

the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

East

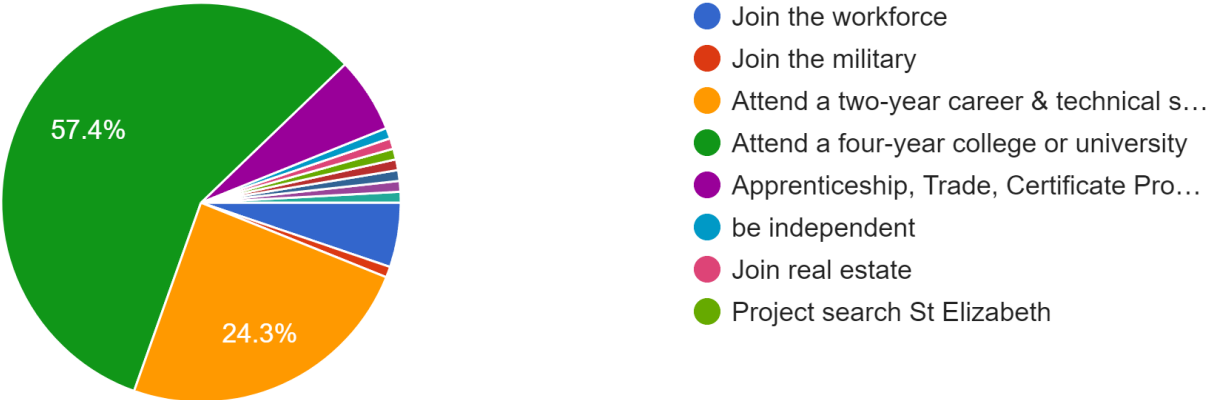
2024



As seniors, everyone thinks we should have everything figured out. In most cases, we thought we did, but then we realize that we really have no idea what our next steps will be. Some of us know that we're going to college, whether it's technical college or a four-year university. Some of us are going straight into the workforce, and some are entering the military. Over the last year, most of us are trying to balance so many things that we are being pulled in opposite directions. On one hand, we have school, friends, family, and sports. On the other hand, we have to make sure that we are making money, especially if we plan on going to college and don't have help with paying for it. We have the stress of senior year, but we also don't have the energy to care. We are burned out students who will finally be graduating with the weight of the future on our shoulders. We look back on the last four years, and we are proud to say that we made it. We got through the COVID years, finally coming back to school but with a weird schedule. Our sophomore year was better: we had normal classes, and we were back to seeing everyone everyday, but we were constantly reminded about the big test coming up our following year, junior year. The ACTs arrived faster than we could realize. Some of us took the test extremely seriously, but others were stressed out with other big exams on the horizon. Suddenly, senior year was here. We made it to our last year of high school. They aren't kidding when they say that last stretch after spring break is the longest stretch in the world. As exciting as it is that we are finally done with our high school career, it's just as scary. Leaving high school as a senior is just as terrifying as entering it as a freshman. We all will be starting over somewhere in the world, whether it be at a new company or a new college. Everything will change, hopefully for the better. Signing off, Class of 2024.

What are your plans for next fall?

115 responses



So, here we are again, huh? Every year, we all sit down and reflect on the goings-on of this year. Isn't it cool to think of all the things we've done? A bunch of us are almost legal adults, the big One-Eight. Congrats, you guys can legally buy nicotine products. Not that you should, but you could. I wouldn't, though. And for those of us who are under the legal age, let's stop vaping in the bathrooms, OK? It's stinky.

Big plans for the summer? I know I don't have any. Life is a funny journey, isn't it? I can hardly believe we've all only got a year left. Y'know, not to give you anxiety or anything. What was your A.C.T score? Thank goodness that's out of the way. We went over a lot for that few months, only for it to be over in a day. It was a long day, wasn't it? I'm personally excited to never have to do that again.



Did you have fun? Did you enjoy your junior year? I'm so proud of you. I hope you know that! Someone is very proud of you for getting through this year. You did a great job! Have a good summer, and we'll see you next year.

Adios and arrivaderchi, LM.

Biggest of plans.



He did not.





