

The Bulldog Bark



Advisor: Ms. Dunham
Principal: Mr. Hauser

Your Middle School News Unleashed!

Fall 2023

Unlocking New Horizons

Exploring the INSPIRE and Brilliant Pathways in Our Fresh Schedule

By Lucas Fenstermaker

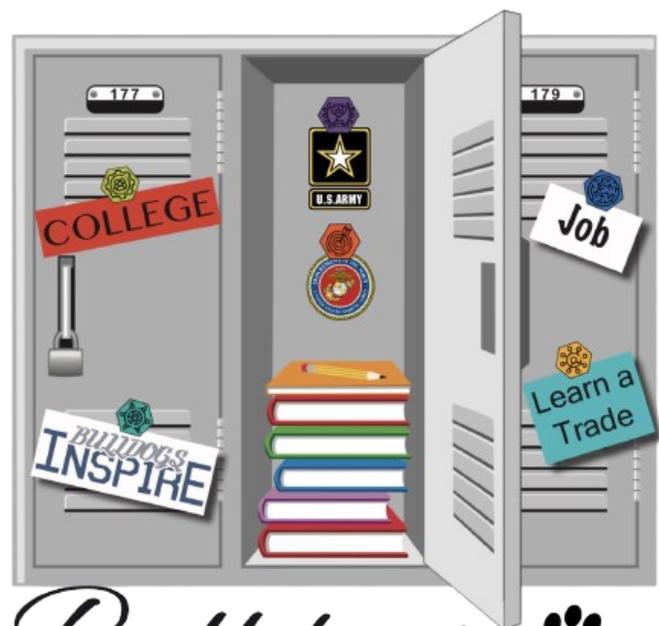
Team 7 Barker

A transformative schedule change has been the talk of the school recently, and we had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Hauser, our dedicated principal, to gain a deeper understanding of the driving forces behind this shift and its potential to reshape our educational experience. Changing a school's schedule is no small feat, and it's often accompanied by much anticipation and curiosity.

The questions around a schedule change are many. What benefits will it bring? How will it enhance the learning experience? What motivated the decision-makers to implement these changes? In this interview with Mr. Hauser, we aim to uncover the rationale behind the schedule alteration and gain insights into the potential it holds for our school.

Question 1 - What do you think of the new schedule?

Mr. Hauser's Response: "I like the new schedule because it is creating opportunities for students that weren't available before. Students can more easily get help, and we also have enrichment classes to introduce students to new things."



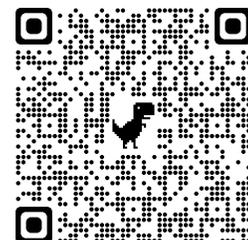
Bulldogs 
DETERMINED



BuzzFeed

**"WHICH
HOLIDAY ARE
YOU?"**

Click [here](#) to find out or scan the QR code!



Question 2 - Why did you change the schedule?

Mr. Hauser's Response: "The reason we changed the schedule is because we wanted to organize the school day in a way that would help students in their academics and support. In our old schedule, we started the day with a 40-minute free period, and that wasted too much time. Also, we wanted a schedule that would help us better teach the essential skills that make up the INSPIRE program."

Question 3 - What changes should be implemented in the new schedule?

Mr. Hauser's Response: "I think that's a very good question, and I would like to hear feedback from students, parents, and teachers about revising the schedule."

Question 4 - What do you like about the new schedule?

Mr. Hauser's Response: "I like that it's built around the needs of students. Our enrichment classes let students get any needed help or push themselves further in the INSPIRE, and Brilliant Pathways classes let us do more activities without taking away class time. And on our block days, I think it's nice to get a break from some classes as we take a deeper dive into others."

In this insightful interview with Mr. Hauser, we explore not only the changes to our school schedule but also the impact these changes can have on our educa-

tional journey. It's an exciting time for our school, and the possibilities that this new schedule holds are endless.



