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WINTER 2025

# THE TORNADO CONNECTION

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN

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## Seventh Graders Venture to Gettysburg

BY REESE HILOVSKY AND COLBI BARNETT, EDITOR

On March 21-22, IHS students will travel to Harrisburg, Gettysburg, and Hershey for the annual seventh grade field trip.

According to Miss Carlson and Mrs. Casher, two of the trip coordinators, the travel time will be approximately four hours each way, including a restroom stop midway through the drive. The travelers will begin their trip with a stop at the Pennsylvania capitol building, where they will enjoy a guided tour and a lunch from Subway. Then, they will be on their way to spend some time at the Hershey store. Afterwards, students will enjoy a pizza dinner and free time with friends at the newly renovated Hanover YMCA in Hanover, PA. At 10 p.m., students will arrive at the Holiday Inn Express in Gettysburg, where they will stay the night. They will tour the Gettysburg battlefields in the morning with a professional tour guide before returning to Butler that evening.

The students will start the trip at Center Township Elementary at 6:30 a.m. and arrive back at the Intermediate the next day at 7:30 p.m. As for food, they will eat at Subway first, then they will have a pizza party. In the morning, they will have breakfast at the hotel. And lastly, they will have a late lunch at a local restaurant. On the bus, students can sit with their roommates, talk, eat, and play on their phones. There will be TVs on the bus for students to watch as well. The chaperones will be teachers or their spouses, and no parents will be attending unless they have to for any serious reasons. Each student must pay \$390 to attend the trip, not including souvenirs they might buy.

Students Rylie Bachelor and Rylee Watson are traveling to Gettysburg. Both are excited to spend time with their friends and learn new things. Rylie is most excited to spend her time learning about history and the capital. She is rooming with three other students on the trip. To pay for the trip, Rylie is “doing chores around her house.” Rylee Watson is most excited to learn about history on the school trip. For Rylee to pay for her trip, she is one of the students who sold candy bars. On the bus, both students plan on talking to their friends and playing games on their phones. (CONT. PG. 2)



Penny Cherry and Avery Lynn, two eighth graders who went on the Gettysburg trip last year, shared what they thought about the trip. Penny said her favorite part of the trip was talking to her friends and the bus. If she had the opportunity to go on the trip again, she would take it because she would love to tour the battlefield and have that experience again. According to Penny, "I roomed with three other girls, and we stayed up until around 11:30 at night." She said her favorite meal on the trip was the pizza and pasta they had for dinner. Avery said she enjoyed all the stops they made, but her favorite was the battlefield. Avery's least favorite part of the trip was the drive and having to wake up early.

Safe travels to all of the students attending this year's trip!

## Arts Alley Project Brings Butler's History to Life

BY SYLVESTER GEIBEL, EDITOR

This spring, a select group of IHS students will beautify part of downtown Butler with *The Arts Alley Project*. The art installation will be added to East Locust Street near the library.

The project is funded by the Grable Foundation through a Moonshot Grant. It focuses on designing and implementing an art installation on East Locust Street in Butler by the Public Library and the First English Lutheran Church. Students from the Intermediate High School are leading the project under the guidance of Dr. Morgan-Davis, Mrs. Crissman, and Mrs. Snyder. The current plan is to create nature panels along the fencing on East Locust Street and paint a mural timeline working up the parking lot from Main Street to the library.

The mural will include the following subject areas: the George Washington Trail, John and Emily Roebling, the Carnegie Medal for Extraordinary Acts of Heroism, Amelia Earhart, Moraine State Park, The Little Red Schoolhouse, movies featuring Butler County, the Phillips Mansion, and the Underground Railroad.

Jordan Carey-Munoz is one of the select group of students who is planning the art installment. "My favorite part of participating in the alley project is being able to do this fun activity with my friends. I also enjoyed meeting the mayor," he said. He added, "I think the community will see that students want to make Butler a more educational and colorful place and see that Butler has a rich history."

According to Maddox Summerville, another project participant, "My favorite aspect of the alley project is that they are positively changing the community and teaching people the history of Butler."

Maddox believes they will end up with a stunning finished product that everybody will enjoy. "It will show the community that art can change the environment and mood of people," he said. Considering the mayor liked all of their ideas and thoughts about the renovations, Maddox felt they did well.

