



Redcoat Review

Berlin High School, Berlin CT

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“I Saw the Statue of Liberty, and I Started to Cry”

By Jethro Grumo
Redcoat Review Writer

“Life is beautiful, replace the word hate with love, work hard against the major wars in life.”

These words come from Andy Sarkany, a Holocaust survivor and recipient of the commemorative survivor pin from the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

On March 11, Mr. Sarkany presented about his hardships during the Holocaust to students.

Senior Saige Beatman was responsible for bringing Sarkany to BHS. Beatman worked on a Holocaust Denial Speech for Mrs. Glass’s AP Language and Composition Class last year.



As part of the assignment, she interviewed Sarkany. She then helped connect him with Principal Eustis and English teachers, Mrs. Joslyn and Mrs. Master-son.

The result was an eye-opening experience for these students to learn about the Holocaust.

“The Holocaust hits close to home for my family because I lost family in the Holocaust,” Beatman said. “People have outwardly been anti-Semitic and even denied the Holocaust to my face, and I wanted to do something about it. Through learning more about why people

deny the Holocaust, I realized that many people are uneducated, and I figured the best way to inform my peers is through someone who lived through this ugly time in history.

“I know that every generation knows less about the Holocaust, and younger generations are more likely to deny its occurrence, so hearing from Holocaust survivors is crucial,” Beatman added. “We will not have these primary sources left in the coming years, so it is important to hear their stories while we still have the chance.”

Sarkany was born on October 31, 1936, in Budapest, Hungary. The Hungarian government sympathized with Adolf Hitler and Nazi Germany, resulting in Hungary joining the Axis powers shortly after World War II began. Unfortunately, this would bring countless horrors to Sarkany’s family and other Jewish people as Hungary adopted the same anti-Semitic prejudice, and tropes as Nazi Germany.

On November 9, 1938, a date now referred to as Kristallnacht (Night of Broken Glass or November Pogrom), Nazis broke into Jewish homes and businesses and destroyed them. Nearly 100 Jewish people were killed that night. The next day 30,000 innocent German Jewish men were arrested. Sarkany was only two years old when this occurred.

Later, the hatred towards Jewish people became apparent to Sarkany when he walked to school by himself. With sadness in his voice, Sarkany recalled when he was spat on and called a “dirty Jew” by onlookers as he innocently walked to school.

The Nazis took his father away to a



Photo Credit: Cara Gileau

Holocaust survivor Andy Sarkany addresses the freshman class at BHS on March 11.

forced labor camp shortly after moving to Budapest in 1940. Eventually, in 1943, his father came back from the labor camp, but this was short-lived. In January of 1944, they took Sarkany’s father away again. Although he was only seven years old, Sarkany knew of the terrible conditions that awaited his father in the Mauthausen concentration camp.

On March 19, 1944, Nazi Germany occupied Hungary. On April 5, 1944, Hungary issued an order that required all Jewish people to wear Star of David armbands; the oppression against Jewish people in Hungary was full scale.

Jewish men, women, and children from all over Europe were rounded up. Sarkany lived in the Budapest Ghetto until the end of the war. Sarkany was lucky to survive. Six million Jewish people died in the Holocaust. Fortunately, his father survived the brutal Mauthausen.

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Mr. BHS Makes Long-Awaited Return

By Jacob Ferland
Redcoat Review Writer

After two years of COVID-19 disappointments, 10 senior boys were able to come together to compete against one another in the long-standing BHS tradition: Mr. BHS.

The “Wedding Crashers” themed talent show occurred in the Berlin High School Auditorium on Sunday, March 20. The event is a fundraiser for All Night Grad, a non-profit parent-run organization that throws a safe party for the seniors after graduation.

The participants were Salvatore Dastoli, Jonathan D’Amore, Garrett Fallon, Jacob Ferland, Daniel Lamoureux, Harrison Lombardi, Noah Miller, Jamie Palmese, Justin Pattavina, and Michael Vignone.

The show was two and a half hours of fun and included various events for the boys to compete in. Amazing individual talents drove the competition, along with

a great bond during the group dance to songs like “Single Ladies” by Beyonce and “Don’t Stop The Party” by Pitbull. Other events displayed the students’ true personalities such as introduction questions, best man speeches about themselves, wedding games, and interviews.

Vignone, the Senior Class President, took home the legendary jacket, but this is not the only thing Vignone would remember from the night.

“Winning wasn’t about the prize or the jacket at all,” Vignone said. “It was just about being able to have a lot of fun with a group of guys that I don’t work with everyday and enjoying a great fundraiser for the class.”

