

SPRING 2025

THE TORNADO CONNECTION

KEEPING THE LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN



SOAR Store Rewards Positive Behavior

BY TYLER CULLEY AND JOSH FINK

At the beginning of the school year, the PBIS committee instituted the SOAR Store as a way to reward gold ticket-earning students.

The store was created as a new way to reward students for demonstrating the values of the program with a variety of prizes that they can buy with their golden tickets. Prizes range in “price” and include anything from a framed picture of Mr. Dunn to gift cards, food, and a basketball. According to Mr. Stoner, who has been instrumental in the store’s implementation and promotion, “The SOAR store offers a fun environment and cool prizes that have really motivated students to SOAR.”

The acronym SOAR has been used at the Intermediate High School since PBIS started in 2019. Mrs. Neigh, a seventh-grade mathematics teacher and faculty leader for PBIS, said that a lot of discussion went into choosing the acronym. “Every school had to select their own acronym, and we thought that safety, ownership, attitude, and respect were a high priority for our building, so we chose it,” Mrs. Neigh commented. Mr. Stoner added, “Basically, we want to create an environment that makes everyone feel welcome, and where there is no negativity or bullying.”

Before the creation of the SOAR Store, students were randomly put into a drawing to decide who won an already selected prize. Only ten students every two weeks would win a prize from a golden ticket. Now, more than ten gold ticket-earning students can get a prize from the store in one day.

Mrs. Crissman, one of the assistant principals, said, “We wanted to change the way that students were rewarded for earning gold tickets. We had an empty room that wasn’t being used for anything, so we turned it into a store, and the

(CONT. PG. 2)

students seem to really like it.” The SOAR Store being here creates what teachers would like to have as a culture of positivity, and people working to do the right thing here in the school.

To promote the store, the team members have made “Little Scotty Videos,” featuring Mr. Stoner and Mrs. Neigh to encourage students to be like Soaring Scotty and earn gold tickets. The committee is always looking for new prizes and motivational ideas to promote positive behavior, because according to Mr. Stoner, “We are old people. We don’t know what the kids want.” The SOAR Store staff is currently considering adding a suggestion box for more prizes in the store.

Celebrating Dedication: Retirees Reflect on Years of Service, New Beginnings

BY EMILIE PICARD

As the school year comes to a close, Butler Intermediate High School is saying farewell to three dedicated staff members: Mrs. Casher, Mrs. Hepfl, and Ms. Philipkosky. With decades of service between them, they’ve each made a lasting impact through their kindness, leadership, and support for students and staff. As they step into retirement, they leave behind a legacy that will be felt for years to come.

Mrs. Casher has worked for Butler Area School District for 41 years. Her favorite part of the job has been getting to know the students and staff. As she prepares to retire, she looks forward to sleeping past 4:40 AM, working part-time, traveling, and spending quality time with her daughter Cheyenne and her 86-year-old father. One of the most rewarding parts of her job has been seeing former students succeed, especially those who faced major challenges earlier in life.

Her inspiration to become a school secretary came from her business class teacher, Mr. Wolf, who encouraged her to follow this career path. Reflecting on her time at the school, she said, “There are just so many memorable moments in this role,” showing how much the experience has meant to her. Mrs. Casher believes the most important skill for a school secretary is the ability to multitask effectively and have patience with students and staff. She explained that her decision to retire was contract-based, but she also looks forward to time with her family. She expressed how much she has appreciated working for the school district and shared her gratitude for the support of her fellow office staff.

Mrs. Hepfl has worked at Butler Intermediate High School for 28 years—23 of those in attendance and five in the main office. Her favorite part of being a school secretary has been the opportunity to meet and interact with the wide variety of students and staff members who make up the school community. As she looks ahead to retirement, Mrs. Hepfl is excited to return to her love of sewing, spend more time with her family, and ride motorcycles with her husband.

She believes that the most important qualities for a school secretary are the ability to get along with others, along with patience and understanding. When asked why she chose to retire, she explained, “It’s simply time to retire and spend time with my family. My husband is retiring next year, so we can retire together.” Mrs. Hepfl shared that she has truly enjoyed her time at the Intermediate High School and feels grateful for the wonderful colleagues she has worked with and the many friendships she has formed over the years. What she will miss most, she said, are her daily interactions with the people around her.

Mr. Dunn, one of the assistant principals, shared how deeply he has appreciated working with both Mrs. Casher and Mrs. Hepfl over the last six years. He described the experience as one of the most rewarding of his career, saying their compassion and dedication to the well-being of students has been nothing short of exemplary. “They are more than just colleagues. I consider them friends, and I’m going to miss seeing them every day,” he said.