- Before getting their drivers licenses, tenth-graders visited the PAC for FOCUS: **F**ocus on Driving, **O**thers are Affected, **C**lear Distractions, **U**nderstand that Substances Impair Judgment, **S**afely Reach Your Destination.
- Sophomores successfully completed their first year of SLP: Student Leadership Program.
- Students crushed the pre-ACT and Forward Exam.
- Quinn O'Connell won the Marschall Award for Outstanding Sophomore Student.

As the school year comes to a close, let us look back on the year, on the new freshmen, the new rules and policies. The consensus of the freshmen thought this year was mildly good. Everyone we talked to said that the school year went pretty slowly. But overall, most everyone thought this year went pretty well, although we don't believe anyone we talked to liked the new phone policy.

Let us look back to the beginning of the year, to the countless assemblies, pep rallies, activities, and other such things. While they were kind of fun, I don't remember anyone liking them very much. The Snowball in January, I know we liked that, and most everyone talked to, both during that and recently, did like it. As with most all the dances.

This year's freshmen were eased into the year and eventually found their place in the school. Now that the freshmen have gotten to know the teachers in the building, I'm fairly confident that sophomore year will have a smooth start. Most of the students, I believe, will continue to make the school as fun and as enjoyable as ever; others still have a little growing up to do, but one thing is for sure: to quote musical artist Maxton Waller, "Yeah it's gonna be alright it's gonna be alright cus that's just life." We will live our lives to the fullest at Appleton East because each and every one one of them matters.

We have tougher battles ahead of us in the next few years, but we have started to be equipped with the tools necessary to fight them. As this chapter of our lives comes to an end, we look back and remember the fond times we had. Make sure we look to the future with the same perspective, so we don't miss out on the small things.



SEE YOU NEXT FALL!

East's upcoming school year will bring much change, including new construction endeavors, new teachers, and more.

This summer, construction is breaking ground at East. There will be construction on East's fitness area, including an expansion and addition, as well as a two-story addition. With construction comes a loss in parking in the Schaefer Street parking lot for the 2024-2025 school year. The construction company will take up a portion of the parking lot where the additions will be on East. With the loss of parking, students who can drive may need to expect and create a new plan for getting to and leaving school. More information on parking will be available closer to the 2024-2025 school year.

Regarding teachers for the new year, some current teachers are leaving East due to moving and other circumstances, so expect new faces in the 2024-2025 school year. Much more change is bound to happen, but it's crucial to remember that to evolve is to change, and evolution brings many positive outcomes.



**STUDENT COUNCIL
EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR:
MRS. LAFLEUR!
FORENSICS STATE CHAMPS:
APPLETON EAST!**



Seniors: To Infinity and Beyond!

If I could say anything to any younger students, I would say that you don't have to have everything figured out. Use your younger years to explore different things, try new foods, new music, different cultures, and explore the world that you live in. Don't be afraid to join different clubs; I regret not joining in more things. I know how often you might hear it from parents, teachers or even mentors. Joining new things and getting to know more people would have been nice if I started earlier. Coming from someone who is extremely quiet and introverted, I don't like putting myself out there. This year, I wanted to try and get to know more people. I did, and now I will be saying goodbye to the new friends I made this year since we are all leaving soon. I got to know more teachers that I could look up to and got more involved in different things. It doesn't always have to be clubs. It can just be going and supporting your friends in their activities. The main point is to get out and explore not only your school but yourself.

Carissa Ashman: I want to become an Environmental Engineer

Haden Arndt: Become a Game Designer.

Lexi Bell: Learn how to fly

Emma Behling: Earn a bachelor's degree in medical laboratory science and pursue a stable career with that education

Nathan Beardsleed: Become proficient in most coding languages

Santiago Butler: Be a defense attorney in a Supreme Court

Anabella Carey: Be a part of the Justice system for children who have no voices.

Zach Carpenter: Free Gotham From Crime

Joeseeph Cazier: Achieve The Motorsports Triple Crown

Jocelyn Chapman: Become a CRNA

Gretchen Christiansen: I would love to have a job I love and succeed in.

Mashala Coffee: I really want to start my own nail tech business.

Alyana Dampeer: Help others, be a good parent; be creative, doing Photography and Arts; as well therapy for show my support for them

Emma Decker: Change lives

Emma Derkes: Putting myself out there

Leah Eggleston: To get my bachelors degree and continue my education to get my masters degree in Occupational Therapy

Nicholas Elliott: To work in a high school as an SRO and coaching the track and field throwers.