Seventh Grade Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		Day 4	Day 5
7:10	Bell to Enter (Student Breakfast 7:03 – 7:18)					
7:20 – 7:28	Homeroom					
7:31 – 8:22 51 Mins	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	7:31 – 8:46 75 mins	Period 1	Period 2
8:26 – 9:17 51 mins	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2		Period 3	Period 4
9:22 – 9:54 32 mins	Goal Team & Mentor Time	Goal Team & Mentor Time	Goal Team & Mentor Time	8:51 – 9:51 60 mins	Enrichment Day 4	Enrichment Day 5
9:59 – 10:50 51 mins	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	9:56 – 11:11 75 mins	Period 3	Period 4
10:54 – 11:24 30 mins	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
11:28 – 12:19 51 mins	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4	11:15 – 11:45	Lunch	Lunch
12:24 – 1:15 51 mins	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	11:50 – 12:50 60 mins	INSPIRE	Brilliant Pathways
1:19 – 2:10 51 mins	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	12:55 – 2:10 75 mins	Period 5	Period 6

Eighth Grade Schedule

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3		Day 4	Day 5
7:10	Bell to Enter (Student Breakfast 7:03 – 7:18)					
7:20 – 7:28	Homeroom					
7:31 – 8:22 51 Mins	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	7:31 – 8:46 75 mins	Period 1	Period 2
8:26 – 9:17 51 mins	Period 2	Period 2	Period 2		Period 3	Period 4
9:22 – 9:54 32 mins	Goal Team & Mentor Time	Goal Team & Mentor Time	Goal Team & Mentor Time	8:51 – 9:51 60 mins	Enrichment Day 4	Enrichment Day 5
9:59 – 10:50 51 mins	Period 3	Period 3	Period 3	9:56 – 11:11 75 mins	Period 3	Period 4
10:54 – 11:45 51 mins	Period 4	Period 4	Period 4		Lunch	Lunch
11:49 – 12:19 30 mins	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	11:15 – 11:45	Lunch	Lunch
12:24 – 1:15 51 mins	Period 5	Period 5	Period 5	11:50 – 12:50 60 mins	INSPIRE	Brilliant Pathways
1:19 – 2:10 51 mins	Period 6	Period 6	Period 6	12:55 – 2:10 75 mins	Period 5	Period 6

Student Opinion of the Schedule

By Emma Stein
Team 7 Barker

This academic year, students and teachers have had to adapt to a new schedule. We decided to gather opinions from various individuals to gain insight into how the changes have impacted them. Here's what some of our students had to say:

Do you think the new schedule is beneficial?

Norah Lipsky: "I feel they made the schedule a little bit more confusing than before."

Luci Nitz: "I guess, because it was confusing at first, but it was easy to get used to."

Autumn Ash: "No, I just think that it is a lot of classes."

Do you think the new schedule is stressful compared to past years?

Norah Lipsky: "Yes."

Luci Nitz: "I wouldn't say so."

Autumn Ash: "Yes."

Do you like the new schedule, or do you think that we should go back to the regular schedule?

Norah Lipsky: "I think it would be easier if we go back to the original schedule."

Luci Nitz: "I like the new

schedule."

Autumn Ash: "I like it."

Do you think it will be easy for the new 7th graders to adapt to the new schedule next year?

Norah Lipsky: "Yes."

Luci Nitz: "Maybe."

Autumn Ash: "Yes."

Do you think the combined lunch on days 4 and 5 is a good idea or do you think that it gets out of hand?

Norah Lipsky: "I think that it is both good and bad."

Luci Nitz: "I don't really like when the lunches are combined because it gets really loud."

Autumn Ash: "It gets out of hand because there are a lot more people."

Do you like the longer periods on days 4 and 5?

Norah Lipsky: "No."

Luci Nitz: "Yes because when you finish early, you can have some free time."

Autumn Ash: "No, it's more boring."

As we can see, opinions on the new schedule vary among our students. Some find it beneficial and adaptable, while others have reservations. The combined lunch periods seem to have their pros and cons, with noise levels being a concern for some. The longer periods on certain days receive mixed reviews, with some students appreciating the free time it offers and others finding it less engaging.

It's clear that this new schedule has generated a range of reactions and feelings among our school community. As the year progresses, students and teachers will continue to adapt, and we hope to see a smoother transition as everyone becomes more accustomed to the changes.