Ms. Philipkosky has also left a lasting legacy at Butler, having dedicated 33 years to the school district. She began her career as a long-term substitute chemistry teacher, but it was during that time she discovered her true calling: counseling. After shadowing a school counselor, she realized the powerful impact that role could have on students, both academically

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and emotionally. This experience inspired her to pursue a career in school counseling, where she has spent years supporting students through challenges and celebrating their successes.

Throughout her time at Butler, Ms. Philipkosky has been a strong advocate for her students. Whether offering academic help or emotional guidance, she has been a steady and compassionate presence. Her ability to connect with students on a personal level created a safe and trusting environment where many felt comfortable seeking support. “It wasn’t easy to retire, but there are other things I want to do, and now seemed like the right time,” she said. Looking ahead, she is excited to spend more time with family and friends and explore her passion for travel, seeking new experiences and adventures around the world.

Ms. Philipkosky commented, “I have truly enjoyed working with all the students and staff, and I will miss them deeply.” Her retirement marks the end of a remarkable career, but the kindness, dedication, and support she has given to the school community will be remembered for years to come.



Sixth Graders Look Back on Transition to IHS

BY CARSON TWIGG AND EVAN WICK

The transition from fifth to sixth grade may seem overwhelming, but current sixth graders have some reassuring advice for incoming IHS students.

Current sixth grader Jacob Wick was mostly concerned about the teachers being strict. His best advice for future sixth graders is, “Listen to your teachers; they know better.” So, on the first day of school, he had no problem with the teachers. His favorite part of the Intermediate is the freedom students have with more responsibility. The biggest adjustment for him was the size of the school. He said, “Make sure you walk your schedule during summer orientation so you are prepared for the first day of school.”

Dismissal was also a concern for Jacob. But surprisingly, he likes dismissal better at the IHS than at his elementary school. As he said, “You will know exactly where your bus will be, which is different from my elementary school.” Jacob’s hardest class was computer science. His advice to incoming sixth graders for computer class is, “Always stay ahead of your work if you don’t want a ton of homework.”

Another sixth grader, Austin Ritchie, was most concerned about the size of the school. His best advice for future sixth graders is, “On the first day of school, ask the teachers for help.” So, on the first day of school, he didn’t have any problems because he asked the teachers for help. His favorite part about the IHS is the new friends he made. He said, “I have met so many new people at the IHS.”

The biggest adjustment for Austin was the bell schedule. He said, “It was an adjustment to getting used to the bell schedule between periods.” Lunch was also concerning for Austin because he said, “I was scared of having no friends in my lunch.” However, he ended up liking lunch better at the Intermediate. “I get to sit with all my classmates, which is

very nice," he commented. The hardest class for Austin is art. He said, "Art was hard for me, but you should pay attention to the teacher's instructions."

Another sixth grader, Reid Cuny, was most concerned about not having any friends at the new school. His best advice to future sixth graders is: "Say hi to people because you could maybe meet a new friend." His favorite part about the IHS is the gym because of the sports he plays.

The biggest adjustment for Reid is how many more students there are in this school. He said, "There were so many new people I got to meet." He was concerned about the older kids, but he said, "They keep the sixth graders pretty secluded, so I didn't have to worry about that." Reid's hardest class was computer science, and he advised, "Don't mess around if you don't want homework."

Overall, the sixth graders felt it was a smooth transition from their elementary schools to the Intermediate. We look forward to meeting all of the new students in the fall!



Clubs Encourage Inclusion

BY QUINN STEWART AND MOLLY WYNN

During the 2024–2025 school year, several impactful clubs, such as Best Buddies, Reverse Inclusion and Good News, have worked to promote inclusion and improve the overall school environment. Mrs. Rekich leads Best Buddies, Miss Hannah directs the Reverse Inclusion Club, and Miss Tepper oversees the Good News Club. These dedicated advisors help organize meaningful activities that create a positive experience for everyone involved.

In the Best Buddies Club, Mrs. Rekich, along with several staff members and volunteers, organizes inclusive and engaging activities that help students build friendships and create lasting memories. Grace Behrens, a dedicated member of the club, takes part in many of these group events throughout the year.

Mrs. Rekich explained that her favorite part of leading the club is seeing students interact with others outside their usual circles, saying that one of the most meaningful moments for her is "when I take my students back and forth to speech and the other kids in the hallway know them by name." Each meeting begins with students breaking into small groups of around ten friends, followed by a variety of fun activities such as crafts, games, and sometimes a special treat. Some highlights have included making paper chain links, creating personalized handshakes, playing Uno and Blooket, and even putting together a joke book.

