

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

QUARTERS I & II - 2026

BE IN THE KNOW

Winter Sports Schedule Support TIDE Nation & attend a Winter Sports game by checking out the schedule with this link.

Winter Drama Production presents *the Miracle Worker* in early December. For further information, reach out to the Drama Director, Mary at shs-theater@buusd.org.

Friendly Reminder if YOU have not filled out the Annual Health Form, click on this link for the School Nurses by Friday, December 4th.

Holiday & New Year Break Begins on Tuesday, December 22nd with an Early Release until Sunday, January 3rd

Art Show & Winter Concert Monday, January 11th Kicking off in the Library at 5:30PM; following a lively performance in the *Don Lessard Auditorium at 6:30PM.*

In House Scholarship Information and applications for Seniors will be released early December with a deadline of Friday, February 19th at 3:15pm. See Mrs. Violette for any questions by popping into her Room C21 or reach out via email at mviolshs@buusd.org.

Information Night for Sophomores & Juniors Wednesday, February 17th from 5:30pm-7pm in the *Don Lessard Auditorium*. Sophomore focus will be on Dual Enrollment & Early College. Junior focus will be on Early College & the Application Process for Colleges.

Parent Square In early August, the district announced the shift to using *ParentSquare* for urgent and time-sensitive communications. An account was automatically created for each parent or guardian using the contact information in our student information system *(Infinite Campus)*, and the district has been using the system regularly since then. Please reach out to your school office staff if you have any questions or concerns about receiving notifications. If you are new to the district, an account will be created for you. Be on the lookout for an email from *ParentSquare*, then click the button "Activate your account" and follow the prompts. Confirm your contact information as well as your listed children. Use "not my child" if a child listed is not associated with your account. Select "yes, this is me" when you have confirmed your contact information and child(ren) associated with your account. *If any changes to names or contact information are needed, please contact your school office staff so the corrections can be made in Infinite Campus, which will carry through to ParentSquare. Alternatively, you may update your own contact information using Infinite Campus Parent Portal by clicking on this link.*

MESSAGE FROM ADMINISTRATION

Dear Spaulding Community,

It is a pleasure to join the Barre community as the superintendent of schools. As I begin my time in Barre, I am hopeful that the community will share their thoughts with me about education and our associated values. We would appreciate it if you would take a few minutes to share your thoughts and ideas about what makes our community strong and ways that we could improve outcomes.

Our district is participating in the AASA National Research Initiative -- a first-of-its-kind study measuring public confidence in K-12 education across the country. We will be able to review our district level data, as well as data at the State and National level.

We need to hear from you to help us inform our future work here at BUUSD. Your perspective -- as a member of our school community -- is essential to understanding how our district can strengthen trust and improve outcomes. The interview takes about 5 to 8 minutes and your responses are completely anonymous. No individual answers are ever shared or attributed.

Join Here: https://tejoin.com/participate/858123015

Participation will be open until November 30th, 2026 at 11pm

Thank you for being part of this important conversation — the more voices we hear from, the stronger our district's story will be, and the more we will learn to help our school system in the years ahead.

With appreciation,
Emilie Knisley, *Superintendent of Schools*



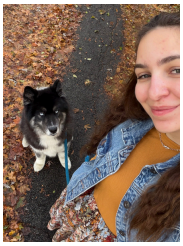


Orientation Day

left Mrs. Brownell, Mrs. Bonoyer, & Mr. Duddy welcome new students (above) into the building.



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR COMMUNITY



Built for This. Even though, **Katrina Cheney** hails from East Montpelier and she is an alum of U32, she's excited to be at *Spaulding High School*.

"I enjoy the proximity of being near my family, Burlington, and friends," stated Ms. Cheney. She credits her former teacher, **Erin Galligan-Baldwin** as inspiring, talented, and creative, which sparked Ms. Cheney's interest in theater and writing. She confesses that the energy, organized chaos, and sense of community whether it be rehearsals, prepping for lines, and participating in mini skits has helped her balance her role as the new Phoenix Teacher.

Having the ability to work with veteran teacher, **Ryan Dunlea**, knowing she is a recent graduate of *University of Vermont's* Education program, *Class of 2026*, she noted, "just honored" that Administration and Ryan Dunlea believed she would be a good fit for this type of programming.

"It's my first real job and I am very excited to create custom lesson plans, along with meeting where students are at." She compares this challenge like working on a 2,000 puzzle that needs the time to visualize, think and reflect, which pieces match and complement each other.

