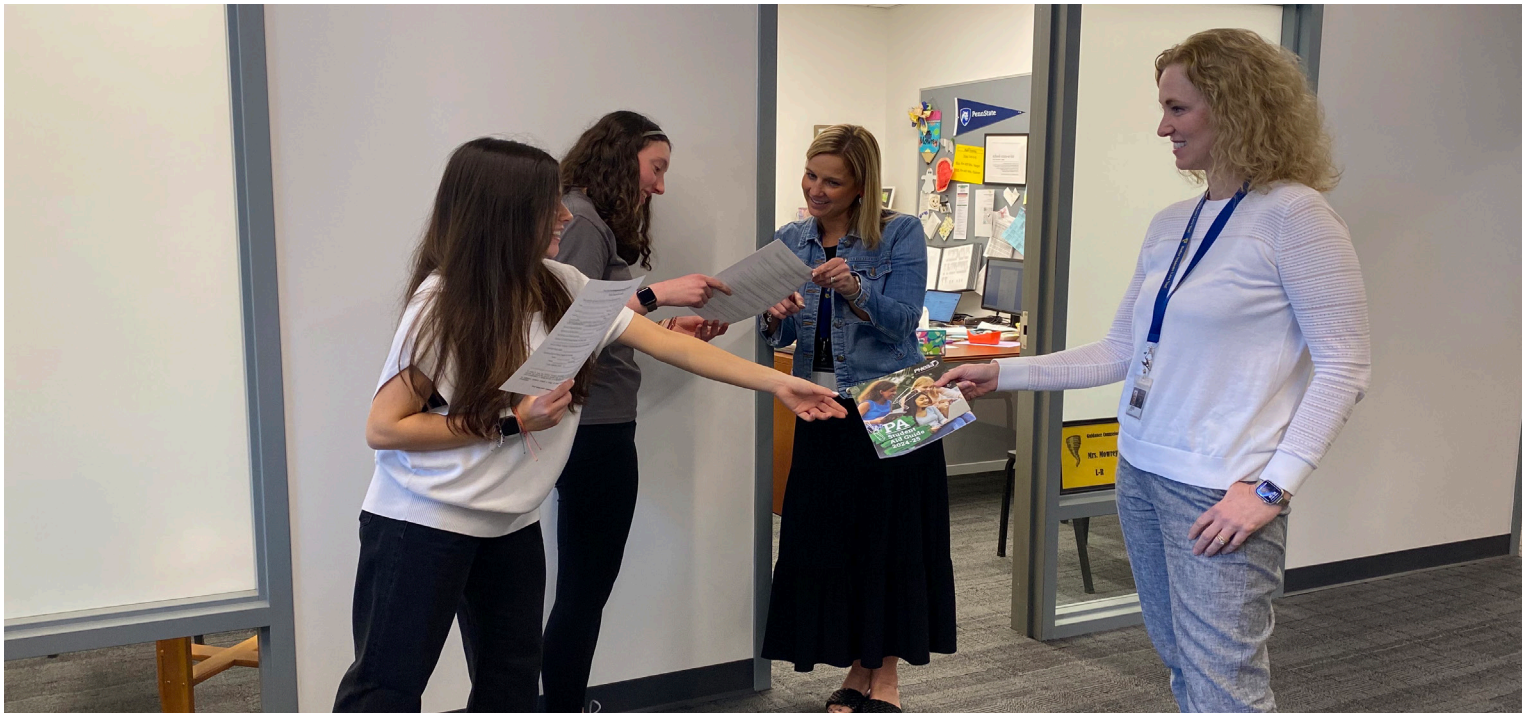


## Seniors choose colleges based on interests, programs



**Butler Senior High students ask guidance counselors questions about scholarships and college choices. Photo by Emily Tallis.**

**By Emily Tallis**

Many seniors at Butler Senior High have committed to colleges, while some are still unsure if they want to go to college, trade-school, the military, or straight into the workplace.

Guidance counselor Mrs. Shannon McGraw said, “One of the ways [a student can know what’s the best for them] might be to shadow someone in the field they’re looking at and then research the path or ask professionals in that field the path they took to get there. For many particular careers, it’s fairly obvious that they need a college degree or it’s better if you have certifications or military experience.”