She was inspired to start the club after her son joined a Best Buddies group at the high school. "I know he had a lot of fun," she said, and after noticing there wasn't a similar program at the elementary or intermediate level, she decided to start one at BIHS. Preparing for the club takes about a month of planning, including organizing materials and coordinating with Mrs. Crissman, who is in charge of scheduling. Laughing, Mrs. Rekich said the club meets "whatever day Mrs. Crissman tells me."

One of her favorite memories was seeing students bond as they came up with handshakes together, a moment she described as truly special. She added that hearing students say how much they enjoyed the club has made it all worthwhile: "The amount of kids that said they loved it." Meetings are held in either Cafeteria A or B, depending on the group. For Mrs. Rekich, the best part of each day is seeing students feel comfortable and confident around one another rather than shy or unsure.

Seventh grader, Grace Behrens, feels that the best part about being in Best Buddies is that she can be a part of a community that is very positive and very encouraging. Her favorite memory was when they went up to the high school and watched a bocce game. "It was really fun," she said.

Miss Hannah is the leader of the Reverse Inclusion Club where, similar to Best Buddies, students complete activities with peers and develop friendships. The only difference is that this club is much smaller and meets in self-contained classrooms in a quieter environment.

Miss Hannah explained that the best part of leading the club is watching the friendships that form between students. A typical day in Reverse Inclusion begins with students arriving, greeting each other, and chatting as they settle in. The club provides a space for students to relax, hang out, and enjoy games together. Activities include crafts, games, planting flowers, and creating special projects like Mother's Day crafts. Miss Hannah's main goal in starting the club was to encourage acceptance of differences and to ensure everyone has the chance to participate.



To prepare for meetings, she organizes craft materials and supplies ahead of time. The club meets on Mondays and Fridays in room 106. Some of Miss Hannah's favorite memories are of playing various games and seeing the students get excited. She finds the most rewarding part of the club is watching students participate, interact, and form new friendships. Each day, she especially enjoys witnessing the positive connections and bonds that develop.

Maggie McCurdy says the best part of being in Reverse Inclusion is helping the younger kids and spending time with friends. Her favorite memory from the club is "going outside and running around with all of the kids." Maggie decided to join the club because she wanted to help out and be involved. During meetings, she and other members enjoy making crafts, playing games, and learning how to understand and manage different emotions.

Mrs. Tepper, a chorus teacher at the Intermediate High School, leads the Good News Club. Good News provides a space where students can have fun while learning more about each other's faith.

Mrs. Tepper said the best part of leading the club is watching the seventh grade leaders take charge and seeing how many students show up to participate. A typical day at Good News Club begins with students gathering in Cafeteria A, where the leaders explain the planned activities. These can include prayer, games, or other group activities. Throughout the meetings, students focus on lessons about holidays, Bible verses, games with prizes, and sharing prayer requests. The club is student-led, with members organizing Blooket and Kahoot games, scripture lessons, and discussions. Bibles are also provided to any students who need them.

Mrs. Tepper was excited when an eighth grader approached her about starting the club and asked her to be the faculty sponsor. To prepare, she ensures students know the meeting dates and arranges coverage for the sessions. Good News meets once a month, typically on Monday or Friday. One of Mrs. Tepper's favorite memories is seeing about 50 sixth, seventh, and eighth graders engaged and talking openly about their spiritual journeys. She finds the most rewarding part of the club is watching the student leaders grow and seeing so many kids interested in exploring their faith together. She appreciates that the club is student-led and enjoys the large number of participants.

Wyatt Ruby shared that the best part of being in the Good News Club is "being with friends." His favorite memory is playing Blooket games with the group. He decided to join because he thought it would be a fun experience. Wyatt said that members often play games and have group conversations about Jesus. One of the Bible verses he enjoys learning about in the club is John 3:16.

Orchestra Seniors Rock Farewell Concert

BY PAIGE SINGER AND HADLEY WISNIEWSKI

On May 14, all seniors in the Butler Rock Orchestra performed their final concert. They played many songs like *Enter Sandman*, *Boulevard of Broken Dreams*, *The Rolling Stones*, *Crazy Train*, and *Walk This Way*. The first note lit up the room and immediately drew everyone's attention to the stage.

Rock Orchestra originated in 2016 and is composed of top orchestra students in grades 8–12 who have outstanding attitudes and excel in individual performance. They only meet once a week, every Wednesday from 3:05 to 4:15.