Pattavina and Ferland were also acknowledged as runner-ups, and Dastoli took home the audience vote.

The night could not have occurred without the tremendous support of Berlin High School’s very own Mrs. Mayette and Mrs. Addamo.

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A Historic Supreme Court Nomination

By Lindsey Leary
Redcoat Review Writer

Following the retirement of Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, President Biden nominated Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court of the United States - making her the first Black woman to be nominated and serve on the country's highest court.

On Thursday, April 7, Judge Jackson was confirmed by the Senate with a 53-47 vote, solidifying her place as the 116th Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court.

Judge Jackson attended Harvard University and then pursued her law degree at Harvard Law School, where she graduated with distinction. She served as a Supreme Court Clerk after her graduation, working with Justice Breyer in 1999.

Judge Jackson will continue to set new precedents for Supreme Court Justices, as she will be the first Justice to have experience working as a public defender. Judge Jackson spent more than two years working as a federal public defender, sharing in a recent *New York Times* article that this position was "an opportunity to help people in need, and to promote core constitutional values."

Making up the majority of Judge Jackson's professional experience was her time serving as a judge on the US District Court for the District of Columbia. Nominated by former President Obama in 2013, Judge Jackson served for eight



Ketanji Brown Jackson

years before being nominated to the US District Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit by President Biden last year. Prior to this, Judge Jackson spent four years as the Vice Chair of the US Sentencing Commission, which is a bipartisan agency responsible for outlining sentencing guidelines for federal courts.

In her confirmation hearings with the Senate Judiciary Committee, Judge Jackson conveyed the message that her decisions will be based on the tenets of law laid out in the Constitution and the precedents set by former Supreme Court

cases. She emphasized this in her opening statement, saying, "I decide cases from a neutral posture. I evaluate the facts, and I interpret and apply the law to the facts of the case before me, without fear or favor, consistent with my judicial oath."

The Senate confirmed Judge Jackson with full Democratic support, as well as support from three Republican Senators. Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, and Mitt Romney publicly shared that they will be voting to confirm Judge Jackson, with Romney sharing in a statement that Judge Jackson is "a well-qualified jurist and a person of honor," and that he believes "she more than meets the standards of excellence and integrity."

At a gathering on the White House lawn to commemorate Judge Jackson's nomination, Vice President Kamala Harris - the first Black and first female Vice President of the United States - said, "The young leaders of our nation will learn from the experience, the judgment, the wisdom that you, Judge Jackson, will apply in every case that comes before you. And they will see, for the first time, four women sitting on that Court at one time." Judge Jackson's nomination is a beacon of hope for women around the world, especially women of color. She has become a trailblazer, opening the eyes of young girls everywhere.

Judge Jackson acknowledged her historic role, stating, "I am just the very lucky first inheritor of the dream of liberty and justice for all."

Holocaust Survivor Educates Students

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During his presentation, Sarkany remembers the day he saw his father again. He barely recognized him as he weighed about seventy pounds, and looked destroyed on all fronts. At concentration camps, Jews were put in gas chambers, starved, worked to death, and separated from their families. Of the six million Jews who died during the Holocaust, almost half of those deaths were with poison gas or shootings.

Sarkany underscored the importance of Holocaust education. He continues to speak about the Holocaust because it is essential to remember the Holocaust and never allow these atrocities to reoccur. In his presentation, he quoted Elie Wiesel, "To forget would be akin to killing them a second time."

Sarkany mentioned how on August 11, 2017, he saw a man with a Nazi armband in Charlottesville. According to him, it is cases like these in which it is paramount to recall the horrors of anti-Semitism. He expressed this with disappointment in the land of freedom: the United States.

Despite all the horror Sarkany saw, he remains positive and hopeful for the future. Sarkany regularly visits schools and groups to inform them about the Holocaust. Sarkany urges students to spread kindness and continue to learn to become better. Beatman thanks the school for making the event a success and hopes it will continue for years to come.



Photo Credit: Adam Rice

Ten BHS seniors took part in the Mr. BHS talent show contest in early March. Michael Vignone was crowned Mr. BHS. This is the first show since 2019.

Mr. BHS Returns After Two Year Hiatus

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Mrs. Mayette and her daughter, Victoria, had a lot of patience to teach these non-dancers difficult choreography that turned out great on stage.

Mrs. Addamo has helped with the fundraiser since 2017, and she enjoys it more and more each show. When asked what her favorite part of the process was, Mrs. Addamo said, "I get to know the boys more outside of the classroom, some of whom I've never had in class, and I love having so much fun with them."

