

THE STUDENT TIMES

Volume 85 Issue 2

1100 Fowler Ave. Berwick, PA 18603

December 2022

BHS utilizes Flexible Instructional Days

CARLY HILL
Editor in Chief

For the 2022-2023 school year, BHS has adopted a substitution for snow days called Flexible Instructional Days, also known as FID or Flex Days. FID days act in place of school days for circumstances when there is advanced warning school will not be in session due to severe weather, law emergency, or another situation preventing the use of the school facility for an amount of time; instead of having a snow day, students will have a remote learning day, similar to teaching during the pandemic.

Much like snow days, the school obtains five flex days, which will be used prior to the standard five snow days built into the schedule. The district will utilize Flex Days before snow days, profiting the school year by supplying supplementary work days. If the district does not use all available snow days, students and faculty will receive those days back at the end of the year or during breaks. Principal Robert Croop said

these are valuable because “students could still access learning during times of inclement weather.”

Students, parents, and staff will be notified a Flex Day is occurring via phone calls, social media outlets, and the school website. Superintendent Wendy Kupsky decides when the district will have a Flex Day.

Students are expected to attend all classes on the normal school schedule. Attendance will be taken with live meets or posted assignments in Google Classroom. Students unable to access the internet will have previously acquired alternate tasks, presumably paper versions.

To acquire FID days, the district had an application approved through the PA Department of Education. Likewise, the school board

had to accept it as well. Since they count as school days, there must be coursework completed during students’ time at home. Teachers have to submit a lesson plan for each FID day. The school

Therefore, the lessons must be within students’ abilities.

Use of time is up to teachers. During the teacher in-service day on Friday, November 11th, teachers were informed of Flex Days,

supplying them with various lesson methods. Based on the class type and course material, faculty will design deviating assignments.

Physics and Chemistry teacher Christine Readler said, “For

undergoes a process with the state to ensure these assignments meet academic criteria.

On top of educational requirements, teachers must consider the difficulty when constructing their lessons. Due to possible connection issues, students must be able to complete these assignments offline. Students cannot ask questions in this situation.

some of my classes, I will use it as review day. For other classes... students can work on problems and... get extra help if they need it.” She extended on this, saying her AP Chemistry class will be utilizing this time to continue usual class material to avoid falling behind due to the plethora of complex materials with limited time.

Spanish teacher Bernadette DiPippa plans to use this time to review “specific verbs that are used often (or) a specific concept that maybe needs to be reinforced.” She plans to remain online for anyone who can access the internet and want extra help. Her design ensures students will understand the concepts and thus be able to complete the assignment. If a student was absent the day before a flex day, they might have missed a new lesson. If the Flex Day assignment was a worksheet building from that lesson, the student would have difficulty finishing it.

Guidance Counselor April Zluchowski said, “I think it allows people to get their work done and still partake in snow days.” Since the guidance office is often active, counselors have minimal time to complete paperwork. Zluchowski intends to work on such forms and documentation, remaining accessible through email.

Flex Days have been around for several years. The **FLEX CON. TO PG 3**



photo by Tribune Content Agency

INDEX

News.....	2,3,7
Features.....	4,5
Sports.....	6
Reviews.....	8



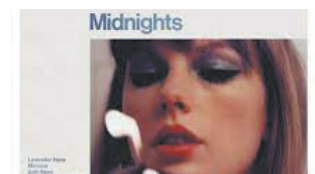
Volunteering
BHS students volunteer during the holiday season.
Page 3



Christmas Brownies
Students prepare Christmas-themed peppermint brownies.
Page 4



Girls' Basketball
BHS girls' basketball team excels at their 2022 season.
Page 6



Midnights
Taylor Swift releases new album.
Page 8

Students prepare for school musical

MAKAYLA MASLINSKI
Senior

For the past month, the music wing has been bustling with anticipation as Music Director Anthony McDonnell and Head Director Melissa Driscole narrowed down the choices for the BHS 2023 musical theater performance.

They built excitement during October by creating a wall of possible performance choices and eliminating one musical every day until only two were left: *Shrek The Musical* and *Grease*. However, during the big reveal in the auditorium, they greatly surprised everyone when their

final choice was declared as *Into the Woods*.

Into the Woods was first performed on Broadway in 1987 and closed two years later after 765 performances. However, a musical film in 2014 brought back its popularity.

The story follows a baker, senior Ethan Esquilin, and his wife, senior Anna Rinehimer, who had been cursed by a once-beautiful witch, sophomore Symone Chase.

Three days before

the blue moon rises, they embark on a journey into the forest to restore the witch's beauty in hopes of removing the curse.

During the span of the musical, they are met with vari-

ous fairy tale characters such as Cinderella, senior Jasper Martinez, Little Red Riding Hood, freshman Zoey Force, Rapunzel, freshman Emma Berkes, and Jack, freshman Nathan Miller. Each of them

causes a roadblock in the storyline with a wish that must be fulfilled.

Rehearsals for the musical started November 14th, and the cast will work on their singing, acting, and memorization. These rehearsals run for hours a

night and take up copious amounts of time in the cast's schedules. However, students take pride in the result of this hard work.

