



# The Student Times

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## Welcoming new school officials to BHS

**TRACE MANEVAL**  
*Junior Editor*

There are tremendous changes at BHS this year, as four faculty members have joined the staff.

They include Mrs. Jennifer Hestor, who is the new freshman Guidance Counselor; Mr. Gregory Michael, who is the new Principal of Operations; Mr. Stephen Swicklik, who teaches History; and Mr. Anthony McDonnell, who teaches Band. All four individuals have something professionally and personally unique to offer BHS.

**JENNIFER HESTOR**  
**GUIDANCE COUNSELOR**

Hestor came from West Berwick Elementary to the High School to be the Guidance Counselor for ninth-grade students. She has previously been a counselor at the middle school and elementary level, and wanted a change since she, "worked

at the elementary level for twenty-five years."

Beyond her duties as a counselor, Hestor loves Pinterest, and it brings out her crafty side. Her dream vacation would be to travel to Hawaii to, "hike the mountains, go to a luau, and walk on the beaches." She also enjoys making her signature dish, chicken tetrazzini..

Students can meet Hestor in the Guidance Office.

**GREGORY MICHAEL**  
**PRINCIPAL**  
**OF OPERATIONS**

Michael is the new Principal of Operations at BHS. His goal in this position is to "become a resource for students, staff, and parents in any way I am able." Some of his job situations, he says, can range from "mundane" circumstances to issues that are High School

emergencies. He decided to make the switch to the High School because it is his favorite building. He described it as the "Varsity Team."

His previous positions in the Education Field include thirteen years at the High School, five years at the Middle School as principal, and three years at Nescopeck Elementary.

On a personal note, Michael has a chocolate labrador named Otter and a french bulldog named Nala who will arrive in December. Also, if he could create an ice cream flavor of his choice, it would taste like chocolate-covered bacon.

Students can request to see Mr. Michael in the front office.

**STEPHEN SWICKLIK**  
**HISTORY TEACHER**

Swicklik migrated to the High School this year after teaching 8th Grade American History at the Middle School. He has really en-

joyed his time at BHS so far. His favorite part is, "talking with some of the students I haven't seen in years. It's been awesome to hear about their accomplishments throughout their time in high school and their future plans."

He decided to take advantage of the opportunity to come teach at the High School when previous history teacher Ms. Beth Montana retired. Swicklik said, "they kind of put up the Bat Signal." He went on to say that it has been his goal to teach at the high school level.

In his personal life, his signature cooking dish is steak, and his superpowers would be teleportation and speed. His dream vehicle would be his old Jeep Cherokee fully restored and working again.

Students can visit Swicklik in his classroom, which is

room 17.

**ANTHONY MCDONNELL**  
**BAND TEACHER**

McDonnell came from the University of Delaware to teach at Berwick. It is his first public school teaching job.

When he was in school, he loved all of his music classes and he was involved in the, "Band, Choir, and Jazz Band." At the high school-level, he looks forward to working in the music department. McDonnell loves teaching students any instrument, but his main instruments are the clarinet, saxophone, and piano.

On a personal note, McDonnell has a, "hound-mix dog named Callie" who he loves to go on runs with. He loves cooking on Thanksgiving, calling it, "the best meal of the year." If McDonnell became a superhero, he would want to

have the ability to fly.

Students can find McDonnell in the band wing.



**Hestor**



**Swicklik**



**Michael**



**McDonnell**

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# Biden's controversial withdrawal from Afghanistan

DYLAN SMITH

*Editor-in-Chief*

After 20 years, \$1-\$2 trillion spent, and over two thousand US soldiers dead with many more wounded, the war in Afghanistan has ended. President Biden announced in April that all American troops would be withdrawn from the middle-eastern country by September 11th, 2021. The date would eventually be changed to August 31st. One day early on August 30th, the final US soldiers in Afghanistan returned home.

The pull-out from Afghanistan did not go as planned, however. Quickly following the first wave of troop withdrawals, the Taliban, a terrorist group based in the country that wanted to overthrow the government and institute a new Islamic theocracy, rapidly began to take territory with ease until they were able to conquer the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul. Hundreds of American citizens were left

stranded by their government, and terrorist bombings at the Kabul airport caused even more death and destruction.

President Trump first planned the withdraw after negotiating a deal with the Taliban- the US would withdraw on May 1st, 2021, and the Taliban would not harm an American citizen or soldier in return. Biden would extend this deadline, as he stated the military was not prepared. Nonetheless, Biden was adamant about ending the two-decade-long war. Aside from some neo-conservatives, there was little partisan divide over this issue. Most American people and politicians supported a military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Much of the controversy surrounding the event comes after the Afghan President fled the country and the Taliban conquered the nation. Even President Biden admitted the Taliban seized control of the

country "faster than expected". Some military personnel were left behind to help evacuate citizens remaining in the country and to protect the US embassy in Kabul. Many Republicans and Democrats alike criticized this process, as the evacuation of citizens was not prioritized first. Once Kabul's government surrendered, chaos ensued with the embassy and withdrawal altogether.