Most of the seniors have been playing in the Rock Orchestra for five years and have left a lasting mark on the group. They have worked tirelessly to learn these additional songs on top of the ones for the regular orchestra. Senior Rylee Colteryahn has cherished every moment, and she hopes that younger members will do the same. "Don't take time with the orchestra for granted. Just like everything else in life, there are always challenges to overcome, and you will always have frustrating moments, but push through and make the memories. Enjoy every moment because you will never get it back!" she advised.

Rock Orchestra is a very active group; just this year, they played three concerts and had one elementary school tour. This group has to be able to learn music quickly while staying on top of schoolwork and finding a good amount of practice time. Mrs. Black, the orchestra director, remarked, "These students are involved in a multitude of other activities, and I give them challenging music. They make it happen with a smile. They are hardworking, determined young leaders."



The seniors have had many challenges throughout their journey in Rock, but their biggest challenge was learning with a new orchestra teacher. Miss Crust filled in as the long-term substitute for Mrs. Black while she was on maternity leave. Only being her first year of teaching, Miss Crust was excited for the challenge. She commented, "To me, Rock Orchestra is a group of students who are willing to go above and beyond for a team and will put in the work. These students are a wonderful group who all have something in common." After the Rock Orchestra concert, Miss Crust was very happy with how it went. She gushed, "I am so proud of this electric group and everything they have done this year."

Senior cello player Blaise Steele has been a part of this outstanding group for six years. With his aggressive style of playing, he was the perfect fit for Rock Orchestra. Blaise explained, "I remember going all the way back to sixth and seventh grade and seeing the Rock Orchestra perform at the winter concert. It was incredible! I knew then that I wanted to be a part of that group, so I started taking lessons to improve myself." Seniors just like Blaise have so many amazing memories together, but there are always ones that are more special to them. Blaise said, "I think the best memories I had were from the field trip to the Pittsburgh Symphony. Everything was so memorable about that trip, from the terrible, bland pasta to the insane pianist and the bus ride with him. It was all unforgettable."

Patryk Lyon is a senior violin player who has been playing with the Rock Orchestra for six years now. Patryk plays his instrument like no one's watching; he uses all of his emotions to play his best. Over all of his years playing and all of the music he has learned, Patryk said, "I enjoyed playing *Devil Went Down to Georgia* the most. It's a piece that everyone knows and a piece that I knew I wanted to play someday as soon as I started playing the violin. It was such a surreal experience to be able to not only play it but sing it with the orchestra as well." With their last performance, Patryk put everything into this concert to make it his best. He commented, "It does sting that it's over, but at the same time, I'm really glad we went out with a good performance. My time with the Rock Orchestra may be over, but it will always be a great program, and I will always be there to support it at every event they do."

A senior viola player who has been playing with the Rock Orchestra for the last five years, Rylee Colteryahn, knew she wanted to join this breathtaking group because she likes challenging herself. Rylee loves helping her community, whether it's playing for her church or playing for others at their concerts. She shared, "As musicians, we have the opportunity to share our gifts and bring joy to people in our community." With their years of experience coming to an end, the seniors look at the bright side of their time with the Rock Orchestra. Rylee proclaimed, "It's bittersweet knowing that my time with the Rock Orchestra is over. It has been a part of my life for the last five years, so it's hard to say goodbye, yet at the same time, I am so grateful for all the experiences I had with the Rock Orchestra and the friendships I made."

Starfish Aims to End Bullying

BY RYDER PYLE AND ANAYA SPOHN

The Butler Intermediate High School Starfish program is an anti-bullying initiative that involves both students and teachers. Together, BIHS works to create a kind environment that students can enjoy.

In 2001, the principal at the time, Mr. James Allen, introduced the Starfish program to BIHS. Originally started in Karns City, Denny Barger created the program and then shared his vision with his friend, Mr. Allen. This program has made a big impact on Butler since its introduction and is still going strong after 24 successful years. The program is hoped and expected to continue for many upcoming BIHS generations.



Not only has Starfish made the school a place where kids want to come, but it also brings people together in hopes of reducing bullying. Starfish involves a core group of teachers who work to keep this program functioning and students involved. Together, they meet with student leaders and orchestrate various service activities, all aimed at encouraging kindness and acceptance in the school and community.

According to Miss Carlson, a seventh grade history teacher who serves as a Starfish advisor and also participated as a student leader when she was in eighth grade, "This program promotes the belief that everyone belongs and everyone deserves to be treated fairly. It helps ensure all students feel welcomed and gives us a way to help students who may not feel that way." Ultimately, all the teachers agree that students who feel comfortable and welcome have better attendance and do better academically.

