
FALL 2024

THE TORNADO CONNECTION

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN



The IHS cheer squad poses on stage at the fall pep assembly.

Music Ensembles Rehearse for Winter Concerts

BY GRACE BEHRENS, EDITOR

Students involved in orchestra, band, and chorus have been preparing for their winter concerts for the last few months. Each ensemble will perform at the IHS during the month of December, and they look forward to sharing their talents with the community. Audiences can enjoy concerts December 3, 10, 12, and 18 in the Intermediate High School auditorium.

The orchestra students already hosted their Spooktacular concert in October, and they quickly transitioned to holiday music to take the stage again on December 12 at 7 p.m. The sixth grade, seventh grade, eighth grade, high school, and rock orchestras will play that evening.

Mrs. Black directs all of the orchestras and started playing the violin herself in first grade. She did not know what she wanted to do after college, but she loved violin and being around kids so she decided to be an orchestra teacher. Because she teaches students grades 6-12, she is able to enjoy their growth through the years. Mrs. Black said, "In orchestra, you get so many opportunities and you make such good friends because you will be with those people every day through six years."

Mrs. Black selects her music by what is popular to the crowd and what challenges her students. She also said she does a heavy classical music selection for the winter concert. According to Mrs. Black, the strength of her orchestra classes is their motivation because they work up to having lots of music per concert. She also thinks their weakness is that they

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need to practice more at home. She said, "You don't just go home and practice math for five minutes. You go and finish your whole page of math. That is what you should do to practice your instrument and not just time yourself. You should work on it a little more."

The band has also been working diligently to polish music for their first concert on December 3 at 7 p.m., when the sixth, seventh and eighth grade bands take the stage in the IHS auditorium. Mr. Karenbauer said he found that he really enjoys teaching students what they love to do because he loves it just as much. Mr. Karenbauer said, "I love seeing how the students grow throughout their music career in school." He said he enjoys seeing the students smile while doing what they love to do.

Mr. Karenbauer has taught all ensembles except for high school orchestra. He said he chooses his music based on his students' skill levels and the concepts they are learning. He also makes sure he doesn't use music from the past four years just in case siblings had him and to keep it mixed and fun. He tells his students it's best to practice the music right after they learned it so they can apply what they learned in class while it is still fresh in their minds. Mr. Karenbauer said his students' strengths and weaknesses are that they are very good at practicing at home but are very social in class. According to Mr. Karenbauer, if you are on the edge about joining band, just give it a try. "What do you have to lose?" he said.

The sixth grade chorus had their first performance during the Veterans Day assembly on November 8 for students and veterans. Their Christmas concert is December 18 at 6 p.m. in the auditorium.

Mrs. Erevia knew she wanted to teach chorus and music because she has always loved to sing. There are 200 students in the sixth grade chorus, and their biggest strength is they have high energy and sound great vocally, but their biggest weakness is there are so many that it's hard to get everyone on the same page sometimes. "It is awesome that there are so many students that share the same passion for singing!" she said.

Mrs. Erevia only teaches sixth grade chorus so she loves to see them grow individually and together. Mrs. Erevia has never wanted to teach another ensemble because she has always loved to sing. According to Mrs. Erevia, "We are so fortunate in Butler to have great teachers for every ensemble that do amazing work." The sixth grade chorus participates in one PMEA festival every year, and approximately 20 students are selected to attend.

Mrs. Erevia selects her music by incorporating a variety of genres, including at least one foreign language song each year. She also does a student selection in the spring where the students choose a song. Her advice to her students is to, "Never sing louder than lovely." According to Mrs. Erevia, being a part of an ensemble is a very valuable experience. "You create something bigger than you. It is an end result that you couldn't create alone." Her advice if you are on the edge about joining a chorus is to just join! "You can do hard things, and you will never know if you will like it!" she said.

The seventh and eighth grade winter chorus concert is on December 10 at 6 p.m. Mrs. Tepper said she wanted to teach her ensemble because she is a vocal performer and cherishes teaching students how to sing. "I love seeing all different music levels come and sing together," she commented. She said her class is very energetic, creative, and diverse. Her favorite thing about teaching her ensemble is seeing her students be creative and have fun with music while improving.

Mrs. Tepper said she would never want to teach any other ensemble because her true passion is musical theater and singing. She also said she chooses her music based on what the crowd likes and what is musically challenging for the students. She said her class's biggest strength is all striving to be better musicians, and their weakness is that they are very social and distracted by their peers. According to Mrs. Tepper, students learn responsibility, team work, and discipline by being involved in an ensemble.

Her best advice to students about practicing is: "Do not overuse your voice and do proper warm ups so you do not damage your voice." She said it's good to drink a lot of water and tea because it is good for your voice. If you are on the edge about joining the chorus, Mrs. Tepper thinks you should just go for it! "Absolutely join even if you are worried that you are not a good singer. It's fun, and you will learn so much! If you go to one of their concerts, it's amazing to see the final results," she said.

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New Teachers Join IHS Family

BY RAELEIGH NIEMEYER AND MEREDITH RICE

At Butler Intermediate High School, we have many new Teachers and new long term substitutes. Some of the new teachers are Mr. Clark Fraser, Mr. Jacob Jewart, and Mrs. Hannah Stregari. Some of the long term subs are Mrs. Megan Nelson and Mrs. Victoria Lydon. These are just a few of our new staff here at Butler Intermediate.

Mr. Fraser is a new seventh grade math teacher. This is his first experience teaching his own class. Mr. Fraser went to Knoch High School and lives in that area, and he loves the community. According to Mr. Fraser, applying to teach at Butler just made sense. "Butler is close to home, and I heard it was a great school to work at," he said. Mr. Fraser said that when growing up he was very talented at math and grew to love it, which inspired him to teach math.