Naturally, thousands of people flooded the Kabul airport in order to escape the country, many of which were Americans and citizens of other western nations, like the UK. Tragically, ISIS-K terrorists bombed the airport, knowing of the mass traffic of people. Over 100 people were killed, including 13 US military servicemen. This disorganized and chaotic struggle to evacuate Afghanistan led many to cast blame towards President Biden for not planning this withdrawal more effectively.

More issues arose for the Biden administration when the final troops departed from Afghanistan on August 30th. The 46th President assured the public all American citizens that wished to leave were evacuated. Those staying do so out of their own will. Former military commander Michael Yon disagrees with this statement, saying the opposite. Many flights carrying American citizens were delayed, and other private evacuation attempts were blocked by Biden. Republicans state the administration prioritized Afghan refugees over its own citizens. Tens of thousands of Afghan refugees were evacuated, yet some Americans that wished to leave were not able to return home. This all comes as the Taliban stole billions of dollars worth of advanced American military equipment.

Former-president Trump took aim at Biden, stating, "This is a complete failure through

weakness... and total strategic incoherence." According to Pew Research Data, most of the public agrees with the 45th President regarding this issue. A mere quarter of the Americans polled stated they believe the Biden administration did a "good job". Biden's approval rating also dipped following the withdraw for the first time below 50%. His average rating dropped nearly 10 points from its peak.

The withdraw from Afghanistan was mired in controversy, though the American people did, and continue to, agree a military presence in the country was no longer necessary. While the Taliban has established their government, unrest remains. Afghanistan still copes with other Islamic terrorist groups and severe economic problems. World powers will surely focus a significant amount of attention on the nation for the foreseeable future.

# Berwick band marches back into competitions

MAKAYLA MASLINSKI

*Junior*

Getting past the restrictive year of 2020, the start of the 2021 school year starts a new chapter for the Berwick High School marching band.

The band's new director, Anthony McDonnell, shows clear excitement for the season.

The marching season first begins with band camp: a two-week long camp where students work on their marching and playing techniques.

Molly Rodino, senior and alto saxophone section leader, said that the band has faced "many rained-out practices and extremely hot weather." She adds, "We have accomplished a lot in our show and I think we will have a very successful season because of our perseverance."

McDonnell comments on the band's progress, saying, "The students have really been putting in a lot of work, and they've been making great progress... I'm proud of them."

Even through their hard work and dedication, however, the band still puts great emphasis on building relationships and having fun.

Olivia Gomez, senior drum major, said that her favorite part of band is "the people... We definitely have a family aspect that we will always help one another no matter what."

McDonnell also highlights the importance of building friendships. Band camp helps students familiarize with others they work alongside.

He feels that building relationships with his students will help their work.

Furthermore, the "sections," Rodino believes, create a sense of "family." To help each instrumental section get a better grasp on the music, the band is occasionally divided to work on the show.

Sectionals (section rehearsals), she says is, "prudent to... build trust and a relationship with your fellow section members. One of the main points of band aside from music is the family atmosphere and this gives us the chance to strengthen that bond."

"I love band," says Gomez, "I truly don't know what my life would have been like without this program, and I want to do everything in my power to give back to it. I want to keep the magic of music, and I love all the band kids with my whole heart."

Many students join band for a multitude of reasons. Freshman trumpet player Christopher Stola, said, "I like playing the stand tunes at the football games and interacting with everyone."

Freshman trombone player Kylynn Butrej, says that she is, "excited about the competitions, and getting to see the whole show on the field. It'll be cool to see how the band progresses through the season all the way to ACCs (Atlantic Coast Competitions)."

Marching Band veterans are also pleased about the upcoming band competitions. Rodino said "competing especially gives a whole new meaning to performing, and I believe it is one of the most fun and exhilarating feelings to experience." Gomez shares her sentiments

about the competition

This year's show brings excitement in the midst of a new year. Their performance "Mirror Image" is a seven minutes long piece with three movements.

BHS's marching band has been working hard- while having fun- to have a successful marching season. Although McDonnell's expectations of his students are very high, he is proud with what the band has accomplished.

"We put in so much work, and especially with the time we had, our progress has been excellent," he says, "And with more time we can make the show absolutely incredible." Band Students should be proud of their comeback to competitions and football games.

## New school store open to student body



Above: Colby Carr sophomore and Brenna Miller junior stand at the checkout line at the new school store and coffee shop, which is open to students before school and during all three lunches.

(Photos by Riley Lindsey)



### ANNA RINEHIMER Junior

Berwick's new school store has been a highlight for students. Life Skills students have been selling refreshing drinks and snacks to anyone in the high school. Most of the items are \$1.00, and the proceeds are used for fundraising for Life Skills students and to buy new classroom materials.