The Starfish program may be an anti-bullying initiative, but it is also a leadership training program for the eighth graders who serve as leaders each year. In April of their seventh grade year, students are nominated by their teachers for demonstrating kindness, respect, and inclusion in school. Once nominated, the students take part in summer training, where they participate in team-building activities to get to know one another and bond as a group. They also talk about ways to make the school a better environment for everyone. "On August 12 this year, we will train over 90 new Starfish leaders, which is one of the largest groups we have ever had. It just goes to show you that our program is thriving, and students know the difference that it makes!" commented Mrs. Minch, an eighth grade English teacher.

This organization is managed by teachers in multiple ways. As seventh grade teacher Mrs. Neely Aldridge said, “There are four core Starfish teachers that really keep it running, and then we always invite other teachers to join in and help out.” To organize over 25 activities a year, it takes as much help as possible! Some of the activities that this year’s group completed included sixth grade Starfish day, open house, summer orientation, student of the month, peer mediation, canvas painting, bus driver and cafeteria worker appreciation day, fifth grade move-up days, and many more.

Starfish gives students a leadership role in a place where they need to succeed. “It’s one of the first real leadership opportunities for kids,” said Mrs. Neely Aldridge.

Future Starfish leaders were recently selected and sent invitations to the summer training via email, and the response has been overwhelming. Current Starfish leader Ada Cousins recommends that upcoming leaders jump into activities early. “Making a quick jump into your required activities makes it easy and causes little to no stress. The teachers expect a lot, but it is all rewarding and fun,” she said.

The upcoming leaders have big shoes to fill. Even just being nominated for the program is a huge honor. The students of BIHS have big responsibilities and need to be role models and representatives for the younger grades. Current leader Landon Slear said, “I think Starfish is a community of people who want to stand for one goal, which is to prevent bullying. We want to promote kindness and love for everyone in the school.”

Students Explore Fashion in ESP

BY TESSA REESE

Some students in seventh and eighth grade have the opportunity to participate in the Enrichment Studies Program (ESP), which offers a variety of unique courses—from communications to computer programming. One of the most popular courses is Mrs. Walker’s Intro to Fashion.

Like the other courses offered in the program, each class began with a teacher proposal. According to Mrs. Walker, “I approached Mr. Dobransky about offering a fashion and interior design class,” she said. “I thought it would be a good bridge to the offerings at the senior high school.”

A typical day in her class includes a short advisory lesson followed by hands-on creative work. Students take on a variety of projects like newspaper dresses, fabric dyeing, paper dolls, and fashion design challenges. Mrs. Walker’s personal favorite? “By far, the life-size newspaper dresses,” she said.

She believes the class is perfect for students who are artistic, creative, and able to manage their time well. Now in her fourth year of teaching *Intro to Fashion*, Mrs. Walker says her favorite part is giving students the freedom to be creative, make mistakes, and learn from them. “If I could change one thing,” she added, “I’d make it longer than a trimester. There’s just so much to do!”

To stay organized, she uses a calendar to ensure there’s enough time for each project. She believes the ESP program is an important part of the IHS experience. “It lets students be creative and explore future job opportunities,” she said. Her advice for incoming sixth graders: “Be willing to try everything, take the classes seriously, and have fun.”

Seventh grader Tegan Steyer recently completed the *Intro to Fashion* course. For Tegan, the best part of the class is how much creativity it allows. “It’s really fun,” she said. “I like creating things—and I also really like Mrs. Walker.”

One of Tegan’s favorite projects was designing full cardboard houses. She said it was fun to work with friends, but admitted it came with challenges. “The due dates are really short, and you have to create everything on your own,” she explained. Still, she appreciated the chance to bring her ideas to life.

For sixth graders thinking about taking the class next year, Tegan has some advice: “Make sure you have friends in it, make sure you’re ready every day, and make sure you have ideas.” As for balancing the class with clubs and other activities, Tegan said it’s not too hard. “Clubs meet once a month and don’t give much work.”

From cardboard houses to runway-ready newspaper dresses, *Intro to Fashion* gives students a place to dream big, design freely, and maybe even discover a future career.

SPRING 2025

THE TORNADO CONNECTION

STUDENT SECTION



Wise Advice from Eighth Graders

BY ADA COUSINS, CHIEF EDITOR

Eighth grade students were given the opportunity to give advice to future IHS students. They came up with numerous ways to help them improve their upcoming school years.