Kain Elizondo: To live at least to 25

Quinn Ewald: To start my own business

Josh Gaschler: Win the lottery

Arya Germiot: I want to succeed in my profession that I'm going forward with and be able to travel around the world, donating and helping people and children as best I can

Lexi George: Help people

Lorelei Graf: I want to be people's safe person

Emily Gronert: Travel

Colin Fitzpatrick: Continue to Serve My Community

Israel Flores: Open my own restaurant

Justin Forslund: Become a pilot

Kevin Hatton: Civil engineering

Braxton Haltinner: Money

Finn Hansen: Make it big with my hand, make the pro disc golf tour, and go to college for neuroscience

Hannah Hartleben: Becoming a detective. I want to be a cop and work my way up. Always do the right thing.

Michael Hendrickson: Buy a house

Seniors: To Infinity and Beyond!

Emily Hernandez: Have a family

Miles Hurley: Graduate college and travel the world!

Shelby Jones: Connect people and cultures by flying planes

Laurin Jorgensen: Get ready for cosmetology school

Raïssa Kampel: Be financially stable by 30

Eliana Kelley: I just want to make a lasting impact on people I meet. I wanna be someone people can trust and lean on. Most of all I want to be a good person to myself. Learning to love myself was one of my most challenging things I have ever done. Now I need to continue to keep reminding myself that I am worthy

Robbie Kienetz: Work for or run a high level motorsports team

Caroline Kiesnowski: Learn to do the splits

Ellaina Krickeberg: Complete my master's in 5 years and start my own dietitian business

Mikayla Koenig: One major goal I have in my life is to graduate early which good grades so that I can start a family at a young age.

Anna Kohl: To pursue a stable career

Kate Korb: Make an impact in the world.

Maleah LaBarge: Save snakes

Madison Lindsay: I want to make this world a better place

Alexander Lee: Create new inventions

Aiyanna Lee: Become successful for my future children

Dennis Lee: Take on the abyss

Grayson Lee: Prevent aircraft mishaps and crashes

Delaney Lehman: Travel the World

Olivia Linne: Go into Healthcare

TJ Lucht: Start my own business

Mark Lynch: Make a positive impact on people around me

Jose Lopez: Own my business and Get CDL

Alyce MacDonald: Be a teacher at the Childrens Hospital

Brisadenic Martinez: Have a family and a home

Miguel Martinez: Get rich

Sora Martin: Chemical Engineer in Healthcare related field

Annika McDondald: Study Abroad

Jennifer Medina: Own my own business

Cappelo Moreno: I want to create a house just for teens that are in foster care.

Anatalia Morris: I want to have a job that gives me enough money for my hobbies

Leacadia Morris: Go to college and get a good job

Ari Monroe: Become a successful pediatric nurse.

Dayanna Morales: Become a successful nurse practitioner and help low income families.

Yaneli Muniz Ruiz: Graduate college

Nathan Murton: Finish my Bucket List

Savana Murray: Having a house and a family

Isaac Nagel: Be a kind and thoughtful person!

Izabelle Nelson: Save people's lives

Josue Ntwari: Do my thing. Rule the world with the ball at my feet and make good impact through my poetry and speaking

Esmeralda Orozco: Be a part of the solution to the ongoing pollution problems that our environment faces

TJ Parker: To finish college and become a law enforcement officer

Josh Parks: Financial Freedom

Anthony Padilla: I want to graduate college and I want to find myself a good job. I also want to have a good time in college.

Seniors: To Infinity and Beyond!

Emily Philipp: I'll go back home to Germany and get my high school diploma. After that I want to get a scholarship for Juilliard and study music. I want to travel and get to know different cultures and traditions. And of course I'll always come back to Appleton to visit my host parents and friends!

