

We at the Cupola pride ourselves on delivering an accurate and entertaining newspaper to the Hilltop. The Cupola follows the truth and respects it, wherever it may be found.

THE CUPOLA

“LET THERE BE LIGHT!”

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Feature

Mrs. Bunce’s New Job

PAGE 2

Sports

Hockey Preview

PAGE 6

Culture

Study Hall

PAGE 12



Salisbury Basketball Primed for Bounce-Back Season in Year 2 of Coach Daley Era

By Evan Clark

Inside the Flood Athletic Center, the echoes of bouncing basketballs and squeaking sneakers signify that winter is on its way, and with it the return of basketball to the Hilltop. After getting his feet wet in his first year at the helm last season, Head Coach Bryce Daley ‘18 and the Knights are gearing up for a big year.

Coach Daley is ready to reestablish Salisbury as one of the premier programs in New England prep basketball. However, winning is not his only goal. As he put it, “Obviously the goal is to win games. But the primary goal is for me to make sure that every player gets a lot better this year and grows the most

they possibly can throughout the season.”

While Coach Daley is focused on the upcoming season, he also acknowledges the future ahead. “This is only year two running the program, so I want to make sure that the foundation’s strong. So, as we continue to build forward this year, next year, and years beyond, that we continue to trend in the right direction, sending guys to the highest programs, both athletically and academically.”

Despite it being only his second year as lead man of the program, Coach Daley has already been able to cultivate a culture of hard work and passion within his team. Players have been getting work in whenever they can, whether it’s before breakfast, during their free blocks, or late nights after the academic day. “The level of hunger, motivation to get better, the passion, and the love for the game seems to be much more evident throughout the guys we have in the program right now. And again, that’s huge,” he said.

Headlining the team this season is Liam Gregory ‘26, a forward out of Long Island, NY. “Liam Gregory was Class A Second Team [last season], picked by a bunch of the coaches in the league. He got the recognition; he was a huge piece for us. And I anticipate he’ll be big for us this year as well. Looking to exceed the statistics and the impact he had last year.” Standing at 6’8”, Gregory is going to be a huge part of the team’s success—both literally and figuratively—and Daley recognizes that.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

College Essays, More Than Just a Paper

By Jonathan Chiarenza

College applications are packages that encompass many aspects and can lead to countless outcomes for each student. But for the most part, every student does the same thing: submit grades, resumes, general information, and extracurriculars, each trying their best to exemplify their strengths. There is one aspect that differs among these applications more than anything else, though: college essays.

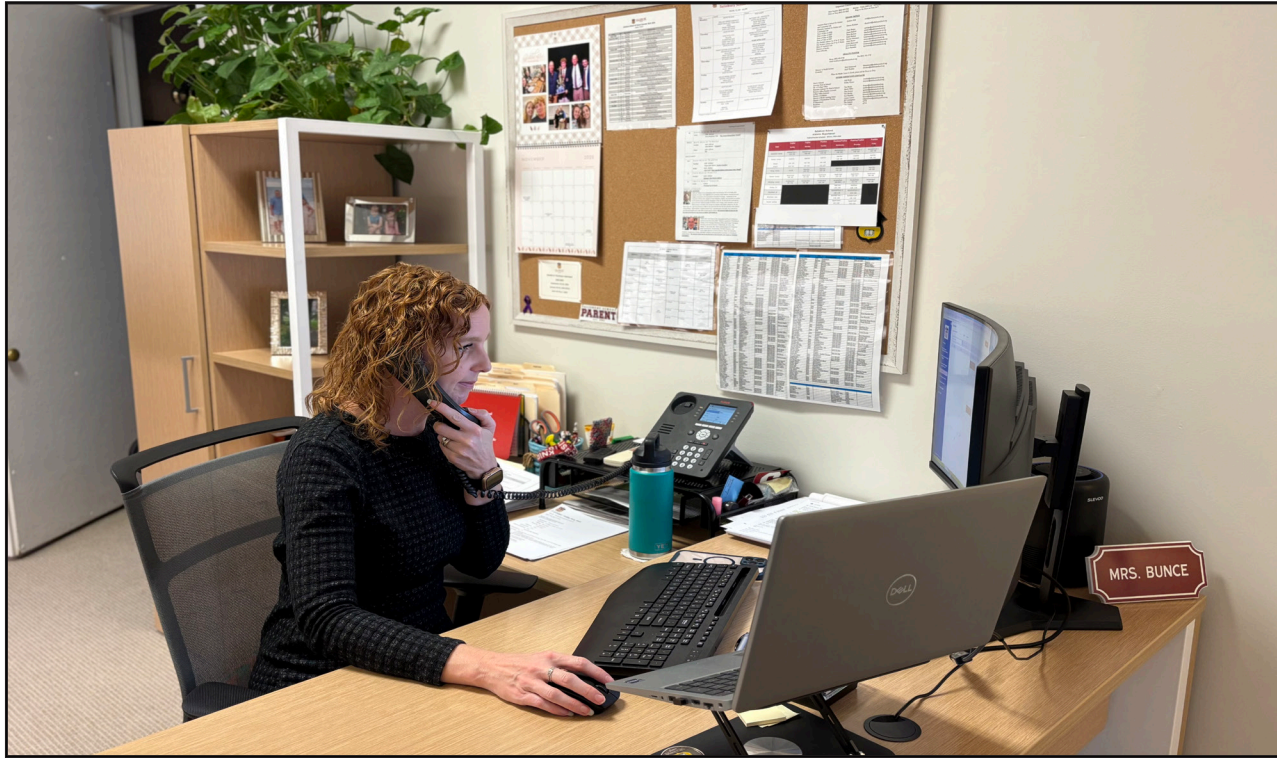
Each student is given the unique opportunity to talk about something that could be deeply personal, a lesson they would like to share, or maybe just an interesting experience they had. It brings a new level to an application that reflects the truest form of a student's emotions and thoughts.

Jake Adams ‘26, a three-year student at Salisbury, explained his essay by saying, “My college essay is about how when I was told that I had a mass on my spine, and that it was potentially cancerous, and I could only have 10 to 16 months left to live. And because of that, I had a realization and a change in mindset to, you know, do better,” Adams shared.

After receiving this news, he described how he was unsure of where to even start. “I guess I kind of blacked out. Kind of pushed everything down,” he said. Though

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3





Beyond the Desk: The Woman Who Keeps Salisbury Running

By Owen Hellman

This year, Salisbury marks a new chapter for both the school and a familiar face on the Hilltop. After years of living on campus and being part of the community, Mrs. Tina Bunce has officially taken on the role of Executive Assistant to the Head of School, stepping into a position previously held by Mrs. Carol Keenan, who retired last spring after 11 years of service.

Even though this is her first time officially working for Salisbury, Mrs. Bunce has quickly found her footing in her role. “I think the best part is the people,” she said. “Everyone at Salisbury—students, faculty, and staff—makes this place feel like home. I’ve always known that as a member of the community, but now I get to see it from the inside, too.”

The position feels like a natural extension of her previous career. “Before coming here, I was the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent in a public-school district,” she said. “We managed seven schools, so the workload was intense. It’s similar to what I’m doing now, but here I’m more involved in the day-to-day. When Ms. Keenan announced her retirement, I thought, why not go for it? It felt like the right fit.”