He prefers to have his students work in small groups when he can because he tries to build relationships with his students, instead of just lecturing them. One of his teaching styles is that he completes lesson checks to make sure every student is getting exactly what they need. "I think back to when I was a student, and I want to make my teachers proud by doing my best every day," he said.

Mr. Fraser is grateful that he has Mrs. Laska as a mentor teacher to help him along the way, as he learned the curriculum and the programs in Butler. Mr. Fraser is a big fan of golfing, football, and skiing. He said, "I hope to be a coach for football in the near future."

Mr. Jewart is another new teacher in the science department. Last year, he was a long term sub for Mrs. Schwartz's science and forensic classes. So far this year, he has been loving teaching, and it's exactly what he wanted. Mr. Jewart's teaching style is to let the students have their freedom but be strict about getting their work done.



According to Mr. Jewart, "I was a quiet student, but I had these two teachers that got me to loosen up. I appreciate those teachers very much, and I hope to be that teacher for kids like myself." He added, "My class should be a place where kids learn, but also one of the best parts of the day. They shouldn't dread coming to my class."

Mr. Jewart's introverted nature was a challenge for him in student teaching, but he quickly became more comfortable being himself in front of a room of people. Some fun facts about him is that he can actually juggle! He said right now he is trying to learn how to do a walking handstand. If he could go anywhere in the whole world, he said, "I would probably go to Hawaii. One because there are beaches, and two because there are lots of areas to hike." He even talked about how fun it would be to learn how to surf some day.

Mrs. Hannah Stregari is one of our new teachers in the special education department at the IHS. This is her second year here working with kids. So far, she is absolutely loving teaching here. Some of her favorite parts about having this type of teaching career is that she can spend quality time getting to know these kids and some of their strengths and weaknesses. Mrs. Stregari said, "A lot of times these kids have such great personalities that people don't get an opportunity to see unless you give them a chance." She thinks it's very special that she gets to have a connection with them. When her students look back on their time in her class, she hopes they think of how caring and supportive she was towards them.



Mrs. Strengari never thought she would be in this career but ended up trying it out and absolutely loving it. A fun fact about her is that she has double jointed fingers, and her dream vacation would be somewhere in Greece or somewhere warm.

Mrs. Megan Nelson is a long-term substitute teacher in sixth grade teaching ELA. Before coming to Butler, she was a teacher at an elementary school. According to Mrs. Nelson, "I wasn't sure what to expect coming to middle school after teaching elementary, but I'm finding that I like it better!" In her class, she likes to have more group activities where they can discuss things, but she tries to balance them out by also incorporating independent work sometimes. Mrs. Nelson said, "I love being with the students and seeing them learn. I also get to know I am the one who helped them grow throughout the year." That's just one reason out of many why she loves teaching.

Mrs. Nelson was inspired to become a teacher because her father was an educator for 35 years. She wanted to follow in his footsteps. A fun fact about her is that she used to be a cheerleader and can do backflips and other cool tricks. She loves the beach, and when she goes on vacation, she would usually choose the beach and somewhere warm.

Ms. Victoria Lydon is a seventh grade history long term substitute here at the Intermediate High School. Like Mr. Fraser, this is Ms. Lydon's first teaching job. She will be subbing here until around Thanksgiving. She completed her student teaching last year with Mr. Cochran and just graduated from Slippery Rock University. She is hoping to have a full time teaching job next year.

Her advice for other teachers who are just starting out like her is: "Accept every new opportunity that comes your way because you might end up loving the experience!" She added, "Rely on other teachers for help when you need it."

These are only a few of our great, new teachers and long-term substitute teachers. We are so happy to have you here at Butler Intermediate High School!



ESP Classes Inspire Future Careers

BY BRIELLE HOLT AND OLIVIA CALVIN

During fourth period, students in the Enrichments Studies Program take part in a variety of courses designed to expose them to different interests and possible career paths. Three of those courses are Intro to Fashion, Forensics, and Mock Trial.

Seventh and eighth grade students qualify for ESP based on their grades from the first three quarters of the previous school year. Invitations for registration are sent out to the top of each class, and the program usually includes more than 200 students.

Mrs. Walker, an eighth grade Family Consumer Sciences teacher, teaches the Intro to Fashion course, which she designed herself. According to Mrs. Walker, "I wanted to teach an ESP class because I like to expose students to new skills that could potentially lead to future career options."

In this ESP class, the students create halloween designs, newspaper dresses, and embroidery. Mrs. Walker feels that the ESP course is important to the school because, in addition to opening their eyes to potential career options, it gives students opportunities to be creative. The hardest part about Mrs. Walker's ESP class is teaching new skills that have never been learned. "Some struggle with hand sewing," she said. Once their final products are created, she makes sure to proudly display them around school and on the district's social media. "I love to brag about the great things these students can do!" she said.



Mallie Clement is a seventh grade student in Intro To Fashion. "The reason I was interested in doing this ESP class is because I want to design things when I'm older," she said. Mallie thinks the hardest part about this class is sewing, claiming, "It is a lot harder than it looks!" According to Mallie, assignments are easy because if students ever need help, they can collaborate with the other students any time they get stuck. Mallie's favorite part of the class is when they did the real life dresses. She said, "They were fun because it took time, and you had to focus. Plus, it was a fun way to express my creativity."

Ms. Cahall is a seventh grade science teacher who teaches ESP Forensics during fourth period. This is Ms. Cahall's first year of teaching at Butler, so it is her first year being a part of Butler's unique ESP program as well. "Forensics is cool, and it's not part of the science curriculum," she said. Ms. Cahall thinks that her class is fun and easy because students never have homework, and they are graded on effort. "Students who may possibly want to do something with this in the future can get a fun taste of what forensics is like," she said. Her class allows students to look at science as a natural career path.