Mason Ratliff: Clean the plant of garbage

Connor Reeves: Become a judge to help those in need

Josiah Reeves: Get my degree

Brady Remington: Working at Tom's, helping out at home by chores and helping mom and dad

Cross Sato: Make a name for myself

Autumn Sauer: Just to be happy and be proud of the person I have become. I would love to be a medical examiner and help the families with the loss of their loved ones. As for family, I want to stay in touch with my immediate family, be a good wife, and be a good parent

Faith Scherg: Become Barbie

Isaac Schilpp: I want to help design buildings for the benefit of those around me

Hannah Schinschke: Save someone's life

Marissa Schwartz: Be successful in college and peruse my career in physical therapy

Ben Sipes: Dunk on

Hayden Spranger: To educate a full class of students

Clara Steenbock: I want to have graduated from college

Ella Steger: Own a little library

Haley Stibbe: Help people

Elizabeth Sheffler: Dunk

Nathaniel Shapot: Not die

Andrea Sierra: Help keep people safe

Zander Streim: Become a great college football player

Liam Spoehr: I want to help kids as a social worker no matter where I go. Whether it be right here in Appleton or across the globe

Devlan Sriharatsa: Become a successful financial advisor

Caydence Snyder: I would love to have a family after I graduate and find a stable job as an architect.

Jaycee Thao: To be a good parent

Jennifer Thao: Get my doctorate

Linda Thao: Countinue being a part of my nieces and nephews' childhood.

Susan Thao: One major goal I want to accomplish after high school is graduate college for either elementary education or medical school. Then after I would love to start my own family

Trina Thiel: Go into law enforcement

Joey Thowless: Make it to Broadway

Noah Tiseling: Own a house

Grace Van Driel: I want to pursue a career in occupational therapy and help people with Autism.

Chahue Vang: Help people through mental problems

Ken Vang: Pursing an education in college

Thanee Vang: Be a Good Parent

Angie Vargas: Own my own business

Morgan Vogels: Pet the cows I help take care of

Cortnee Weinert: I want to save lives and make sure people are safe every single day

Emily Winn: Become a graphic designer.

Kai Wirth: Have 3.6 million dollars

Sarah Wolf: Be rich and happy

Sara Yang: Live until old age

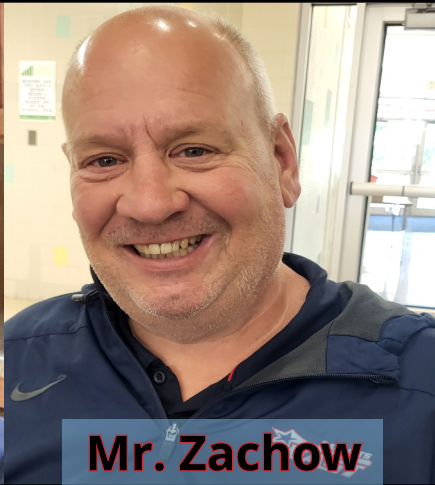
Bridgette Zietlow: My major goal after leaving high school is to be financially stable in an everchanging economy

High school has so many great opportunities to take advantage of, so you should just take them. To not waste time and to ask questions Take all the college courses you can!!! Save your money and time!!! I wish I had known that I gotta take more risks All the different clubs and scholarship opportunities Get through high school. **That people do care about you, even if you yourself don't believe it.** Your "friends" are not your friends **MAKE FRIENDS I WISHED I COULD APPLIED BEFOREHAND** Stay on top of work and begin the college process early *I wish I knew how stressful senior year would actually be* start thinking about college as soon as you can **THE AUTO MECHANICS PROGRAM AT APPLETON EAST IS THE BEST** *Stand up for yourself*