Kai Anderson: "Always turn in your work, and use deodorant."

Liam Fediaczko: "Don't be a bad kid, and be kind to everyone."

Lily Campbell: "Come to school, and be nice."

Payton Kelly: "Don't skip classes."

Val Smith: "Treat everyone with respect."

Colton Crider: "Stay single, and ignore the haters."

Maggie McCurdy: "Work hard, make lots of friends, and be a kind person."

Maddix Iman: "Do your homework, and get good grades."

Dominic Rock: "Make sure you know where your classes are, and don't get lost."

Caleb McCall: "Try your hardest."

Olivia Bush: "Don't spray perfume in the vents if you don't like the smell the teacher uses as air freshener. You will get in trouble and written up."

Vanessa Graham: "Don't be annoying, and listen to your teachers."

Drew Cuny: "Listen, and follow all the rules."

Cameron Courtney: "Don't act a fool."

Greyson Steadman: "Just have fun, and try your best."

Kerrington Fleege: "Do your homework, and make friends."



Landon Slear: "Finish all of your work on time, but don't stress over assignments."

Landon Bichler: "Don't fight, kids."

Raeleigh Niemeyer: "Keep good grades, and maintain a good reputation."

Emily Schollaert: "Enjoy it while it lasts."

Grace Douthett: "Don't be lazy, and show up for school."

Landon Beatty: "Just stay calm, and keep organized with a calm mood."

Carlee Fortuna: "Don't get in trouble during class."

Adyson Geibel: "Don't be loud."

Javier Valadez: "Finish your work."

Laynie Futscher: "Focus on school more than drama."

Brayden Beatty: "Don't be last to lunch."

Cool Cars of the IHS

BY PARKER CLOUTIER AND MASON WATSON

The Butler Intermediate High School is home to a wide variety of cool cars. Three of the coolest cars belong to Miss Hegedus, Mrs. Sankey, and Mr. McMillen.

Seventh grade math teacher Miss Hegedus has a white, lifted Jeep Wrangler. She bought her car because it has been her dream car since she was 16 years old. She said that she loves her special tires and the ducks she has on her dashboard. "My three-year-old niece loves my ducks," she said. If she had to trade in her car for any other car, she would trade it for the exact same one with the same features because it is her dream car. She says her favorite brand is Jeep because that is the type of car she has. Before her Jeep, she had a PT Cruiser convertible.



Seventh grade teacher Mrs. Sankey drives her Audi convertible when the weather is nice enough. Her favorite feature is her convertible roof. She bought it because her kids moved out of the house, and she decided to spend a little money on herself. "It does have heated seats, not that I drive it in the winter time," she said. She also loves that it has good trunk space. A cool memory she has had with her car is going on a road trip with her husband to a concert. If she had to trade in her car for a new one, she would trade it in for a Lamborghini Gallardo Spyder. Her favorite car brand is Toyota. She had a Toyota Supra before her convertible.



Sixth grade teacher Mr. McMillen has a Dodge Hellcat in B5 blue. He said his favorite feature is the 717 horsepower under the hood. The blue color is a limited edition B5 blue. "The hair on my neck stands up every time I press on the gas and the supercharger whines," he commented. If he had to trade it in for a different car, he would get the same exact one because of the color and the horsepower. He likes Dodge muscle cars. He has had three Challengers: an RT, SRT, and a Hellcat.



Most Likely: Summer Edition

BY LAINA ALWINE AND ADALEE FROILAN

Who is most likely to get a sunburn?

"Grace Shuler"- Marlin Berry
"Laina Alwine"- Matthew Rycroft
"Khloe Zach"- Mason Ansani
"Keilan Lawrence"- Liam Hohn

Who is most likely to wake up at 4 p.m. everyday?
"Kali Singer"- Mara Eamigh
"Cody Eggleton"- Mason Ansani
"Kalynn Feldman"- Zoey Selfridge
"Chase Undercuffler"- Holden Benson



Who is most likely to workout everyday?
"Austin Smith"- Chase Wassel
"Josh Fink"- Kole Rae
"Landon McDonald"- Tony Harris
"Cody Farr"- Aria Giese

Who is most likely to stay in the pool the longest?

"Quinn Steyer"- Khloe Zach
"Joshua Fink"- Azariah Miller
"Laina Alwine"- Zoey Selfridge
"Cayden Ball"- Grady Bohin
"Mara Eamigh"- Chase Wassel

Who is most likely to write a bucket list and not complete it?