Hollee Green is a seventh grade student in Forensics who wants to be a detective when she is older. Hollee finds murder mysteries cool because "it always keeps you guessing." Hollee loves this ESP class because the "teacher makes it fun and never gives up on you."

Mr. Kasperek, an exploratory language and Latin teacher, leads the Mock Trial ESP class. This is Mr. Kasperek's third year teaching ESP. "I wanted to start teaching this ESP class because it is a valuable skill that students can use for the rest of their lives," he said. Students who take his class should be motivated to improve their public speaking abilities. "It is a great course for anyone interested in becoming a lawyer or for those interested in acting," he added. Grades in this ESP are mostly made from progress, presentation, and speaking. According to Mr. Kasperek, Mock Trial requires a lot of high-level thinking, so, if students who don't come with the right mindset struggle, but students who buy in carry the skill on to their adult lives.

Carly Cygan is a seventh grader in Mock Trial. Carly took this ESP course because she wants to be a lawyer when she is older. Her favorite part about this is when they get to do partner work. "If you focus in Mock Trial, you will not have a problem," she advised.

Contact one of the ESP coordinators, Mrs. McCall and Mrs. Sankey, to find out more about ESP!

Popular Clubs Keep Students Involved

BY LIAM FEDIAZKO AND TYLER HAGAMAN, EDITOR

Many great clubs reside at the Intermediate High School, two of those being Fight of the Films and Best Buddies. Fight of the Films is sponsored by Mr. Rock, while Best Buddies is sponsored by Mrs. Rekich.

Fight of the Films, founded by Jude Perhacs and Tyler Hagaman, is a newer club as it is running for its second year. The club is based on the idea of trivia. Every month the members meet to complete a Kahoot on a movie that was previously voted on by the club members. Whoever does the best on the Kahoot wins a trophy and candy.

Co-founder Jude Perhacs said his mission for the club is to try to continue growing it throughout the year to reach as many kids as possible because in his words the club is, “a way to bring students together to give them a break from school and to just have a good time.” He chose to create a club to try to let as many students experience something that he is passionate about. A typical meeting for the club includes a five minute review of the movie, competing in a Kahoot, awarding the trophy and candy to the first place finisher, then completing a survey to determine what movie will be watched next.

Jude thinks that the reason it was so successful in the first year was because of how much work the founders and sponsor put in to try to make the club as good as it can be, along with amazing participation from the members. The only real thing he wants to try to improve this year is trying to keep the club meetings a little more organized and controlled but still keeping the same energy and fun as last year. Jude gives a lot of praise to Mr. Rock, saying that he has influenced how the club is run, and how the founders bring energy to the meetings saying, “Mr. Rock is a fantastic teacher. Tyler and I try to bring similar energy to our club that he does to his class because his class made me feel energized and excited.”

Jude hopes the first meeting will be in November or December, but until then if you’d like to sign up, do so and see if you have what it takes to take home the trophy!

Best Buddies is another club at the Intermediate High School where you can explore new possibilities, make new friends and hangout with some pretty cool people. Best Buddies, which is sponsored by Mrs. Rekich, is a very popular club at the Intermediate High School which meets on the last Wednesday of every month. At each meeting, students participate in different activities with friends.

Mrs. Rekich said this club was founded, and continues to keep growing to the size of almost 240 kids, because of all the positivity the club promotes. She believes the club is so successful because of how much fun the students have at the meetings and how much they enjoy meeting new people and hanging out with kids they normally can’t hangout with. The “friend groups” usually consist of 8-12 students, mixing up gender and grade level to make sure you meet a lot of new people.

Many people don’t realize the amount of work it takes to maintain clubs. Mrs. Rekich puts in so much work to make sure everyone in her club can have the best time possible. Mrs. Rekich said, “The work is very overwhelming and hard, but it’s worth it to see the smiles on everyone’s faces during the meetings.” She often has previous members help her with planning the activities to try to make the activity as fun as possible.

Mrs. Rekich started Best Buddies in 2018 at the former middle school, and it has continued to grow and improve ever since. The club’s success is due to the students, the positive energy, and hard work. Mrs. Rekich said, “The students are what make this club possible. Without them, it wouldn’t be the same.” If you’re looking for a way to make new friends, eat some tasty snacks, and just have a great time, check out Best Buddies.



New Bus Company To Provide Transportation

BY BRYAN KENYON

As many of you know, the bus company for Butler Area School District is changing to a different company, A.J. Myers and Sons, next school year. The decision was well-researched and comes with some changes and improvements. According to Dr. White, "The contract with Valley Lines is running out." As one of his countless duties as superintendent at Butler, Dr. White evaluates the contracts with outside companies every year to make sure that the district is making smart financial decisions. The contract with Valley Lines ends this year, so switching for next year was in the best interest for the school district.



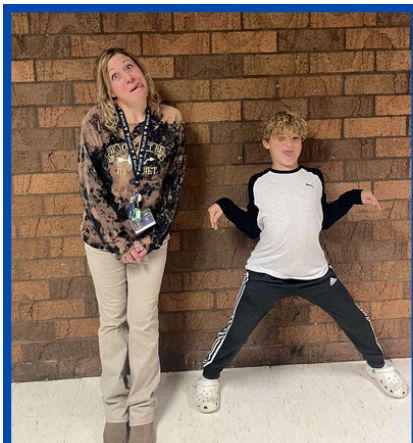
Instead of Valley Lines, the company we are switching to will be A.J. Myers and Sons. In the company's proposal, they have promised to buy new buses for the district, raise salaries for the drivers, and per Dr. White and Ms. Bonzo, the transportation director, provide a few valuable upgrades. "The new buses will have GPS units that can connect to parent phones via an app to let them know when their children will get home and where they are," Ms. Bonzo said.

