

"Don't watch the clock; do what it does. Keep going."  
— Sam Levenson

# Breaking Beacon



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Photo by Ross Corsair

## Beacon Players: Jekyll and Hyde

By Marisah George

Beacon Players is back in session and ready to perform its newest production, the gothic thriller *Jekyll and Hyde*, on April 24, 25, and 26.

The show is adapted from Robert Louis Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*. Though following the same structure, the musical differs from the book, which is only about 70 pages long. In the

musical, new characters are added, motivations are explored and the story is expanded upon. It follows Dr. Henry Jekyll, who conducts an experiment that separates the good and evil within a person. This unleashes his alter ego, Edward Hyde. Encompassing murder, obsession, love, and duality, *Jekyll and Hyde* is a thrilling show, eagerly brought to life by the talented cast, crew and pit.

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## PSA: Congestion Issues

By Madison Abrahamson

As we enter the middle of the year, it seems as if we need a reminder on how to conduct ourselves in the halls. I'm not referring to social etiquette but spatial awareness which many seem to disregard. Since the 2025-2026 school year has started, there has been an influx of students, particularly those who are underclassmen. With so many new students, this medium sized school is seeming more cramped than what it really is. Students should be able to meet up with their friends after class but shouldn't be jumbled up together. There have been many instances where exits, stairway entrances, and classrooms have been blocked due to large groups of students just standing and conversing without any regard to those that need to get to class. These blockages cause other students to acquire unexcused tardies, bump into others, and can feel an annoyance about the

experience. One student shared, "It's really frustrating to have to push past people in order to get to class, it shouldn't take that much." Standing in the middle of the halls is not a good way to conduct oneself; before you crowd a space, try and think about how that affects other students.

If you would like to meet up with your friends after class, it is more considerate to move to the side or at least by someone's locker. You shouldn't stand in areas that have active traffic of students coming from two sides of the school. People also need to pay attention to where they are walking. If you are exiting a classroom, maybe look ahead of yourself before you walk into another person. Hugging the walls as you travel is also a great way to bump into students; try to avoid that behavior as well. School is half way through and many of us are ready for the year to be over, please don't add onto other stresses by crowding the halls!



## Pros and Cons of High School Dating

By Payton O'Connell

Dating in high school is supposed to be a major part of the teenage experience. It's often filled with excitement, the journey of understanding relationships, and first crushes. But it's not all that smooth. There are awesome things about dating

in high school, like learning about yourself and making memories with someone special, but, there are also big challenges like balancing school, dealing with drama, and figuring out what you really want. So, is dating in high school really worth it? Or should you wait? Let's dive into the pros and cons. *Continued on page 2*

## Jekyll and Hyde (from page 1)

The cast includes Jonah Espinosa as Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Molly Lyons as Lucy Harris and Samiha Golden as Emma Carew. Lyons and Golden play two women in love with Dr. Jekyll, adding another layer of duality that was nonexistent in the book. An interesting aspect of the role is that one actor plays both Jekyll and Hyde, requiring them to switch between characters mid-scene or mid-song. Espinosa describes the role as both “demanding yet rewarding,” calling it a “once-in-a-lifetime chance to honor both the character and this story.”

This show will differ greatly from past Beacon Players productions. For one, “there’s a lot of big numbers and there’s [extensive] choreography,” Golden says. She describes the show as “very mature,” including more violence and sexual

themes. Espinosa expands on this, saying, “The writing and material for this show are so powerful, giving all of us the opportunity to really explore our interpretation of the story.”

This will be the final show for both Golden and Espinosa. Both started their Beacon Players journey in the production of “Beauty and the Beast.” To Golden, “Beacon Players has been the best part of high school,” becoming a “second home.” For Espinosa, “So much has changed, but the one thing that stayed constant was Beacon Players.” On April 26, they will take their final bow along with senior Griffin Kitzrow and seniors in pit and crew, ending their journey with Beacon Players.

All in all, audiences can expect this latest production to be incredible. Good luck to the cast, crew and pit, who are sure to bring this amazing show to life. Tickets are currently on sale on the Beacon Players website—get yours soon!

## Dr. BHS

Dear Dr.BHS,

I feel so behind in life, it’s my 3rd year here and I haven’t participated in any clubs, done sports, or anything. Don’t get me wrong, my grades are great, but I feel like I have nothing else to show for and worry that colleges next year will reject me for this. Any advice??

From,  
Yoko2d

Dear Yoko2d,

I understand that you may feel “behind,” but I promise you that there is still time to join clubs and get into activities that you’d like to join. The spring season for sports is now starting up - maybe try track or any other sport we have available. If your grades are good, then I assure you a college will accept you. The year isn’t over and you have another one after this, good luck!

From,  
Dr.BHS

## Places to Volunteer Near Beacon

By Jayme Fuentes

Feel like lending a helping hand? Want to help your community? Here are two places to volunteer in and near Beacon.