"Jazmyn Dove"- Mya Sovereign
"Adalee Froilan"- Mara Eamigh
"Cody Farr"- Emma Gaiser
"Adalee Froilan"- Jury Palatinus
"Roman Lacy"- Phoenix Walton

Who is most likely to get lost while camping?
"Zayden Blystone"- Emma Gaiser
"Adam Marshall"- Azariah Miller
"Dannie Morris"- Sophia Blystone
"Amara Thompson"- Aadalyn Kinkela

Sixth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY ARABELLA ROMAN AND ZOE WOLLER

The sixth grade mystery teacher grew up in Oakmont, PA, and attended Carnegie University and Carlow University. When she was younger, she wanted to become a firefighter. She decided to become a teacher because of her desire to work with kids and help them grow. She has a daughter, a son, a dog, and a cat.

If she had one piece of advice for students, she would say, "Always try new things and always do your best." She has been teaching for 22 years. Her favorite food is either salad or grilled octopus. Three adjectives that describe her best are friendly, caring, and adventurous. Her favorite places to go on vacation are warm beaches or anywhere new she hasn't been yet.

If she were a queen for the day, her first royal decree would be that everyone has to unplug from their technology and spend time with family for an hour. She said, "If I weren't a teacher, I would want to be a pediatric trauma surgeon."



Seventh Grade Mystery Teacher

BY ARABELLA ROMAN AND ZOE WOLLER



The seventh grade mystery teacher grew up in West Allegheny, PA and went to college at Duquesne University. When she was younger, she wanted to become a teacher or a professional basketball player. She decided to become a teacher because a 12th-grade teacher inspired her. She has one daughter and a dog.

If she had one piece of advice for students, she would say, "Come to class every day ready to succeed and try your best." She has been teaching for 13 years. Her favorite meal is ribeye steak, mashed potatoes, and green beans. Three adjectives that describe her best are caring, kind, and athletic. Her favorite places to go on vacation are Turks and Caicos and Santorini, Greece.

If she were queen for the day, her first royal decree would be that everyone has to do something fun outdoors for the day. She said if she weren't a teacher, "I would want to be a travel advisor or blogger—something where I can explore the world."

Eighth Grade Mystery Teacher

BY ARABELLA ROMAN AND ZOE WOLLER

This teacher grew up in Ellwood City, PA and went to college at Penn State Behrend. When she was younger, she wanted to become a psychiatrist. She decided to become a teacher because she loved tutoring math when she was in college. She doesn't have any children or pets.

If she could give one piece of advice to students, she would say, "Take advantage of every opportunity to learn the most you can." She has been teaching for 20 years. Her favorite food is sushi. Three adjectives that describe her best are hardworking, nerdy, and corny. Her favorite place to go on vacation is Ireland.

If she were a queen for the day, she would make chocolate a part of every meal. She said if she weren't a teacher, "I would want to be an accountant or something math-related."



Fondest IHS Memories

BY GIANNA SHAFFER AND MARGARET CHERRY, EDITOR

Sixth Grade

Caleb Anderson- "Kickball during an assembly"
Jessie Cruse- "Making posters and hanging them up"
Reid Cuny- "Building castles for science"
Chad Hilliard- "SOAR Assemblies"
Naleigha Thorpe- "Starfish Day"

Seventh Grade

Vayda Byers- "Going to classrooms and getting candy in math class"
Dylan Richards- "Sixth Grade Field Day"
Mya Soyberin- "Making new friendships and more to come"
Emily Sproule- "The Gettysburg Field Trip"
Kameron Warheit- "Mr. McKinley getting sturdy on the last day of school"

Eighth Grade

Riley Davis- "Our sixth grade lunch table made a lot of memories."

Khloe Kummer- "The last day of seventh grade"

Dominic Rock- "Kickball games for attendance in sixth grade"

Rieger Rummel- "Dressing up as Ms. McKinsey for Teacher Appreciation Week"

Harper Schlobohm- "Hanging out with friends and making records during track season"



Sibling Battle Part 2!

BY SOPHIA SLAUGENHOUP AND CARLY CYGAN, EDITOR

Teagan vs. Quinn Steyer

- "She gets annoyed when I go into her room to get clothes."
- "Quinn can't live without her phone, soccer because she is very good at it, and probably her bed."
- "I like that she is really outgoing, funny, and of course athletic."
- "I got Quinn in trouble when she lost something of mine, and it was very important."



- "It annoys her when I go into her room to use her lighting to make TikToks, but I don't usually leave for a while."
- "Teagan can't live without her phone, and she always does slick backs so for sure hair gel, and fuzzy socks because her feet get cold."
- "I like when she does my hair, which always looks so good, when she makes me really good food, and she gives me the best massages."
- "I got Teagan in trouble when she threw rice at me, and I cracked her neck. Then, I poured the rest of the rice on her and blamed it all on her for starting the whole thing."