Behind The Clubs: Aavidum



By Ethan Binder

Team 8 Barker

You might have seen that we have a club for Aavidum, but you might ask yourself, "What is Aavidum?" Aavidum translates to "I've got your back." The Aavidum Club is a mental health awareness club that helps schools have a healthy mental health environment. Aavidum is a national organization and there are many school districts with Aavidum clubs. The Aavidum club in our school is run by Ms. Nightlinger. In Aavidum, students come up with spirit days and events that happen throughout the school year. For some students it is a safe place where they can express themselves. In the past, Northern Lehigh Middle School Aavidum has done spirit days for awareness, passed around positive messages, done activities with the IU students, and even went to a talk workshop. Aavidum is planning to do even more than they did last year. You may say, "All those

things sound fun, but what new things will be done this year?" To answer that question, Ms. Nightlinger said that the club will be attending Aavidum's Amplify conference at Lehigh University, and they will be holding "What If Week" to celebrate World Kindness Week, pass out Christmas cookies and hot chocolate to teachers and family members in the drop off line, work with some of the younger students

in Slatington and/or Peters, and much more. It doesn't matter if you or someone you know is or was struggling with mental health or not, Aavidum welcomes everyone, and you will be welcome in Aavidum. Everyone struggles with something, but no matter what, Aavidum will always have your back.



aavidum



I've got **your** back.

Unity Day Trip



Picture of Avery Kish from Unity Day at the Slatedale Park.



Marching Band Season for 2023-2024

By Ella Van Norman

Team 7 Barker

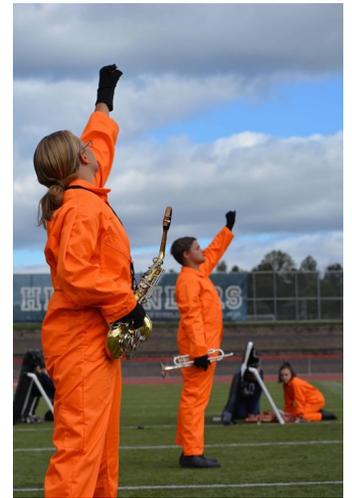
The Northern Lehigh Marching Band has a great season so far. They have had two competitions so far with their last one coming up. They won both of their competitions and are now Region 2 Champions. At their first competition, the bands that were there were: Arthur L Johnson High School, Roselle Park High School, Madison High School, Metuchen High School, Bergenfield High School, and Governor Livingston High School which was hosting the competition. In their group (Group 1-Open) they went against Roselle Park High school and got first place by 0.3 of a point and high visual. At their second competition that was hosted on their home field was Region 2 Championships. The bands there were: Wyoming Area High School, Panther Valley Junior/Senior High School, Mahanoy Area Junior/Senior High School, Williams Valley Junior/Senior High School, North Schuylkill High School, and Lake Lehman High School. In their group they went against Lake Lehman High School and got first place by 0.2 of a point. Lake Lehman is one of their biggest competitors and lost to them last year. Winning against them this year makes the Northern Lehigh Marching Band Region 2 Champions. Their last and final competition for their season is coming up on November 4th, at Hershey Park



Both photos are from the Region 2 Championships.

Stadium and will be going on the field at around 3:30 pm. This year's middle schoolers that are in the Marching Band are: Ethan Binder, Lily Bizek, Lucas Fenstermaker, Zoey Fried, Madison Korup, Logan McCartney, Darius Minnich, Noah Stettler, Ella

Van Norman, Logan Vas Dias, and Dartagnan White.



All photos are from Governor Livingston High School .

Cupcake Wars: Halloween Edition

By **Ethan Binder**

Team 8 Barker

Cupcake Wars is a competition that took place in 8th grade Family Consumer Science for Quarter 1. It is inspired by Cupcake Wars, a show of the same name. The Northern Lehigh Middle School Cupcake Wars is a competition where students decorate cupcakes in an artistic way and then the cupcakes are voted on and a winner is decided.

Our version of this has brought three different winners: the Period 1 winner, the Period 2 winner, and the Grand Champion. The Period 1 and 2 winners had the most votes in their respective classes. The Grand Champion was the most voted cupcake from both Period 1 and Period 2, but neither the Period 1 or Period 2 winner.

This competition took place during the first marking period and there will be more competitions during the rest of the school year for other marking periods. The winners for the First Marking Period Cup-

cake War are Period 1: Norah Lipsky, Period 2: Ethan Binder, and the Grand Champion: Alexia Heffelfinger.