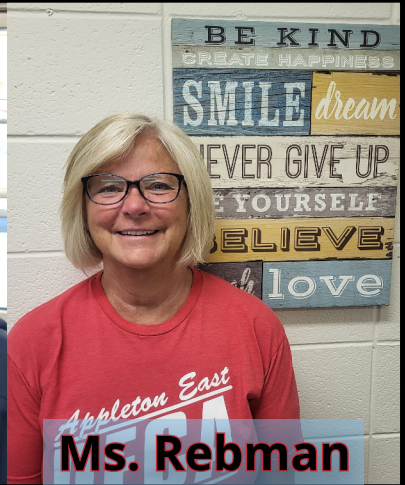
GET INVOLVED friends don't stay *Get involved freshman year* Explore and take classes to find your passions I wish I had known that high school flew by faster than I thought it would Get as much stuff done in your freshman and sophomore years so that you can have a relaxed schedule for your junior and senior year **Value your friends** Studying is not optional It's okay to not know what you want to do in the future! **Don't Know** *Time really does go by fast* Actually work hard in school Don't worry about what other people think of you **Just be you** I wish I would have know that, the little things don't matter a ton. Some things are going to feel huge, but in reality it's something small that you shouldn't worry over too much **Try new things** that interest you, be **passionate and work hard** *Get involved and don't worry what other people think!* Enjoy it while you can **how fast high school goes** Something that I wish I would have known my freshman year of high school was that an A- effects your GPA *When I was an underclassman I wish I would've understood more from the people who said, "I wish I could go back to high school."* The people don't matter. *Not everyone cares about the same things and everyone has different goals. Don't force yourself to be friends with anyone* High school is only a glimpse of your life, don't sweat it. **Don't slack off, every day counts. SPEND YOUR TIME MAKING MEMORIES, YOU DON'T GET YOUR TIME BACK** The upperclassmen aren't scary. **YOU'RE NEVER TOO COOL FOR SCHOOL DANCES. I don't know. Stay ahead on homework and develop positive study habits.** The classes I choose will help with my future. **Taking 2 math classes is never a good idea.** *As an underclassman, I wish I had known a little more about all the fun classes I could've taken because looking back I would've taken a wider variety of classes than I did. I also wish I had known that I didn't have to worry about making friends, in the end I have met so many amazing people and grown closer to them through the years. Getting more involved in clubs, making rough days at school end on a positive note. Asking for help is nothing to be ashamed of, it's not your fault the teacher doesn't know how to explain it right. I'm not sure. I wish I was closer with a lot of other people and maybe High School would have been more enjoyable.* **ABOUT ENGINEERING CLASS...** High school is very important to succeed in life. **JOIN CLUBS** *I wish I would have known how fast high school would go. Due dates mean something, I guess. Never compare yourself to your classmates either with grades, looks, status, or talent because in the end it doesn't matter. Time goes by too fast. High school doesn't need to be the best thing you'll ever do. The most important thing to remember is that you are your own person. No one is able to tell you what you should do one day. It is your choice. You wanna be an artist? a doctor or a musical theater major? Then do that. don't let anyone tell you you aren't smart enough, or that you should pick something that will make more money. Let yourself be driven by your passions and your ability to be a happy person one day. That's the best advice I can give.* **HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO ACTUALLY GET STUFF DONE ON TIME** Knowing what career path to pursue, what college can help, and having the **CORRECT** contact information for people to ask for help from. It is okay to not be perfect! **Time flies by! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE PAST OR THE FUTURE. ENJOY THE PRESENT.**



Ms. Mader



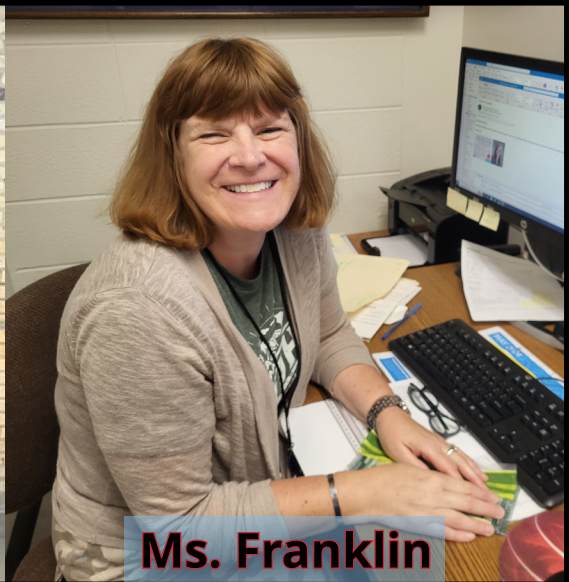
Mr. Zachow



Ms. Rebman



Ms. Rufe



Ms. Franklin

Jeanne Mader Retires After 26 Years of Dedicated Service

Ms. Jeanne Mader is retiring from her position as a sign language interpreter at Appleton East. Ms. Mader has dedicated 26 years to the Appleton Area School District (AASD), with the last five years spent at Appleton East.

Ms. Mader's journey with sign language began when she was just eight years old, inspired by her deaf mother to take her first sign language class. Her early start and personal connection to the deaf community paved the way for a lifelong commitment to helping others communicate and connect.

Known for her kindness and her unwavering support for mental health, Ms. Mader's advice to her colleagues and students has always been simple yet profound: "Be kind to everyone and take care of your mental health. There is no shame in asking for help."