Grady Beck's favorite part of the alley project was working as a team to come up with the ideas. He looks forward to actually starting to paint the alley. He thinks students will benefit from working on this project by acquiring new team skills and knowing what it's like to do something for the community. "We are bringing something unique to Butler that will be of value for years to come, and I can't wait to get started!" Grady said.



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# Butler Vo-Tech Provides Job Skills to Local Students

BY COLTON CRIDER AND LINTON YOUNG

The Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School, located on the same campus as the senior high, offers 15 programs to students who are interested in learning real-life job skills while still in high school. Students attend these programs starting in 10th grade through graduation for either a morning or afternoon session that lasts for approximately 2-3 hours.

Available courses of study at the Vo-Tech include: Air Conditioning/Heating/Electrical Occupations, Automotive Technology, Building Construction, Carpentry, Collision Repair, Computer Networking and Security, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Diversified Occupations, Graphic Design, Health Assistant, Heavy Equipment Repair, Machining Technology, Protective Services, Sports Medicine, and Welding. All of these programs have very in-depth courses with many benefits.



Each program provides students with the resources and the skills needed to pursue that career in the future. According to Ms. Gall-Ruggiero, the guidance counselor at the Vo-Tech, "Every student should consider attending the Vo-Tech because it is a great opportunity to be trained for a career for free. Many of these certifications would cost a lot if students wait and attend a technical college or program, but we offer them for free."

Butler County Vo-Tech serves all schools in Butler County, and students attend their home school for classes such as English, math, and science. Then, they attend the Vo-Tech for either the morning or afternoon session. Because most of the courses at Vo-Tech are immersive and hands-on, students receive little to no homework, allowing them to balance their responsibilities with academics in their home schools and work.



Due to the hands-on nature of the courses, excellent attendance is a must at the Vo-Tech. Students who miss more than 10 days find it difficult to be successful. "Our programs expect students to be present. It prepares them for the workforce and ensures that important information is not missed," said Ms. Gall-Ruggiero.

Ms. Gall-Ruggiero has been the guidance counselor at the Vo-Tech for nine years, and she is passionate about what she does. "The kids come here because they want to, and they like what they do, which is pretty great," she said. In Butler, ninth grade students tour to see what classes they could take and the program is offered starting in 10th grade. "Students really need to attend all three years to finish their certifications before graduation," she said.

Mr. Ryan is the principal at Vo-Tech. Before accepting his current position, he was a special education teacher for five years. "I was interested in the principal position at Vo-Tech because I attended when I was in high school, and I have always wanted to help students in different ways," he commented. He said the most challenging part of being the principal was coordinating schedules and communication since students from seven different schools attend the Vo-Tech. His advice to incoming students: "Take the leap and do it. You will learn skills that will be useful for the rest of your life."

McKenzie Donaldson is a cosmetology student from Butler. According to McKenzie, she has theory classes twice a week and then is in the salon three days a week. They practice cutting hair on Fridays with some night school from 3:15 to 7:15. McKenzie has been taking her class at the Vo-Tech for three years and has earned 1,352 hours towards her cosmetology license. According to McKenzie, "It can be challenging, but it is also a lot of fun."





Lane Hawk is one of the many students that attends the Culinary Arts program. According to Lane, he learns something different every day so he never gets bored. "I have learned so much from this program. If you are interested, find what you like and then commit yourself to it," he said. Following his own advice, Lane plans to attend IUP for their 16-month program in Culinary Arts. "My dream is to open up a restaurant," he said.

For more information on the programs available at the Butler County Area Vocational-Technical School, go to [www.butlertec.us](http://www.butlertec.us).

## Agricultural Science Lab Coming to IHS

BY JOSEPHINE SCANLON

The new agricultural science lab is being installed at the IHS for use by all science classes starting next school year. The large lab will include improved equipment, flexible seating, and an agricultural space. It is located in the arts wing.

Mr. Andrews, an instructional coach who actively seeks grants for improvements in our district, said that BASD is working to include agriculture education in every level of school. He also said that there are new Pennsylvania science standards, called "STEELS."

They have been adopted to bring more hands-on learning into the science classrooms. "This space will allow more opportunities for both of these to happen," Mr. Andrews said.