Esquilin said, "nothing worth wanting comes easy." Speaking, dancing, and singing in front of a crowd of hundreds can be extremely difficult, yet the ensemble works hard to properly prepare and make the experience the best they can for themselves and their audience.

Into the Woods will be an adventure for the cast and directors to put together.

Performances will occur on March 17th, 18th, and 19th.



photo by Nicolas Casella

Concert band season begins

MICHAEL TERRY
Senior

BHS Concert Band prepared for their yearly winter concert, which took place on December 15th at 7 PM.

Band Director Anthony McDonnell said, "It was a really great showcase to allow the community to see... the hard work these students put in every single day."

Preparing for this event caused copious amounts of work for McDonnell and participating students.

Junior member Brenna Fester reinforced the importance of the concert, saying, "The concert is pretty important. It is a free concert and it gets the community involved in the arts at Berwick."

Nicolas Casella, sophomore

member, said he believes "the concert is important because music is an integral part of the holiday season."

In terms of work structure for the concert, McDonnell said, "We have to take a lot of time listening to music." The music must be achievable, but challenging enough to cause a feeling of accomplishment among students.

The schedule for those involved was busy and challenging. McDonnell said the time for preparation includes musical selection and concert preparation as well as rehearsals. He said, "we start by... (analyzing) the rhythm, the notes, the articulations, the phrasing, the meaning of the piece, trying to get an actual understanding so then

we... can nuance it into a great performance."

Having a productive director, the band was able to perform a successful winter concert. Regardless that McDonnell has only been with the band for two years, senior member Jared Smith said, "He is very easily our best director yet."

Freshman member Amelia Zlobik said, McDonnell "helps us improve our musical ability."

In consideration of attendance, some students find the holiday season helps attendance. Casella said, "The winter concert will be more popular due to its proximity to the holiday season."

For more information, see McDonnell in the band shell.

Students prepare for SAT/ACT exams

KHRIIS PEREZ-GUZMAN
Junior

In the future, many may wonder if the SAT and ACT are still relevant for college applications as many no longer require them.

The SAT, Scholastic Assessment Test, and ACT, American College Test, have boosted student applications and assisted in earning college scholarships.

The College Board advises

students to take the SATs and ACTs, providing many with study guidelines. Flyers and brochures have been handed out to guidance counselors and spread to interested students to take the SAT/ACT CON. TO PG 5

BHS hosts 2022 County Chorus

LILLIAN ROBINSON-GILDEN
Freshman

On November 9th, Berwick High School students performed with their peers in County Chorus. At the concert, they performed five songs they learned in under a month. Between hosting and performing, Berwick students and staff helped make this year's concert exceptional.

County Chorus runs on a seven-year cycle for hosting, and this year it was Berwick's turn. Melissa Driscole, BHS Choir Director, said, "There are a lot of responsibilities when you are hosting, you have to arrange the conductor, design and order the tee shirts, print the programs, plan the banquet and lunch, and plan the rehearsal schedule." With seven schools involved, there were bound to be challenges.

During planning, students

were diligently preparing. Freshman Alto I Emily Brekke said, "County Chorus was really fun, I liked talking to our guest director... my favorite song to learn was 'Praise the Lord.'" While students enjoyed the experience, they encountered conflict themselves. Brekke said, "I had a little bit of trouble memorizing the music, and the hardest song was 'Three Madrigals.'" On the boys' side, Junior Tenor I Kareem Goins agreed that "Praise the Lord" was his favorite song. Goins also experienced challenges. He said, "My biggest challenge was posture... (it) was shockingly really hard for me."

Overall, the concert was successful and those involved had a positive experience. Driscole said, "the experience was amazing, and hearing these kids made everything worth it."

BHS clubs volunteer

JOSEPHINE MORGAN
Business Manager

BHS clubs are volunteering in many ways this holiday season. SHOW, SADD, and Student Council all offer their services to the community this winter.

SADD, Students Against Destructive Decisions, will be volunteering at Treefest, where they will decorate a tree for families in need. This activity is also an opportunity to donate to families this holiday season.

SADD Advisor Heather Henry said, "Sometimes there's so much concentration on 'I want, I want, I want' during the holidays. It's good to have that feeling of giving back... making someone else's life a little bit easier, a little bit better during the holiday season."

Kareem Goins, President of SADD, spoke on the topic of its holiday activities. Goins says that along with Treefest, he said, "We are helping at the Santa Parade, where we help Santa give out candies and wish people a Merry Christmas." Goins spoke very highly of volunteering during the holiday season, explaining his personal view on the importance of giving back to the community.

Students Helping Out Willingly, or SHOW, will also be helping families this holiday

season. They will be lending their time to the food cupboard in Nescopeck, as well as donating and collecting gifts for children to the Salvation Army.

At the food cupboard, they will help stock and hand out food to those in need. They will gather toys and donate them to local Salvation Army facilities. SHOW will distribute them to kids in the community who may not get gifts this holiday season.



pictured from left to right: **Emma Taney** and **Hannah Zehner**
photo by **Mrs. Sandy Kile**

SHOW Advisor Sandra Kile spoke on the topic of the Angel Tree toy collection, saying "A lot of my students enjoy the Angel Tree because they are helping kids in the area."