The job has given her something she didn’t always have before: time with her family. “At my old job, the calendar was so different. I had a lot of evening meetings, so I didn’t get to see my husband or kids as much,” she said. “Now, I see them every day. Sometimes Cooper [her son] stops by my office between classes, and it’s really special.”

Her husband, Mr. Adam Bunce, who teaches in the Rudd Learning Center and serves as one of the assistant football coaches and head wrestling coach, said her success comes as no surprise. “She’s very motivated, very organized, and very hardworking,” he said. “She prides herself on her work and being on top of everything she does. Those qualities make her great at this job.”

Mr. Bunce said it’s been great to see her

bring her personality into the position. “She’s been part of this community for so long, but now she gets to make her own impact here,” he said. “The school’s lucky to have her.”

Each day on the job brings something new for Mrs. Bunce. “No two days are the same,” she said. “At the start of the year, it was all about the Board of Trustees meetings, and then we moved right into Fall Family Weekend. I’m already working on things for graduation. It really depends on the time of year—there’s always something going on.”

Head of School Mr. Will Webb said Mrs. Bunce has already made a strong impression. “When Ms. Keenan told me she was retiring, I had mixed emotions,” he said. “I was so happy for her because she deserved it, but I was also sad. She was incredible at what she did and became a close friend. I knew I couldn’t replace her. I could only hope to find someone I’d form another great partnership with.”

That partnership came together quickly. “When the search began, Tina stood out immediately,” Mr. Webb said. “Her relevant experience, her presence and poise, and her warmth—all of it made her shine. She’s calm, thoughtful, and incredibly kind. She already knew the rhythm and the culture of the school, which made the transition so smooth.”

He recalled one moment that showed how capable she is. “I was in New York City dealing with an unexpected issue. I called Tina, and within minutes she solved the problem from a distance. Her creativity and technological know-how are remarkable.”

The woman Mrs. Bunce replaced, Ms. Carol Keenan, looks back on her own time with pride and joy. “I knew I wanted to work for a school after retiring from my previous job,” Ms. Keenan said. “I just wanted to be around people who were interested in learning.” She described her years at Salisbury as “a mix of scheduling, coordinating, and organizing every-

thing from faculty meetings to graduation.”

“The community was the best part,” she said. “Every day I’d look around campus and think, ‘Oh my God, I am blessed to be here.’ The faculty, staff, and boys all support each other. It’s what makes this place so special.”

When the search for her successor began, Ms. Keenan was part of the process. “They asked for my input,” she said. “HR started by putting together a job description, and I helped interview candidates. When I found out Tina got the job, I was thrilled. She had done such a tremendous job in her last role and had such a great personality. I knew she’d be perfect.”

The two women worked side by side for a month before Ms. Keenan retired. “It was delightful getting to know her,” Ms. Keenan said. “She came in before graduation, so she saw all the end-of-year events—Cum Laude, the year-end party, graduation. We even cleaned out the office together.”

“It was so helpful having her there,” Mrs. Bunce said. “She’s still around the Hilltop, working part-time in the Dean’s Office, so we talk all the time. She’s become a great friend and mentor.”

The office itself, Ms. Keenan noted, looks very different now. “They remodeled it right as Tina started, and I love what she’s done with it. It’s beautiful, sleek, and organized,” she said. Mrs. Bunce added, “The renovation was already planned before I started, so I just lucked out that it was finished in time for me.”

Talking about what she’s learned so far, Mrs. Bunce said it comes down to patience and composure. “Some days can definitely be stressful, but you just have to stay calm,” she said. “Everything’s fixable, and it always works out.”

As for Ms. Keenan, her time at Salisbury left a lasting mark. “My confidence grew so much here,” she said. “At my old job, I was very tunnel-visioned, but here I got involved in everything. People would come by and ask for my advice, and it made me realize I was playing an important role.”

Mr. Webb said he’s grateful for the smooth transition from one dedicated assistant to another. “It’s rare to go from strength to strength the way we did,” he said. “You won’t find a kinder, more thoughtful, or more capable person than Tina. This office and this community are in great hands.”

From one dedicated assistant to another, the heartbeat of Salisbury continues to run quietly and confidently behind the scenes—organized, steady, and full of care, just like the women who’ve helped keep it that way.



Coach O brings Energy and Inspiration to the Hilltop

By Paul Shyposh

Mr. Toby Oliveira, Rudd Learning Center instructor and assistant varsity football and lacrosse coach, arrived on the Hilltop this fall and has quickly made a name for himself. That name? None other than “Coach O.”

A graduate of Portsmouth Abbey School, an independent school in Rhode Island, Coach O brings experience in football, hockey, and lacrosse. Having played all three sports, Coach O understands the important role athletics play at a school such as Salisbury.

“What I hope the athletes at Salisbury learn from me is the importance of putting in the work off the field—weight training, nutrition, and other little things,” he said. Coach O continued his athletic career at Springfield College, where he earned a degree in Exercise Science, majoring in Strength and Conditioning.

Coach O looks to inspire students and athletes at Salisbury in a similar way that a coach and teacher once made a difference in his own life. Elliot Maffi, Coach O’s football coach at Portsmouth Abbey, “inspired me in all aspects of life and is someone I look to emulate,” he said. His experience in athletics carries over to his role as a tutor, which allows him to approach his work from a different perspective. “Like in sports, I teach breaking things down into steps,” he said.

This approach helps students stay focused on the task in front of them. He is also committed to having a voice in the community. “You are your own best advocate, and self-advocacy skills are something I emphasize every day,” Coach O said. He feels these skills are beneficial on the field, in the classroom, and in social situations.

Salisbury student-athlete Elliot Fain ’28 recalls two instances in which Coach O gave him valuable advice and direction during football practice that extended beyond athletics. In one instance, he advised Fain on how to resolve and manage a dispute with another player. Another time, when Fain was late for practice, he encouraged him to approach Coach Phelps and take responsibility for his mistake rather than hide from it. Mr. Oliveira’s young age also contributes to his style being relatable to the boys.

Instructor in History and Student Activities Coordinator Mr. Skyler Crawford ’18 describes Coach O as a “cannonball of energy.” He explains that as the youngest coach and faculty member, Coach O has a wealth of recent experience for the boys to draw from.

Mr. Crawford further notes that Coach O’s tutoring and teaching style encourages the boys to embrace all subjects, even those that might not immediately appeal to high school students. He recalled

College Essays (cont. from page 1)

this was a challenge, the lesson he decided to take from it was to live life as it was meant to be—with freedom, joy, and appreciation.

Adams, from that point on, made a vow to himself: “I’m just going to live my life to the fullest. I’m just going to be who I want to be.” Ever since then, he has tried to “be more present with his family, friends, [and] school,” and work harder to be better for himself.

This is a lesson everyone can learn from. When you are given a problem, though it might be challenging at first, if you get a second chance, be grateful for it.

Different from Adams’ story, five-year Salisbury student Lincoln Taylor ’26 wrote his college essay not about an experience but a lesson: “work for what you have and work for what you want,” a principle he lives by.