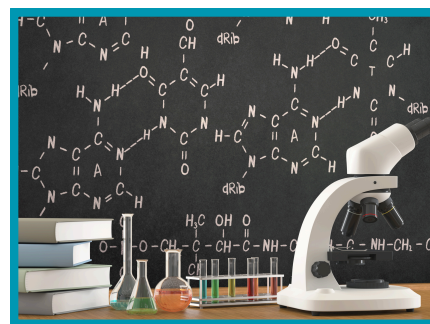
The almost 2,400 square-foot classroom will have space for countless learning opportunities, as it will be housed in the former metal shop. Because of its size, multiple classes could utilize the space at the same time. According to Mr. Andrews, "We are hoping to have the space finished by the end of this year, but it will be ready to use by the start of next school year at the latest."

The project began last school year when Dr. White, Dr. Slamecka, and Mr. Dobransky started planning for a designated science lab at the IHS. According to Mr. Andrews, the total cost of the project won't be known until it is complete, but it is projected to cost around \$50,000. The funds were obtained through two different grants, with the initial grant coming from the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Andrews said the BASD maintenance staff is working on removing old equipment, and they are preparing it for painting and a new floor. He also said the room is getting a new wall, a new door, and plenty of new furnishings before it will be ready for students. He added, "There will be lots of shelving and cabinets for storage. And there will be large fish tanks and agricultural activities towards the back of the room." Mr. Andrews said IHS staff members have been requesting a science lab for several years, and the agricultural education grant helped them to make it happen. Mr. Andrews said, "The hands-on activities that the lab will provide are critical for students to get experience in working with models, and reinforce the learning that is happening in the classroom. Hopefully this will help students become better problem solvers in real-life situations."

Mr. McCool, an eighth grade science teacher, is very excited about the new lab and its potential for science activities that can be experienced by multiple classes at once. He added, "I'm excited about the fishery and gardens that will be housed there as well." Mr. McCool will be spending a lot of time there getting his fish tanks and the aquaponic gardens up and running. "Aquaponic gardens do not use soil. They pump water from fish tanks over the plant roots to give the plants the nutrients they need to grow," he explained.

He said that they will be switching to a different curriculum for science next year, and he is not exactly sure what projects he will be able to do but he is excited to do them. He wants to have the students get involved in raising the fish and plants.





According to Mr. McCool, "Not everyone learns best from simply reading and doing classwork. Students need to see the connections between what they learn about and how it relates to the world around them. If they don't have those experiences on their own, we can use labs to help them gain this first hand experience and make those important connections here at school."

Mrs. Sankey is also really excited and is ready to get back to doing experiments in the lab again. "Students will have a safe space to do experiments and other activities in the new lab," she said. Mrs. Sankey looks forward to teaching her students about chemical reactions in a more effective way through her rocket lab. "The hands-on experience helps students better understand the concepts they are learning in class," she said.

Lastly, Mrs. Baxter, a seventh grade science teacher, said, "Teachers will be able to take their classes there to do labs and hands-on activities. The lab will provide us with more space and resources for our classes to utilize. Students are just as excited as the teachers!"



## Gifted Students Shine at PJAS

BY IAN BEGGS AND ELIJAH FEIL

On Saturday, February 22, seventh-12th grade gifted students attended PJAS regionals at Slippery Rock University. They left the BIHS at 10:00 a.m. and returned at 8:00 p.m.

PJAS regionals is an academic event that many students in the Butler County Gifted program attend. For PJAS, students create a scientific project for a presentation at Slippery Rock University. Students choose a topic they would like to research, experiment with assorted variables, and determine whether their hypothesis is correct and how the project's data and conclusions can be applied in the real world. Topics explored include biology, engineering, mathematics, statistics, behavioral sciences, and more. Projects are evaluated using a rubric that scores scientific thought, experimental methods, analytical approach, and presentation, as well as the judges' personal opinions.

Students who earn the highest scores on their project presentations win a first award and move on to the PJAS State Competition. There, they can present their projects on a more challenging level at Penn State. During their visit to Penn State, they will stay in freshman dorms on campus. Tyler Hagaman stated, "You can earn certain scholarships and awards while having the fun of exploring science with friends." Butler students compete against others from various counties who also won first place. The counties participating in the PJAS Regional Competition include Lawrence, Mercer, Beaver, Butler, Venango, Armstrong, Clarion, Indiana, and Jefferson counties, all of which are part of Region 9 in Pennsylvania.