SHOW President Hannah Zehner, said that she was most looking forward to the opportunity at the food cupboard. "We hand out food for families to take home, so they have things to eat, especially for holiday dinners and so on. I like this because it's a simple way to help others

and to give back to others in my community." Year-round, the Nescopeck Food Cupboard helps people in the area who need a little support sometimes. This support is helpful around the holidays, as Zehner said, because this is a busy time for everyone, and the least the school can do is help out where it can.

Caroline Curry, a Student Council advisor, commented on their upcoming hot cocoa benefit, saying "We will ...

hold our Cookie Walk & Hot Cocoa Day in the cafeteria during lunches later in December. Student Council members bake homemade Christmas Cookies, which we sell for \$1.00 a bag; hot cocoa is also available for \$1.00. All proceeds collected are donated to St. Jude's Children's Hospital." This is an opportunity for students in the

school to aid kids who need help this holiday season. It will let the students see the benefit of community service.

Speaking on Student Council's volunteering, Ethan DiPippa, Senior Class President of Student Council, said, "I've learned from volunteering in the past that doing the smallest act of kindness for someone can go a very long way."

For more information on volunteering, contact Heather Henry, Sandra Kile, or Caroline Curry.

Marching band concludes

KATYA NEWCOMER
Sophomore

The BHS Marching Band had a successful 2022 season, winning first place in their division 5 competitions. Their highest performance score was 83.875 during championships at Hershey Stadium on November 12th.

The band consists of 83 players. According to several band members and their Director, the band has come a long way since their 2021 season. So much so that the band performed a much more complicated show from musicality to visuals.

The practices took place Monday and Thursday from 5 to 8 PM for months into the school year. Charlotte Geiger, a Junior trumpet player, said, "When you put in the work, you might not get the result you want right away, but you will see it the more you try, which is cool."

Director Anthony McDonnell described practices, saying, "they are packed with things to do. It's very busy

FLEX CON. FROM PG 1 state suggested FID days pre-COVID. However, many districts lacked enough technology to support it. Now that schools have adapted to working remotely, FID days are more feasible. Zluchowski said, "You guys had some exposure and experience to being able to work independently... you'll be able to tap in and hone that skill."

(with) basics and drills."

The band members also get along very well. According to Freshman mellophone player Alex LeVan, "The band has a family aspect to it; someone will always be there to comfort you on a bad day."

The band also participates in some frequent humor. For instance, the members dressed up during the last day of band camp as McDonnell instead of their usual "Section Friday" spirit day.

The band is always welcoming new members. McDonnell said, "Marching band is a very good opportunity to meet people, play music, learn self-discipline, and time management. We always welcome more people to join us, especially in the color guard sector, where members wave and spin flags." The band includes a variety of students from every grade. Still, they are looking to recruit for their 2023 marching season.

For further information on the marching band, see McDonnell in the music wing.

While the concept of flex days seems beneficial, flex days are still in testing. DiPippa said, "The first one will be trial and error." However, students are more familiarized with technology as well as online education, so each day should go smoothly.

The administration plans to see the impact of FID days this year and decide if they want to continue.

Nathaniel Albertson
Junior

Thoughts

Are friends important? Yes, because friends act to support and help each other through their endeavors. While it is true that friends come and go, they remain an important factor in our lives. Can you recall all those souvenirs you've been collecting? Pictures, letters, and etcetera fill our lives with items, promising to maintain memories; however, if you cannot remember the adventure that you experienced to receive that keepsake, then it is just another thing on a shelf without meaning. The one thing that remains is the bond you forge together as friends and partners.

Peppermint brownies for holidays

AMY BEER
Junior

Now that it's officially the wonderful Christmas season, are you wondering what types of delicious desserts you should make? Well, you are in luck because today I have a super yummy recipe that is very easy and makes for a great treat! Today I'm going to show you how to make peppermint brownies. This recipe only takes upwards of 30 minutes to complete and the supplies needed are minimal. There are not too many ingredients and

do is preheat your oven to 350°F.

Once the oven is set and heating up, you are going to melt the butter and 1 cup of chocolate chips in a bowl large enough to hold the rest of the ingredients. When melting the chocolate chips, make sure to add them in small increments and stir well in between. Once the chocolate has melted and reached a smooth consistency, remove it from the heat and it's time to stir in the peppermint extract!

Once that is combined, mix in the eggs, sugar, cinnamon, flour, and baking soda. Make sure to mix well. You can mix these any way you like, I personally used an electric mixer as it was faster, however you can use a hand mixer if you prefer.

After the ingredients are combined, stir in the remaining 1 cup of chocolate chips into the mixture. Once you finish, pour the mixture into your baking dish that is lined with parchment paper. However, you can use cooking grease if you want, it's up to you and whatever your preferences are.

The next step is to bake the brownies! Put the baking dish into the oven and bake for 18-20 minutes. To check, you can insert

a toothpick into the center of the brownies. If the toothpick comes out mostly clean (save for a bit of chocolate from the chocolate chips) the brownies are finished!!! Remove the dish from the oven and turn off

the heat. Sprinkle the remaining chocolate chips over the top. You can always add more chocolate chips if you want a thicker layer.