"I am excited to spark the passion and joy I found in reading and writing as a student with my students;" knowing they have an open mind. For now, she currently finds herself keeping fairly busy with her furbaby, Anakin, a 2 year old husky.

Like her students, Anakin brings an energy that she finds endearing and let's just say we are thrilled to have her here.



This is OUR year, YOUR year Simple words to live by, but incredibly powerful for members of *UP for Learning* whether they be students, faculty, and staff alike. For Mrs. Bonoyer, fondly known as Tracy & Mr. Jerome, *Assistant Principal*, they truly believe in the power of change and honoring student voice. They have witnessed first hand how energized their group of students truly care about their school whether it be the facilities, their teachers, their peers, and fostering a sense of belonging.

Mrs. Bonoyer & Mr. Jerome give a shout out to a power pack of underclassmen: **Olivia Birmingham, Will Bresett, Willow Denton, Crosby DiCicco, Joy Goodell, Enna-Claire Kalat, Bridget Sheeran, Genavieve Sickles,** & **Kylie Untiedt** who continue to inspire them to be better individuals and lead by example. For these students have a pulse on various school situations, they are willing to attend teacher committee meetings and engage in conversation with them about issues of concern, along with also leading Professional Development on their day off from school.

"I am energized by them!" fondly stated by Mrs. Bonoyer and she credits their goals ranging from just saying hi to each other in the hallways, taking pride in one's space, caring for self, and knowing that even small actions are impactful. Mr. Jerome concurs and he's appreciative of their involvement and excited for them to present their survey results to the faculty & staff meeting.

According to Kylie & Joy, they credit **Dawn Poitras,** *SAP Counselor for Barre City Elementary & Middle School* and for *Spaulding*, as setting them up for success in leadership positions. "We both gained the skills and confidence to lead in middle school, and for this we want to continue to lead by example and restore trust within our community." They noted with Mrs. Bonoyer, we want "voices heard, for all to belong, and change to happen." And let's just say we are all in agreement.



SPREADING TIDE PRIDE

A wave of excitement has been forming through the hallways, classrooms, and on the fields; giving the community a memory or feeling that they are seeking.

Often the Fall, kicks off the season with a series of Spirit Days; encouraging student engagement and forming a sense of community.



And so, students may be ready to rumble for a good cause by participating in the annual Flag Football game, trekking to *Harwood High School* for Battle of the Bands, and cheering on the sidelines for their teammates. For this section, a slight makeover by embracing a photonarrative for YOU to be inspired, to engage, and show YOUR spirit too.



In the moment Taking the challenge to a new musical level at the Pep Rally: Mollie & Wes.



Loud & Proud *The Tones* wins the title of Best Cover at *Battle of the Bands (above);* earning a spot to perform at *Higher Ground* in Burlington. Check out their performance by clicking on this link.



Friday Night Lights Despite football experiencing challenges over the years, the fans continue to stick together and support their athletes on the field as demonstrated by *Jacob, Hallie, Chace, Eva, and others (above).* **Trunk or Treat** Members of *National Honor Society* engage with our community over candy fun *(right).*





ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

Invested in My Future For this past few months, students have learned that enrolling in academically rigorous courses, being full scheduled, and/or taking advantage of Work Based Learning opportunities on/off campus have their pros and cons as they engage in academic planning.

In particular, they are interested in learning about potential options after high school and making sure they are on track by checking in with their School Counselor, along with ruling in and out post secondary institutions, such as training programs, technical programs, and/or colleges/universities.

They have also been practicing what it means to be a professional student on/off campus when meeting with Admission Representatives, alumni, like **Gen Anthony,** from *The Patrick Leahy Honors College*, and various individuals from the *New England College Fair* and/or for those who visit the WBL Room.

For some students, they still are developing their interpersonal/employability skills in the classroom.

For instance, WBL Career Readiness students were fortunate to have *Assistant Principal*, **Ms. Busker** join their class and engage in a real discussion about being a digital citizen; conversation was rich and enabled students to understand the why around proper communication & digital usage.



In addition, WBL students should be commended for their willingness to work on being respectful in the classroom/off campus, being compliant, using proper language, and embracing professional dress.

In turn, students are invested in their next steps whether it be attending a(n) college/university visit, touring *Central Vermont Career Center* in November, seeking out their School Counselor for assistance, enrolling in AP Courses, and/or using their Dual Enrollment voucher wisely.