First, there is Mid-Hudson Animal Aid. The organization is dedicated to helping pets find new homes.

Next, there is the Stony Kill Foundation. The foundation focuses on educating the public about agriculture and the environment.

If you are interested in helping your community, consider volunteering with one of these organizations and spreading the word.

## Pets of Beacon

By Hazel Schein

Beyond the familiar furry faces we might see in our everyday lives, Beacon is home to a diverse range of wildlife. Local aquatic life can be found in places such as the Mount Beacon Reservoir and Fishkill Creek. These waterways are home to various species of fish, including largemouth bass and yellow perch, as well as bullfrogs, snapping turtles and snakes. Bird species such as great blue herons and ospreys can often be spotted in the surrounding area.

Wildlife on land can also be found throughout the region, most commonly in forests and mountainous areas. Animals observed in the area include coyotes, white-tailed deer, red foxes, groundhogs and occasionally even bobcats.

These animals, which live all around us, are important parts of the local ecosystem and help foster a stronger connection between people and nature.

## High School Dating (from page 1)

One of the most significant advantages of dating in high school is that it fosters your emotional maturity by providing experience in navigating such complex feelings and relationships. Through the ups and downs of dating, teenagers learn to manage emotions such as empathy, jealousy, and heartbreak. These moments push you to understand what it really means to care for someone, deal with misunderstandings, and sometimes even let go. They also help you develop communication skills, patience, and a better understanding of boundaries.

An additional advantage of dating in high school is that it isn’t just about the serious stuff. Dating in high school can help you create fun memories that you can look back on, and that will last a lifetime. Whether it’s going to prom, homecoming, getting

food together, or even just chilling and talking for hours, these fun milestones elevate your high school experience by giving you special moments to look back on.

While all that was previously mentioned sounds great, there are still some downsides to dating in high school such as the conflict, stress, sadness, or drama that breakups cause. Because many teenagers are still learning how to manage such strong and raw emotions, disagreements or even jealousy can feel overwhelming and affect their overall well being and mental health. Breakups in particular can be especially difficult sometimes leading to awkwardness or tension in shared classes and other spaces. This could make everyday school life more difficult and stressful as well as more complicated than needed.

Another downside to dating in high school is that relationships at this age often don’t last very long because teens are still

# Stranger Things and Nostalgia

By Suvi O'Shea



Along with many people I know, I became at least a little emotional when *Stranger Things* ended on the last day of 2025. Whenever you watch a series over several seasons, you become attached to it. But I think *Stranger Things* affected viewers more than most shows, because it is the embodiment of nostalgia.

Or, maybe more accurately, it has layers of nostalgia. In case you are unfamiliar with the show, it's set in the 1980s, so for people who lived through that era, it's obviously nostalgia-oriented. If the teenage characters were real, they would be in their fifties by now.

Then there is when *Stranger*

*Things* was shot. It debuted in 2016, so it has been running for almost 10 years. People who started watching the show when they were about 12—like the main characters in 2016—are adults now, so they of course have a strong attachment to the show. However, other people my age and I don't fit into either of these categories. First of all, I obviously didn't grow up in the 80s. I was also only 5 years old in 2016, so I started watching the show in about 2022, when Season 4 came

out. Yet I still felt wistful when the last episode aired, and most fans of the show that I speak to seem to have had the same experience, even those the same age as me.

I think this is because *Stranger Things* represents growing up. Some people don't think teenagers experience nostalgia because we're so young, but that isn't true. Your teenage years are when you first look back and realize that a chapter of your life—your childhood—is over. You're still young, you still “have it all ahead of you,” but now you get a taste of how quickly time flies and it's bittersweet—both sad and fascinating.

I won't give too much away, but in the *Stranger Things* finale the characters that were children at the beginning of the show graduate from high school. We know that this all takes place almost 40 years ago, so as we watch them say goodbye to their school, we are also aware of how many years and changes they

would have gone through since then. Each layer is a reminder of how quickly time goes and how life moves on, so of course it induces an intense emotional response, like a shock or jolt of reality.

And maybe that's why the spinoffs and prequels that have grown out of the *Stranger Things* series don't sit well with me. A prequel stageplay, *Stranger Things: The First Shadow* has come to Broadway, and there are plans for animated and live-action spinoffs. These seem like efforts to hold on to something that's gone, like childhood. Maybe the sadness that comes with the end of a show is kind of therapeutic, because it's helping you deal with the ends of things in real life. If so, then we shouldn't suppress those emotions by creating more and more content to avoid accepting the fact that it is over. Like the saying (almost) goes: *Stranger Things* has happened. So maybe we should just let it go.

# Retiree Spotlight: Mrs. Hawks

By Gaby Khalil

**Q&A**  
**How long have you been teaching?**

I started in 1987, so it works out to 38 years by the end of June.