Not only does the store offer an opportunity to raise money, but it allows students to do something a little different throughout their day and learn the skills of retail. Isabella Ambrosino, a volunteer in the store, said that "The school store benefits these students by providing new opportunities for them and also giving them a chance to work and interact with other students. They all love it and

have a lot of fun with it!" The store currently sells coffee and refreshers in the mornings and at lunch, and during lunches, they sell snacks. In the future, they hope to add more products, such as hot chocolate and smoothies.

One significant way Ambrosino says that students can support the store is by choosing to buy their coffee instead of Dunkin or Starbucks. It is an easy way to help out fellow students, and is cheaper than the products at either location.

The school store has received a large amount of support from the school already, and they are all extremely thankful for it. Students are encouraged to show their spirit by taking part in this exciting new addition to the school community and environment.

## Student council makes a comeback

### CARSON WITNER Sophomore

Just as the new school year begins, so do the elections for Berwick Area High School Student Council. Each grade has students trying to get a required amount of student and teacher signatures to apply for this honor. Getting all of the signatures takes commitment and shows classmates their fellow students' dedication to helping the school. This commitment can be seen by all of the activities the Student Council will conduct throughout the school year. From spirit week, to homecoming, to pep rallies, student council is working hard to make these events the best they can be after the past, crazy year.

Advisor Melissa Driscole stated this was the first year that the student body voted online for the student council, and as a result only 40% of people voted. Usually 90%

of the vote, but they were still able to select a student council from their online votes.

This student council will try and strive to make the school reflect the positive constructive thinking of the student body. The job of each representative of the council is to voice the student body's opinions.

This year's officers are President Jack Dacier, Vice-President Graham Marshman, Treasurer Kaitlyn Caladie, and Secretary Marisa Canouse. These officers are excited for this year's planned upcoming events.

The group's largest event, Spirit Week, which took place during the week of October 11 saw high amounts of student participation. The week included: Mythical Monday, Teen Beach Movie Tuesday, Walt Disney Wednesday, Time Travel Thursday, and Blue and White Bash Friday. During this week, students

let loose and had fun dressing up seeing everyone's outfits. Following this fun week comes will be the long-awaited homecoming. Student council plans months prior, and prepares for the homecoming rehearsals, the pep-rally, the football game, the ceremony, and the dance. They complete all this work so that students can have a magical experience at the start of their high school year.

The council is excited to be back in person. They are looking forward to bringing positivity and fun into the school year, and are willing to listen to any complaints any student have. Remember, these people are the voice of the school, so never hesitate to talk to a member about problems evident in school, or just vent about personal lives. The student council is here to help students get through their high school careers in the best way possible.

## AP students now pay for exams

### CARLY HILL Junior Editor

Every year Advanced Placement (AP) students are required to sign a contract stating their commitment to the exam at the end of school year. In previous years, Berwick Area School District paid for the exams; however, this year the students must pay up front for all exams.

The students will be given a full refund if they receive a score of two or higher. This will occur around the first week in August of 2022.

Students can opt out of exams on the AP contract sheet they received from Heather Melito, Berwick Area High School's guidance counselor.

If any AP students did not receive this contract, they should make an appointment in the guidance office.

If students choose to opt out of exams, they will only receive a 1.04 weight on their grade instead of the normal 1.08 weighting for AP classes. Without an exam score, it is impossible for students to receive college credits.

Students should return their contracts by October 15th. Checks can be made to "Berwick Area School District." For money conflicts, Melito urges communication.

Most of the exams cost \$96 if ordered by November 8th. The late fee is \$40, ending March 2022. If a student

plans to take a late AP exam, they must contact Caroline Curry, the guidance secretary, by March 1st of 2022. Cancellations will be \$40.

AP Seminar and AP Research cost \$144, not including late fees or cancellations.

Last year, Melito found students were not taking the exams "seriously". The payment and refunds will assist students in motivation.

Many students hold concern about what will be shown on their transcripts. Colleges view the students took the AP course, but they will not see an AP exam score.

For more information, see Ms. Melito in the guidance office.

# A guide to the many clubs of Berwick High School

EDEN SAVOY

*Sophomore*

With the school opening back up to full-time in-person learning, students can find more ways to get involved. BHS offers over 30 clubs for students to get involved with their school, community, and peers.

**National Honor Society** invites students in grades 10 through 12 who maintain a cumulative GPA of 93.00% or higher. Club Advisor Mr. Hook said he is looking forward to meeting with NHS students this year and planning activities that the club could not do last year due to the pandemic. The induction ceremony for new members will take place this February.

**Interact**, advised by Mrs. Kern, organizes and works on service projects. The club organizes activities like the winter formal and other school activities, fundraisers, and blood drives. Junior member Cecelia Isenberg said, "Now that we are in person again there will be more opportunities to discuss what needs to be done."

**Mathletics club**, advised by Mr. Gunther, is a group of students who compete in math competitions. The club meets weekly to practice and prepare, for upcoming events.

**Quiz Bowl** members, also led by Mr. Gunther, participate in Jeopardy-like trivia games and competitions. Students meet weekly to learn more information and then attend competitions held on Saturdays throughout the year.