“It’s a way I’ve always been brought up in life. It’s a skill that my parents have always taught me: that nothing is ever handed to you, and you should always work for it. It builds more character with who you are, and it’s a skill that I will pass down to my children one day, and I hope my children pass down to my grandkids.”

This is important to Taylor, as he believes “it’s a thing that a lot of people lack.” Seeing what it has done for him and his family makes him want to live his life in the hope that if he “keeps on living by it, maybe one day it will end up making me successful.”

Lessons are learned everywhere—from family, realizations, and growth after events.



In Finn Smith ’26’s essay, he shared his experience with tragically losing his father to terminal brain cancer. “I wrote it to show my growth throughout that challenging time... so, I talked about how I kind of changed my hope from hoping for him to survive and into smaller things and kind of how I applied those principles to the rest of my life throughout my journey in public school and then coming here to Salisbury,” Smith said.

Smith talks about his process by saying, “I kind of started by sharing how I learned the news that my dad was going into hospice treatment. And I had some regrets about how I had kind of gone about him having his illness.” He added, “I kind of had hoped for, obviously, him to survive, and then when he was in hospice, I hoped just to be able to take a walk with him.”

Smith’s hope was granted, and he said,

“We were able to take a walk. And then the next day he passed. But I was able to kind of come to peace with myself and forgive myself for that because of that last moment.”

Smith described that after that moment, though he was able to forgive himself and be at peace, his troubles were not over. “I had hoped that everything would be fine, and I’d keep my grades up, and I wouldn’t become isolated. Then, those things happened, and I needed to reframe and tell myself that I was going to be okay.” Smith added, “I just needed to hope to find myself, and so once I did that, it took a while, but I learned more about myself.”

Smith describes the process following this and how he was able to step back and reflect in a way that felt right to him. “I took time this summer to kind of learn more about myself, forgive myself, process some of the emotions that I haven’t, and now I’m back, and I feel like a completely different person.”

Smith’s overall story is one of hope. “Although a lot of people attribute hope to being an emotion, it’s more of a cognitive process... it can change and fluctuate.” He also mentions, to him, it’s three stages: “Setting a goal for yourself... taking the necessary steps to accomplish that goal... and the last being self-agency and getting it done.”

Smith’s story, just like Taylor’s or Adams’, is put into the box of a college essay, but clearly, these aren’t just papers for an admissions counselor to read. These essays take the form of many things—from a personal testament of change, a lesson, or a life-changing experience.

John Luong ’26’s essay shows this as well. He talks about his experiences moving from Vietnam to America to go to school at Salisbury. “When I first came here, I had a really thick accent, and people couldn’t understand me. It’s a different culture. Something you guys find funny, I wouldn’t.”

Luong realized early how this new environment was going to challenge him: “I would just have to adapt.” He did this by “becoming more confident and more open to talking to people instead of being in my room.”

Luong described his essay as “self-reflection. I can reflect on what happened, how I changed over the years, and what kind of person I am now, [and] how would my younger self look at me now?”

Through this self-reflection, the thing he realized is that “you’re not special; the work is not going to stop because you’re going through something hard. You just have to keep moving and keep going, no matter how hard the struggle is.”

With this lesson, Luong used it to make the move easier by not letting the world slip away from him while he was struggling. Friendship was a huge source of inspiration. “I became close with the guys and then expanded my friendships with other people over time,” he said.

To Luong and many others, a college essay means so much more than just a paper that gives you a better chance to get into a school.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



On the Hilltop: Students, Faculty, and Families Share Gratitude

By Nasir Stevenson

As Thanksgiving break nears, Salisbury starts to slow down a little. The air's colder, classes are wrapping up, and guys are counting down the days until they head home. But before everyone takes off, it's worth taking a second to think about what we're grateful for here on the Hilltop.

For a lot of students, Salisbury has become a second home. Between long practices, late-night study sessions, and team dinners, it's the people around you that make it all worth it. Every student has something different they're thankful for.

For Corey Hill '27, a basketball player from the United Kingdom spending his first year in America, the list is long. "I'm just grateful to be here, honestly," Hill said. "Back home, opportunities like this don't come around often. Being on scholarship and playing the game I love while getting an education...that's something I'll never take for granted. Everyone here's made me feel welcome from day one."

Jermelle Cotton '26, another basketball player here on the Hilltop, kept it real. "I'm thankful for the people here," he said. "My teammates, my coaches, my friends, they all push me every day. It's not always easy, but everyone wants to see you win. That's what makes this place different." He added, "It's like, no matter what kind of day you're having, someone's got your back."

Elijah Raykhman '26 shared his own perspective on the season of being thankful. "I'm grateful for the friendships I've made here," he said. "You don't always realize how good we've got it until you stop and think about it...everyone's looking out for each other," he said. "Honestly, it's more than just sports. Salisbury's taught me a lot about how to handle things and keep showing up. And the people... I've met friends here I'll have for life."

But gratitude at Salisbury doesn't just come from the students; it runs through

the families that make this place feel alive. The Nichols kids Will, Thomas, and Annie had some simple heartwarming answers.

"I'm thankful for Fozzy [their dog]," Annie, 9, said. "He always makes me laugh, even when I don't want to smile. And I love playing hockey with my friends, it's my favorite part of the week." Thomas, 11, said, "I like that I get to play sports and hang out with my friends. It makes Salisbury fun and exciting." Will, the oldest at 13, added, "Living on campus is awesome. You get to know everyone, it's like having 200 older brothers watching out for you."

They also love spending time with other faculty kids. "I'm thankful for the Barbato kids," Annie said. "We always have fun together." Will and Thomas added that hanging out with the Warders is one of their favorite things to do. "We play sports, games, and just mess around," Will said. "It makes you feel like part of a bigger family."

Additionally, Mr. Adam Mayer, one of Salisbury's math teachers, and maybe one of the most outdoorsy people you'll meet here, didn't hesitate with what he's appreciative of. "Honestly, the mountains and the lakes," he said. "Most mornings I wake up, drink my coffee, and watch the sunrise. The mountains turn purple, and it's just quiet. It reminds me how lucky we are to live here."

He went on to talk about jumping in the lake with a few "crazy guys" during the super moon. "It was still that night," he said. "There was a cloud sitting right on the water, and it felt like we were swimming through it." Those moments mean so much to Mr. Mayer. "That's what I love," he said. "These little adventures bring people together. It's not just about teaching in a classroom, it's about showing up, being outside, and sharing experiences."