If students are able to visit colleges that are close enough for them and their families to drive to, they should take that opportunity. Most colleges have virtual visit options where they can meet with an admissions counselor and see what campus is like, through a Zoom call, or a Google Meet.

Senior Lindsay Gavula, Edinboro University lacrosse commit, said, “I actually went to Edinboro before I even got recruited to play lacrosse; I just went with my cousin and my aunt. I kind of fell in love with it. I could see myself going there. Conveniently, the lacrosse coach at Edinboro reached

out to me and it was perfect.”

Any school counselor can get a student started with the application process, building a resume, and getting started with filling out FAFSA.

McGraw said, “There’s a FAFSA ID that [a student] needs to obtain first and now the FAFSA is a much simpler process and is something you are able to complete after a half-hour. Local colleges and the colleges you apply to are still hosting events at their sites and you can look up to see their next session on the FSA ID, or the FAFSA. You can also come to [the guidance counselors] for help. We have

some other things to help on the guidance counselor website as well.”

Choosing a college is not easy, and for some students it can be stressful. Most students look for comfortability at the campus, campus life, and if that college has the major they are looking for.

Senior Gabby Holman said, “When I’m looking for a college, I’m looking for, first and foremost, is if it has my major. I want to go into nursing, so I want to make sure the college I go to has a really good nursing program and that they have a lot of hands-on experience with hospitals and that I’m ensured that I’ll get a good job after-

# See What’s Inside!

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**Mr. David Baum**

wards. Looking at it from a more opinionated standpoint, I want it to be in a good area. Personally, I want to be in an area that has lots of things to do, so I’m looking in the city for a college because I feel like that would best fit me.”

## Leadership Retreat project aims to improve building

**By Katie Portillo Rodas**

A new group is emerging in the Senior High School intending to improve the building.

On February 2, co-principal Mr. Jason Huffman and some volunteering teachers held an educational field trip for junior students nominated by their teachers. The goal of this trip to Butler County Community College was vague at first, but after that day the clear goal was to make Butler Senior High School a better and safer place.

According to Huffman,

“It is the opportunity for student advocacy,” which will allow the nominated students to voice their ideas to help and possibly improve the school in the years to come.

“Our leadership program is a way for our students to have more voice and choice for what happens during their school day,” music teacher and chorus director Mrs. Em-malynne Waseleski said. “The students that are involved right now, they are the program. It is all about them taking an initiative and them running it.”

Waseleski noted the

importance of reflection needed by the students to make such initiatives that would continue to aid the school itself and create opportunities for a better place.

Many of the students nominated for this retreat were excited to contribute to the changes soon to be made to the school. Junior Cora Kowal said, “I feel good about it especially because it’s a good thing for the school to have and I feel like they chose good people in general to be a part of it.”

Kowal wants to contribute advertisements for the

student body on what the school has to offer to incorporate inclusivity. “I think the most important thing is togetherness,” Kowal said.

Another student nominated, junior Mikayla Schmidt, wants to improve the outside space such as the courtyards for them to be accessible and better used by students. “I really want us to be able to paint our senior parking spaces, I think that’ll be really fun, and it’ll give the students a way to express themselves,” Schmidt said.

Teamwork seems to be an important topic in Schmidt’s agenda as she

expressed her need for companionship and assistance to make the plans and ideas happen. “I am very excited about it; I feel like it’s a great opportunity to bring some students together,” she said.

Ideas, teamwork, and opportunities are all a part of this program that seems to suit the students’ best interest, which will not only improve the school physically but also help students engage in a place they can call “home.”

## Freshmen adapt to Senior High routines

By Grace Christy

Picture this: you turned 15 now - settled into all the hustle and bustle that terrified you at the beginning of the year. You've now met some of the older girls you've seen driving their cars. Fewer heads filling in the hallway are unfamiliar, maybe you know your new friend's sister, or the son of a teacher you have.

You may still be the smallest fish in the sea, but now you have an idea of how to swim. Expect the hectic, the stressful, and different to somehow have beauty along the way.

Welcome to a no-longer-new world of even more growing pains, eye opening experiences, and probably a fight or two.

"Hectic" was the one word freshman Kara Lubinsky used to describe the first semester of her high school career. "It's just a normal thing now - It used to seem cool, but it has become my life," explained Lubinsky after adjusting to the first semester.