Ms. Mader's presence at Appleton East extended beyond the classroom. She was a familiar face at many sporting events, with a special fondness for watching her boys play basketball. One of her cherished memories is seeing them compete at the state basketball tournament in Madison.

As Ms. Mader steps into retirement, she looks forward to new adventures. Her plans include traveling, babysitting her grandchildren, and possibly doing some substitute teaching. Ms. Mader's departure marks the end of an era, but her legacy of kindness, advocacy, and dedication will continue to inspire the Appleton East community for years to come.

Wendy Rebman Retires After 32 Years in Education

Ms. Wendy Rebman, an administrative assistant and Registrar at Appleton East High School, is retiring after 32 years of dedicated service in the district, with the last 24 years spent at East. Wendy's presence and contributions have been invaluable to the school community.

Throughout her time at East, Ms. Rebman has played a crucial role in the administrative office, ensuring the smooth operation of the school's registration and administrative processes. Her advice to faculty and staff is reassuring: "It only gets better after the first day of school." To students, she offers a simple yet powerful message: "You are enough!"

One of Ms. Rebman's favorite memories is working at East while her younger two children attended the school. Today, both of her children work at East, continuing the family legacy: Mrs. Golden in Student Services and Mr. Rebman as an adapted physical education teacher.

As she steps into retirement, Ms. Rebman looks forward to spending more time with her grandchildren, enjoying peaceful days at her cottage, and traveling. Additionally, Ms. Rebman shares a fascinating tidbit about her life: she and her family lived in Germany while her husband was in the Army.

Ms. Rebman's dedication and positive influence have left a lasting mark on the Appleton East community. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to her for her years of service and wish her a joyful and fulfilling retirement.

Jane Rufe Retires After 29 Years of Service to AASD

After nearly three decades of dedicated service, Ms. Jane Rufe, a guidance counselor at Appleton East, is retiring. Ms. Rufe's career with the Appleton Area School District (AASD) spans 29 years, with 27 of those years devoted to the students and community at Appleton East.

Ms. Rufe's journey in education began with a challenging role teaching juveniles incarcerated in the Outagamie County Jail. She then spent a year as the 8th-grade counselor at Madison Middle School before finding her long-term home at Appleton East as a School Counselor.

Throughout her time at East, Ms. Rufe has worn many hats. She began as a social studies teacher and served as an advisor for various student organizations, including Student Council, National Honor Society, WILS, Gay-Straight Alliance, and the Medical Mentoring program. Ms. Rufe's commitment to equity and education is evident in her extensive involvement in numerous committees and boards, such as the District Equity Committee, the Hmong Educational Conference Planning Committee, Tesla School Board, Patriot Alumni Award committee, and the FVCA. She has also been a strong advocate for voter registration drives at East and has presented for years at AAUW Tech Savvy for teen girls.

Her advice to East faculty and staff is straightforward: "Get your grades in on time!" For students, her guidance is to "get your homework done on time, join a team, club, or organization, and have fun!"

Ms. Rufe's favorite memories from her time at East include a field trip to see the 14th Dalai Lama, chaperoning students on a memorable field trip to a rainforest during the rainy season, and the countless interactions with students and staff who make East a special place.

As she enters retirement, Ms. Rufe looks forward to the simple joys of wearing her pajamas for a week, traveling, and becoming an interesting person. In a playful reveal, she also hinted that she knows the location of the mysterious tunnel at East.

Linda Franklin retires after 43 years of service to AASD

Ms. Linda Franklin, the business office administrative assistant at Appleton East High School, is retiring after an impressive 43-year career in education, with the last 24 years dedicated to Appleton East. Ms. Franklin has been an integral part of the school's business office and athletics department.

Ms. Franklin's advice to the East community is simple yet profound: "Get to know each other – everyone has a story to tell!" She encourages students to be true to themselves, reminding them that high school is just another stop in life and that every year of education is a building block towards becoming who they want to be.

Reflecting on her time at East, Ms. Franklin cherishes the students, staff, and parents who make the school a wonderful place. She fondly recalls chaperoning school trips to New York, Italy, and Australia, which provided her with unforgettable experiences and memories.

As Ms. Franklin looks forward to retirement, her plans are filled with leisurely pursuits and personal projects. She is excited about not waking up at 5:45 every morning and taking the time to work on house projects during the week, allowing her to enjoy her weekends fully. Ms. Franklin also plans to pedal her bike, go for walks, embark on day trips to explore different cities in Wisconsin, and take some overseas trips.