Qualifications for bus drivers will continue to follow the strict guidelines of Pennsylvania. All drivers must have the "S Stamp" which clarifies that they are cleared to drive a school bus. Drivers must also have the same security clearances as teachers do in schools. The bus company will hire new and veteran drivers who have experience doing the bus routes this year. Many tenured and dedicated district drivers will be hired by the new company to continue their work.

According to Dr. White, the buses will hold quite a few students. "Some of the buses will have 78 passengers while other buses have 87, so that means, depending on the bus size, there may be three kids per seat; however, many passengers will fit on the bus," he said.

The routes for the buses will be, according to Dr. White, "as efficient, safe, and similar to current routes as possible." The plan to cut down time for transportation to and from school is to employ additional drivers so that the ride times will become shorter. The process for assigning routes will depend on which school your child attends and where you live. The route goes through a system where someone who knows the area surveys the routes and adjusts the routes as needed for it to be the safest and most efficient route possible.

Another possible concern with a new bus company is their impact on school cancellations and delays. The process of determining a school cancellation or delay due to weather is that transportation checks the roads, reports to Dr. White, and then they check to make sure they can start the buses. If they can't because the roads are bad, they cancel or delay school. With the bus company changes the dismissal times will not change at all. "We assume this will be a seamless and positive change for students and families," Dr. White stated.



Teachers of the Edition

BY ADA COUSINS, EDITOR

One student in each grade was randomly selected to share which teacher they felt should be honored as the Teacher of the Edition. Congratulations to Ms. Cirelli, Mr. Rock, and Mr. McKinley!

Ms. Cirelli, a sixth grade English and history teacher, was chosen by Micah Binus. Micah chose Ms. Cirelli because they have a lot of fun in class while still learning. Micah said, "Ms. Cirelli is kind, and her class is chill." Ms. Cirelli said she thinks Micah chose her because she forgives him when he makes mistakes, and she asks about his weekend and his soccer games.

Ms. Cirelli loves history, and she loves to read a lot so that's why she teaches English and history. She chose to teach because her mom and her pap were both teachers. She said, "Growing up, I knew that that's what I wanted to do. I really never wanted to be anything else." Prior to teaching, Ms. Cirelli was a manager at Burger King, a waitress, and a cashier. She taught kindergarten, first, second, and now sixth grade. Other than English and history, she taught sixth grade science too. In school, her favorite subject was math.

Outside of school, Ms. Cirelli assists with the drama club musical, and she does lots of crafting. According to Ms. Cirelli, her students will likely remember her for saying, "Shushy your tushy," and, "Don't touch my pens." She loves to hear, "Thank you , Ms. Cirelli."

Mr. Rock was chosen to be one of the teachers of the edition by Coby Christy. Coby chose Mr. Rock because he has lots of energy, he teaches in a unique way, and he makes topics more interesting. Coby said, "Mr. Rock's class is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you're going to get."

Mr. Rock has been teaching history for 19 years, and he was ecstatic about being chosen as teacher of the edition. He chose to teach history because he had terrible experiences in his former history classes when he was young. "I try to teach in an energetic way because the textbook is boring, and I like to stay active," he said. He was inspired to teach because his mom taught, and seeing how much she enjoyed it made him want to also teach.



Before teaching at the Intermediate High School, Mr. Rock taught at Summit Academy and BC3. Other than teaching, Mr. Rock was a security officer at the bowling alley. In school, Mr. Rock's favorite subject in school was science because he had hands-on experiences, which made learning easier and more interesting.

Outside of school, Mr. Rock coaches his kids in everything, and he says he is never home because of it. One thing he says that his students will remember is "Manifest Destiny." Mr. Rock's favorite thing that his students say is "skibidi toilet, sus, bussin', sigma, rizz. Pookie, bogg, alpha, and beta."

Mr. McKinley was chosen by Olivia Bush to be one of the teachers of the edition. Olivia had Mr. McKinley when she was in sixth grade for math and loves to come visit him any chance she gets. She chose Mr. McKinley because "he's generous, gives candy, and is always helpful." She said, "He's very real and easy to talk to." Mr. McKinley's favorite memory with Olivia is when she taught him how to get sturdy.



He said he was honored to have been chosen. Before teaching, Mr. McKinley had done lots of other things; for instance, he was a caddie at the Oakmont Country Club, he made pizzas and hoagies, was a formal waiter at a retirement home, worked in landscape and maintenance, was a waiter at Chili's and at a microbrew, painted houses, did asphalt driveways, sold christmas trees, and for one day was a telemarketer. While Mr. McKinley was in school, his favorite subject was English. Before teaching math, he taught social studies and English and then decided that math was the next step because "it's challenging and interesting." Mr. McKinley chose to be a teacher because his dad was a teacher, he liked his father's lifestyle, and teaching made sense to him.

Outside of school, he coaches the boys' volleyball team, and he's a father of two children. His students will remember him for saying: "Sometimes the questions are complicated, and answers are simple." His favorite quote that his students say is, "I understand now."



Gifted Students Compete in Games

BY BRYCE SCHREFFLER, EDITOR

Academic games are played by gifted students across America. Each game ties in with school subjects such as math, ELA, and history. Butler's gifted students have a long-standing tradition of performing well at local, state, and even national levels. The IHS gifted teachers, Mrs. Sankey and Mrs. McCall, sponsor participation in these games for interested gifted students at the IHS each school year.