Then, place the dish back into the oven and bake it for no more than 5 minutes. You essentially are just melting the chocolate chips to make a frosting.

After you take the brownies out of the oven again, use a spatula to evenly spread the melted chocolate over the top. Be very careful to not overbake the brownies, the brownies will firm up themselves as they cool down.

Finally, you sprinkle the crushed-up peppermints/candy canes on the top. The hardest part will be letting these brownies cool before you start eating.

These brownies are almost guaranteed to be a hit at any holiday function or even just for your friends or family. Have a fantastic holiday season and enjoy all sorts of delicious treats!



photos by Amy Beer

Students Decorate For Treefest



photo by Heather Henry
Marisa Canouse and Madelyn Brown decorate for 2023 Treefest.

they are quite easy to find.

They include; semi-sweet chocolate chips (2 cups divided), butter (½ cup), 3 large eggs, peppermint extract (1 tsp), white sugar (1 cup), ground cinnamon (1 tsp), all-purpose flour (1 ¼ cup), baking soda (¼ tsp). For the frosting, you will need semi-sweet chocolate chips (1 ½ cups), peppermint candies/crushed candy canes (½ cup). The supplies you will need are a metal baking pan (9 X 13), parchment paper, a large mixing bowl, and measuring cups and spoons. Now let's get on with the preparations!

The first thing you need to

What's your perfect

Take the quiz below and use the chart to determine

- How do you make your hot chocolate?
 - With a type of Milk (1 point)
 - With Water (2 points)
- What is your preferred way to have your popcorn?
 - Buttered (1 points)
 - Plain (2 points)
 - Buttered & salted (3 points)
 - Chocolate covered (4 points)
 - Chocolate covered with sprinkles (5 points)
- What is your preferred Christmas tree topper?
 - Star (1 point)
 - Angel (2 points)
 - Other (3 points)
- What is your preferred gift type?
 - Homemade (1 point)
 - Store bought- cheap (2 points)
 - Store bought- expensive (3 points)
- What is your favorite season?
 - Winter (1 point)

8-10 Points

11-13 Points

14-16 Points

17-19 Points

20-22 Points

23-25 Points

26-31 Points

Hottest Christmas Gift



Michael Terry
Senior

"Phones. In today's world it's a gift the vast majority of people use."



Christopher Stola
Sophomore

"Zoomers nowadays just want to play video games."



Jack K.
Sophomore

"Vinyl is back. I could see people buying albums on t"

Christmas Activity?

Determine the best Christmas Activity for you!

- b. Fall (2 points)
 - c. Summer (3 points)
 - d. Spring (4 points)
6. Who is your favorite Christmas singer from the list below?
- a. Mariah Carey (1 point)
 - b. Elvis Presley (2 points)
 - c. Bing Crosby (3 points)
 - d. Frank Sinatra (4 points)
7. What is your favorite Christmas carol?
- a. Jingle Bells (1 point)
 - b. Jolly Old St. Nicolas (2 points)
 - c. Here Comes Santa Claus (3 points)
 - d. Silent Night (4 points)
8. What was your favorite Christmas movie growing up?
- a. A Charlie Brown Christmas (1 point)
 - b. The Grinch (2 points)
 - c. The Polar Express (3 points)
 - d. Home Alone (4 points)
 - e. Other (5 points)

Decorating A Christmas Tree

Going Ice Skating

Making Gingerbread Houses

Going Sledding

Watching Christmas Movies

Driving Around Christmas Lights

Making Christmas Ornaments

HOLIDAY HEART-BREAK PLAYLIST

Missing You This Christmas - Latocha

Christmas Without You - Xscape

Why'd You Leave Me on Christmas? - B2K

Another Lonely Christmas - Prince/Revolution

Christmas Without My Girl - Gerald Levert

Make Sure You're Home - Joe

It Just Don't Feel Like Xmas (Without You) - Rihanna

She Can Have You - Tamar Braxton

Last Christmas - WHAM!

I Want to Come Home for Christmas - Marvin Gaye

I'll Be Home for Christmas - Bing Crosby

Christmas Makes Me Cry - Kacey Musgraves

Do They Know It's Christmas? - Band Aid

ll

Students consider holiday breakups

EDEN SAVOY
Features Editor

'Tis' the season can be a phrase applied to multiple phenomena that can be correlated with the cold weather. The winter chill and buildup of holidays combined make the months of November and December to be considered comforting for many; however, recently they have gained another reputation. The cold weather appears to have brought upon its own "breakup season."

The month of November has coined the phrase "Turkey Dump" to define the rise in numbers of couples breaking up in the time between the holidays of Thanksgiving and Christmas. So why do so many couples call it quits during this otherwise joyful times of year?

In a survey conducted at the Berwick Area Senior High School by Junior Sydney Kozak, the majority of students agreed that the main reason they would break up with their significant other during the holidays is because of stress. This period of the

year is when most people's responsibilities are at their peak, and this is even more true for students. Teens have growing responsibilities, and a lot of people have difficulty handling a relationship.