BuzzFeed NEWS

By **Lucas Fenstermaker**

Team 7 Barker



**Jolly, Spooky, Thankful,
And New Beginnings**

Which holiday are you?

Click [here](#) to get to the BuzzFeed quiz.

In Attack of the Killer Man from the Sun

By Ethan Binder
Team 8 Barker

(He turns another page.)
Announcer: EARTH!
Announcer: But when the Earth is threatened by threats that are out of this world (cue laugh track) will people of the small town of Earth-

(turns page again)
Announcer: ATTACK OF THE KILLER MAN FROM THE SUN.

ACT ONE

SCENE ZERO

A blank stage, or so the script says you don't actually know. Usually you don't see this as the audience, but this time you do. This promo scene is a Prologue of the Prologue.

(This is a stage direction! Don't read me out loud, but what am I gonna do? I'm just a stage direction.)

Announcer: (offstage)

ATTACK

Announcer: (offstage) of the killer man from the sun

Announcer (offstage) The announcer walks from offstage to center stage.

(He does so.)

Announcer: The Announcer then sets up his stand and script.

(He does so)

Announcer: The Announcer begins his introduction of the story.

Announcer: Space! Where the stars and moons collide in fiery infernos and at the centermost of our personal chunk of space

(He turns a page.)

Announcer: THE SUN!

Announcer: The magnificent orb which gives us life on our own planet of



ville and others be able to save the world?

Susan: (from offstage) Don't you know that you were there?

Announcer: Of course I know that

SPOILER WARNING

Don't worry I covered them with this warning - Announcer

obviously I know all of that happened, it was a question for the audience to wonder.

Susan: (from offstage) Oh I forgot.

Announcer: The Announcer goes back to reading the script after being RUDELY interrupted.

Announcer: So come join us as we go on an ADVENTURE, BATTLE out of this world threats (cue laugh track again It doesn't matter that it is a reused joke), and BREAK THE FOURTH WALL come join us in

Announcer: (starts speaking in a voice similar to that of a disclaimer to a commercial) Shows are November 17, 18, and 19 Tickets are also 10 dollars.

(A Creature runs in and hands the announcer another page in the script)

Announcer: The announcer reads the new page to the script.

(He does so)

Announcer: We will also be taking toiletry dona-

tions for Caring Hearts.

Announcer: Bye and see you on stage.

Announcer: The announcer picks up his script and stand and the lights cut.

(He does and the lights do cut)

TO BE CONTINUED *In Attack of the Killer Man from the Sun...*

New Middle School Teachers for 2023-2024

By Ethan Binder

Team 7 Barker

In this exclusive interview with Mr. Haddad, a dedicated educator at Northern Lehigh, we delve into his experiences, interests, and what brought him to the field of teaching. Mr. Haddad is a versatile instructor, with a unique blend of History and Math in his teaching repertoire, covering subjects like US History, Old World Cultures, and Pre-Algebra.

Meet Your TEACHER



Mr. Haddad's Interview

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: My favorite subject was Gym.

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

A: Initially, it was the allure of summer vacations.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: This year marks my 5th year teaching.

Q: Have you taught in other school districts? If so, which district?

A: Yes, I spent four years teaching in East Stroudsburg.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: I find joy in coaching and spending quality time with my family.

Q: If you could have any job other than teaching, what would it be?

A: I would love to be a full-time coach.

Q: When you were in school, what job did you as-



pire to have?

A: I dreamt of becoming a professional athlete.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

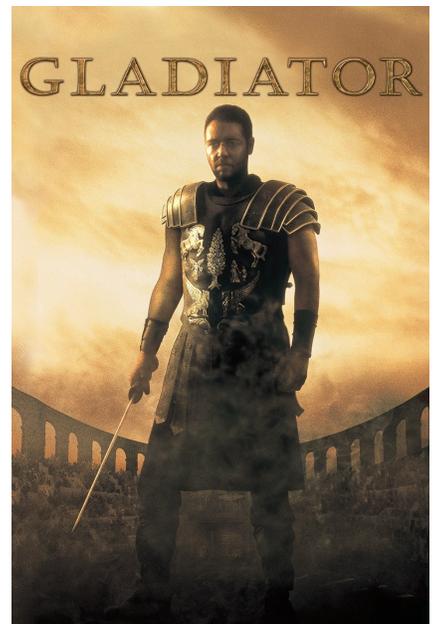
A: "Gladiator" is my all-time favorite.