By the end of the competition, students may have a chance to win various rewards based on their position given to them by the judges, and other factors like project category. Students earn rewards like cash, gift cards, and monetary rewards. Juniors can be interviewed for a chance to earn a scholarship at select colleges.

One of the sponsors for PJAS is Mrs. Sankey. Mrs. Sankey commented, "Butler usually performs pretty well; typically two-thirds of students go on to states, and usually someone wins a special award at regionals."

While at Penn State, students can participate in many activities. The presentations are on one day and run for a few hours. After that, there are many different fun activities students attend. Last year at PJAS, there was a DJ and karaoke, stargazing, a movie night, and other fun events that were open to anyone at Penn State for PJAS to attend. Students are also allowed to roam and explore the campus while having fun with friends. Students can hang out in an outdoor park area, play basketball and volleyball, go to the Penn State Creamery, and much more. Both students and sponsors have a great time at both PJAS Regionals and States.

## Bayer and Stepansky Keep Students Safe

BY MALLIE CLEMENT AND QUINN STEYER

Two former state police officers, Dave Bayer and John Stepansky, work full time at the IHS as security guards. Both officers are committed to protecting our students and staff and look forward to spending time here each day.

Officer Dave Bayer has been a security guard at Butler for nine years now, and it is clear that the security of our school is very important to him. Bayer claims, "We have the best two security guards in the nation." He believes the qualities that security guards should have are patience and diligence when making sure the school is secure throughout the day.

After 25 years with the state police, Officer Bayer retired and thought being a security guard would be "a nice change of pace."

He placed all the 127 cameras throughout the school and watches them daily. Bayer gets bored very easily, so he passes time by watching the cameras. His favorite part about being a security guard is interacting with the staff and students.

Bayer works outside of school at sporting events. He had one bad experiences when there was a fan heckling a referee. He had to end up removing him. According to Bayer, "It was a very unpleasant situation." When outside of school, he enjoys going to the gym for decompression time. He said, "It's an honor to be here; some people don't think this job is important." According to seventh grade teacher, Mr. Jewart, working with Officer Bayer in the morning is fun. "It also has structure and is safe," he said.

Officer John Stepansky has been a security guard at Butler for 13 years. "Our school is very safe, and that safety is very important," he said. Officer Stepansky claims that the qualities you need to be a security guard are honesty, attention to details, and being willing to stand up for what's right.

Mr. Stepansky also served as a state trooper for 25 years, and his move to school security was a natural one for him. "I enjoy interacting with staff and students and getting to see students grow up throughout the years," he said. When the school installed the new metal detectors, Stepansky was excited to see how they would work compared to the old ones. Although, after using both, he prefers the old ones because there is more interaction with the students. Stepansky believes that the biggest challenge of being a security guard is knowing if the school should be more alert. He claims that it is also very challenging to get off of his daily routine.

According to Officer Stepansky, you have to be a policeman before becoming a Butler security guard. He also said that you have to continue training throughout the years, such as shooting training and building training. However, most of the training comes from prior training through the state police.

Outside of all the hard work that Officer Stepansky does in school, he enjoys working on his antique car. Also, he likes to unwind by hunting, along with fishing and gardening. Seventh grade teacher Ms. Carlson works with Mr. Stepansky in the morning at the metal detector. She commented, "He always makes the morning enjoyable." He also plays music and is always there for everyone.



# Spring Sports Teams Prepare to Compete

BY MAYA KEFFALAS AND SIENNA STUTZ, EDITORS

IHS athletes began practicing for the upcoming spring sports season this week, and they are looking forward to competing this season. The IHS offers baseball, softball, track and field, and boys' volleyball in the spring season.

Although open gyms started in February, the school baseball season officially begins in early March and concludes in early May. They practice or play five days a week at various locations such as the senior high gym, the senior high baseball field, and even the IHS. Coach Shawn Manning will be coaching the team. He feels enthusiastic about the upcoming season and helping everyone reach their goals. According to Coach Manning, "Our goal as a coaching staff is to develop baseball IQ, skills, and the player's ability to trust their instincts. We want them to make decisions on their own and play the game free. Play it like their hair is on fire." Manning also believes that baseball can teach many life lessons. "We always tell kids that baseball is a game of failure. It teaches us how to deal with failure, how to bounce back, and how to continue moving forward," he said.