BHS students also majorly agreed that if they were to break up with their significant other around the holiday season, they would rather do it before Thanksgiving than at any other point.

The holiday season signifies spending time with family members. Many fear their partner meeting their family members for the first time and the impressions they give off.

Additionally, many worry about giving their significant other the perfect gift. This building stress causes a lot of people to leave their partners before their family can form an opinion of them that will last.

Plenty of couples face the same issue every fall when the first school semester begins, which is the start of a long-distance relationship. Couples who went to high

school together move to their individual colleges, causing a strain in the relationship that was not an issue prior. The separation alone causes a lot of couples to break it off, falling right around the holidays.

A breakup around this otherwise heartwarming time can appear cruel, so is it still the best decision to make? Berwick Area Senior High School Senior Emily Talanca said, "I think some people may break up with their partners during the holidays because maybe the holidays are such a happy time, they don't want to spend time with them that seems insincere. It's probably the best to be honest when you feel it isn't working out."

The infamous "Turkey Dump" season brings the highest amount of break ups over any other time of year and has multiple factors as to why it's such a phenomenon. Whether an individual is in a relationship or not, they may notice more couples breaking up at this time than ever before.

Gifts this Holiday Season

photos by Eden Savoy



Brendon Comore
Sophomore
"Back on the rise, people putting their wishlist"



Gavin Pursel
Sophomore
"Slim filing cabinets. They help people stay organized."



Nathan Miller
Freshman
"A brand new game system because that's what all the kids want now."

SAT/ACT CON. FROM PG 2

students. Students should prepare for the SAT or ACT prior to the test day. Heather Melito, BHS Guidance Counselor, said, "Be prepared the morning of. (Bring your) registration ticket, valid current photo ID, No. 2 wood pencils, calculator, drink, and a snack." Senior Sean Murphy has suggested a method of taking "a baseline SAT/ACT without studying" before taking the actual exam to compile a list of study materials. By knowing what they need to improve upon, students can prepare for the scholastic exams easily. "It is a good way for people preparing to take the exam to see... where you can improve," he said. Students can locate practice exams at collegeboard.org. One misconception is that students can only take the SAT or ACT once. However, this statement is false. Melito said students should take the test "a minimum of two to three (times). You wanna take it twice if you're unfamiliar... and the third time is for goal purposes." There are benefits of taking the SAT and ACT. "If you apply yourself... colleges will give you money for the score you got in terms of scholarships" said Senior Alex Peters. Many students rely on merit scholarships to pay for their college educations; these tests allow for colleges to examine students for such scholarships. For more information on the SATs or the ACTs, contact Melito in the guidance office or visit the College Board website.

Winter sports begin their respective seasons

JOHN GUERRIERO

Senior

Swimming

The Swimming team looks to continue their success this season, after having a victorious last year.

Senior swimmer Thomas Andrews said, "I have been preparing for the season by hitting the gym and staying in shape." Andrews had success last year by placing 8th in districts in the 100 freestyle. He looks forward to reaching the milestone of 1,000 points this season, entering his senior year he is at 846.

This year the team will face some struggles with their boys' team. Head Coach Stacy Banyas said one of the challenges is "a small boys' team." Coach Banyas also said that the ultimate goal for the season is "for all swimmers to qualify for districts."

Rifle

The Rifle team looks to have a good year, with many

returning shooters in hopes of making it far into playoffs.

Head Coach Cathy Curtain said, "our goal is always to get into the State Team Championship." Curtain also said, "We always have the goal to get into the league playoffs (top 4) which we have usually accomplished." Curtain is excited to see that she has 6 returning shooters who all lettered in Varsity last year. Those shooters include Trace Maneval, Ben Gzienski and Colton Rinehimer, and underclassmen Wyatt Readler, Molly Conrad and Carson Witner.

Senior Trace Maneval is also excited for what is to come this season. Maneval said, "I have great expectations for this season. We have some returning shooters, as well as some who have not shot on Varsity before that will now get the chance. I believe we have a strong chance of making the playoffs, as well as placing high in our

league."

Girls' Basketball

The Girls' Basketball team is looking to have a strong season this year with 3 returning starters. The returning starters include Rachel Whitenight, RaeAnna Andreas, and Carly Ochs.

Head Coach William Phillips said, "Our goal is to be competitive in a very difficult Division 1 where we, as a 4A school, play all of the 5A and 6A schools."

Junior Alysa Lewis believes that if the team works hard and puts in a lot of effort, they will be successful. Lewis said, "This year, we have a really small team, so we are all going to have to work hard."

Wrestling

Bulldogs Wrestling is looking to continue their success this season after a good season last year. In 2021-2022, the wrestling team had five district place winners and two regional qualifiers. Last

year, the wrestling team finished second in the division.

This year, they look to be successful at the district level and beyond to match their prior victories.

Head Coach Ronald Swingle said, "Focus on the process, not the outcome. We want our wrestlers to be the best in everything they do, not just the sport they play." Coach Swingle also said some of the biggest strengths the team has are being "hard-workers, coachable, and good students."

Senior wrestler Bruce Hartman also has high expectations entering the season. He expects to make "a far run with the team."