**Drama Club** works with students to produce and perform the high school musical. Students who do not wish to act on stage can participate in other ways, including building & painting sets, creating special effects, and sewing costumes. Sophomore Drama Club member Amy Beer said,

"What I can tell you about it is that it was a lot of fun. ... We got to help make the props and we have a say in the shows overall production..."

**Band/Color Guard**, advised by new director Mr. McDonnell, consists of students in the band class who play instruments or choreograph dances. Members meet every Monday and Thursday from 6 to 9 pm to learn music and sets. The band attends many competitions to showcase their talents and perform at the Berwick football games.

**The Modernaires/Moderknights** is a group of vocally talented students who audition for their position in the club. They perform at local community events and school concerts. Anyone interested in joining should contact club advisor Mrs. Driscole.

**The Student Times** produces the Berwick Area High School newspaper. Club members write, edit, and format the newspaper to release issues on the events at the high school. The club meets weekly after school in club advisor Mrs. Christian's classroom, room 60. This year marks Christian's 30th year of advising the club.

**FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America)** works with students interested in the field of business. The club attends business-related field trips and competitions. FBLA president Hunter Madl said, "FBLA is a fun, productive club that teaches the basics of owning your own business and pushing products."

**TRiO Upward Bound** helps students gain equal access to post-secondary education. The club focuses on preparing students and providing opportunities to develop and explore their potential for personal, social, and academic growth.

**Xanadu** members develop a literary magazine. The magazine is filled with original art,

poetry, short stories, photography, and musical compositions. Students meet every Tuesday to help create the magazine.

**Jr Academy of Science Club** consists of students who conduct their own individual science experiments and then present their findings through oral presentations and slideshows. These students are invited to give abbreviated versions of their research to the Berwick Research Fair. They can also provide the full versions of their research at the PJAS Region 2 meeting in March, and the winners compete again in May.

**CSI-IT (Celebrating Students Interested in Technology)** is a group of students who assist the Berwick High School Technology department in general computer maintenance requests and repairs.

**Audio/Visual Club**, advised by Mrs. Heather Henry, oversees the lights and audio/visual for school assemblies and productions. Members do not meet as a large group unless a vote on a topic is necessary.

**JETS (Junior Engineering Technical Society)** promotes student interest in science, engineering, and technology careers. The club meets once every month.

**The Debate Club**, overseen by Mr. Gadam, brings students together to participate in student-driven discussions on social issues, politics, and cultural topics. Students who participate are required to respect each other's opinions and keep an open mind when debating topics.

**Model UN**, also advised by Mr. Gadam, participates in simulations of the real UN. Students debate on topics given to them about different countries to discuss and solve international issues and will compete at Bloomsburg University.

**Disc Golf Club** members learn to play disc golf during meetings that take place at the Test Track Park. Disc Golf is a relaxed sport in which players throw a disc at a target using rules similar to the rules of golf. Visit Disc Golf Club advisor, Mr. Matthew Shrader, with any concerns or interests.

**FCSC** is a group of students who promote activities related to the Berwick Area High School Family Consumer Science program. Members meet once a month after school and decide what service projects the club will pursue based on student interest.

**Horizons**, advised by Mrs. Bower, is a group of students publishing and designing the Berwick Area High School yearbook. Members must meet publishing deadlines with original layouts, pictures, and proofread pages.

**YIP (Youth in Philanthropy)**, advised by Mrs. Heather Melito, provides opportunities for students to award grants that benefit the youth in their community. Club members are responsible for preparing grant applications, assessing community needs, and requesting proposals from government associations or non-profit associations.

**Robotics Club** invites students to design, build, and program robots. The students will present their robots at competitions and events.

**Senior Video** members create an original video that shows the year's events during the school year. Students are responsible for filming, producing, and editing the video. The video will then be shown to the school at an end-of-the-year assembly.

**JOLTT (Jesus Offers Life to Teens)** is a student-led Bible study. The group meets every Wednesday morning from 7:30 to 7:50 am in Mrs. Kristi Kerbacher's room, number

31. Students will take turns presenting scripture or a devotional they have found to other students.

**Library Aide** students work with the library staff. The students are responsible for distributing magazines, keeping track of attendance, and the library circulation desk.

**Making Connections** is a leadership group that assists new student members and speaks to local agencies. They also create lessons and activities on diversity for students of all ages.

**National History Day** Students create a research project on a historical theme or person of their choice that connects with the year's theme. Student's research projects will be displayed at The Berwick Research Fair and the Region 2 NHD competition

**SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)**, advised by Mrs. Henrey, informs students on prevention and intervention tools to deal with underage drinking, drug use, impaired driving, and other types of destructive actions. The students meet and bring awareness to their peers about safety.

**SHOW (Students Helping Out Willingly)** is a group of students who focus on community service projects within the community and school. Last year, club members collected donations for The Salvation Army. Sophomore SHOW member Isabella Varvaglione said, "It... was nice to see little kids get excited to see the bells and put money into the bucket."