Mr. Pires, an English teacher at BHS, also contributed to the show with his clever remarks as the Emcee.

After COVID-19 canceled the hours of work the class of 2020 seniors put in and denied the dreams of the class of 2021 seniors, these 10 boys of 2022 got BHS back on track with their version of the fun night.

And after raising over \$2,000, these boys definitely did not disappoint. The community is very excited to see what the class of 2023 will bring to the table next year!

Girls Basketball Team Enjoys Memorable, Successful Season

By Madelyn Lazzara
Redcoat Review Writer

Senior captains Clare McGeever and Rylee Cop are proud of their fellow Lady Redcoats and what they were able to accomplish this year on the basketball court.

McGeever said that with their competitive schedule, they had to push past their limits as a team, and quickly developed a team mentality. Their “underdog” mentality helped them overcome the challenges thrown their way.

Finishing with a 13-7 record, and a win over Class LL Glastonbury, McGeever wanted to highlight one game in particular this season.

“One very special game this season is when we took down the Class LL Number 3 seed, Middletown. Beating the Blue Dragons on their home court with a score of 61-50, the game opened our eyes to just how much damage we could cause,” McGeever said. “We relied on every player and what they each brought to the table, a mindset that allowed us to outfight, outcompete, and outwork our competition.”

Cop added, “Our successes were unlimited. We played each game one by

one and left it all on the court.”

While the Lady Redcoats lost in the state quarterfinals, the final score shocked many because it was so close. Berlin lost to two different state finalists, Sacred Heart Academy and East Hartford, by five points or less!

McGeever said, “Our potential shined through this season. The team holds a very promising future and looks to be even more successful in the upcoming seasons.”

Cop was also proud, saying, “I couldn’t have asked for a better team to play with to end it off.”

Overall the team had an amazing season, and gave it everything they had in games and practices.

It is well known that last year’s school sports were deeply affected by COVID-19, and the same can be said about the Lady Redcoats basketball team.

Last year, a lot of special moments were taken away from the team, from their pregame talks in the locker room to bus rides. These moments are essential to create good team chemistry and a fun atmosphere. This year they were able to play without masks, play in front of



Photo Credit: Madelyn Lazzara

Senior Clare McGeever leads the Lady Redcoats during a pre-game warm up.

the Red Sea, and play their game again, developing as a team. Congratulations on a fun and well-played season!

Course Spotlight: AP Literature

By Dan Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

Do you enjoy good stories with rich backgrounds and themes? If the answer is yes, then I would highly recommend Advanced Placement Literature and Composition as your senior English class. If the answer is no, my recommendation gets a little bit more complicated. Either way, before I explain the benefits of taking this course, I will explain what it consists of.

Commonly referred to as ‘A.P. Lit’, this course is a full year course which culminates in an A.P. exam at the end of the year. Aside from the main units you will complete, the course involves vocabulary and quizzes on the texts read during the course. Later in the year, students also begin taking practice quizzes for the A.P. test so they are well prepared when the time comes.

The curriculum involves reading about 20 novels across the entire year. Although this sounds like a lot, students are given a fair amount of time to complete the texts (which are usually 150 pages or less and finishable in a few sittings). Students will also read and analyze many classic poems throughout the year.

The poems and novels are connected through several different types of assignments which recur throughout the year. The first type of assignment is presentations, where students work together to explore thematic connections between texts. The second is Socratic seminars, where students discuss their texts as a group and attempt to improve their understanding of literature.

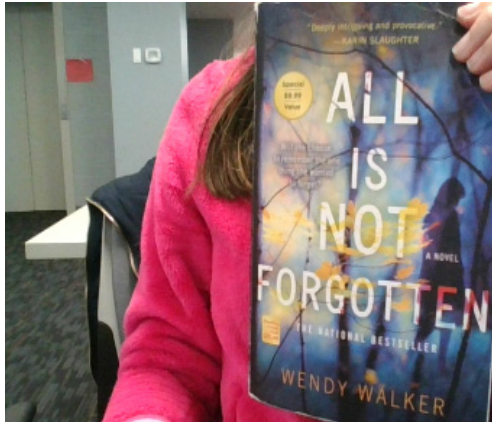
The final type of main assignment is something that students typically either love or hate: the journals. Every unit of A.P. Lit builds up to the journals and they provide students with the most difficult assignments they must complete for each unit.