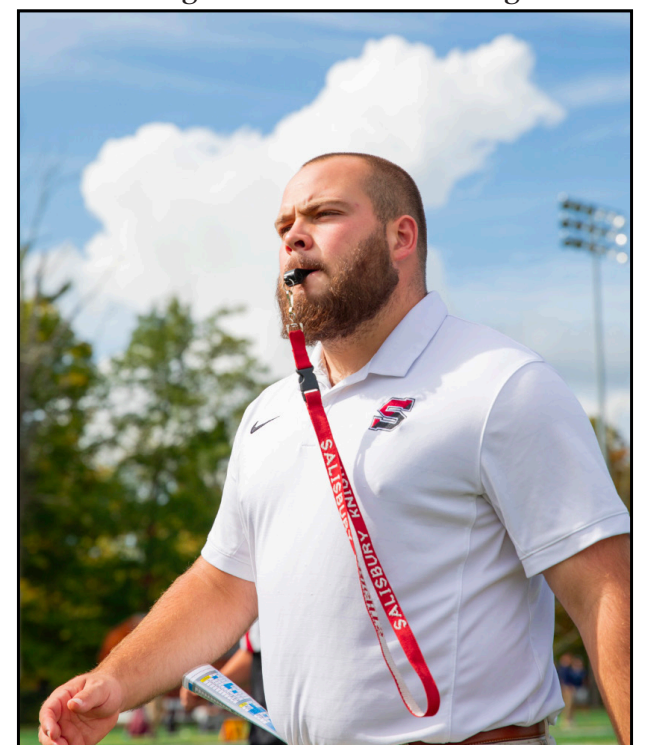
As everyone gets ready to head home for break, it's clear that Salisbury is more than just a school. When things slow down, you realize how lucky we are to be part of it.

Coach O (cont. from page 3)

Coach O's approach to helping a student memorize a dry mathematical formula as particularly encouraging and enthusiastic.

Another student-athlete, Ian Frempong-Boadu '27, quoted some advice that Coach O gave him—words that apply to both football and life in general: "Hard work beats laziness, and working hard beats talent." His emphasis is consistently on students giving their all—on the field and off—which, he believes, leads to meaningful personal growth and accomplishment unique to each individual.

Frempong-Boadu also emphasized Mr. Oliveira's belief in the importance of balancing athletics and academics, stating that he is "hands-on, right on the field with you, as well as motivating students in the learning center."



A specific challenge that Frempong-Boadu recalled was when he was struggling in the weight room, and Coach O approached him to teach the proper form for lifting, helping him achieve his goals. This moment further highlights Coach O's hands-on teaching style.

Mr. Oliveira is committed to building relationships with all members of the Salisbury community, even those who are not athletes. "He can talk for hours about anything, is a good teacher overall, and a good mentor," Frempong-Boadu said, adding, "His commitment to sports and helping students is very admirable, and he contributes greatly to the brotherhood."

All those interviewed strongly emphasized the energy Coach O brings to the football field, the tutoring classroom, and the campus as a whole. Mr. Oliveira encourages students to "be the best version of themselves" and to "invest more time in self-care and mindfulness." Both statements highlight the importance of life beyond athletics, emphasizing the need to care for oneself spiritually and mentally—not just physically.

Coach O has a big personality and looks to build relationships with students beyond the athletic realm by being welcoming. He embodies this approach by saying, "Just bring a smiling face and know the names of students... it's about being approachable."

Through Every Year, the Brotherhood's Clear

By Brayden Belski

Salisbury has changed in countless ways over the years—from renovated buildings and expanding athletic programs to the diverse student body. Yet beneath all the change, the school's traditions, values, and sense of brotherhood remain as strong as ever.

Through conversations with Salisbury alumni who are now teachers, a picture emerges of a community that continues to grow while staying true to its roots. Mr. Skyler Crawford '18 offers a recent point of view. "Salisbury was a very transformative experience for me," he said. "It gave me all the tools to succeed in the real world. I would suggest to current or future students to take advantage of the faculty who are here to support you."

Mr. Crawford's words echo a common theme among most Salisbury alumni: Salisbury's teachers and staff are much more than educators; they are mentors and guides for your future.

"Some of my favorite memories from Salisbury were hanging out with my friends outside of school and going off campus with them," he said. "Students need to take advantage of the time they have together, hanging out outside of class, and spending weekends with friends. It's really hard to see my best friends from school now that we've all grown up." This shows that the brotherhood created at Salisbury doesn't just last while being a student but for an entire lifetime.



Another alumnus, Mr. Josh Weinstein '11, Salisbury's director of studies, reflected on how Salisbury's sense of brotherhood and shared experiences helps students grow into the people they become. "It ranges from little things like learning to show up and be on time and stepping out of your comfort zone... if it feels uncomfortable, then you're probably doing something right," he said.

Mr. Weinstein also mentioned how much Salisbury has changed physically but not culturally. "Improvements in facilities and buildings are the biggest changes to the school," he said. "But our core values have never changed, not once."

Mr. Weinstein's favorite memory as a student came in his junior year, competing at the New England Interscholastic



Rowing Championship in Worcester, Massachusetts. "Finishing second in the league was something I could never forget," he said.

For Mr. Brent Barbato, who attended Salisbury for just one year as a postgraduate in 2002 and now serves as the form dean for the Class of 2028, even a short time on the Hilltop made a lasting impact. "My favorite part of Salisbury was the feeling of community and family," Mr. Barbato said. "Watching all the faculty and their children really influenced my decision to come back and work here."

In just one year, Salisbury became a home. His favorite memories were playing three sports—football, basketball, and baseball—saying, "It really helped shape me into the person I am today."

Comparing his time at home to life at Salisbury, Mr. Barbato explained how different it was. "Having an older brother take me to school every morning, it was much more routine. Here, you have to keep yourself accountable," he said. "Salisbury taught me real-life skills I didn't even know I needed."

Mr. Rhonan Mokriski '90, who has

worked as a teacher here on the Hilltop for the past 30 years, has watched generations of students grow and graduate. "The school has grown so much since I was a student here—athletically and academically—but the school has not changed in the aspect of brotherhood and support."

Mr. Mokriski's experience of brotherhood started as a student. "Some of my most memorable moments from my time at Salisbury were of a guy bouncing a tennis ball against my wall every night before bed to bother me. It turned out that guy was Reverend Hall [Salisbury's former chaplain]... That's when we became good friends." Mr. Mokriski claims that Salisbury is where he really found his first real success in life.

Over the years, Salisbury has changed in many ways physically, but the brotherhood and school values have stayed the same. These stories from alumni who are now teachers show how the school continues to shape students into strong, caring, and independent Salisbury gentlemen.





Reloaded and Relentless: 2025-2026 Salisbury Varsity Hockey

By Liam Gregory

Since Head Coach Andrew Will took over the Salisbury Varsity Hockey program, Salisbury has twice the championship appearances of any other prep program in New England (8) and two more wins than any other school (6). The Knights expect nothing less than to reach the Elite Eight tournament and compete for a New England Championship every season.

After a solid campaign last year, going undefeated at home and falling to Dexter Southfield in the quarterfinals, the Knights know they are only a few key changes away from reaching this goal.

While Coach Will credits the hard work of his players for much of his team's success in his 18 years of coaching, the effort put forth by the players is directly correlated to him and his staff's coaching. Furthermore, Coach Will's goal for his team remains constant throughout the years: it's about the process. He wants his team to "play our best hockey by the end of the season... and that contributes to the dream goal."

To stack competitive years like he has requires a locker room that's together. So, it's a priority to recruit not only good hock-

ey players but great people. "We [the coaching staff] want our players involved and taking advantage of all the school has to offer."

The coaching staff is energized to coach this year's group. Coach Will feels this year's squad has good skills while also being a more physically imposing team than last year's team. With only seven returning players, it should be inferred that the new players have the talent and physicality to perform at a very high level this season.