As **Ms. Buck**, *History & Social Sciences Teacher* noted last year, "I want students to be aware of their academic options and have a positive experience" while in high school. She is keenly aware of current challenges, but she is hopeful as she plans out another Course Fair for the Spring of 2027.











above & right Juniors and Seniors gain a better understanding of the concept of a(n) college/university and its programming by visiting campuses and engaging in conversation with college/university representatives, along with their School Counselor as seen above center with Director, Mr. Cate.





Senior **Sydney Schaller** is *Spaulding High School's Green & Gold Scholar;* a prestigious award issued by the *University of Vermont*.

Annually in June, Vermont high school administrators are given the opportunity to nominate a potential Junior based upon his/her/their academic excellence between his/her/their Freshman and Junior years.

Humbled as this year's recipient, Sydney noted that her love of learning was always at the forefront, along with having a community of friends, teachers, and peers who supported her academically.

Sydney stated, "I am appreciative of **Dr. Carter's** *Calculus Class*" and Sydney encourages others to enroll in it, especially if they have an interest in Science. She also praises former *Spaulding High School Biology Teacher*, **Ms. O'Donnell** who taught her how to be a curious student and noted her peers missed out on an incredible teacher.

In turn, Sydney is excited to be at *University of Vermont* in the Fall of 2027 as a Chemistry student. She wants to continue to be an agent of change whether it be in Band or Student Council with Bobby or across the Green Mountains of Vermont.

The ***National Honor Society*** is founded on four key pillars: Scholarship, Leadership, Service, & Character. Based upon these pillars, the following are members of the *Spaulding High Schoo*l Chapter for 2026/2027: Cameron Aldrich, Lilli Anderson, Olivia Badger, Emma Chappelle-Cortez, Lillian Charbonneau, Gavin Cook, Adelynn Dessureau, Alexis Dodge, Andrew Evans, Nicholas French, Abbey Glassford, Mackenzie Grochowik, Illeana Harrness, Cailea Hosking, Rosie Johnson, Makenna Joslin, Evelyn Kalat, Brooklyn Kearney, Lyndsey LaFlamme, Luke LeBourveau, Jillian Lewis, Grace Lindhiem, Trent Loftus, Solenne Marineau, Rowan Moran, Ruby Myers, Caroline O'Hara, Marilyn O'Meara, Emelia Palmisano, Emilia Poczobut, Quinn Premont, Aevalyn Quesnel, Kellen Robtoy, Hayden Rock, Sydney Schaller, Kamryn Soffen, Harper Spaulding, Leah Spaulding, Evelyn Thomas, Noah Trader, Rogue Tremblay, Isabelle White, & Marissa Young

CELEBRATING FALL ATHLETES















Soccer Capital League
Second Team
Luke LeBourveau

First Team
Kamryn Soffen

Second Team
Emma Chappelle-Cortez, Abbey Glassford, & Savannah Viens

Honorable Mention
Mackenzie Allen & Katie Parker

Division I All State & Invited to Senior Green Gold Game
Kamryn Soffen

Field Hockey Capital League
First Team
Rylee Pelletier & Eva Van Orman

Honorable Mention
Evelyn Thomas & Taya Lunt

Vermont Senior Showcase
Rylee Pelletier & Evelyn Thomas

Vermont Rising Stars
Lauren Bylow, Taya Lunt, Shaelyn McGowan, & Evelyn Thomas

you continue to make us proud

congratulations

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY



A Place to Be....

home of the Crimson Tide for *Spaulding* alum and former colleague, **Mike Gilbert**; known fondly among many as *Mr. Spaulding* & the like no other than fellow colleague, **Dan Rapalje,** well known as Rap to many among Tide Nation.

Even with their passing this past Fall, they continue to embody the class colors that are passed down every four years and their personalities are rich with symbolism.

Whether it be blue, red, silver, or gold class colors, Mr. Gilbert & Rap encouraged students to participate in all of the opportunities that *Spaulding High School* has to offer from athletics to clubs to academic pursuits.

And like the *Senior Class Colors of 2027*: blue and silver, both gentlemen have demonstrated





far left Mike Gilbert, Business Teacher & English/History, Dan Rapalje (left)

their loyalty to *Spaulding High School* and an understanding of what they have valued over the years: family and friends.

Thus on behalf of the *Spaulding High School* Community: past and present, thank you for sharing Mr. Gilbert & Rap with us whether he be your brother, your father, your husband, your grandfather, or colleague.

And know this, they continue to make waves within our community by establishing a Memorial Scholarship in each of their names for our students of today, tomorrow, and the future.

For more information, please click on their obituary: Mr. Gilbert & Rap.