**Spanish Club** that celebrates the Spanish language and culture. Students taking any Spanish classes are welcome to join.

Visit the guidance office or club advisors with any questions, concerns, or more information.

# Differing perspective on vaccine mandates

DYLAN SMITH

*Editor-in-Chief*

Nations all over the globe have instituted several forms of vaccine mandates in response to the coronavirus, being met with staunch support and opposition. However, it seems rather than actually discussing the issue and finding common solutions, both sides shout over each other. They demonize each other until neither position truly knows what the other is arguing.

Due to this fact, it becomes essential to analyze each position's arguments and counterpoints to truly understand the issue and find where one stands. It does not benefit anyone by becoming pro-or-anti vaccine mandates because social media or their peer group deems it.

Individuals that support vaccine mandates see it as a sacrifice for the common good. They equate it to wearing a seatbelt. One may not necessarily like wearing it; however, in order to protect yourself in the event of an accident, it is imperative that one wears it. On the other hand, this presupposes that the vaccine is effective in preventing COVID. If not that, then it should prevent serious injury, illness, and death. After all, there is no point in mandating an ineffective vaccine. This is where

much of the divide comes. The opposition states that there is not enough evidence that supports the prevention of transmission nor severe illness and death. On the contrary, they note the evidence indicates the opposite.

The anti-vaccine mandate crowd quotes several pieces of verified data released from Israel, the most vaccinated country, as of September 17, 2021. Despite their extensive number of vaccinations, "nearly 60% of gravely ill patients are fully vaccinated", according to [sciencemag.org](http://sciencemag.org). Professor Sunetra Gupta of Oxford University claims vaccine mandates are useless because it "does not prevent onward transmission." Moderna, a manufacturer of one of the most prominent COVID vaccines, released data themselves revealing those vaccinated with their shot are twice as likely to contract and become sick with COVID. Those who support vaccine mandates often accuse the opposition of being scientifically ignorant and even dumb, though as one can see, their position does not come from scientific ineptitude.

To claim the anti-mandate side of the argument is the only one with statistics to back

up their claims, though, would be disingenuous and incorrect. If several countries' medical experts repeatedly state that vaccines are effective and necessary, they would surely



not lie. The FDA recently fully authorized the Pfizer vaccine. For the FDA to approve any drug, it must undergo several lab tests on animals and humans. Once this is completed, the FDA will then analyze the data, and if it is safe, it will authorize it. Regarding the Pfizer jab itself, the FDA went as far as to say, "The public can be very confident that this vaccine meets the high standards for safety, effectiveness, and manufacturing quality." Those same trials, according to Pfizer, show a 95% effectiveness. The CDC states on their website the vaccines "are effective at preventing infection, serious illness, and death." Therefore, anti-vaccine mandate individuals lambasting their opposition

as sheep for listening to data would be an incorrect characterization.

However, both of these sides' data cannot be true. Someone against vaccine mandates would quote the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System, or VAERS, to critique the reliability of the other side's data. VAERS is how the CDC tracks adverse effects from all vaccines, and its

data does not lend itself well to pro-vaccine mandate efforts, especially since Harvard found in a study that VAERS historically only represents 1% of all adverse events for a given vaccine. From December 2020 to the beginning of July 2021, VAERS reported almost 500k adverse events, including over 48k serious injuries and nearly 11k deaths. Taking the Harvard study into account, it becomes evident why the opposition to mandates is hesitant to take the jab. In response to this, someone in support of mandates may say VAERS is individually reported, and the CDC has no way to verify most claims individuals make. In addition to this, adverse event is a broad term. An adverse

event could be a sore arm and rash to the gravest scenario-death. While this does not negate the data presented, it does put it in context.

This is nowhere near the total amount of arguments for and against vaccine mandates. Other popular opposing arguments include personal freedom and the lack of knowledge of long-term effects. They have even co-opted the pro-choice slogan "my body, my choice." Since there is no way to test in a lab the effects of the vaccine in ten or twenty years, mandating it without understanding the full effects is not only foolish but dangerous. On the contrary, COVID hit the United States particularly hard. Proponents of the mandates would say if the vaccine has been authorized by the FDA and the CDC says it is safe, then the public can and should be able to use it. Multiple global powers would not knowingly put their own citizens at risk.

As one can evidently see, this topic is nuanced and complex. The amount of data and analysis can seem daunting, though it is essential to research and come to a conclusion based on that. Once this is done, actual discussion on this topic can finally commence and perhaps the partisanship regarding this issue will dwindle.

## Art students display creativity at Bloomsburg Fair

PERCY LITWHILER

*Sophomore*

On Friday, September 24, The Berwick Art Club, accompanied by Art teacher Sara Gorman, set up their annual display in the education building at the Bloomsburg fairgrounds.

Each year, the display has a theme, with this year's being Halloween.

Sophomore art club mem-

ber, Kayla Vencloski said, "It was a great experience creating a display to share with our community."

Many of the students enjoyed setting up the display, walking around the grounds, and interacting with students from other districts.