Assistant Coach Kurt Colling shares similar beliefs to Coach Will. As the offensive specialist alongside Coach Charlie Strauss, it's his role to execute the schemes and sets put forth by Coach Will. Coach Colling believes Salisbury's success on the ice in his 10 years as assistant coach is thanks to "high standards for our players... off the ice and when we're on the ice." It's understood by the players that when you put on the jersey, you're held to the same expectations as almost a dozen other NHL players who have come through the program in the Coach Will era.

Part of the coaching staff's recipe for success all these years is quality leadership. At the end of last season, Coach Will named Zach Gill '26 captain of the 2025-2026 team.

Also the School Vice President, Gill "really likes how the group is looking," particularly in their preseason matches in the CEM Fall League. According to Gill, the fall league has better prepared the boys for the upcoming season by allowing them to gel and play their preseason together instead of joining separate teams in the old split-season format.

Gill pointed out this year's group is different, saying they are "a lot younger than in years past, but we're going to be more skilled." A leader on the team, Gill feels "everyone's got to play their role" for the group to have success this season. Gill is a returning shutdown defenseman who also logged eight assists last season.

The Knights graduated or lost their top nine goal scorers and No. 1 goalie, Steve

Luciano '25, last season. With that being true, there is still a foundation of notable returning players who will have large roles this year.

Among them is returning goalie Jordan Rittenberg '26. Rittenberg brings experience to the table, having played 14 games last season with a .905 save percentage. He is a formidable goalie who will keep Salisbury in every game this season.

Another player who has earned his stripes is Assistant Captain Caden Creech '26. The Princeton lacrosse commit is a featured center on the ice who will dominate faceoffs and earn Salisbury extra possessions. Creech is also proficient on the offensive side of things, logging five assists and three goals last season for the Knights.

Another notable returner, Riley Slovis '26, will be a strong offensive winger who also brings physicality as a big hitter. Slovis has the potential to be one of the team's leading goal scorers this season. Countless new Knights will be invaluable contributors as well.

The Knights are poised to make a New England title push. They have the pieces and the coaching staff to make it happen. Now it's on them to convert.



Salisbury's Ski Team Feels the Change in Snowfall

By Luke Feller

It hasn't felt like a real winter around Salisbury lately. What used to be months of consistent skiing now depends on snow guns and cold streaks that don't always last. There's been less snow on the ground and more out-of-season warm days that disrupt the season.

For Salisbury's varsity ski team, these challenges have been impossible to ignore.

Team Captain Spencer Mandy '26, who has been skiing at Catamount—the team's home mountain—since he was 10 months old, said he has seen the snow "get worse and worse every year." When Mandy first started skiing, he recalls the mountain being open from early December through late March, sometimes even April.

Now, Catamount often opens weeks later and closes early due to rain or thin snow coverage. "There are days when grass shows through on racecourses," he said, describing how much the base has declined over the years.



SPORTS

Over the past few seasons, Salisbury's ski team has watched its schedule shrink, with fewer big storms and more mild stretches in the Berkshires. At Catamount, snowmaking has become essential, and practices often depend on whether the weather decides to cooperate.

Mandy said skiing in tough conditions has helped the team improve. "If we can race on ice, dirt, and slush, we can handle anything," he said.

Former team member Reid Barry '26 brings a different perspective, having grown up skiing at Stratton Mountain in Vermont before joining the Salisbury team for a season. He said the difference between the two mountains is "not comparable." Stratton, he explained, benefits from colder temperatures and more terrain, while Catamount's smaller size and limited variety make it feel repetitive. "It's a much smaller mountain, and you can get down in 30 or 40 seconds," Barry said. "After skiing there five days a week, it starts to get old."

Barry also noted that declining snowfall creates financial strain for smaller mountains like Catamount. In Vermont, he said, resorts have turned themselves into year-round destinations to stay profitable during mild winters. "Without artificial snow, there really is no Catamount," Barry said. "It's the only thing keeping programs like Salisbury's running."

Alex Kim '26, one of the team's top racers, has skied on the varsity team since his freshman year and first learned to ski in South Korea. He said the inconsistency of New England snow stands out the most. "Some days it's icy, some days it's slushy—you never know what to expect," Kim said. He added that in Korea, snowmaking systems are more advanced and resorts maintain the slopes several times a day to keep the surface consistent.

Kim said changing snow conditions are especially difficult for newer racers, who struggle to adjust to the variety of surfaces. "Top skiers can handle any snow," he said, "but for lower-level teammates, it's much harder to adapt." Still, he believes the team's resilience is what defines Salisbury skiing. "We're always thankful just to ski," he said. "It's a special opportunity."

While skiers like Mandy, Barry, and Kim experience the snow directly, Head Coach Mr. Josh Weinstein '11 sees how these conditions affect everything behind the scenes, from training to team culture.

Mr. Weinstein, now entering his fourth year as head coach, said the biggest change isn't one clear trend, but how unpredictable each winter has become. "We see a lot of variability," he said. "Some years stay cold and perfect for racing; others warm up early. It's hard to plan around that."

Warm stretches, he said, can delay or even cancel practices and races. "When the snow gets too soft, it's not safe to train," Mr. Weinstein said. "People think fresh snow is great, but racers actual-

ly want a hard, icy surface that holds up. If the course ruts out, it becomes dangerous."

He emphasized how crucial snowmaking has become at Catamount. "Snowmaking keeps the season alive," he said. "We don't get enough natural snow to build a real base anymore."

Unlike some might expect, Mr. Weinstein sees man-made snow as more help than hindrance. "It's actually an advantage," he said. "It's firmer, more consistent, and it makes better skiers. You can't get lazy on hard snow."

That toughness is something he tries to build into the team's routine. Even before the mountain opens, Salisbury skiers spend time training on campus. "We do a lot of body-weight workouts, explosive leg work, and team challenges," Mr. Weinstein said. "There's a long-standing tradition of pushing or pulling a bus. It sounds crazy, but it's about teamwork. When everyone pushes together, things that look impossible aren't so bad."

The team also studies video and talks through technique while waiting for snow to arrive. "There's so much we can do before we get on the hill," he said. "We talk about slalom versus GS and how to make smart decisions on the course."

When the season does start, Mr. Weinstein said the goal is simple: stay flexible. "We've had years where Catamount opens late, but they always find a way," he said. "They've put a lot into their snowmaking and have some of the best systems around."

Looking ahead, Mr. Weinstein believes adaptability will be key for ski programs like Salisbury's. "If winters keep warming, the sport will change, but the core of it—discipline, teamwork, attitude—stays the same," he said.

That sense of teamwork is what keeps the program strong, even when conditions aren't ideal. "Leadership's not just a title here," Mr. Weinstein said. "We have captains, but everyone helps shape the culture. We talk about how to handle setbacks and how to lift people up instead of letting frustration spread."

He also reflected on the legacy of Carl Williams, the legendary Salisbury coach whose mantra—"Don't fall down, ski fast, and have fun"—still defines the program. "It's an honor to carry that forward," Mr. Weinstein said. "That balance between focus and fun is exactly what we try to teach."