One of her favorite stories involves a surprising encounter with Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson in an elevator in Anchorage, Alaska, where he was equally surprised to meet fellow Wisconsinites.

Ms. Franklin's dedication and positive spirit have left a lasting impact on the Appleton East community. We wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement and thank her for her many years of outstanding service.

Tim Zachow Bids Farewell to Appleton East After 25 Years

Appleton East High School's Activities Director, Mr. Tim Zachow, is retiring after a distinguished 32-year career in education. Mr. Zachow's journey began as a special education teacher in Park Falls for four years, followed by two years as an assistant principal at Wilmot High School. For the past 25 years, he has been a dedicated administrator at Appleton East, serving as both associate principal in the Student Services office and Activities/Athletic Director.

Throughout his time at East, Mr. Zachow has been a pillar of the school community. His advice to faculty and staff has always been to "show up every day and do your best. Students and staff are depending on you." For students, his message is to "always strive to be the best in anything you choose to do. Every person can make a difference and make the world a better place."

Mr. Zachow's favorite memories at East revolve around watching students compete in athletics and extracurricular activities. He has been a constant supporter of student achievements and has cherished witnessing their growth and successes.

As Mr. Zachow transitions into retirement, he and his wife are excited to move to their lake home in Eagle River. He plans to spend his days fishing and traveling across the United States. Adding to the joy of retirement, Mr. Zachow is looking forward to becoming a grandfather in July.

Mr. Zachow's legacy at Appleton East is one of dedication, inspiration, and unwavering support for both students and staff. His contributions have left an indelible mark on the school community, and he will be greatly missed.

SHOUT OUT FOR FORENSICS!

The Appleton East Forensics team are state champions... ONCE AGAIN! Last year, they won first place in Division 1, and this year, The Patriots took first overall AGAIN in Division 2. They are "back-to-back state champs." East completed an undefeated season, meaning that the team scored best at all 10 of their tournaments. However, their journey to success took a long path. With their hard work and coaches who helped them improve and grow while each member cheered each other on, they were bound to win.

Mr. Paul Miller says the undefeated season "almost doesn't feel real." The championship took a lot of work. "Winning state is very difficult. There are many talented and hard-working teams in this state with great coaches. But we have something special here at East. I believe we won because our students were never satisfied with 'good enough.' They were always looking for ways to get better." Mr. Miller says East always looks for continuous improvement. "Even though we won state last year, we would not have won again if we didn't have a huge influx of NEW STUDENTS. We had several state finalists this year who had never done forensics before." Mr. Miller says East won't rest on its laurels. "We are saying goodbye to many talented seniors this year. If we want to 3-peat, we will need more amazing Patriots to give this great activity a try. I would encourage any student who likes to perform to come out for the team next year. We need you!"

The work that was put into this year's season was huge and impactful. Not only did this forensics team win state (and have the highest point average in the state), they also had three individual state champions: Aaron Wulf and Cole Navis in Duo Interpretation; Brenna Rades in Prose; and

Kenzie Bartel in Expository. Another important factor of this outstanding team is the coaching from Mr. Miller and his assistants, Jenny Witt and Alexandra Smith.

This season was Jenny Witt's last coaching for the Appleton East forensics team, and everyone is going to miss her incredibly. She was made such an impact on everyone on the team in one way or another. "I'm definitely going to miss the people the most," Witt explains. "Working with Mr. Miller and Miss Smith is always so much fun and I've learned a lot from Mr. Miller over the years. I'm going to miss the friends I've made from other schools at tournaments, but most of all I'm gonna miss all the students on the East team." Witt cherishes her time as a Patriot coach. "Every one of the students are so amazing in their own ways and the dedication they bring to the team is truly moving. I was excited every day to come into work and learn something new about a piece or student. I have never loved a job as much as this one and I'm sad I won't be able to return next year but I know the team will only continue to flourish." Witt graduated from East a few years ago. "When I was in high school, I grew so much by being a part of forensics, it brought me new friends and new skills, so it means a lot that I've been able to help foster a similar environment for the current students at East."

Forensics creates such an inspirational environment for the students and coaches on the team. This year shows how much commitment and dedication each member of the team had for the season, and we can all expect the same and even more for the years to come.