Q: When you were in school, did you play any sports? If so, which ones?

A: Yes, I was actively involved in football and wrestling.

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: I pursued my higher education at the Univer-



sity of North Carolina and Kutztown University.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher growing up?

A: Mr. Brown, my Math teacher, left a lasting impression on me.

Q: Do you have any advice you'd like to share with your students and aspiring educators?

A: Remember, you can achieve anything you set your mind to.

Q: Do you still play any sports?

A: As of now, I'm primarily focused on coaching.

Q: Did you join any clubs when you were in school? If so, which ones?

A: Yes, I was a member of the Math24 club.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Northern Lehigh? A: Without a doubt, it's the kids that make teaching at Northern Lehigh such a rewarding experience.

Mr. Haddad's journey from being a sports enthusiast to a dedicated educator at Northern Lehigh is truly inspiring. His passion for teaching, coaching, and his commitment to motivating students is evident in his words of encouragement and the connections he forms with his students. We are fortunate to have him as part of our educational community, guiding the future generation with his wisdom and experiences.

Ms. Merkle's Interview



In our ongoing series to introduce you to the dedicated educators of Northern Lehigh, we bring you a glimpse into the world of Ms. Merkle, a dynamic science teacher specializing in Seventh-grade Life Science and Eighth-grade Earth and Space Science. This marks her inaugural year of teaching, and she couldn't be more thrilled to be here.

Q: What was your favorite subject in school?

A: Science has always captivated me.

Q: Why did you decide to become a teacher?

A: The idea of teaching allowed me to share my passions and knowledge with young learners.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: This academic year is my very first as an educator.

Q: Have you taught in other school districts? If so, which district?

A: During my academic journey, I had the opportunity to student teach at Brandywine Heights.

Q: What are some of your hobbies?

A: When I'm not in the classroom, you



See Teachers, Page 12

Teachers, from Page 11

can often find me unwinding by watching TV and enjoying quality time with friends.

Q: If you could have any job other than teaching, what would it be?

A: The thrill of exploring the cosmos as an astronaut would be a dream come true.

Q: When you were in school, what job did you aspire to have?

A: Even back then, I knew I wanted to be a teacher.

Q: What is your favorite movie?

A: "The Cat in the Hat" holds a special place in my heart.

Q: When you were in school, did you play any sports? If so, which ones?

A: I actively participated in soccer and also pursued track and field.

Q: Where did you go to college?

A: I am a proud graduate of Kutztown University.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher when you were in school?

A: Mrs. Bigley had a profound impact on me as a student.

Q: Do you have any advice you'd like to share with your students and aspiring educators?

A: Remember that anything is achievable if you work hard enough.

Q: What do you like (or dislike) about the subject you teach?

A: What I love about science is that it intersects with virtually every other subject, and it surrounds us in our daily lives.