Many baseball players are getting ready for the upcoming season. According to baseball player Nathaniel Wise, "I can't wait for this upcoming season because I get to have a fun time with my friends, and I can work on my skills." Any chance they can get, the players are looking to improve and get better. The baseball players hope to head towards a successful season.

The school's softball season officially begins in March and ends in May. The softball team will practice almost every day to prepare for their games. The team will meet for practices at the senior high school, and their practices will consist of hitting drills, fielding drills, pitching, and catching.

This season, the school's softball team has a new coach, Emma Kilgore. Coach Kilgore is an experienced player, who is very excited about coaching in the upcoming season. Coach Kilgore said, "I have always wanted to become a coach because I want to inspire others and be a good role model." She is eager to guide the team through tough and competitive challenges. Kilgore also believes that the best part of softball is "making friendships for life and being a part of the community." Softball offers a great opportunity because it teaches responsibility, respect, and much more.

Softball player Alaina Garbinsky has been preparing for the upcoming season. The players enjoy their practices because they get to be with their friends. "I like getting together in groups with my friends and practicing," Alaina said.

Many students at the IHS are also looking forward to the track and field season. The team will practice after school every day. The opportunity to train during the winter for the upcoming season has been available since December through track and field winter conditioning sessions. As in previous years, the team is expected to be very large this year.

Easton Floris is a distance runner on the track and field team. "I really enjoy track because the running community is full of motivated and hardworking people," he said. Even though running is a big part of track and field, there are many different events, like throwing and jumping. There is a place for everyone on the team.



Because of the many diverse events, the track and field team has multiple coaches. The throwing coach, Mr. Uncapher, is very excited to train athletes for the upcoming season. "I'm really looking forward to this year's season. The kids going to the winter conditioning have been setting goals and improving a lot, and I'm excited to see eighth graders step up and become leaders this year," Coach Uncapher said. According to Coach Uncapher, "The hardest part about coaching a team is keeping young athletes engaged and healthy throughout the season. Usually, a lot of kids get hurt, and I want them to maintain their health and reach their goals." The team had a good season last year and will hopefully have an even better season this year.



The boys' volleyball team also had a very successful season last year, and Coach McKinley hopes to train them to victory once again. The season will start in early March and end in early May. The team will practice every day after school except for when they have games.

Coach McKinley has been involved in volleyball since high school. He loves the relatively new boys' volleyball team at Butler Intermediate, and he wants to keep leading the team to success. "My high school coach was amazing. He did a lot for the program, and I enjoyed volleyball because of him," he said. He thinks volleyball is a great opportunity because "it's something you can play for the rest of your life. Once you learn, you can play it almost anywhere, almost any time." Coach McKinley is hopeful that the team will progress their skills and do well this season.

Volleyball player, Julian McCall has been preparing for this upcoming season. Julian plans on becoming a better teammate and improving his skills. The team is confident about their overall skills. According to Julian McCall, "I'm not nervous about the upcoming season. I feel confident in my skills, and I know what my team and I can accomplish." The volleyball players hope their season will go as well, or even better, than the previous season.

## New Sequinettes Join Dance and Flag Teams

BY VAYDA BYERS AND BRAELYN SASSE

During the week of January 13-17, candidates for the Sequinettes dance and flag teams rehearsed and auditioned to be a part of the Butler Sequinettes for the upcoming 25-26 season. Auditions were held after school in the IHS auditorium. After a week of tough practice, 24 dancers and 21 flag line girls made the team for the upcoming season.

The Butler Sequinettes team consists of girls that perform for parades, shows, football games, and assemblies. Coach McLafferty, who organizes and coaches the Sequinette team said, "Ideally a Sequinette is hard working, can take criticism well, and isn't afraid to perform in front of a large audience." If a returning student wants to rejoin the Sequinette team, they would have to re-audition to remain on the team. According to Coach McLafferty, "Many people have no idea the amount of work, time, and talent it takes to do what we do." The team works hard all season long to master their performance and steps for all their shows. The team attends a band trip each year, and this year's trip is to Orlando.

The band trip is the biggest performance the Sequinettes do every year, no matter where the team is going for their trip. The marching band director and the band booster club plan the trips. Coach McLafferty only plans things for the Sequinettes, like the choreography, props, and she coordinates the Sequinettes for all their performances, which takes a lot of communication, planning, and time management. "However, after doing this for 13 years, we've really become a smooth running machine!" Coach McLafferty said.