Even out of season, Lubinsky still considers

soccer season, in which she played on varsity, to be the highlight of her school year.

Finding, or even forging, your own path - is what makes your journey unique.

For Lubinsky, her freshman year has been a quiet adjustment to finding the beat of her success.

In the movies, high school seems like just being under stadium lights, in a random backseat, and falling in love with someone you ran into in the hallway.

Current freshman, Hayden Deal, had one word to describe the reality of her first semester in high school: "stressful." The workload in freshman year is a rough introduction to the realities of secondary education. "I feel like I have changed since the start of freshman year - I've learned how to handle more work," explains Deal in regards to the stress.

Other freshmen have had similar awakenings coming into honors classes at the Senior High. Deal's biggest lesson learned in

her own words was to "stay focused."

As a dancer during half-time during football season, Deal's highlight was exactly that. She is a member of the Butler Senior High School Sequinettes, who accompany the band with flags and their own choreography. Deal has a lot going on - visiting WVU for dance at her young age and balancing her large workload and the future of her dance career.

Student athlete Abbie Steele, had a fresh perspective on this new era of growth for her and her classmates. Rather than a word with negative connotations, she simply described the first semester as "different." While she expects more work to come - she is taking each day by day. "My personality has definitely changed a lot, I've made a lot more friends," said Steele, describing how the social environment of the Senior High School has impacted her. Steele is involved in fall sports programs, including volleyball - and

had to maintain her sport alongside an honors workload while navigating her new lifestyle. "Expect the unexpected," Steele said simply - a lesson she has learned in the relationships she has built throughout the first half of the year, and things unique to high school she has witnessed for the first time.

"Volleyball season was the highlight for me so far," Steele connects her statement to an atmosphere where she has made unexpected friendships and gained new skills unlike before.

Steele is just getting started - catch her in the hallway laughing with her friends, on the court, and on the turf for the next three and a half years.

Freshmen have had similar takes on their new lives here at Butler Senior High School, all accounts of growing pains, their own passions, and the realities of everyday life.

## Skyliner Staff

Emily Tallis  
Editor

Grace Christy

Katie Portillo  
Rodas

Mr. Erik Robbins  
Advisor

*"It's just a normal thing now. It used to seem cool, but it has become my life."*

-Freshman  
Kara Lubinsky

## Best Buddies members make impact at Senior High, in community

By Emily Tallis

Best Buddies club members don't only show inclusion in the club, but they also are working to find other ways to show inclusion in the community.

Senior and Best Buddies president Stella Scialabba has a program that she started called "Buddy Boxes." She explained, "I started Buddy Boxes because I realized that not a lot of schools in Pennsylvania, and the United States, have an inclusive program for students with disabilities. I know that some schools may not be able to afford it, and may not have the ability to create that program. I created Buddy Boxes to be informative to administrators so that they could learn all of the benefits of having a program like that and also learn how they can incorporate it into their schools."

Scialabba's younger

brother has autism and he is the main reason that she is an advocate for inclusion.

"I was involved with a Miss America organization for a while because they gave me the opportunity to have a Community Service Initiative and that's why I joined. I had a platform to advocate for kids like my brother, so I would say that doing that and creating an initiative through social media and an initiative around my community has been a way that I spread inclusion," said Scialabba.

Junior and Best Buddies treasurer Paige Panteous helps the rest of the board plan monthly outings and parties for all members, and she helps to make funding decisions along with promoting inclusion.

Panteous said, "I think students in our school can spread kindness by helping others with simple tasks, and also giving something as simple as a compliment. You never know what a



**Butler Unified Bocce members recently raised money for the Polar Plunge in Pittsburgh. Photo by Mark Reges.**

person is going through and it's always important to be kind. Inclusion is also important. You should never judge someone for being different, and you should stand up and speak out for inclusion."

Simply being kind, not judging those who are different, and giving people the benefit of the doubt are all ways that students can be inclusive at Butler.

Besides Best Buddies, there are other ways to

be inclusive, like Unified Bocce and Unified Track and Field.