All of that said, I would argue that Lit only presents an intermittent challenge. The assignments which are completed during class usually are manageable, while the presentations and Socratics have a collaborative element that makes them enjoyable.

The journals often consist of multiple essays and assignments which tie together the poems and novels for each unit. That may sound like a lot, but students are given the journal assignments at the beginning of every unit, meaning they often have slightly less than a month to complete the assignments. Although it is a lot to complete, it is doable if students allocate their time wisely and plan ahead.

Who should take A.P. Literature and Composition? Firstly, if you are someone who loves reading and writing then I would recommend it wholeheartedly. The challenge it provides will likely be offset by your enjoyment of the subject matter. If you do not enjoy literature or writing, this class will not be very easy for you. However, if recommended for it by your counselor, I would still advise that you give it a try.

Classes like A.P. Lit, with their heavy workloads, are a lot like the courses you may be taking in college. Taking a rigorous course just before you take that next step is a great way to build good habits and attain skills you may find indispensable in the future.



Book Review:

All is Not Forgotten

By Alexa Molina
Redcoat Review Writer

The mystery novel *All is Not Forgotten* by Wendy Walker is a fictional story about a teenage girl named Jenny Kramer who is sexually assaulted at a local party in Fairview, Connecticut.

After the attack, Jenny is given a controversial drug treatment to medically erase what happened during the assault. However, the treatment has negative consequences that impact Jenny in other ways.

As a result of the attack, the main characters struggles with depression, anxiety and suicidal thoughts.

The twists and turns in this story leave readers constantly shocked. The relationships between Jenny, her parents and the suspect are surprising.

The story is a mystery that has suspense, including a murder. This book is recommended for adults and older students in high school because of the difficult themes and mature content.

Students Shine in Musical, “*Into the Woods*”

By Madelyn Lazzara
Redcoat Review Writer

This year, the town of Berlin was able to dive into the world of fairytales with the musical, *Into The Woods*, performed by the students of BHS March 3-6.

The story follows Cinderella, Jack, The baker and his wife, Red Riding Hood, and many other storybook characters.

The first act focused on all their individual problems and stories that interlapped through the woods. However, the second act focused on their collective problem of a giant destroying the kingdom. Overall the musical was well performed, funny, interesting, emotional, and beautiful to watch.

Two of the stars of the musical, Noah Miller, who played The Old Man, and Emily Kobus, who played the Baker’s Wife, expressed their joy with everything that the group was able to accomplish.

All the performers worked hard to bring the musical to life, and said they were able to make new friends outside of their already established friend group.

“For the boys at least there was a comraderie with each other that helped people connect across grade levels,” Miller said.

After last year, the cast of the musical and all the crew were finally able to



Photo Credit: Cara Gileau

Noah Miller, left, and Emily Roche show off their talent in this year’s musical.

perform again, without masks, and enjoy themselves.

“After last year in the middle of COVID, this year’s show was a breath of fresh air,” Kobus said. “We finally got back on the stage and everyone had a chance to perform without the threat of contact tracing. It truly brought back the spirit of BHS theater.”

Both Miller and Kobus are seniors, meaning that this musical was their last for BHS.

“I’ll be missing the community of course, but I’ll also be missing how easily available the program was to me,” Miller said. “It might have been demanding but it was right next door and that was an incredible opportunity for me.”

Overall, this musical has not only provided an outlet and family for all those who worked on it, but allowed the Berlin community to return to a sense of normalcy while enjoying each other’s company and this dark fairy tale satire.

Joey B’s: Local Business and BHS Favorite

By Garrett Fallon
Redcoat Review Writer

Over the past two years, Joey B’s Restaurant has become a favorite spot for high school students and locals alike. The diner located on Mill Street in Berlin faced a nearly insurmountable challenge as the COVID-19 pandemic struck only six weeks after its opening. Yet, the restaurant has not only survived, but thrived in the last two years.

The formula for Joey B’s is simple: great food, great prices, and great service. The restaurant serves breakfast daily until 1:30 pm and lunch until 3 pm.

What makes Joey B’s unique is its great quality across a variety of food. From pancakes and omelets to salads and wraps, Joey B’s truly has something for everyone.

According to the owner Joe Buccheri, their most popular menu item is the Cobb salad. And one item he thinks people should order more is the poutine. For those unaware, poutine is gravy and cheese smothered on fries, with a variety of different toppings such as chicken, steak, or ground beef.

Growing up, Buccheri worked in restaurants, and always dreamed of opening one of his own.