Boys' Basketball

The Boys' Basketball team looks to improve this year after struggling in the past.

Senior player Sean Murphy has positive expectations as well as confidence for the team this year. Murphy said, "I expect our team to do bet-

ter than it has in recent years. I feel like this is the best team I have played on at Berwick, so I have high expectations for this season." Murphy has been an instrumental figure the last couple of seasons, and he also has the goal of reaching 1,000 points this season. Murphy said, "Being a four-year starter, I feel that my leadership skills are the best way that I contribute to the team."

The team's Head Coach is Bobby Calarco.

Bowling

The Bowling team plans to have a successful season this year, with high goals and expectations.

Senior Ryan Remphery said, "We expect to make a good push for regionals."

The bowling team has been working hard this offseason. Some bowlers joined summer leagues to improve and perfect their craft. The team's Head Coach is Jammie Patton.

World Cup continues to captivate worldwide audience

SEAN MURPHY

Sports Editor

After an exciting and eventful group stage, the best teams from around the world look to advance their countries as far as possible in this year's World Cup.

The television views from the tournament have shattered records from past games in many countries. This comes as no surprise, however, as some of the most anticipated matchups and shocking upsets have already occurred.

For the US, they were dealt a difficult set of teams to face at the start of the Cup. After finishing in a draw to Wales in their first match, the US was set to battle against

top five ranked England.

This match between the two ended up being the most watched men's soccer game in the US ever, according to FIFA themselves. The US put up a great fight, holding England scoreless as that game would end in a draw as well.

After starting 0-0-2, the US needed a win against Iran in their final group stage match to advance to the round of sixteen along with England from Group B. America's match against Iran was truly a nail-biter, until Christian Pulisic put his body on the line in the thirty-eighth minute and scored for the US. Although Iran had many attempts late in the game, no more goals were scored.

The US would move on to the round of 16 where they would face off against the Netherlands.

Fans of the World Cup also saw one of the biggest upsets in professional soccer history. On just the third day of the World Cup, Saudi Arabia, who is currently ranked fifty-first in the world, defeated third ranked Argentina. Even while having possession for almost three quarters of the game, Argentina was unable to capitalize on the 15 shots that they took, but the Saudis were. With just three total shots, they were able to net two of them within five minutes to defeat the heavily favored Argentina team. Despite this early loss,

Argentina has since fought back. In a long and heated quarter-finals matchup, they were able to edge out a win against the Netherlands after beating them in penalty kicks, 4-3. This game saw 15 players receive cards, which is a World Cup record. With this win, Argentina advances to face Croatia in the semi-finals.

Saudi Arabia's defeat of Argentina was not the only upset of the Cup though, as, in the Round of 16, Morocco got the best of Spain. In this match, Spain controlled the ball for over seventy-five percent of the game, and also had more than double the amount of shots as Morocco, but neither team could find

the back of the net in regulation. Now in the elimination rounds of the Cup, teams would have penalty kick shootouts if no team won in regulation. Morocco took advantage of the chance they had to beat Spain and scored on three of their five penalties; Spain could not get even one to go. With this win, Morocco advanced to play Portugal, which proved to be another battle for them where they would be the underdog once again, but like against Spain, they did not back down. Morocco was able to take down Portugal with a crucial goal scored in the forty-second minute of the contest. Just like their win

WC CON. TO PG 7

TOP DAWGS

Rachel Whitenight



photo by Whitenight Studios

Senior Rachel Whitenight has played basketball for ten years and has been a varsity starter the last four. Her goal for this season is to make the playoffs for the fourth year of her career. Whitenight's inspiration to keep playing the sport is having the opportunity to better herself every day. She also plays Soccer.

Sean Murphy



photo by Trace Maneval

Senior Sean Murphy has played basketball for four years and has been a varsity starter his entire tenure. His goal for this season is to improve from last year and enjoy his senior year. Murphy has grown up to love basketball and said that love for the sport keeps him going. He also plays Track and Golf.

Model UN attends ConCon

TRACE MANEVAL
Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, December 2, 2022, members of the BHS Model United Nations Club traveled to the Pennsylvania College of Technology to participate in a Mock Constitutional Convention. Sixteen students attended from BHS, along with advisers Pavan Gadam and Stephen Swicklik.

At the Mock Constitutional Convention, or ConCon for short, the day started at seven in the morning when students arrived at the front parking lot of the high school. Then, all members took a bus to PennTech, where they arrived and received their name tags. From there, the ConCon organizer made opening remarks, and the day truly began.

There were three different committees Model UN members were assigned to. Each committee represented a different branch of the United States Government. Some of the students went to Committee One, where students debated proposals regarding the Legislative Branch. Other

students traveled to Committee Two, where they discussed the Executive Branch. Committee Three talked about the Judicial Branch.

The ConCon Committee Advisors picked the proposals they thought were the best for each committee. Then, three representatives spoke for the resolution, and three representatives spoke against the resolution. The speaking times were thirty seconds each. Then, once speaking times were over, there was a popular vote to see if the proposal passed or failed.

Once the committee meetings concluded, the members went to lunch, where there was a buffet. A vegetarian option was included for those who preferred it. Cookies, brownies, and potato chips were also available.