## Davis commits to Division I UMBC

**By Grace Christy**

Senior Ayden Davis has turned heads all across the nation in the world of lacrosse, and especially in the Butler community after his commitment to University of Maryland, Baltimore County for Division I lacrosse.

A leading scorer on his high school team his junior year - he caught the attention of many collegiate-level programs. "I first picked up a stick when I was five years old," said Davis, and clearly he hasn't put it down since. Davis also played on a club team based out of Maryland, the Annapolis Hawks, traveling over state lines for practices and events. He recently said his final goodbye to his club days, playing for the last time in Lake Placid, New York last summer. His mother, and according to him - his number one supporter, Devan Davis, remarked that the hardest moment to see of Ayden's lacrosse career was seeing him play his last game as a Hawk. Soon it will be Davis's last run as a Golden

Tornado, and onto a higher level of the rapidly growing sport.

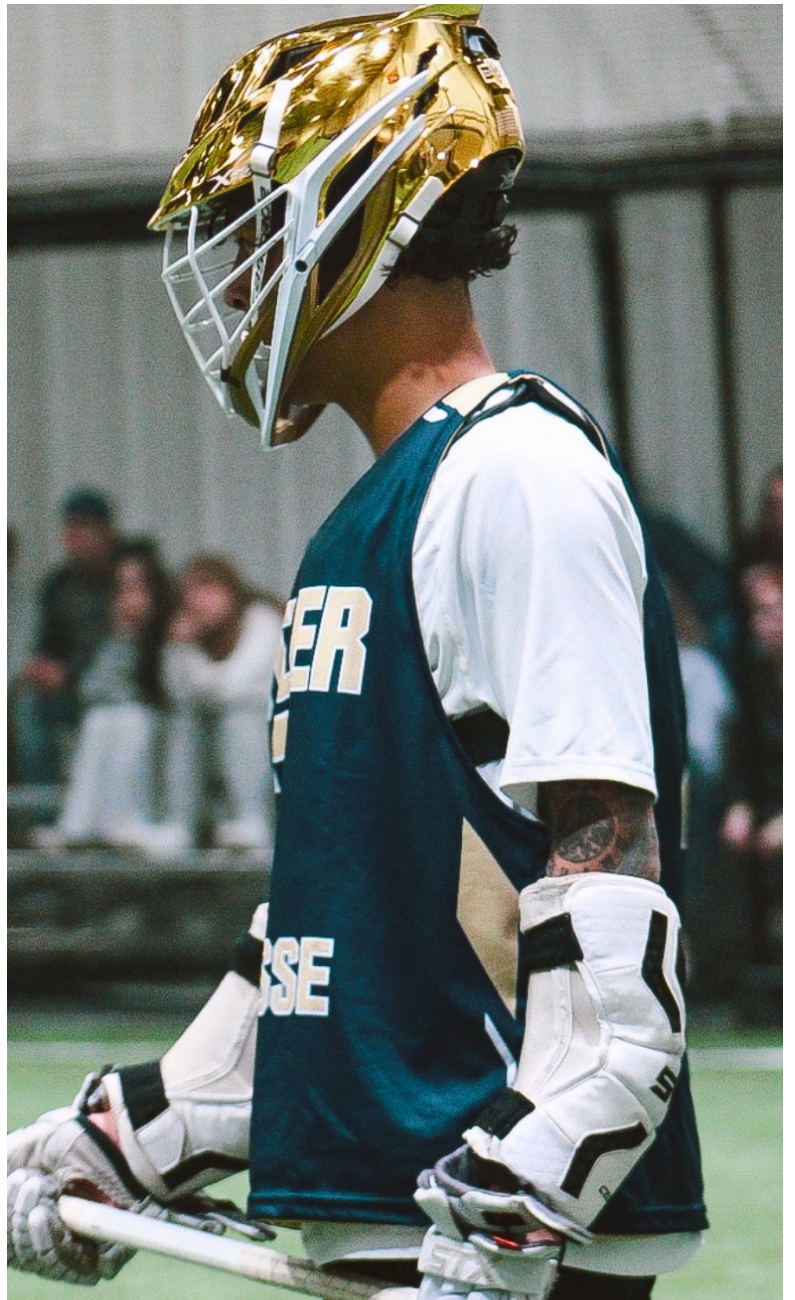
With his last school season underway, Davis's best friend on and off the field, Ian Wilson, said this season he and Davis have gained more chemistry. "We've hung out a lot off the field and practiced together, it really changes how we interact in the game," said Wilson, another senior on the lacrosse team. As a duo, they are spending their last ride together and Wilson described it as "bittersweet." Both Davis and Wilson have high expectations for their upcoming and final season, with how much time spent together. Wilson said "We should be able to pull out more plays to win."