Mrs. Sankey has been the gifted coordinator for three years. According to Mrs. Sankey, "I like to see the critical thinking that the students use to win and confuse their opponents." Although she loves all of the academic games, her favorites are Onsets and Equations. "I enjoy the strategy students use in these games in particular. Onsets is just my type of thinking," she said.

Mrs. McCall, a sixth grade math teacher, is in her first year of serving as a gifted coordinator at the BIHS. "I am very excited to learn how to play the academic games and work with our gifted students. I look forward to witnessing their growth and hard work," she said. Mrs. McCall thinks her favorite academic game is going to end up being Linguishtiks because this game is based around grammar, vocabulary, and spelling. "I'm good with words, and I will enjoy seeing the strategies that the kids use to try to win," she said.

While being a gifted coordinator, she is expecting the students to push themselves as much as they can so they can exceed her expectations. She plans to search for new ways to enrich her students, by engaging them in fun and challenging activities. For example, she is doing a national podcast competition with her sixth grade gifted students. "This activity will be very fun, but also help them work hard and push their brains to do the most they can," she said. She thinks she will be able to teach the academic games after learning it for the first time, and she is enjoying the time learning from the students' expertise.

The tournaments that the gifted students play start off at Slippery Rock University, where gifted students take part in the local level competition. The next tournament that is played is Tri-Bowl, where everyone who has earned three "shakes" can qualify. A shake represents a win in a singular academic game or being on a first place team one time. Only about 15-20% of students in Pennsylvania qualify for Tri-Bowl.

The most competitive tournament and the last tournament is Nationals, where everybody in America comes to a certain state in America to compete against each other. This tournament has very few qualifying competitors. Scholars can qualify for Nationals by either winning three shakes in two different academic games, competing on a first place team in two different academic games, qualifying to Tri-Bowl and winning three shakes or being on a first place team at the Tri-Bowl tournament, or being on a first place team in one academic game and winning three shakes in another academic game. Paige Schandelmeier and Lucas Szul were two qualifiers for the Nationals tournament last year.

Paige Schandelmeier has been practicing academic games for four years. She enjoys every bit of it and is always excited to get better and better each year. She said, "In fourth grade when I started playing academic games, I never expected to qualify for Nationals, but I practiced and practiced, and I did!" Although she enjoys all of the academic games, her personal favorite is Linguishtiks because not only is there a lot of strategy to this game and good competition, but she is also good with spelling, vocabulary, and grammar. This game also comes easier to her and makes more sense than the rest of the games.

When she went to Atlanta, Georgia for the national tournament, she said the competition was very difficult, but she was prepared for good competition. She said, "I studied strategy for all of the academic games and practiced everyday, and although I had good competition, I was very proud of myself for qualifying and for doing good in some of the games." When she had time in Atlanta where she wasn't playing academic games, she went to tourist attractions, she rode scooters around the city, and ate in fancy restaurants. "It was a great experience, and I hope to qualify again this year," Paige said.

Lucas Szul was the other qualifier for Nationals. He has been competing in academic games for four years, and hopes to get better each year as they come by. He has been practicing the academic games for six years, and has never lost interest. He really likes the academic games because they are both very challenging and fun. He enjoys seeing other strategies that are used, and learns from them so he can get better. He said, "I am very happy that I have the opportunity to play the academic games, even when I don't do very well because the strategy is so interesting to me."

Good luck to all of our academic games competitors this school year!

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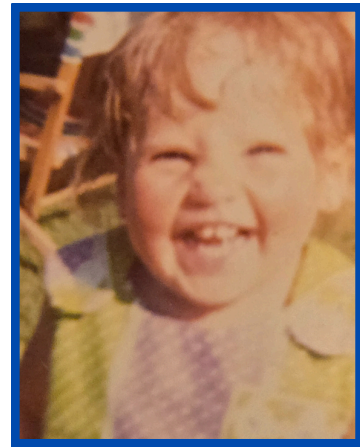
THE TORNADO CONNECTION

STUDENT SECTION

Who Am I?: Sixth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY KAYLEE WIGTON

This sixth grade mystery teacher went to Slippery Rock and earned her master's degree at Westminster. She became a teacher to "inspire students to know they are important." If she could teach another subject she would teach history again. Her favorite part of the day is teaching because she gets to be with her students all day. Something that annoys her is when people are disrespectful.



She has one daughter who is 22 years old. She has three cats and two dogs. Her favorite food is hamburgers, and foods that make her want to gag are beats and sardines. In five years she sees herself retired, and living by the river while hopefully watching grandchildren. Something she likes to do in her free time is fishing, water skiing, and playing with her dogs.

A Christmas Story and *Elf* are some of her favorite movies. If she could live in any time period she would live in the middle ages. The craziest thing that has ever happened to her was when it was raining and she and her husband went to a restaurant. "I went in to make a reservation, but when I came out, I got into the wrong car and was talking but didn't realize until about five minutes after that I got into the wrong car!" she explained.



Who Am I?: Seventh Grade Mystery Teacher

BY KAYLEE WIGTON

This seventh grade mystery teacher went to Virginia Tech and Duquesne because they had good professors. She wanted to be a lawyer to help people but then changed her mind and decided she wanted to be a teacher so she could help kids. If she could teach any other subject, she would teach history because it is non-fiction and has similarities to the subject she teaches. Her favorite part of the day is mornings. "I like getting the day started," she said. Something that annoys her is the sound of velcro.

She has two cats, Leo and Tenny, and she doesn't have any kids. Her favorite food is steak, and beans make her gag. In five years, she sees herself still teaching.