For now, the team continues to prepare for whatever this winter brings. Whether it's icy runs, thin snow, or a rare powder day, Salisbury's racers know that every turn teaches something. "You can't control the weather," Mr. Weinstein said. "But you can control how you respond, and that's what really matters."



A Season of Growth and Grit: Salisbury's Fall Teams Rise Together

By Luke Walkauskas

This fall, Salisbury's football, soccer, and cross country teams each forged their own story. Built on discipline, teamwork, and relentless effort, the countless hours when no one was watching are what Salisbury sports have been built on.

The football team made a big jump this fall, showing great growth and grit compared to last year. After finishing with a record of 2-7 last fall, the Knights improved this year, finishing with a record of 4-5.

Led by junior captain and tailback Osi Yearwood '27, the team made great strides. "Representing Salisbury with wins and never giving up in the brotherhood was huge for us this year, and we can keep striving for what we've accomplished," Yearwood said.

Something Yearwood has been most proud of is the fight his team brought throughout the year. Whether they were up or down, "The fight of this team was amazing. Against Cheshire we were down by 28 points with a minute left in the third quarter but ended up falling just short at the end of the game, losing by seven points," Yearwood recalled. "The fight in this team and how they never gave up on each other was huge. In one word to describe our team, it'd be toughness, because I don't think there's a single person that would give up on this team no matter how much we were doubted."

Head Coach Chris Phelps reflected on the team's turnaround this year and how the players have responded to challenges. Coach Phelps mentioned how the team's chemistry has to be on point from the get-go since they don't get to spend time together before the season starts. "Half our team is new every single year, whether they're third formers or postgraduates. They come into preseason not knowing each other but trust the fact that they're going to buy into the brotherhood," Coach Phelps said.

Coach Phelps talked about how the team has taken big strides. "We've had our fair share of ups and downs; you're always on a roller-coaster ride. You have to control what you can control while working on the things that you can't control. We've

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Fall Sports (cont. from page 7)

played great football and have been healthy at times, which is really fun to watch, but there've been times where we've been inconsistent, and some of that has been injuries that have challenged us," he said.

Coach Phelps discussed the team's flexibility and resilience. "With the injuries we've had and not a lot of depth, some of our guys have had to learn to play a lot of different positions. When you get put in an uncomfortable situation or play a position they haven't played in all year, it can be tough, but they've done a great job as a team."

The soccer team, meanwhile, took a step in the right direction this fall as well, doubling their total number of wins from last season. The team is captained by four-year varsity senior Stanley Obeng Ansong '26.

"We had a lot of returners come back for their second year, but we also had a few promising new guys that have helped add to the chemistry and talent of the team," Obeng Ansong said. He mentioned the growth the team made throughout the season. "At the start of the season, we were trying to get to know each other and how we play because everyone has their own qualities to add to the team," he said.

"We were a bit rusty at the start, which resulted in a few losses," Obeng Ansong added. "Growing into the season, we've had some really good games against top-ranked teams, and that's because our chemistry on the field has grown."

Cross country also had a strong and determined season. Led by three-year varsity junior Luke Lacilla '27, the team has seen progress in both times and team culture. Competing on tough courses throughout New England, Salisbury's runners showed that the team's work and will to get better pays off.

"Coach Huber and Coach Barillaro, they've helped us a lot because when someone's down or had a bad race and thinks poorly of themselves, they'll always be there to help them out, cheer them up, and make sure we're ready to go for the next race by bringing up the mood," Lacilla said.

Lacilla mentioned how growing closer as a team off the course has made them better when race day comes. "Our chemistry has gotten better over the last couple months compared to the start. At the start, no one besides a few kids knew each other, but we've gotten closer, and it has helped us more in races," Lacilla said.

The strong performances of the fall season hope to serve as a segue to a successful winter athletics season.

**Basketball Preview** (cont. from page 1)

Jermelle Cotton '26 is another player who Coach Daley sees as a big piece to the puzzle. "Jermelle was one of the better shooters, better scorers in the league last year. At times, we had to play him out of position. He handled the ball a lot last year. I think we're going to get him off the ball a little bit to put him in more positions to succeed and highlight his strengths. I think he's going to have a better season, grow, and build off a very successful prior season," he said.

Junior guard Jaden Schwenebraten '27 has been instrumental in the team's success since his arrival last year. As Coach Daley put it, "Jaden's only a junior this year, but he was huge for us last year. He had some very big games. He's another guy who is arguably one of the hardest workers we have in our program. I think he's going to build off a very impactful season last year. He shoots the ball at a very high level, and a lot of that has to do with the amount of work and reps he gets in every day."

In addition to the returners, there are a couple of new additions that Daley is very excited about. Corey Hill '27, a guard from the United Kingdom, is a player who Coach Daley sees handling the ball often for them. "He's very mature with the way he plays. He doesn't play too fast, he's able to get others involved, and he sees the floor well. I think he's going to complement all three [players] that I mentioned initially."

Sean Smith-Sharkey '27 from Fresno, CA, is another player who Coach Daley sees making a big impact. "He has 'in the gym range,' so he's a phenomenal shooter. He really spaces out the whole game. He plays with great energy, which again will be huge for our locker room and culture," Coach Daley explained. "I'm very excited for those five and many others," he added.

Director of Athletics Tim Sinclair '91, who has been at Salisbury since 1995, is confident in Coach Daley and his ability to lead the program. He explained, "Coach Daley has a lot of passion for his players, for the game, and I think he really wants to get the most out of each individual for who they

are and what they can bring to the team."

He also loves the fact that Daley has been in the program as both a player and a coach. "I'm very excited that Coach Daley's played in the program. That's exciting as an athletic director to see a homegrown coach being able to guide the program forward in that direction."

"Last year, we were coming off a lot of last-minute changes, which led to a lot of scrambling around," said Jermelle Cotton. He added, "This year, I think Coach Daley has it figured out, and I feel like we're going to be a winning team. I'm very confident in us." The guard out of Rochester, NY, is a firm believer in Daley's coaching ability.

"Passion. Passion is [the school's] word of the year. Our guys just want it, and obviously I want it too. We're all hungry, putting that work in. I hope to do something," stated Jaden Schwenebraten, also a Rochester native.

With focus and talent, the Knights enter the season determined to turn hard work into results. They are ready to make a statement under the leadership of Coach Daley this year.

**From Fall to Winter: Embracing the Cold Season Ahead**

By Alexi de La Giraudiere

Here on the Hilltop, the community of Salisbury experiences a variety of seasons, so much so that it affects the daily life of all students and faculty in many ways. Soon, students and faculty will begin dressing differently, changing their daily habits, and resuming their seasonal hobbies.

Thomas Molloy '27 is currently in his third year on the Hilltop. Throughout those three years, Molloy has mastered the brutal winter lifestyle that Salisbury experiences annually. Molloy believes that turtlenecks are a must-have when it comes to combating the cold. "They're honestly just really low maintenance since you don't need a tie, and they keep you super warm," noted Molloy. During the winter months, the ma-



jority of the Knights can be seen wearing these turtlenecks. It's hard to pass up such a great offer of convenience and efficiency.