**When did you decide to become a teacher?**

It was a long process. I started college as an art major, then switched to engineering. Then I did it for a summer and hated it. So I said, okay, let me go into teaching, where I'm around people.

**What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment as a teacher?**

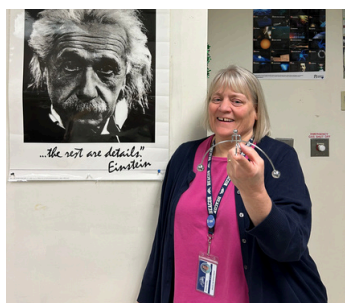
Being able to adapt is a big one because when I first started, we didn't have cell phones or computers. Then we had the whole era when we had to teach out of a metal shop because we had asbestos in the building. Then we moved, and then we had COVID. So it's been ongoing, learning, adapting, and changing.

**What advice do you have for new teachers?**

Be confident, relax, get to know your students, and treat them the way you want to be treated.

**What advice do you have for students?**

Go to school. Do your homework. Be respectful and try to have fun.



**What has been your most memorable moment as a teacher?**

There are so many that it's hard to pick one out. I suppose having my student become a principal is pretty notable. And having students whose parents I also had is very memorable.

**What has been the hardest part about being a teacher?**

Teaching on my own. In every department, there are 2 or 3 other teachers, but in Physics, it's just me. So, going through all of it is probably the most difficult part, without anybody to bounce ideas off of.

**What will you miss the most about your job?**

Meeting all the students every year. It's great working with people. My colleagues are wonderful, and we often have scientific conversations in the office, and I won't get that at home much.

# What's Happening in Beacon?

April 18, 2026

**The Art of Charcuterie Workshop**

That Creative Space, 333 Fishkill Ave. Beacon, NY 12508

Come join The Art of Charcuterie Experience hosted by Jessica from Board & Bliss Gourmet Charcuterie.

Register at [boardbliss.org](http://boardbliss.org)

April 24, 25, 26

**Jekyll and Hyde**

Beacon Player presents *Jekyll and Hyde* in the BHS Theater.

March 25, 2026

**All Night in a Day**

Admin, faculty members, and this year's valedictorian and salutatorian will read all of Elie Wiesel's Holocaust memoir, *Night*, with Ms. Driscoll's English 9 Honors classes, in the BHS theatre, over the course of one day.



**Flag football intramurals**

Girls flag football will be running on the turf throughout the month of April. Please see Haddeland or Steltz to join the google classroom for specific dates, times and information.

# Faculty Spotlight: Frank Lofaro

By Marisah George  
& Kayla Selander

Frank Lofaro has been teaching for a memorable 43 years, and come June, his journey at Beacon High School will come to an end. He will be deeply missed by his Beacon High School family. Here is an interview we were fortunate enough to have with Lofaro.

## Q & A

### Why did you decide to become a teacher?

I have always loved sports, and my high school social studies teachers were excellent. Since it was a great experience for me, I wanted to teach and coach, and I've always wanted to give back. I didn't initially know exactly what I wanted to teach, but as I got more into my college experience, I knew I wanted to do something along these lines.

### What is your fondest memory from teaching at Beacon High?

I've had so many great experiences here. When I first came here, I thought it was temporary. I thought I would just come for a couple of years, then I'd go somewhere else, but I felt very at home in the community and at home here in the building, and I've had just a lot of great experiences. We won the softball state championship in 1989, and teaching at Dutchess has been a great experience for me. It was awesome to make that transition. But I've really enjoyed the whole journey very much.

### What's your favorite sandwich?

My favorite sandwich would be chicken cutlet with fresh mozzarella, roasted red peppers, balsamic vinegar, and arugula.

### What are you going to miss most about this job?

Interacting with students. That's what I'm going to miss the

most. I don't know if I would say I don't like adults, but adults are different than students, and I'll miss the day-to-day interaction with students and thinking that I've had some small part in their journey to whatever they're going to be.



### What are you most looking forward to in retirement?

Not getting up early in the morning! And I think I have the freedom to do what I want to do. It really has been a tough decision for me because I genuinely enjoy what I do. I enjoy coming here. I enjoy my students. I enjoy what I teach. I mean, I'm

looking forward to not having to do it, especially this winter. I don't have to get up when it's -5°F out. I can hang in a little bit.

### If you could say anything to your students about life and their future, what would you say?

I am very adamant about just a few things.

- 1) Dream it. You can't do it if you don't dream it.
- 2) Have a passion. Whatever it is, doesn't matter what it is, have a passion. Let that passion help you chase your dreams.
- 3) Be really cognizant, or really, really aware, of others. Life is about others. It is not about us. We know who we are, we will chase our passion, but always be aware of others.

"Be kind, be understanding, you know, there's gonna be lots of ups and downs, but chase your dreams, be passionate, and really think about other people on your journey."

Daylight saving's time got yr all.

Hang in there, ppl!