In her free time she likes to be outside, kayak, and spend time with her nephews. Some of her favorite movies are Friday Night Lights and Forrest Gump. If she could live in any time period, she would live in the 1920s because people seemed nice and fun. The craziest thing that has ever happened to her is when she didn't realize she was sitting right next to Dennis Rodman.

Who Am I?: Eighth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY KAYLEE WIGTON

The eighth grade mystery teacher attended IUP because it was close to home, and it helped save money. She became a teacher because she could have summers off to spend time with her family. If she could teach another subject she would teach science, she said, "I like hands on, and I like to see how things are put together." Her favorite part of the day is fifth period because it gets sunny outside. This mystery teacher gets annoyed when students ask the same question over and over again after already getting an answer.



In five years this teacher will be retired and still living in Butler. She has three kids, who are 28, 26, and 20. She has one dog, Koda, and one cat, Callie. Her favorite food is veggie pizza because it is good, but a food that makes her want to gag is cooked carrots.

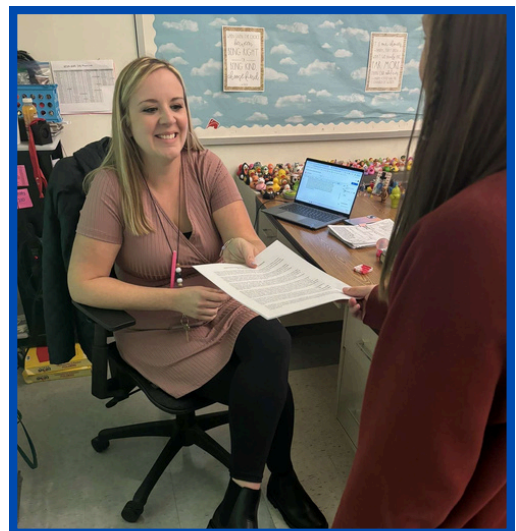
The eighth grade mystery teacher loves to be outside gardening and playing bingo. Her favorite movie is the Twilight series. If she could live in any time period she would choose the 50s because there was no technology and life was simple. The craziest thing that has ever happened to her was jumping a fence because a dog was chasing her while she was running.

Student Council Stays Busy

BY DANI BRISON AND LYDIA WILBERT

The IHS student council is composed of 34 students in grades six through eight. The organization is sponsored by Mrs. Sankey and Mrs. Sheatz, and they meet once a month to plan fundraisers and events in the school and community.

Mrs. Sankey has been involved with the student council for 32 years. She said, "When I came to the school, I was offered the position, and I wanted to be involved outside of the classroom with my students." Mrs. Sheatz became a co-sponsor two years ago because she has always been interested in student government and enjoys spending time with students in all grade levels.



At the beginning of the year, students can fill out an application explaining why they want to be in student council, and then there is a selection process. Applicants must not have a discipline record and must have good attendance. "In the student council you develop responsibility and become good leaders. Student council can help you get involved with the community when you are older. If you want to do student council, you should keep up with your grades and be involved," said Mrs. Sheatz.

This school year, student council created Veterans Day cards, and they soon plan to make Christmas packages for veterans. A popular event among students is the Semi-Formal Dance, which the student council usually hosts in February. This year, the dance will be closer to spring.

Student council sells the dance tickets as a fundraiser for the DJ, food, and drinks. They select the theme of the dance by asking students around the school what they want it to be and then vote. Mrs. Sheatz said, "The best thing for the students is when they are all working together to put together the dance."

Being a member of the student council can help build the school and community, and it also looks good on your resume. Some advice Mrs. Sheatz has for any younger grades who want to do student council is to put an application in and if it seems interesting, then get involved!

Sixth-grader Keegan Bacher has been involved with student council for a few months. She wants to stay in the student council because she loves the experience. "If you want to be in student council in the future, then you should keep up your grades and be a good student, as well as a good role model," she said. Keegan's favorite part of student council is planning things.

Adelynn Bushre is an eighth grader who has been on student council for one year. "I was already involved in Starfish, but I wanted to stay busy and extra involved at school," she said. She thinks that student council is really fun and likes to be involved with school events. Adelynn's advice for anyone who wants to be a part of the student council is: "Make sure that you want to do it before you sign up."

Sixth grader Reid Cuny has been involved in student council for two years. Reid said, "I did student council at Northwest, and I enjoyed it." Reid wants the theme of the semi-formal dance to be a sports theme. He likes to meet new people and help others in student council. Reid's advice for anyone who wants to be a part of the student council is to be positive and kind.

According to sixth grade member, Khloe Kemper, "The best part of student council is hanging out with friends." The advice that she has for any students who want to join the student council is to do your best in school.



Eighth Grade Student Spotlight: Hunter Rogerson and Dakota Schnur

BY SOPHIE BELONZI AND DAKOTA SCHNUR

Hunter Rogerson is a 14-year-old boy that lives with his mom and dad and his sister, Reese. Even though he has a sister, he wishes he had a twin brother. He likes to go hunting, fishing, and likes to play hockey, football, and golf. If Hunter were to have dinner with anyone in the world, he would have dinner with Elon Musk because he is really smart and would like to go on to one of his rocket ships. Hunter wants to be a lawyer when he grows up because he says that he can, "make good money off of it." Hunter's favorite genre of music is country. "I grew up listening to it; it has always been a part of me," he said.

Dakota Schnur is a 13-year-old girl that lives with her mom and dad and her sister, Aspen. Dakota enjoys playing soccer, going shopping, hanging out with friends and family, and cleaning. Her favorite subject in school is English because she "admires her teacher." If Dakota could have dinner with anyone in the world, she would have dinner with Frank Ocean because she listens to his music all the time. When Dakota grows up, she would like to be a marine biologist because she wants to learn about the ocean and the animals that live there. If she could travel anywhere in the world, she would go to Hawaii because she enjoys going to the beach, and she would bring her friends with her.