Carson vs. Caleb McCall

- "He hates when I always quit while we're playing sports."
- "Caleb would say that his trumpet, his friends, and food are most important to him."
- "He will always play football or ride quads with me, and he does favors for me."
- "I broke something and blamed it on Caleb."



- "I hate it when he comes into my room and touches all of my stuff."
- "Carson values his phone, definitely video games (he loves those) and probably his saxophone because he is in band."
- "He plays with me, he does favors, and he doesn't bother me all the time."
- "When we start fighting, I blame it on him, and he gets in trouble."

Vance vs. Sidney Elliott

- "She gets annoyed because I take her phone a lot."
- "What's important to her? Her phone, her phone, and her phone."
- "She helps me do my homework sometimes, she bakes lots of cookies, but I have to steal them from her, and she gives me food a lot."
- "One time she pushed me down the stairs and I told on her, so she got yelled at."



- "He always gets mad when I ask him questions if he is around his friends."
- "He definitely couldn't live without his Playstation, probably his phone, and for sure food."
- "He's really funny, he'll hang out with me, and he's nice, but only when he wants to be."
- "He got in trouble one time because I told my parents he didn't do his chores."

Kenzie vs. Bryce Erdos

- "Sometimes, I go upstairs while he is playing video games just to annoy him."
- "He can't go a day without playing video games, drinking protein shakes, or talking about hockey."
- "He's funny, nice most of the time, and really good at playing hockey."
- "When we were younger, I knocked a lamp over and blamed him. He got in trouble for a while."



- "I take her stuff a lot."
- "She couldn't go a day without her phone, definitely not Snapchat, and she is always talking to her friends, so probably friends."
- "She's funny and makes me laugh a lot, she's weirdly nice to me, and I don't know why, but I like when she is annoying."
- "One time, when we were younger, I broke a pot and blamed her for it. She got her phone taken away for a couple days."

Athletes Excel in Track and Field

BY DREW DIAMOND, EDITOR

This spring, the Butler Junior High Track and Field Team completed another successful season, boasting many great accomplishments.

The track and field program is one of Butler's largest and most successful sports organizations, especially in recent years. The girls' team finished the regular season with a record of six wins and three losses, while the boys' team finished at 8–1. The team also performed very well during the invite-only meets, with a second-place overall finish at Seneca Valley's Raider Relay meet as a highlight. In the final meet alone, 24 athletes across both teams earned a spot on the top ten records list.

Every day for the past two months, the team met in Cafeteria B for practice, which lasted from 3:15 to 5:00 p.m. During practices, the team warmed up together but then split up depending on the event they wanted to practice that day. The track events offered included the 100, 200, and 400-meter sprints; 100 and 300-meter hurdles; 800, 1600, and 3200-meter distance runs; and relays for the 100, 400, 800, and 1600. The field events were shot put, javelin, discus, pole vault, long jump, triple jump, and high jump. On meet days, athletes left school early, as most opponents were nearly an hour away. Both students and coaches agreed that their favorite meet was the Butler Invite—the final and biggest meet of the year.

There were multiple coaches for the teams, with Josh Uncapher serving as the boys' head coach and Carrie Birckbichler-Smith leading the girls' team. Many teachers at Butler also helped coach specific events, such as Coach Hildebrand with the sprinters and Coach Hegedus with the jumping events.

The Butler track and field team typically has the largest roster of any sport in the district. According to Coach Uncapher, that's because there's something for everyone. He explained, "Everybody is trying it for the first time, and all the athletes participate." His favorite part of the year was "seeing everyone reach their goals." If he could change one thing about the season, it would be the weather. Looking ahead, he hopes to recruit even more athletes next year.

Coach Hildebrand also noted the challenge of the weather but said, "It was worth it to see all of the kids succeed." For next season, he hopes to find ways to get athletes even more excited for the races.

Track and field can teach many valuable life lessons. According to Coach Uncapher, "Students can learn goal setting, accountability, discipline, control, effort, and attitude." Participation isn't limited to junior high students—elementary students in grades 4 through 6 can join summer camps and compete in an end-of-year meet. To prepare for next season, Coach Hildebrand advises students to: "Get fit and stay fit."

Overall, track and field provides great opportunities and is one of the most rewarding sports for students at Butler to participate in.



The 2025 Tornado Connection Spring Staff