With changing weather comes the mention of hockey season for Molloy. For players like him, when the climate matches the game-time setting, it brings just a little extra intensity to the rink. Not only that, but "the first snow is usually a pretty good time; we go outside and appreciate the snow on Reeves or in the quad. It kind of serves as a check-point through the school year," said Molloy.

Being an avid spectator in past hockey seasons, Charlie Merk '26 is excited to cheer on Salisbury's team from the student section. "I mean, it's pretty electric. Those close games will have you sitting on the edge of your seat, anticipating the next big play," said Merk. Many other students are just as excited, considering that hockey season is traditionally the most popular spectator sport on the Hilltop.

As for the impending weather, Merk has varying opinions. "I think one of the worst feelings on the morning of a cold winter day is knowing that you have to step outside. I used to live in Carr, and it's absolutely brutal walking to class or the dining hall while the cold wind whips your skin," he said. Merk believes that an easy game changer for anyone trying to stay as warm as possible is a tweed jacket, taller socks, quarter zips/sweaters, and gloves. "Regardless, if you can get past the cold for just a little bit, you really notice how pretty the area is after snowfall," noted Merk.

Sergio Poveda Carranza '26 likes to begin his winter days with a hot shower and a hot cup of coffee. "Knowing that I will have to face that cold weather can be a big downer. Before that happens, I like to be as warm as possible," he said. To Poveda Carranza, one of the worst parts about the weather is the school meetings. "We still have to stand outside for school meetings in front of the Senior Steps. Your hands are frozen, and you can't feel your face," he added.

Being a hockey player like Molloy, Poveda Carranza looks forward to what the season has in store for him and his team-

mates. Sometimes, when the pond in front of the school or the lake freezes over, the hockey players are given the opportunity to play there. "It's really a great time. It's fun to get out of the rink and be able to see the outside scenery as you play," he said.

Mr. Morgan Moody is one of the Hilltop's beloved teachers in the English department. Before beginning his time here, Mr. Moody lived in Austin, Texas. Now entering his second year living in the Northeast, Mr. Moody has only recently adjusted to the lifestyle that Connecticut demands.

A big part of adjusting to the lifestyle is finding hobbies suitable for your family and interests. Mr. Moody and his wife made it a goal to expose themselves to the new climate by hiking through the snow and enjoying the surrounding trees. "I got these big Canadian farmer boots that keep me super warm, so I just trek through the deep snow with no problem," said Mr. Moody.

Additionally, Mr. Moody wants to dive into local events and traditions. During his time in Texas, Mr. Moody skied in the neighboring state of New Mexico. Now he wants to ski at the popular local ski hill, Catamount, which is much less travel than he's used to.

Mr. Moody also enjoys attending events set up by the Salisbury Winter Sports Association, where there are bonfires, drinks, and food trucks. "During the National Championship for Youth Ski Jumping, you are sitting there socializing, eating great food, and watching 11- to 15-year-olds fly through the air on their skis," he said.

Despite being new to the harsh winters, Mr. Moody has gathered valuable advice to stay warm. Mr. Moody preaches that a fuzzy layer underneath a raincoat will keep you toasty in Antarctica. But most of all, "a scarf is the biggest game changer. If your neck isn't warm, then you aren't warm."

On the Hilltop, winter is an exciting time of change, tradition, and snowy landscapes. Students and faculty alike find ways to make the most of every chilly season by participating in and spectating the winter sports, bundling up in their winter attire, and celebrating local traditions.

The Dreaded Sarum Sickness

By Parker Guiltinan

As fall on the Hilltop comes to a close, a cold winter is right around the corner. But beyond the freezing temperatures lies an even more dreaded regularity: the Sarum Sickness. Arriving like clockwork each year just before winter break, the sickness swiftly makes its way through campus, infecting and affecting almost all of Salisbury. This infectious phenomenon is now on the radar of every Knight who calls Salisbury home.

The Sarum Sickness is a powerful virus and nearly unavoidable—especially in the wintertime. Ms. Beth Hammond, the School's head nurse and director of health services, shared where she thinks the sickness comes from: "Kids are in closer quarters with one another; they are not outside in the fresh air, windows are closed, and they're not doing a good job necessarily covering their coughs, washing their hands after they blow their nose or use the bathroom, and so germs just tend to circulate in the wintertime."

Thankfully, all of that is completely avoidable—with just a little extra care.

Ms. Hammond continued to stress how important it is that, during this time of plague, the community spends extra energy being sanitary. She firmly believes this is a resistible season if the community comes together to keep the campus free of germs. She also emphasized how much it helps if we "get all students on campus flu vaccines."

For many students, the Sarum Sickness is just a story about what has happened in the past. But for others, it's an impending doom of sorts as winter quickly approaches. Many on campus know it's imminent and have begun to put thought and energy into figuring out ways to best avoid it.

"I think a lot of people here can be unsanitary, and I think that not washing your hands contributes when there are a bunch of teenage boys running around," said first-year postgraduate Jake Smith. Smith explained the surprising number of rumors he's heard about the "awful" Sarum Sickness season, even though he's only been here for less than three months. He plans to combat the incoming illness by "taking more than two showers a day and washing hands constantly."

Returning student Osi Yearwood '27 shared his experience with the sickness last year, saying he had "a very runny nose, sore throat, coughing a lot, fever, and cold symptoms." However, Yearwood explained he "didn't get it as bad as other people." Don't be surprised, though, if it comes along with unexpected symptoms like nausea and stomach aches, as many reported last year.

Cooper Long '26 is one of those unlucky many who got the worst of it. Long described the sickness as "brutal, awful, and something you would never wish on your worst enemies." He explained his symp-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



As December nears, the School braces for another cycle of Sarum Sickness. However, it's also a ritual that binds the community in shared endurance and brotherhood. Even though no one is looking forward to the pounding headaches, vomiting, and other surprise symptoms that come with the mini epidemic, students and faculty take comfort in the knowledge that the Sarum Sickness passes through the Hilltop just as predictably as it arrives. By the time winter break begins, thankfully, nearly all students will have weathered it together and can look forward to an amazing Christmas break with their families.



By Evan Clark

Mr. Nichols' room clearly means much more than material items and signa-

What began as a simple idea has become one of Salisbury's most meaningful traditions. Mr. Nichols' room reminds every student that their time on the Hill-top leaves a mark that lasts far beyond graduation. The memories within those four walls will continue to inspire future generations to carry on that legacy.