Seventh Grade Student Spotlight: Enzo Debacco and Molly Wynn

BY SOPHIE BELONZI AND DAKOTA SCHNUR

Enzo Debacco is a 12-year-old boy who lives with his mom and dad. Outside of school, he enjoys playing video games, watching YouTube videos, fishing, and hanging out with friends. He would like to earn good grades to keep his mom proud. If Enzo could have dinner with anyone, he would have dinner with Patrick Mahomes because "he seems like a really funny guy." Enzo would like to be a bird so he can fly around and go anywhere he would like. He is not in ESP, but

if he was, he would like to be in Tornado Connection because that is the ESP he thinks he would enjoy the most. Enzo enjoys watching the show *The Middle* because he finds it very funny. Enzo would like to travel to Tokyo. "Tokyo seems very cool and very futuristic," he said.

Molly Wynn is a 13-year-old girl who lives with her mom, dad, and sister named Layla. Molly's favorite subject is science. "It is the most fun subject, and the teacher is fun to be around," she said. She enjoys cheer and likes to hang out with friends. Molly's favorite ESP is yearbook because "everyone has to join together." She would like to be a radiology scientist some day. Molly is very interested in anything science related. If she won the lottery, Molly would donate it to cancer patients and shelter kids without homes. She would love to travel to the Bahamas with her dog named Bowie. If she could go back in time, Molly would like to have dinner with her grandparents on her dad's side because she has never met them and would like to know more about them.



Sixth Grade Student Spotlight: Ashton Floris and Anna Koss

BY SOPHIE BELONZI AND DAKOTA SCHNUR

Ashton Floris is a 11-year-old boy who lives with his mom, dad, and his brother named Easton. Outside of school, he enjoys playing soccer, socializing, assembling lego sets, and watching sports. If Ashton won the lottery, he would buy a pool with a bunch of water slides. According to Ashton, "I would want to be a professional soccer player because I love soccer." If he could have dinner with anyone in the world, he would have dinner with Cole Palmer because he watches him play soccer a lot. Ashton wants to earn all A's this year because he has only ever received one B. Ashton's favorite subject in school is math because he is the best at it, and he feels that it is the easiest.

Anna Koss is an 11-year-old girl who has three siblings named Sierra, Madison, and Luke. She enjoys doing track, and she likes being in musicals. Anna would like to break her track record this school year. She enjoys cotton candy ice cream because it has lots of sugar in it. She also likes to drink Sprite because it makes her happy. Her favorite show is *The Voice*, and her favorite judge on the show is Snoop Dog. "He is so funny," she said. If Anna could have dinner with anyone in the world, dead or alive, she would have dinner with her great grandma because she passed away before Anna was born. Her favorite subject in school is English. "The teacher is very laid back and kind," Anna said.

Teams Wrap Up Fall Season

BY COHEN HYATT AND KAMERON WARHEIT

At Butler Intermediate High School, students have been buzzing around fall sports. We had about 200 athletes participate in a fall sport, and we are excited for what is to come in the winter and spring sports. In an effort to create more school spirit, the IHS hosted its first pep rally. The event proved to be an exciting way to recognize our students for their hard work outside of the classroom.

The football team worked hard throughout the season to grow in strength and skill. Coaches Jeffery McAnallen, Chris Popovich, Frank Jendesky, and Horace King led this team to try their best and improve their football skills. According to Coach McAnallen, "Football is the hardest sport to play because in an instant, all eleven participants have to work together." The team's season did not turn out as well as they would've hoped when it came to the wins column, but

they still managed to connect and learn from each other. "We had a great season, and all the boys got better every week," Coach McAnallen said.

The players of the football team think that the season went well, but there was a lot of room for improvement. According to Austin Smith, "We could've played more physical." Smith was one of the starting players on the defense, offense, punt return, and special teams. Smith has played hard throughout the season to earn this role. The football team did not achieve the position in the standings that they were hoping for, but they did have fun.



"Football is a very exciting sport, and it is a very fun sport," said Smith. The football team will say goodbye to long-time coach Jeff McAnallen, and will continue to advance next season.

The boys' middle school soccer team worked very hard throughout their season. Tim Remes, head coach of the team, is very proud of how their season went. According to Coach Remes, "The boys improved and changed very positively throughout the season." The team finished in the top third according to Remes, and he thought that they had the skill to be first. "We have the pieces to make a great team. We just needed a full season to find where they fit perfectly," he said.



The goalkeeper, Landon Bichler, believes that there is a lot that the soccer team could improve to have an even better season next year. "Train more and work harder," Bichler said. The team finished with a winning record, but had a lot of ties that they believe could have been wins. The team did have some big wins though, finishing with a big win over Woodland Hills and Shaler Area. According to Bichler, "Beating Woodland Hills 13-1 and scoring because I never get to score, was my favorite moment from the season." The team has big hopes as new sixth graders will be coming in next season.

The Butler Hockey team has been one of the most successful teams of all Butler sports, finishing with only one loss on the season. "I believe our biggest achievement so far is how the team has bonded together into a unit. There are always struggles, but some of the biggest problems in youth hockey come from inside the locker room. I'm proud of how this team treats the game, and I am excited to see what the second half of the season has in store for us," commented Coach Norm. The team has changed and learned to work together throughout their season. "I believe we have a strong case to win the top division. There are a couple of very skilled teams that after 'the great mid-season rebalance' [when the league puts the top teams into the same division], we will have to prove our skill too, but I believe in this group."