All in all, many people enjoyed the day off as they represented our school at this year's annual fair.



(Photos by Percy Litwhiler)



# Berwick dawgs football team steers back on track

SEAN MURPHY

Junior Asst. Sports Editor

With the football season continuing to near its end, the Berwick bulldogs are looking to capitalize and execute to finish out the season strong for a district championship.

The Dawgs have won multiple games in a row, so they are looking to carry that momentum into the final games of the season.

Head Coach Carm DeFrancesco said "Our main goal is to have a very competitive football team that will compete for a district championship." He added that the players must "adhere to an 'Above the Line' strategy," which DeFrancesco said was all about the ability to "make good choices when confronted with an event."

Recently, the bulldogs have been making favorable choices leading to their success, including a win against the heavily favored Williamsport Millionaires.

However, Berwick has had their fair share of struggles, dropping their season opener to State Champion Southern Columbia.

The Dawgs have bounced back since then, winning two games straight. Senior Defensive End and Tight End Tahsjee Taylor said this is because "we all treat each other like brothers. We all can depend on each other. None of us have given up on this sport that we love nor the team."

Pasta nights, which the team has every Thursday night before game day, seem to be a

major reason for this bond.

Junior Defensive End and Quarterback Alex Hacker said "Pasta night is a great bonding experience for our team. After a long work week of practice and school, it is nice to sit down and connect... I really enjoy those nights."

From a coach's perspective, they seem very confident in this group of guys that they have. Head Coach DeFrancesco and Assistant Coach Michael Bennett both voiced that they believe that there are no real concerns within the team. A coach's confidence in their players is always a great key to success for any team.

One moment that stood out to the players and coaches as their favorite of the season was their hard fought win over

Crestwood.

Assistant Coach Bennett said, "Our kids have made an outstanding effort to change the culture of our program and it was awesome to see the fruits of their labor with our first win of the season."

Alex Hacker also addressed this win and said "The whole stadium and locker room was in pure excitement that night."

One aspect that really stands out about this year's bulldog football team is their willingness to make sacrifices for their team and their combined goal to do whatever it takes to win.

Tahsjee Taylor said, "As a team, we have very few weaknesses. If I were to say one, and I am guilty of this myself, it would be the fact of teammates singling themselves out

when adversity hits. We need to remember there are 11 of us out on the field. If one does mess up his 10 brothers will be there to fix it."

These players are trying to put the weight of the team on their shoulders to make things happen for each other. This shows how dedicated they are to achieving excellence, and not just by themselves, but as one whole team.

With this team's focus on the same end goal, these players can complete large accomplishments and obtain a substantial potential come district playoff time, but they have to keep the petal to the medal with a tough remaining schedule ahead of them.

Good luck to them and Go Dawgs!

## Girls' volleyball team faces pressure from last year's championship

MASON EDDINGER

Freshman

The Berwick Girl's Volleyball team went 16-1 last year, going undefeated in the Wyoming Valley Conference (WVC). This was the first time the Dawgs took home the crown. Berwick looks to build off the success of last year and win yet another district title.

Coach Sarah Warner said, "Last year's success gives us a lot of excitement to carry over into this season... it's cool to see the new lineup and some of the younger kids step up." Relying and leaning on the younger teammates could be a key component for another successful year. Coach Warner said the older players have really helped the younger students

In the beginning of last year, Berwick didn't have the target of being district champions. They plan to bring their best every game, which will assist in their struggle.

The Dawgs are currently 8-2 through 10 games, putting them on pace for 13 wins on the season, a very respectable mark. They already beat qual-



(Photo by Yearbook Staff)  
Kaylee Hacker, Morgan Nevel, and Cassidy Evans strategize between service points.

ity teams, including Western Wayne and Crestwood, who have winning records thus far. But most players on the roster can agree, Delaware Valley is the biggest obstacle that stands in the Dawgs way. They lost a hard fought battle to Delaware Valley on September 21st, 3-2 in a best of 5 set. It will be difficult win, considering they now have the reputation as top dog.

Berwick is currently 3rd in

the WVC, putting them in an excellent position to win again. Eden Savoy, sophomore, said, "Our team is doing a good job of keeping that hunger... we want to keep our record held high." Already going 16-1 last year, many would believe that determination to win again would diminish, but not with the Berwick squad. Berwick lost a lot of experience, only returning 3 starters. Savoy said, "Our girls are doing a good job of stepping up and we have a lot of players from last year that are helping our chances to repeat."

Winning a championship is hard, repeating as champions is exponentially harder. Berwick has all the tools to win again, but they are on their opponents' radars this time around. They have the confidence, the discipline, and the determination from their youth, but when push comes to shove, can they put all these components together and get more results on the court?

## Field hockey team rallies together for a strong upturn

ALLIE SHULTZ

Junior

The lady dawgs field hockey team went up against the Wilkes Barre Area Wolfpack. After winning a scrimmage, the season looks great for the team. Although the girls lost the game, it is still believed that this year will bring a promising season.