Gianna Shaffer will be a new member of the dance team this season. Gianna Shaffer said, "An older dancer on the team named Patricia Furka helped me the most since I am new on the team." She knew she had to prepare on her own time since the school had a remote learning day during the week of tryouts, which limited everyone's practice time before the audition took place. They had one hour to rehearse the combination to perform at the audition for three judges.

Charlotte Weyandt, one of the newest members of the flag team, said, "I learned the dance routine in an hour before tryouts, and I practiced with different people and on my own time." The Sequinettes have obviously put in time, determination, and effort to make the team along with coaches and everyone else who is involved in this amazing program.



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# THE TORNADO CONNECTION

## STUDENT SECTION

### Students Dance the Night Away

BY HARLEY PAYNE AND MYA SIEFKER

On Friday March 7 from 6-8 p.m. the student council will host the traditional semi-formal dance in the gym.

The theme for this year's dance is "Under the Sea" so the gym will be decorated with blues and greens to mimic the waves and beach. The dress code for the dance is semi-formal, which means that students should not wear jeans or have tears in their clothing. Dresses should be of a reasonable length, and old tennis shoes are discouraged.



Mrs. Sankey, one of the advisors of the student council, has planned dances for over thirty years. According to Mrs. Sankey, "The kids had a great time, and it is always fun to plan." There will be faculty chaperones and security at the dance watching the students. You are not allowed to go outside during the dance and not permitted to come back inside if you leave the dance.

Student council members began planning the dance in November and solidified the plans for the next three months. Some challenges they have had are checking with principals on dates, gym availability, and working out things that match the theme.

The tickets were sold the week of February 24-27 for \$5 per person. You were not allowed to buy one for a friend or anyone outside of the building. Students have to hold onto the ticket and bring it to the dance for admittance and to receive their free refreshments, including a bag of chips and a soft drink.

On the night of the dance, doors will open a little bit early to check everyone in by the time it starts. Students must remain in the gym area and/or cafeteria B for the entire dance and are not permitted in other areas of the school. The DJ will be right outside of the swimming pool area of the gym.

Students may request songs on a slip of paper during the dance by submitting the request to the request box. Some of the favorite songs that they played last year were *Cupid Shuffle*, *Party in The USA*, and *YMCA*. According to Lexi Rudish, "The music was amazing; it really made me move." The music last year was Kids Bop and only clean versions of songs. Teagen said, "The DJ took a lot of requests and was really good." Some of the recommended songs for this year's semi-formal dance were *Fein*, Cardi B, and *YMCA*.



The students' favorite parts of the dance were the music, food, pictures, and friends. Lexi Rudish commented, "The dance decorations need to be improved, but it was a great experience and I had a great time." Adalee Froilan is looking forward to the next dance. According to Adalee, "I look forward to hanging out with my friends that didn't get to come last year." Teagen Early said, "I can't wait to have fun with friends, and I don't have to wake up early for school the next day." They all said that they will be attending or trying to go to this dance this year.

## Clubs Cultivate Interests

BY CAITLYN FISHER AND HOLLEE GREEN

Our school offers a variety of clubs that students can join at the beginning of the year. Clubs are about community, finding a place for yourself, learning about new activities, and fostering new interests. Some of these clubs at the Butler Intermediate include: Good News Club, World Language Club, and Sign Language Club. There are opportunities for everyone to try something new.

Mrs. Thomas is the sponsor of the World Language Club. Students in the World Language Club are given the opportunity to learn a new language of their choice. French, German, Latin, and Spanish are all languages you can explore in this club. Once a month, they meet in cafeteria D during fourth period.

Mrs. Thomas's favorite part about sponsoring the World Language Club is meeting new students. When you join and start learning a world language, you can continue to pursue it throughout high school. She is always accepting new students. If the opportunity to learn a world language interests you, visit Mrs. Thomas today!

In Sign Language Club with Mrs. Wiles, you can learn the basics of American Sign Language and help to raise awareness for sign language and all its beauties. During club time, they learn things such as the alphabet and topics of interest among the club members. The Sign Language Club has two groups. One group is for sixth graders, and the other is for seventh and eighth graders. Each group meets twice a month during fourth period.