DRAMA CLUB CURTAIN CALL!

And that's a wrap! After a show ends, seniors move on to bigger and better things, while underclassmen carry the legacy they left behind. Our amazing directors, Ms. Peterson and Ms. Smith, are the reason we have an outstanding theater family. *Into The Woods* and *Much Ado About Nothing* challenged the cast and crew to make the script come to life and put on immaculate shows.



The Appleton East Drama Club is a safe space for every person in the community. Through all the struggles, each individual is there for each other. As we close the curtains on this school year, we remember our outstanding seniors: Kenzie Bartel, Emily Gronert, Raissa Kampel, Elliana Kelley, Emily Phillip, Max Mangold, Liam Spoehr, Grace VanDriel, and Joey Thowless.

"I've learned so much," says Thowless. "There's nothing that our encouraging directors have done, not done, they always support us and give us suggestions, and they never straight out tell us what to do because that doesn't allow for creative processes to happen. Our directors encourage us to experiment a lot, and I think that being able to bring in my own thoughts and humor and interpretations into the shows has been amazing because I get to figure out what works, what doesn't work, what's funny in rehearsal, and what doesn't work in the actual performance." Thowless says Drama Club changed his world. "Theater pretty much saved my life. When I was at a very low point in my life, all the people and our amazing directing staff helped me through a very rough time and it gave me even more of an appreciation for them." Theater taught Thowless the power of cooperation. "It's also shown me a lot of teamwork. I used to get stage fright really bad, but now I just don't get stage fright because I'm just like, alright, let's go do another show." Drama Club gave Thowless direction. "I think I would be a way worse person if I didn't have theater because it's my creative outlet too and getting to have that

creative outlet is so important for people, and this is just the way I do it. I found the passion I love, as I am going to college to pursue an education in musical theater. I'm going to be hopefully on the big stage soon somewhere if all goes well, and I'll make a good career out of it."

In Thowless's four years in the East Drama Club, each role created a different experience. "Starting off with King Sextus and *Once Upon a Mattress*, it was so fun," he recalls. "I had the challenge of pantomiming the whole show, which was really fun. Getting to be a part of *Arsenic and Old Lace*, it's such a fun show. It's an older show, but you get to have so much fun. I'm literally running around as a guy who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt yelling 'CHARGE!' and all this stuff, and it's such a fun role." He saved the best for last. "But, my favorite role would have to be my two most challenging roles this year: The Baker in *Into the Woods*. I actually had to sing (compared to *Once Upon A Mattress*)." Despite setbacks, Thowless powered through. "I would wake up with a burning throat because I was learning how to sing baritone and basically training my voice up there, it hurt so much. I did almost quit week one, but I didn't and it was probably one of the most rewarding experiences that I could never forget." *Much Ado About Nothing* ended Thowless's career. "Since we just closed, it's been a surreal experience that I'll never be performing and given that opportunity on that stage again, but it was a fun role. [My roles are] well-rounded characters where they have moments of seriousness, but they also have moments of humor, and it is much more humor than serious, which is a better style for me because I don't do serious that often, but in character it'd be nice to play a serious character. This has just been an amazing experience. I would do it all over again if I could."

This school year has been filled with challenges and new experiences for every student in theater but it has led to so much growth. East's younger actors move from *Into the Woods* and *Much Ado About Nothing* to performing *Les Misérables* next fall and *Sense & Sensibility* in the spring. We hope you had the opportunity to watch these productions and learn how impactful the Drama Club can be. Now it is time to finally close the curtains.



the courier

the appleton east student newspaper

The Courier, Appleton East's student newspaper, is written, edited, and distributed by Patriot students and staff.

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Reflection

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WEDNESDAY, MAY 29

**GRADUATION REHEARSAL &
SENIOR/STAFF BREAKFAST**

9:00AM, PATRIOT GYM

"SENIOR SEND-OFF"

**2:00PM, EAST CLUSTER ELEM. SCHOOLS
- WEAR YOUR CAP & GOWN!**

SENIORS REPORT FOR PREP

5:30PM, MEET WITH ADVISORY

GRADUATION CEREMONY

6:30PM, PATRIOT GYM

POST-GRAD PARTY

CHECK-IN BY 10:00PM, ENDS 1:00AM