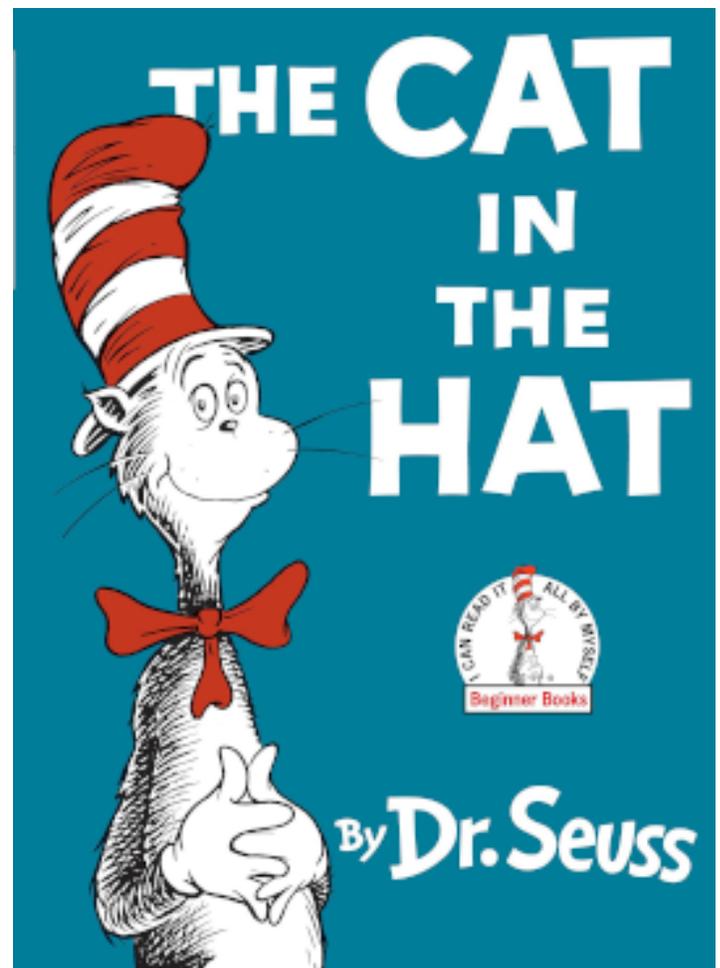
Q: Did you join any clubs when you were in school? If so, which clubs?

A: I was actively involved in the Student Council and the National Honor Society.

Q: What's your favorite thing about Northern Lehigh?

A: I appreciate the intimate, close-knit nature of our school and community here at Northern Lehigh.

Ms. Merkle's enthusiasm for teaching and her passion for science are sure to inspire and ignite curiosity in her students. As she embarks on her first year at Northern Lehigh, she's excited to share her knowledge and love for the subject, creating an engaging and enriching learning experience for her students.



Norah's Corner



Digital illustrations all designed by Norah Lipsky using Procreate.

doghouse fiction



The Basement

By Casey Farkas
Team 7 Barker

I've always been afraid of it. Always. Ever since I was little, last year, last month, last week, yesterday, today. The one place I never want to go, but still end up being at every day. Every time I look at it, I feel weak. It seems to just suck my soul out of my body. The dripping noises that are always present, haunting my headspace and resurfacing in my nightmares time and time again. The odor, inhuman. Whenever I am near it, the air seems to still. Besides the drip drip drip all I can hear is my heartbeat and every other sudden noise. I can only imagine what lurks inside the cold, dark, abyss. Everything about it petrifies me, leaving me in a paralyzed state. Every second of every day, I dread seeing it, being around it, hearing it. When I'm struggling to fall asleep at night, the only sound that fills my head are the voices. The raspy, threatening, scarily real voices. I've talked to my friends and family who both assured me the voices weren't real. But if they weren't real, then why do I hear them time and time again? Why are they the only thing echoing throughout my brain? The voices beckon

me, asking me to go downstairs. I listen to them say, "Come downstairs. We won't hurt you, just come downstairs. We can have so much fun if you just come downstairs." I blast my



music, eagerly attempting to block out all the troublesomeness filling my head. But, the voices only get louder the more I try to block them out. They intrude into my brain and disrupt every thought. I use every ounce of strength in my body to ignore them, but the temptations are too much. They are too convincing. I regret it every morning as I awake, but in the moment, all I want is to go downstairs.

The voices continue their chant as I make my way downward. And then I see it. Immediately, I want to turn around and go back upstairs, just like every other time. But today, something is different. I hadn't realized this before, but there is a blinding

light in the corner of the blackness. I walk towards it, entranced. When I get close, I can hear the slimy, writhing skin of a creature as it moves in elaborate ways. I hear heaving breathing, though I'm not sure whether it's me or whatever is trapped in the darkness. I walk a few paces forward, and can sense something staring at me. I can feel the stare on my body as if it's a physical thing. I walk farther into the dark room and the heavy breathing increases. I walk to the center as a putrid smell nearly knocks me off my feet. I can feel the moistness in the air enveloping me. My senses are fully active, waiting for something, anything. As I reach through the darkness for the light, I find the string and tighten my grip around it. I begin to pull it when an arm, slimy and terrifying, wraps its fingers around my cold flesh. My heart stops beating as I freeze. For a second, all I see is a grin from ear to ear with a million razor-sharp teeth sticking out and eyes that stare deep into mine before I'm pulled into the formidable darkness.