Since Davis has made commutes to Maryland during club seasons, the change won't feel too drastic - as he has made connections with players in the community that will lessen the blow of culture shock. With his work ethic and support system, the lacrosse community here in Butler

has no doubt he will thrive. "My heart is so full that my son made his dream come true. Words can't describe how proud I am of him. His hard work and dedication in the classroom and on the field is what made this happen," explained Davis's mother.

Ayden has made waves that helped all of WPIAL lacrosse know his name when they think of the Butler boys' lacrosse program. Whatever he accomplishes next, will be known and celebrated by those he left behind and all who are rooting for him.

***"I first picked up a stick when I was five years old."***  
**-Ayden Davis, varsity lacrosse player**



Ayden Davis recently played in the Midnight Madness Tournament. Photo by Grace Christy.

## Spring concerts buzz in Music Department

**By Katie Portillo Rodas**

There are many events to look forward to during spring for the Music Department. Symphonic Band, Chorus, and Orchestra are all planning concerts and events throughout the season. All of these events are being held in the Intermediate High School.

The first event in the spring starts on April 3, which will be the Jazz Bands and Percussion ensembles.

According to the Music Department chair and director of the Golden Tornado Marching Band Mr. Jeffrey Kroner, "Our Jazz Band is doing a song that most people will recognize called 'Sweet Georgia Brown.'"

On May 1, the Senior High Chorus concert will be led by the chorus direc-

tor and music teacher Mrs. Emmalyne Waseleski.

Junior Abby Cuffman, a student both in chorus and Varsity Voices said, "We practice in class almost every day. A lot of our songs are well-known songs so I'm excited for the audience to see it."

"We do usually a handful of pop songs," Waseleski states, "The product is the most important part in terms of the students feeling what they're doing on stage is successful and something they're proud of."

The Senior High Band concert will be performed on May 7. "We have some vocal tunes that we're doing," Kroner states, "We're doing a medley of 'Wicked,' and we're also doing a medley of 'The Wizard of Oz.'" One of the

important factors in having a concert is making sure everybody is happy. "I try to make sure we connect things with the audience, but we'll have marches and we'll have other things as well. There's a little bit for everybody."

The importance of incorporating passion into music is important to Kroner. "I think the performing ensemble should connect with that audience by playing not just at them but for them," Kroner said.

The last concert of the year is the Senior High Orchestra concert which will be held on May 16. Like every other event, a lot is to be expected from both the students and teacher as they create music for everybody to hear.

**Save the date!!**  
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# Substitute teacher changes the game

By Emily Tallis

Many teachers and substitute teachers have interesting background stories on how they became a teacher or a substitute teacher.

Mr. David Baum, a substitute teacher at the Intermediate High School and Senior High School, grew up in Tucson, Arizona. He went to the University of Arizona to study business administration and minored in Economics, while also working a full time job, 40 hours a week.

Baum said, “That was actually how I worked my way through college. When I graduated from high school, I had a full academic scholarship to the University of Arizona and I also worked part time to support [having a] car and to do the things that

teenagers did back then. I overdid it on the work side and under did it on the academics side, and made the poor decision to leave school and work full-time, with the idea in mind that I would ultimately, once I had some money, go back to school and finish my degree.”

At the time, Baum didn’t realize that he would be starting a 40-year career with Pensol Company, as a shovel operator for the mining company. As a result, he could only take a limited number of credit hours at school, causing him to spend nine years getting his Bachelor’s degree, working full-time and going to school part-time.

Baum said, “During my career I was transferred to many different locations as promotional opportuni-

ties came up, and Butler was the next to last transfer that I had before I went to Houston. The decision to stay here was because my wife and our children were all born in the Pittsburgh area and I liked it. I had retired and I was enjoying it but had realized that I missed having some responsibility and a purpose for getting up everyday and I always thought I would enjoy teaching. My wife had suggested to me, ‘Why don’t you get yourself certified to teach and then you could substitute?’ and I told her ‘If you will, I will.’ and she did, so I did. So for several years, we have both been substituting, primarily at the Intermediate and Senior High School, and I love it.”