Freshman forward Symone Chase put the only point scored on the board. "It was an amazing goal", Chase said, and it truly was. She carried the ball through, with outstanding skill level and ball control, and shot with no hesitation. Players with this dedication and drive to succeed will be key this season.

Other promising attackers to look for are Madilyn Andrews,

freshman, and Kaitlyn Caladie, junior, both with amazing ball control and a great competitive nature. They will bring an advantage that can lead the team to success.



(Photo by Amy Beer)  
Senior Peyton Lipsey and freshman Symone Chase defend the ball.

With loss comes reflection. "As a mid, I feel we all pushed our hardest for our first game but just struggled overall with communication... we were all capable, but just weren't able to perform to our best of our standards. Us lacking communication made it harder

for the rest of the players... to also know what's going on... I feel we'll definitely fix that aspect and work harder next time to better ourselves and the team as a unit," said Junior Marisa Canouse. Communication and dedication will lead the girls to success..

# Cross Country teams strive for success

**DAMON REID**  
*Freshman*

Cross Country looks to improve on last season as they run along the trails of this year. Last year, Berwick had 4 girls and 7 guys finish top 100 in the PIAA district cross country championships. Even though 11 placements in the top 100 is respectable, every group is looking to improve.

One of the top 100 finishers, Junior Regan Welch said, "I think that the boys' team is going to do well, but the girls are more 'hit or miss,' due to the lack of members." This makes sense considering the boys had 3 more top 100 finishers at the district championship last year.

Berwick is going to have to perform cohesively as a group to have success this year.

A key component to cross

country is self-determination and persistence.

Addison Post, sophomore, said, "I like pushing through, and it helps me be a better version of myself." Post also loves the team bonding that the runners have, including going out to eat with the team. In addition to the team side of cross country, for Post, long distance running helps with the mental aspect of life. She said that running helps clear her mind. This benefit has drawn a lot of attention and interest to the sport of cross country.

Even though four girls and seven boys in the top 100 at the PIAA district and two championships is an admirable and impressive accomplishment, every group is looking to improve on the year prior and run to the very best of their abilities.

# Berwick's soccer teams kick and aim for success

**ZANDER SWITZER**  
*Sports Editor*

Soccer has typically been a sport of great promise at BHS, and this year both the Girls and Boys teams are looking



(Photo by Student Times Staff)

forward to continuing the trend of representing Berwick throughout their respective seasons.

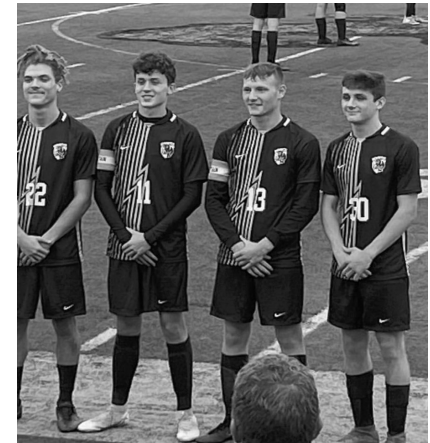
The Girls team is coming off

of a stellar district championship season, and it's looking like this year will be much of the same. Currently sitting at an impressive record, the soccer team is stacked top to

bottom with star power and hard hitters. Kayla Fernandez recorded her 100th goal in a recent game. Without a doubt, the girls are going to continue their hot streak and bring home another title to BHS.

On the Boys side of soccer, things are not as glamorous. They're currently struggling to find their footing with a disappointing record, but the season is not over yet, and they still

have time to recuperate their losses and get back into their groove. The potential is there, but it is up to the players and their coach to utilize their talents and return Berwick Boys'



(Photo by Student Times Staff)

Soccer to the spotlight. There is certainly much to be excited about for both teams.

# Berwick's Golf Team plans a strong recovery

**CALEB OBRIEN**  
*Freshman*

The Berwick Golf team is off to a rough start this season but coach Eric May plans to make the proper adjustments to get the team on a greater path and end the season with success.

Coach May stated, "The team is very young and inexperienced in competition golf. Playing competition golf is much different than just going out and playing with your friends. You have to stay mentally strong."

Although many competitors share a love for the sport, many participants believe the mental toughness is harder to practice and focus on. Junior

Sean Murphy quotes "It is a much more mental game rather than a physical game."

Players shared a similar opinion about the long games being more difficult compared to the amount you contribute as a competitor.

A majority of players joined the team from the influence of family. Freshman Jackson Mautash explained, "My dad suggested I played. I gave it a shot and it turned out I enjoyed the sport"

Coach May maintains a goal to win games and refuses to give up on the season. He also wants his players to learn the importance of "staying mentally in each match."

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# Synchronous, in-person learning impacts AP courses

CARLY HILL  
Junior Editor

Over the course of two years, teaching methods adapted to the changing world. Advanced Placement (AP) classes and their students evolved as well.

Students encounter new hurdles every year, especially AP pupils. AP Seminar student Regan Welch said, "I was excited, but also nervous for the challenges set forth." AP requires commitment and determination. Students must work hard in class and on their own with homework, which varies from once a week to a packet a day based on the course.