CROSSWORD



Cupola Crossword - 2025-2026 Issue No. 3

By Mr. Rees

ACROSS

- 1. Wealthy mogul
- 6. Pursue
- 11. Body art
- 14. "___, all ye faithful"
- 15. "___ la vista, baby"
- 16. Donkey Kong, e.g.
- 17. Classic chant for an opposing team's penalty
- 19. Spell
- 20. Elsa wears one
- 21. Orientation Day handout
- 23. Promotions, for short
- 25. Skewered dish served with peanut sauce
- 28. Tribe headquartered in Red Rock, Okla.
- 29. Qatar's capital
- 31. What the Polar Plungers get every Monday at 6:45
- 34. Somewhat antiquated music players
- 36. 2003, to Romans
- 37. Win
- 40. Walked through puddles
- 44. "No need to say it again"
- 46. Bad mouths "throw" this
- 47. Salisbury has New England's best one
- 52. A, to Mr. Paninski
- 53. Liveliness, to Mr. McEachern
- 54. Guitar played by Hendrix and Welch, familiarly
- 56. Boy
- 57. Unscripted comedy
- 60. What the Polar Plungers get every Monday at 6:45
- 62. Sarum Sprints unit
- 63. What Sarum hopes to do for sporting events
- 68. Suffix with Lemon
- 69. Class taught by Mr. Strauss

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10		11	12	13
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17						18						19		
		20						21		22				
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57					58	59		60			61			
62				63		64	65					66	67	
68				69						70				
71				72						73				

- 70. Type of bird that gets the worm
 - 71. Great lyric, slangily
 - 72. The bus, to Anatole Dumas
 - 73. Secret rendezvous
- DOWN**
- 1. FC Barcelona's Camp ___
 - 2. UNC's conference
 - 3. Common Hilltop footwear
 - 4. Prefix meaning "all"
 - 5. Weaklings, in Gez Z slang
 - 6. New England prep school whose mascot is the Wild Boar
 - 7. It's against the dress code to wear one in the dining hall
 - 8. Wood in a cricket bat
 - 9. Object of study in one of Mr. Nichols's classes

- 10. Goes big, in slang
- 11. Polynesian paradise
- 12. Spirit for a spritz
- 13. Like emojis
- 18. Tie
- 22. Concerned parent's question
- 23. What the Polar Plungers get every Monday at 6:45
- 24. Manage someone's image
- 26. Salisbury has one across from The Armory
- 27. Sweet potatoes
- 30. Each Salisbury student has one
- 32. 0, in a soccer score
- 33. "___ mio"
- 35. Japanese rice wine
- 38. Monsters, ___
- 39. Land divisions
- 41. Desperate football play
- 42. Mode impersonated by Madame Barbato

- 43. Document showing ownership
- 45. "Brevity, 'tis the soul of ___": Hamlet
- 47. Forensics HQ in Quantico, Va.
- 48. Fleet
- 49. Mr. Barbato's favorite golf shot (ask him)
- 50. "Friends, Romans, countrymen ..." sort of speaker
- 51. One of Mrs. Barillaro's sons
- 55. Post on X
- 58. October birthstone
- 59. Use an e-cig
- 61. Letter-shaped girder
- 64. Ottawa-based media co.
- 65. Seoul-based automaker
- 66. Dr. Jekyll creator's monogram
- 67. W.S.J. competitor



Different Dorms, Different Rules: Inside Salisbury's Study Hall Routine

By EJ Bauer

At Salisbury, study hall isn't just another part of the nightly routine; it is a key part of the academic culture that helps students stay organized, disciplined, and prepared for the future. Sunday through Friday at 7:15 p.m., students across campus settle in for a set period of quiet work time. However, each dorm has its own approach to enforcing study hall, with some allowing more privacy and others maintaining a stricter open-door policy.

Director of Studies and Instructor in Science, Mr. Josh Weinstein '11, a dorm parent for Main, South, and Spencer Halls, said these study hall expectations represent something bigger than just a rulebook. "When I was a student at Salisbury, our study hall rules were very similar," Mr. Weinstein said. "It helped us build a habit of studying in the evening. In college, I noticed that many former boarding school students naturally used that time to do their work."

Mr. Weinstein believes consistency is what gives the study hall hours their long-term impact. "There were definitely times when it was hard to focus because of noise," he admitted from his days as a student, "but that's when I learned to go to the library. It really helped develop that muscle." For him, the open-door rule was not just about supervision; it was about creating a routine that eventually turned into self-discipline.

Students today, however, experience study hall a little differently. Elijah Raykhman '26, a resident of South, described the nightly study block as productive but sometimes challenging. "Sometimes I am studying, sometimes I am with my friends, and sometimes I am doing college work," Raykhman said. "We've got

to keep the door propped for the entire length of study hall. We also can't be loud."

While he follows the rules, Raykhman admits that the open-door policy can be distracting. "Sometimes when you hear screaming down the hall or the people across the hall are watching a YouTube video, it can be distracting," he said. To focus better, he often turns to the library, just like Mr. Weinstein once did. "I go to the library because I find it to be more Zen and peaceful to study," he added. "Most days I go and do my work either before or after study hall."

For Raykhman, when and how he studies depends on his workload. "If I have a test tomorrow, I'll use study hall to work with other people," he explained. "But if I don't have much homework, I'll usually get it done earlier in the day."

Both Mr. Weinstein and Raykhman see value in Salisbury's study hall structure, even if they experience it differently. Mr. Weinstein views it as a habit-forming practice that sets students up for academic success later, while Raykhman sees it as a flexible time that still encourages productivity, even if some nights are quieter than others.

Faculty members also recognize how study hall rules can vary from dorm to dorm. Film and Media Lab Instructor Mr. Michael Paninski, a dorm parent in Langdon Dorm, explained that the dorm's policies have recently changed. "Last year we had all the doors propped," Mr. Paninski said. "Now we do not have the doors necessarily propped anymore. Some students prefer to study more in quiet, and the doors open was too loud for them."

Instead, Langdon now focuses on accountability through nightly check-ins. "It's a 7:15 check-in, and then technical-

ly students are studying in their rooms or in the library," he explained. "I did enjoy having the doors open because I could check in with every student, just have a quick chat and see how they're doing. But I also saw that some students felt uncomfortable having their doors open—they liked more privacy, and I totally get that."

Mr. Paninski acknowledged that there are differences across dorms when it comes to enforcing study hall. "It's kind of interesting that there seem to be different rules in all the different dorms," he said. "Like slight variations of check-in procedures, door-propping, or room-cleaning. I think at Langdon, we do a pretty good job in keeping the rules legit."

While faculty like Mr. Paninski appreciate structure, students like Ari Marlough '27, a resident of Carr Dorm, see both benefits and frustrations in how the system plays out each night. "We've got to check in with the dorm parent downstairs at 7:15 and then prop our door," Marlough said. "It's alright, it could be worse, but it can get a little annoying when the kids are upstairs screaming or someone's on the phone with their mom and you can hear it through the hallway."

When that happens, Marlough adapts. "Sometimes you just have to close it for a bit and then reopen it, or just put some AirPods in," he said. Like Raykhman, he occasionally heads to the library when he needs a quieter environment, though he often gets most of his work done in his dorm. "I do most of it during study hall," he said. "Sometimes I'll take a nap during study hall and then do it after."

Despite the distractions, Marlough doesn't think study hall should go away. "I think you need to keep it for the lower classmen," he said. "But I think the seniors should get their privileges a little earlier, maybe after the first trimester instead of the second. Then you could start letting juniors in the spring. But I don't think underclassmen should be able to leave whenever they want."

From faculty members like Mr. Weinstein and Mr. Paninski to students like Raykhman and Marlough, one theme remains clear: Salisbury's study hall is more than just rules. Whether the doors are open or closed, the real goal is the same—to help students learn how to focus, even when life—or the hallway—gets a little noisy.

The
Cupola

The Cupola Staff, Fall 2025

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