Baum’s favorite part about subbing is getting to

know all of the students, and because he subs at both schools, he is able to watch them go from the time they get out of elementary school until they graduate. This is satisfying for him because he gets to watch these students change and mature as individuals.

Baum said, “It is very rewarding to see the young men and women that walk out of this building at the end of their senior year. It’s difficult and emotional for me but it’s ultimately rewarding.”

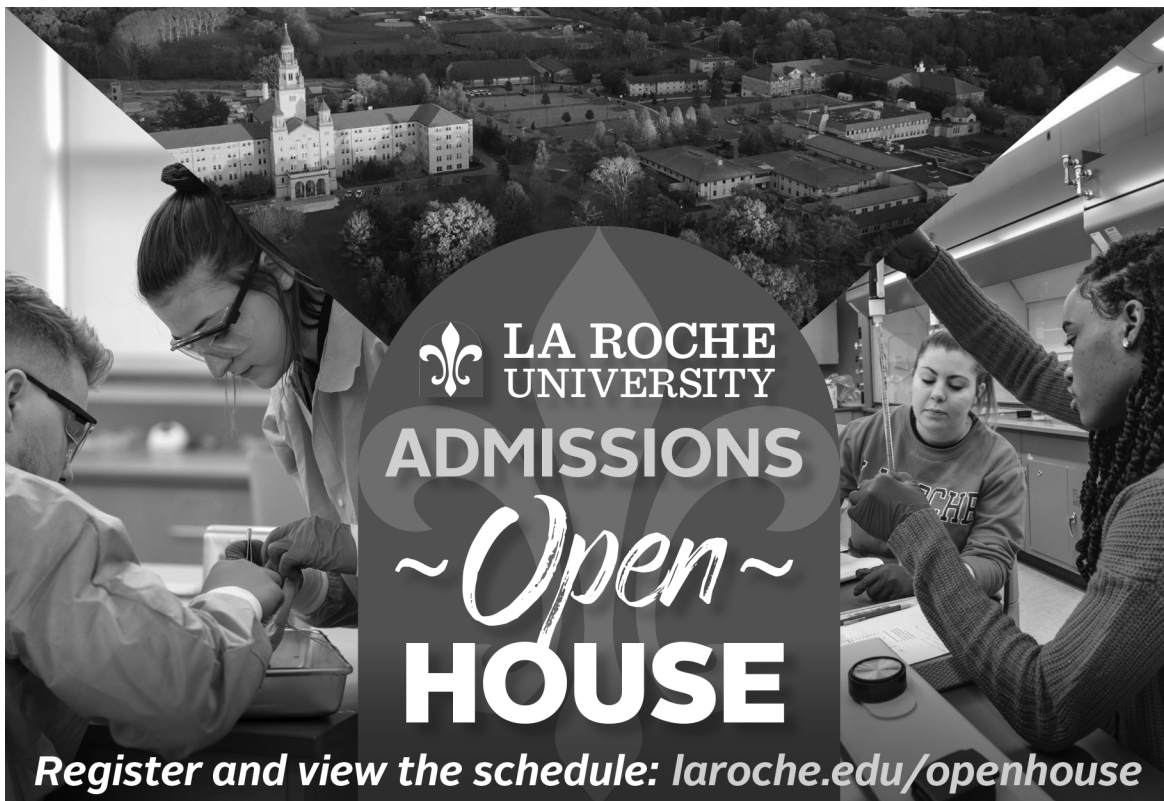
Baum has substituted for many classes, with the most recent being Economics for Mr. Roberto Esposto while he was on medical leave.

Senior Bethany Unik said, “[Having Mr. Baum as a substitute] was pretty chill, we had finished our AP Macroeconomics class,

we took the final a week early, so we didn’t do much, but one day we all played some kind of song quiz with him, and it was a ton of fun.”

*“So for several years, we have both been substituting, primarily at the Intermediate and Senior High School, and I love it.”*

**-Substitute teacher Mr. David Baum**



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