At one in the afternoon, lunch concluded, and all students went back to the main auditorium, where they once again debated. However, there was only one committee with all students, and everyone debated on the proposals passed

in the morning committees. The proposals that passed by popular vote once again were changes that would be made to the US Constitution if it was not a mock convention.

Gadam said overall he thought the "event was a great learning experience for all students that attended." He also highlighted the fact that "students were able to see how slow the government process is. They learned that even if the proposals are a good idea, it does not mean they are automatically going to pass."

Model UN is not over. There are at least two more conventions coming up before the conclusion of the school year. One will be at Bloomsburg University. The other will once again be at PennTech. At these two upcoming conventions, global issues will be discussed rather than domestic issues, the primary focus of this Mock Constitutional Convention. For more details, email pgadam@berwicksd.org, or stop by Gadam or Swicklik's classrooms.

Student Times Staff

Senior Editors.....	Carly Hill
.....	Trace Maneval
Sports Editor.....	Trace Maneval
Sports Editor.....	Sean Murphy
Features Editor.....	Eden Savoy
Reviews Editor.....	Madelyn Brown
Business Manager.....	Josephine Morgan
Photo Editor.....	Nicolas Casella
Copy Editor.....	Allie Shultz
Advisor.....	Mrs. Theresa Christian

Photographer: Eden Savoy

Reporters: Nathaniel Albertson, Camila Amaya, Amy Beer, Lauren Birk, Madeline Birk, Marissa Burger, Khriis Perez-Guzman, Michael Terry, Lillian Robinson-Gilden, John Guerriero, Jeanelle Valdez-Rene, Alyssa Labour, Makayla Maslinski, Josephine Morgan, Katya Newcomer, Kay Ven-closki, Carson Witner

Policy: *The Student Times* staff of the Berwick Area High School is an equal opportunity, non-profit organization that has an open forum striving to publish current events and student concerns. All help is appreciated, and editorials are welcome as long as they are signed and have the grade level included. They can be dropped off in room 60. *The Student Times* staff reserves the right to edit any submissions due to lack of space, to avoid libelous statements, or to fit the journalistic standards of the publication. All editorials are strictly opinion and often do not reflect the views of the staff. This printed newspaper is published by *The Press Enterprise*.

WC CON. FROM PG. 6
over Spain, Morocco only controlled the ball for a quarter of the game. Regardless, they move onto the semi-finals to square up against France, who, like their last two matches, will be a great test for the team.

Along with Morocco's take down of Spain, Croatia's win over top-ranked Brazil was a huge upset in the quarter-final round. In this contest, both teams went a little over one hundred minutes without seeing the back of the net. The scoreless streak ended in the 105th minute when Neymar da Silva Santos, left-wing for Brazil, scored and

gave them the one-goal lead. Croatia was able to respond however, as Bruno Petković scored a goal of his own in the 117th minute to force the match to penalty kicks. This was where Croatia got the better of Brazil, as they netted four out of their five penalty kicks, compared to Brazil's two. With this huge upset, Croatia looks to take on the best-ranked team remaining in the World Cup in Argentina in the semi-finals.

With the outcomes of the semi-finals and the final still to come, fans will be on the edge of their seats to see which team will come out on top of this year's World Cup.

Taylor Swift's *Midnights* spreads nationwide

MADELYN BROWN
Reviews Editor

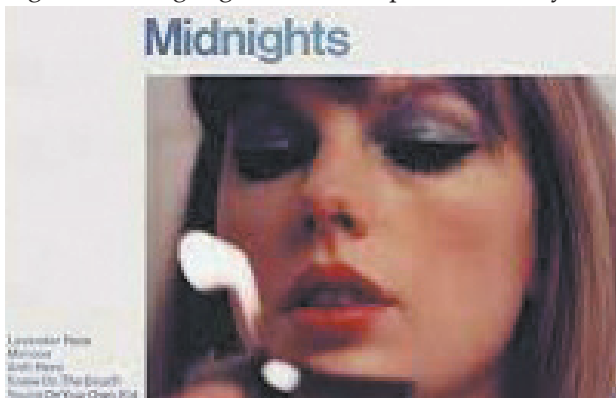
On October 21, 2022, Taylor Swift released her newest album, *Midnights*. Gaining intense popularity, *Midnights* quickly became the fastest-selling album of 2022. Producing the most albums on Billboard's Top Ten in one week, Swift secured all 10 spots on the list with songs from *Midnights*.

The album's fun and catchy beats along with its meaningful lyrics make it a piece everyone should listen to.

Swift's most popular song from the album, "Anti-Hero," tells a story of frustration and self-loathing that contrast its upbeat soundtrack. This narrative is supported by the lyrics "It's me. Hi. I'm the problem, it's me." Swift shares that she feels she causes the problems in her own life. This song creates a bridge of relatability between Swift and her audience by showing that even revered celebrities struggle with self-love

and confidence.