The players think that hockey is one of the hardest sports to play. "It requires speed, work effort, and strength to be successful in all sports. When you are fast and strong, it is much easier to be a good athlete," said Marshall Bish. The hockey team had one loss and is led by captain Grayson Steadman. Bish believes that hockey is fast-paced and very physical, and is one of the best sports to watch. He does believe that a little bit more passing could lead to more goals, but the overall success of the team is good. The team will continue to progress next season with new opportunities to win their league.



The girls' soccer team was one of the most popular of all the fall sports. The team had about 30 girls, so they split the players into three groups to maximize opportunities for all. The team had 6 wins and 8 losses, putting them just below a 0.500 win percentage. Head Coach Colin Leyland thinks the season went very well. According to Coach Leyland, "I feel like we had some high moments and low moments. Both allowed us to learn what it means to compete." The girls played their very hardest and tried really hard to win. "The biggest change was the way our team came together. At the beginning of the year, not all the girls had played a lot of soccer together, and it was nice to see them work together and trust each other as the year went on," he said. The girls have become better through the season and like their chances next season.



The players for the soccer team think that the season didn't go as planned, but they are ready for the next season. "We could be more focused because we had some small losses that we could've won," said center back Grace Behrens. The team finished with a few wins, but still had a lot of fun. "I love to watch soccer because I can see what they are doing, so I can improve with it. The team had some super stars, and they held the team together with good leadership," she said. The team will continue to advance into next season with new hope.



The cross country team was one of the most successful teams this season. The team's coach, Coach Birckbickler, led the team to success. "I have been a life-long runner, and love long distance running. Cross country allows me to share the love of the sport with young athletes in the spark of inspiring them to run, too," said Coach Birckbickler. The team has set high standards for themselves. "Reaching goals can take time and commitment, so having an internal passion to reach the goals is important." The team has passionate players, and some of them were willing to share their thoughts with us.

The cross country team has had many successful players, including runner Bryce Schreffler. According to Schreffler, "I liked to run and get exercise. Now, I just like to run," he said. There is so much that goes into being a good cross country runner, including stamina, exercise, and work ethic. "Running every day, doing certain activities, like 100 meter sprints, are ways to improve your run," said Schreffler. The team was able to secure many victories, including winning first place at the Freeport Invitational. The team will continue to be successful into the future with a new generation of runners wanting to come back next year.

The cheer team is one of the most uplifting sports in the whole school. They spread school spirit to all the sixth, seventh, eighth graders every game. They cheered at every football game and tried their best to encourage the team to victory. "I think it is fun because we work so hard for a performance that is so short. We work all season long for a two minute and 30 second performance. Cheerleading is a combination of jumping, tumbling, stunting, dancing and cheering," said Coach Olivia Young. Their main goal was to teach their athletes the power of positivity and lead the team to support each other. Coach Young said, "Cheerleading taught me so much growing up, and I have coaches that played a part in me becoming the person I am today. I hope that I can be that coach for someone else." The team will continue to do their best throughout the school year to spread positivity and school spirit.

The cheer squad played a key part in the fall pep rally. "Cheer is fun and cool to watch," said cheerleader Olivia Calvin. The team had lots of support school wide, and really brought school spirit everywhere they went. "I did cheer when I was three, and I just wanted to cheer for the school too," commented Calvin.

The junior high girls' volleyball team was led by Coach Nicki Holt. The team learned from their mistakes and improved so much throughout the season. Their main goal



is trying to be successful as a team. Coach Holt said, "Knowing you have to work if you want to improve and get better but also that it relies on everyone to work together. This is something that they will use all through school and life."

The junior high girls' volleyball team had a very successful year, and had lots of seventh and eighth graders. The team had many very skilled players, and the team was led by very good eighth graders. The team had a very successful season, but their sport can require more athleticism than one might think. "Sportsmanship, teamwork, athleticism all coming together in this sport makes it so fun to play," said Sophia Slaughenhou, a seventh grade member of the team. The team had lots of fun together, and they are ready for the next season with even more superstars for next year.



The fall sports have been very successful over all, and the Winter athletes will attempt to one up them. We thank all of the football, volleyball, cross country, boys' and girls' soccer, cheer, and hockey athletes for representing Butler in the best way possible. Your kids have proven themselves to be very strong athletically and academically, so we hope for them to be successful and strong in the future.

Sibling Battle

BY AUBREY CONNORS

ADELAIDE COUSINS VS CADEN FAZZONI



- "Caden got me in trouble because he wouldn't return my phone, so I pushed him."
- "I regret being mean to him whenever I'm in a bad mood."
- "He helps me with the dishes when I don't want to do them."
- "She got me in trouble because she got my drone stuck in a tree."
- "I regret saying that Adelaide is the worst sister."
- "She cheered me up after I lost a soccer game to Prospect."

MAKS COUSINS VS CARLY COUSINS



- "I was so proud of Carly when she won our dodgeball game at church."
- "At home, she is always in her room so I don't see her, but most of the time she is mean."
- "We enjoy different things because I like sports and she likes drama."
- "I was proud of Maks when he beat me at Clue and won his basketball game."
- "At home, he is crazy, very energetic, and likes messing with our younger siblings."
- "Maks is athletic, but not as artsy or creative as me."

BRYCE SCHREFFLER VS BLAKE SCHREFFLER



- "Blake is our parents' favorite because he gets spoiled with electronics."
- "I don't mind having Blake in my school because I enjoy seeing him in the hallways between classes."
- "Our relationship is good because even though we fight, we still interact and can get along."
- "Bryce is their mother's favorite because he is the baby of the family."
- "It doesn't really bother me that we are in the same school because I don't see him most of the time."
- "Our relationship is all right because sometimes Bryce bothers me and sometimes Bryce is nice."

Thanksgiving Comic

BY DYSON STEELE