"This club is very helpful because it teaches you an important language and to understand the obstacles that hard of hearing/deaf people face in their everyday lives," Mrs. Wiles said. Many students who join this club have loved ones who struggle with hearing. Her favorite part of the club is when she sees students using ASL in their everyday lives. According to Mrs. Wiles, "Sign language is a magnificent way for people of any age, ability, or background to learn a new, fun way of communication and expression."

Mrs. Tepper is the sponsor of the Good News Club. The Good News Club is a Bible club driven, led, and created by students. They meet once a month during fourth period. The Good News Club brings like-minded students of all grade levels together to discuss their faith journeys and enhance their relationship with God. Many students in the club agree that their favorite part is leading students in the right direction.

Being a part of this club gives the students support and accountability. Students discuss their concerns with one another and resolve them as a group. Mrs. Tepper mentioned that many leaders, especially seventh graders, do much of the work for the club. They do an amazingly organized job, too. "It's a good way for students to connect with their peers and explore a better relationship with their personal faith journeys," Mrs. Tepper said.



# Office Aides Take Action

BY ALISE SAYERS AND KAYDEN PAVKOVICH, EDITOR

During study halls, students can apply to be office aides in the principal's office, the nurse's office, the guidance office, or the library. All positions require students to be responsible and respectful, although different offices may require students to complete different tasks.

Henry Meiser is one of the aides in the principal's office. He wanted to be an office aide because Mr. Dunn is his uncle, and he thought it would be fun to deliver passes around the school. Henry delivers most passes to students in seventh and eighth grade. Mr. Kasperek is Henry's favorite teacher because he is his study hall teacher. "I would like to be an aide next year if I had the chance to," Henry commented.

Isabella Vivorito is another seventh grade office aide. She became an aide by going to the principal's office and asking for an application. Isabella wanted to be an office aide to help out and be with her friends. Isabella delivers to grades six and seven. Isabella's favorite teacher to deliver to is Mr. Zimmer because she delivers to him the most. Her advice to future aides is: "Be kind to teachers!"

Nate Gilkey became an office aide because his friends were office aides and signed him up. Nate's favorite thing about being an office aide is all of the people who are kind and helpful. According to Nate, "I deliver the passes to all the grades." Nate's favorite teacher to deliver to is Ms. Cirelli because she gives the office aides food whenever they deliver to her. Nate's advice for future aides is to keep their grades up!

Kole Rea asked his study hall teacher how he could become an office aide, and then he decided to sign up. Kole likes being an office aide because he can walk around and deliver notes with his friends. Kole also delivers to all grades of our school. Kole's favorite teacher to deliver to is Mrs. Cirelli because Kole gets food when he delivers to her. According to Kole, "Students should become office aides because the community of students is kind and helpful." He also believes it is a great opportunity to be a great help to the teachers. Kole's advice to future office aides is to keep their grades up and don't get in trouble.



To become an office aide, go to the office, grab an application, fill it out, and then return it. Down at the office, they do a background check. They look for good grades and no discipline record, and then they accept or decline you. If you get accepted, you deliver passes during study hall. Unfortunately, if you do not have a study hall, then you cannot be an office aide.

## Start the Day Right With Breakfast

BY BLAKE MINTO

The school's breakfast is a great way to wake up and start your day with all the nutrients you will need to be successful. Another added bonus: The school breakfast is free, and it's available to everyone.

The school day should start off with a good breakfast that supplies you with energy to stay focused and pay attention to your work. Some of the favorite breakfast meals that students enjoy are the donuts, cinnamon rolls, and sausage corn dogs. Some students do not enjoy the eggless muffins, and they want to bring back the banana bread and apple juice. They really like the food, and they enjoy the fact that if there is an option that they don't like, then they are able to pick something else like Pop-Tarts or cereal. Typically, three options are available if you don't like what they're serving: different types of Pop-Tarts, a wide variety of cereal, and some protein bars.

Students can eat breakfast each morning from 7-7:30 a.m. in cafeteria A if they follow three simple rules. First, there should be no use of electronics. The second rule is to always be respectful because after all, they are giving you free food.

The last rule is to clean up after yourself so the janitors don't have to clean more. If you follow these three simple rules, then you will be fine to get your breakfast.

Mr McMillen is one of the breakfast monitors, and he enjoys starting his day in Cafe A. He said, "I like being a breakfast monitor because I'm able to see my former seventh and eighth grade students." One of the things he does not like is when students leave their garbage on the table. If you haven't gone yet, check out the breakfast each morning in cafeteria A!