doghouse fiction



The Adventures of Aria and Felix #1

“HALLOWEEN MIX UP”

By Luci Nitz
Team 7 Barker

Felix was excited for tonight. ‘Why’ one might ask? Well, tonight’s Halloween! It just happens to be his favorite holiday, and this year, he had a great costume idea with his best friend, Aria. They met up last week to get everything planned out; the designs, the materials, and the extra details that bring the costumes together. Felix went to his closet and got his costume together; a witches outfit with a hat, cloak, and a broom. He added other details and a bit of makeup, grabbed his pumpkin bucket for candy, and went on his way to his and Aria’s meetup spot.

When he got there, Felix waited for a bit until he saw Aria run up to him! They greeted each other, but a question popped up that both of them asked; “Why are you the witch?” Felix just tilted his head in confusion. “I thought you were gonna be the cat,” he stated, seeing Aria also in a witch costume. “Well, I thought you were gonna be the cat because of your name,” Aria said, adjusting her hat. Felix shrugged. “That can be for next year,” he said.

“So, what’s our costume now?” his friend asked. Felix gave a smile. “How about... the Twin Witches?” he suggested, doing a theatrical pose. Aria laughed. “Yeah, that sounds good. The Twin Witches!” she shouted, joining Felix with a pose of her own. The two laughed and went on their way for trick-or-treating, already talking about next year’s costumes.





Six Student Council members, Landon Eck, Malia Hyman, Ryleigh Bellesfield, Rylee Scholl, Audriana Wertman, and Charles Frystack (left to right), attended a Leadership and Ethics Conference at DeSales University on Tuesday 10/24 with Mrs. Bariana and Mrs. Bailey.



Mrs. Jones started a new Volleyball Intra-mural and it's wildly popular. 27 in our building alone!, and 18 are former middle school students who are in ninth



Letter from the Advisor

Hope you had a great start to school year. You're off to a fresh start now that we are on Marking Period 2! I hope this letter finds you well and brimming with excitement for the upcoming school year. There are so many new changes and thrilling developments happening at Northern Lehigh Middle School.



First and foremost, I want to talk about the significant changes to our school schedule. You've probably noticed that our daily routine looks a bit different this year. These changes were made with you, the students, in mind. Our school's goal is to ensure that your academic experience is as enriching and supportive as possible. This schedule is reimagined to maximize your learning potential and offer more opportunities for growth.

Now, I'm thrilled to introduce our brand-new *Bulldog Bark* Staff (although not everyone has been able to write just yet—stay tuned!) *The Bulldog Bark* is your platform to voice your thoughts, concerns, and ideas. It's here to represent each and every one of you at Northern Lehigh, and it's more important than ever. As the student body, we are a diverse group with a wide range of opinions and talents, and the Bulldog Bark is the perfect place to showcase our unique voices.

John Alorin, Tyler Adeer, Abigail Bernard, Ethan Binder, Bella Barone, Casey Farkas, Lucas Fenstermaker, De'ja Gold, Nathaniel Harvey, Reese Mankos, Luci (Patience) Nitz, Harlow Pesesko, Emma Stein, Savannah Thompson, Autumn Ash, Ella Van Norman

But, here's the exciting part: *The Bulldog Bark* is on the lookout for more Barkers to join our pack! Even if you only have time to contribute to one issue, your input is invaluable. *The Bulldog Bark* aims to be a reflection of our school community, so your perspective matters. If you have article ideas or you're interested in becoming a writer, please don't hesitate to reach out. You can find me in the middle school library or send an email to bdunham@nlsd.org.

Additionally, if you're a talented artist, we would love to showcase your artwork. We have plenty of space to highlight your skills and add a creative touch to our paper. Your artistic contributions will add a new dimension to our publication and help make the Bulldog Bark truly representative of our school's diverse talents.

So, as we embark on this journey filled with changes and exciting opportunities, I encourage each one of you to seize the chance to make your voice heard through the Bulldog Bark. Let's make this school year one to remember, full of insightful articles, beautiful artwork, and, most importantly, your perspectives.

-Ms. Dunham