Welch took two AP courses last year, AP Language and Composition and AP Physics. Speaking of varying teaching methods, Welch said, "I feel more comfortable this year... I feel like I can stay more focused [in school]."

AP Government and Politics student Jayda Powell obtained a similar viewpoint. Powell said, "I feel a lot more comfortable being back in school. I feel a lot more driven to do work."

Berwick was not the only school who struggled with AP exams last year. Average AP exam scores lowered with students around the globe. (see chart on page)

Last school year, AP students and teachers alike struggled with maintaining expectations. AP Government and Politics teacher Pavan Gadam said, "I was cautiously optimistic (about the AP exam). I went over the curriculum that was needed." With the mere two days in person, many students found difficulty comprehending all the information without hands-on teaching. Ques-

tions proved challenging to get answers to with technological issues during online days. Gadam said, "(The computer) would log me off without me even knowing, and I wouldn't even know until someone tells me." All the content usually received was crunched into two days a week.

Stephanie Rothery, AP Biology teacher, said, "I think allowing students to interact with each other and learn from mistakes in a lab or hands-on activity really helps them to solidify that information." Students lacked the social advantages they receive in an average school year.

Going into AP exams last year, AP Literature and Composition teacher William Phillips said he felt "apprehensive, concerned and worried."

Phillips remains concerned for his students' mental health. Phillips said, "We had people quarantining... people started getting stressed and anxious again. Now that our school district mandated masks, that concern has diminished a little."

Heather Melito, guidance counselor for college-bound students, said, "I think motivation from teachers comes from being able to make relationships with their students." School faculty found disadvantages with synchronous learning in accordance with students. Melito said, "I have to call students out

of classes to see them, and I didn't want to do that when they were only in (class) two days a week."

Parents worry for their students every year. AP students possess a large volume of work leading to

family for education. However, Advanced Placement classes in an online setting are incredibly taxing.

Getting back to full weeks, students encounter trouble turning work in on time.

Teachers gave AP students limited leeway when turning in assignments last year. Other than technological issues, some students simply took longer to comprehend the college-grade materials due to the reduced time. Getting back to full-time running school, multiple teachers expect pre-pandemic productivity. Phillips said, "People that said 'it can't get much worse than this,' for some people, it has gotten worse because they contracted Covid or they were exposed, and this year was supposed to be different."

This year, students, parents, teachers, abound other academic staff distress that the mask mandate will not be enough to keep schools in person. Gadam said, "I can't speak for other teachers, but for me, I think the transition will be a lot easier because we've done this already."

While many students prefer in-person classes, there exist advantages and disadvantages for all techniques of teaching. Virtual learning is not the ideal learning method for many people; nevertheless, it remains the safest education system during

the pandemic. Synchronous learning has the advantage of small classes where teachers can work more one-on-one with students. In-person obtains apparent benefits, yet it is not the safest in today's society.

Most AP students get involved with extracurricular activities. Phillips said, "All of our extracurricular activities are in full swing. I don't remember the last time we had that... We can go to the community." Some school activities had constraints but could still do some limited version of their activity. Other extracurriculars were unable to participate due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Melito said, "This year, students have something to look forward to... we're able to hold more events, not just academically but also socially, in our school building." AP students will be encouraged into the school community with clubs and sports. On the other hand, such engagements will limit free time because of homework loads. AP students should exercise caution when taking part in extracurriculars.

The enthusiasm levels have increased from full-day weeks. Phillips said, "The overall culture of the building, the attitude of the building, seems a lot more positive than last year... The students are a little more vibrant this year."

Advanced Placement has been significantly affected throughout the past few years, yet students continue putting their best foot forward for these college preparation courses. Melito said, "These are your high school years... don't blink because you will miss it."

AP Class	BHS Score Means	Global Score Means
Biology	3.14	2.83
Calculus AB	1.54	2.77
Calculus BC	2.00	3.62
Calc. AB (BC stud.)	2.25	3.85
Chemistry	1.69	2.66
Comp. Sci. Principles	3.50	2.99
Eng. Lang. & Comp.	3.11	2.89
Eng. Lit. & Comp.	1.88	2.49
Music Theory	2.25	3.04
Physics 1	2.06	2.41
Physics C: M&E	3.33	3.45
Physics C: Mechanics	2.38	2.37
Psychology	2.22	2.73
Seminar	4.00	3.24
Research	3.31	3.30
Span. Lang. & Cult.	3.67	3.41
Statistics	2.20	2.85
US Gov. & Politics	2.63	2.63
USHistory	1.83	2.53

concerned guardians. With the pandemic and change of school programming, parents reduced expectations. Melito said, "We always have to learn how to cope with new situations, and that's the biggest thing that students sometimes lack: to be flexible enough to say, 'the situation changes, so I have to change with it.'" Students must take the situation into their hands and adapt to modifications.

Besides, it remains essential to make the choice that adequately fits a particular