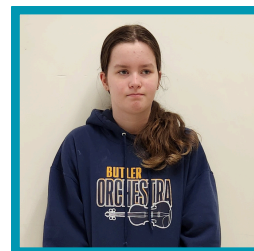
## Sixth Grade Student Spotlight: Brant Reeder and Meghan Gilliland

BY JAREK LAPSLEY

Brant Reeder was nominated by Mr. Starr. According to Mr. Starr, "Brant follows directions, he is always prepared for class, he has a great sense of humor, and he is always kind to others."

Brant's favorite food is grilled cheese sandwiches. If he had a million dollars, he would spend it on a car. In addition, his super power of choice is teleportation. His favorite book in the library is the *Diary of the Wimpy Kid* series, and his favorite athlete is Oneil Cruz. Brant's advice to other students is: "Always do good in school and never give up even when it's tough."

Meghan Gilliland was nominated by Mr. Zihmer. Her favorite food is jalapenos. She said that if she had a million dollars, she would invest it into the stock market. As far as school rules, she would change the rule about phones if she were in charge so that students could check the time and communicate easily with home. Like Brant, she would love to have the ability to teleport. Her favorite books in the library are the Percy Jackson series. Finally, to other students, she says, "You've got this."



## Seventh Grade Student Spotlight: Jasper Wood and Melina Burgess

BY JAREK LAPSLEY

Seventh grader Jasper Wood was nominated by Mr. Kasperek for the student spotlight. He said that if he got to change a rule about the school, he would start school later. Jasper's ideal house would be the Family Guy house, and his favorite athlete is Kobe Bryant. His favorite book is *Scar Island* by Dan Gemeinhart. If he had a super power, he would want the ability to freeze time. Finally, Jasper's great advice to other students is "Lock in."

The other seventh grade nominee, Melina Burgess, said that her favorite foods are bacon and hamburgers. The teacher who nominated her, Mr Rock, said, "She comes to class every day wanting to learn, and her participation is outstanding."

If Melina had a million dollars, she would spend it on a trip with friends and family. Her favorite athlete is Simone Biles, and her favorite book series is the Dork Diary series. If she could have a super power, she would choose teleportation. As far as school rules go, she wishes she could change the tardy rule to be a little more lenient. "If you are a minute late, you need an attendance slip," she said.



## Eighth Grade Student Spotlight: Benjamin Kinney and Kathryn Kimbell

BY JAREK LAPSLEY

Benjamin Kinney, who was nominated for the student spotlight by Dr. DeThomas, said his favorite food is spaghetti. If he had a million dollars, he would invest it in the stock market and buy some wrestling gear. One aspect of school he would like to change is the milk selection in the cafeteria. "Whole milk should just be an option," he said. Benjamin's ideal house would be in Maine, and his favorite book in the library is called *Never Quit* by Jimmy Settle. If he had any superpower, it would be to pause time. His favorite athlete is Carter Starocci, and his advice to his peers is: "You can do anything if you put your mind to it."



Mrs. Minter selected Kathryn Kimbell for the student spotlight for her outstanding work ethic. "She is always on top of all of her work, and she did all of her work before vacation," said Mrs. Minter. Kathryn's favorite food is pepperoni pizza, and if she had a million dollars, she would give it all to the humane society. Her favorite book series is Harry Potter. If she could have any superpower, she would want the ability to fly. Finally, if she could live anywhere, she would select a little house in the woods.

## Butler Crossword

BY DAVID CORNISH AND DYLAN RICHARDS

### Across

5. Who is the Butler Intermediate High School's librarian?
9. How many frames are there in a game of Unified Bocce?
11. Who is the only teacher that teaches algebra in 7th grade?
12. How many ESP classes are there?
13. Most students take the PSSA but some also take the algebra \_\_\_\_\_?

### Down

1. Who is the boys' head coach for the varsity senior high golf team?
2. What Butler sport has the most WPIAL titles?
3. How many classrooms are in the IHS?
4. Butler's school colors are Gold and ?
5. Who is the 6'7" principal?
6. Who is the teacher that leads student council besides Mrs. Sankey?
7. Who teaches Tornado Connection newsletter?
8. What is Butler's mascot?
10. According to Butler's athletics website, we offer how many sports?