Although "Anti-Hero" takes the place of the most popular spot in the album, it does not have the same quality of sound and lyrics as "You're On Your Own Kid." The song shows how important it is for a person to take care of themselves because nobody else will. "You're On Your Own Kid" highlights Swift's experience



photos by Tribune Content Agency

with mistreatment in the music industry. The beautiful bridge of this song shows how everything is said and done, all a person has is themselves; it encourages everyone to just stop caring about hateful people and live life how they want.

One of Swift's most other-

worldly pieces, "Lavender Haze," immerses the listener in the unique whirling music. "Lavender haze" is a 1950's term for being in love. The song's rhythmic beat and smooth vocals make the listener feel as if they are, in fact, in a haze. The song highlights the intoxicating feeling of being in love by repeating the lyric "I just want to stay in this lavender haze".

Midnights also includes many other enjoyable songs that have fun pop beats. "Bejeweled" and "Karma" have upbeat and fierce lyrics that can cause anyone to get up and dance.

As a whole, *Midnights* makes a great addition to Swift's previous albums and has rightfully become wildly popular. This is an album that everyone can enjoy.

Midnights is available for listening on all major streaming platforms. CD versions can be bought at most major retailers. Vinyl options are available on the Taylor Swifts website and Amazon.

ACNH entertains players

LAUREN BIRK
Junior

Inarguably, one of the most beloved Nintendo game series, *Animal Crossing*, has continued to captivate players since its first release in 2001 on the GameCube. The most recent release in the franchise, *Animal Crossing: New Horizons* (ACNH), which came out in March 2020, gathered the same reactions as previous games in the series did.

Part of the reason for ACNH's success was its availability to all age ranges. There is nothing unsuitable for children, and it is not too child-oriented to keep adults from playing. The prevent is character-driven, having no set events or required missions/quests for progress. Players can progress the game as fast or slow as they wish.

Immediately upon beginning the game, players are greeted by Tom Nook and his nephews, twins Timmy and Tommy. The atypical family of raccoons asks the player for help in developing a deserted island and assistance with the early stages of the island's development. Starting with

nothing more than a tent and an overgrown island to their name, the player is free to advance, decorate, harvest, collect, renovate and make friendships.

ACNH also has the potential to be multiplayer. Players can invite and visit their friend's islands through Dodo Airlines. Chatting and character emotes help to allow friends to communicate with one another.

Additionally, ACNH is based on real-time. There are various weather conditions, such as stormy, cloudy, and sunny atmospheric states. Besides, the seasons correlate with real life; each of the four seasons has its own events and crafting recipes.

Though there are many beneficial features in ACNH, there are some negatives. Nintendo released the last free major update for the game, meaning the player must pay additional money to get new content. However, the base game's content is enough for hundreds of hours of gameplay.

The base game costs \$60. This game, with nearly an endless list of possibilities, is worth trying.

The Secret History captivates readers' attention

GABRIELLE FINUCAN
Junior

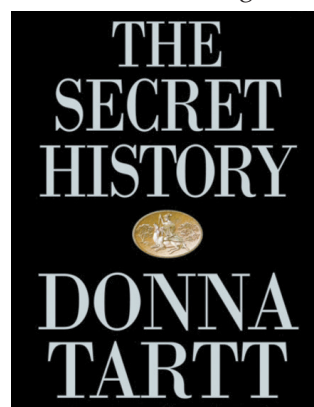
The Secret History by Donna Tartt is a piece of contemporary fiction depicting the dangers of romanticism and elitism through a complex group of classic college students.

This novel immediately captivated my attention and left me straining to devour the story as quickly as humanly possible. Tartt's control of the English language is marvelous; she created a picturesque symphony of a peaceful story, and abruptly enveloped me with tragic twists and turns as the plot continued. I followed ravenously page by page—to witness the downfall of the

protagonists. I greatly recommend this book to avid readers of psychological mysteries—and to readers who appreciate flawed and unlikable characters. However, this book is 576 pages long, so fans of novellas may not appreciate this piece of literature.

The novel is set in the 1980s and follows through the lens of the unreliable narrator, Richard Papen. Richard, a poor college student looking to escape his family in California, is lured to travel to a preppy New England college by the compelling pictures in a pamphlet he discovers. While attending the college, he becomes obsessed with a cult-

like group of wealthy classics students and their magnetic



professors—by their alluring and otherworldly nature. Richard slowly learns about the harm his romanization causes, as the students go from discussing Greek authors with

their professor, to plotting violent and diabolical crime. The more Richard is pulled into the exclusive crew, the more he realizes how depraved and morally corrupt they are.

The novel ironically highlights the character's complexity. Richard's inner monologues depict his friends in a dignified light at the beginning of the novel. However, as the story progresses, readers are forced to question the beautifully crafted image they held, as even Richard cannot justify the horror of their actions. Tartt brilliantly deteriorates Richard's polished images of the other characters in the novel and reveals how their sense

of entitlement and superiority are their inevitable downfall to barbaric violence and betrayal. This correlates to the themes of romanticism, and how both Richard and the other students are harmed by their disconnect from reality.

While the novel is filled with elaborate criticism on the character's and their materialistic values, it also depicts the morbidly comedic aspects of their detached manners. Tartt creates her characters with the realism of human nature.

The Secret History can be found in both hardcover and paperback copies, along with several available audio books online.