So when a space opened up in town, everything seemed to fall into place. Buccheri, a Berlin resident since 1995, was ready to launch his lifelong dream. Then, a completely unexpected global pandemic took place right as Joey B’s was starting to take off. Buccheri says it was scary, and he feared his business wouldn’t survive.

However, the support of the Berlin community was monumental in helping him and his restaurant brave the challenge.

A father of four sons, Buccheri became a well known member of town from his involvement coaching youth sports.

“I coached midget football, farm league, minor league, I made a lot of connections in town, which was a huge benefit,” Buccheri said.

So, when Buccheri was hit with an unforeseeable challenge, the Berlin community stepped up. Patrons flooded Joey B’s with take-out orders and kept the business afloat.

According to Buccheri’s estimations, the restaurant likely would’ve permanently closed within a month of the pandemic had it not been for the support of the community.

But, what has kept so many people coming back to Joey B’s over the years is the experience. The diner is simple, but promises a fantastic customer experience on nearly every occasion. The food is consistently on time and well prepared and the staff is caring and polite.

The staff of Joey B’s includes many Berlin High School students and alumni. This is part of what has made Joey B’s such a staple within the high school.

Being served by multiple familiar faces and friends is a unique experience. Students routinely flock to Joey B’s on half days and weekends with their families and friends. It’s a rarity to enter the restaurant and not see a fellow Berlin High School student there.

Buccheri is a huge fan of his restau-



Photo Courtesy of Facebook

Just minutes from the high school, Joey B’s is owned by Berlin resident Joey Buccheri, and has become a favorite for BHS students.

rant’s popularity within the school, saying “We love that. It makes us feel great when we see high school students coming in on Saturday mornings, half days. It’s a great thing to see.”

Buccheri has made sure to give back to the high school by sponsoring multiple fundraising events for classes and clubs at the high school. In fact, earlier this year, Buccheri even agreed to allow 20 high school students to eat lunch at Joey B’s during the school day as part of a field trip for Lifetime Activities class.

Joey B’s is a business fast on the rise and already establishing itself as one of the “go-to spots” in town.

The mutual connection between the community and the restaurant has led to the business thriving during a time when many other restaurants struggled.

Altogether, it is a simple, efficient, and friendly diner that serves a variety of high quality food. It should be a staple within Berlin and with high schoolers for years to come.

Humans of BHS: Cara Gileau

By Sarah Al Mozani & Isabella DeFrancesco
Promoted by Random Acts of Kindness Club

This month's Human of BHS is Cara Gileau, a BHS graduate who came back to find a place in the Media Department.

After graduating Berlin High School in 2017, Cara went on to earn her Bachelor's degree in film and TV at Sacred Heart University. She is currently working here at BHS as a Family Communications Production Assistant, filming, planning, and editing videos for the district. Cara wanted to share the story of how she persevered and fought her way through a male-dominated field.

As a student in BHS, Cara was the only girl involved in the BHS radio and TV classes. As a sophomore in high school, Cara knew she wanted to study film in college. However, once she started taking classes at Sacred Heart University, she was often told that her major was "easy and simple," and was constantly questioned about her position as a young woman working in the film field.

Cara was second guessed and felt like she was talked down to often, and even knew of a few other young women who changed majors because of these struggles. Cara loved the subject so much, though, that she never questioned her own judgment and dreams - she kept moving forward and never looked back.

Even though Cara has a fulltime job in her field, she still feels like there's not enough balance in the field of film. She reports working in this male-dominated field as "scary and intimidating" sometimes, but totally worth it. She pursued her dreams, and she wants other young ladies to do the same - even in the face of adversity.

As far as her hopes for the future of this field, Cara said that she hopes to see more women in radio, broadcasting, and editing. Cara hopes to one day be able to work in an all-female crew. Most importantly, Cara wanted to share her story in hopes of making young women feel more confident and accepted as they pursue their dreams.



Photo Credit: Maisy Carvalho

Cara Gileau, a 2017 BHS grad, is now a member of the BHS Broadcast team.

"Overall, I want students who are interested in going into a male-dominated field to not feel afraid to do so, while understanding that there will be struggles along the way," she said. "As I share my experiences I hope that students find comfort, whether it's coming to talk to me, or just by reading my story."

Mask Mandate Lifted at BHS

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

After weeks of anticipation and two years of living in the COVID-19 pandemic, the Berlin Board of Education voted 8-0 on February 23, 2022 to lift the mask mandate for all Berlin Public Schools without requiring complete vaccinations of students and staff who decide to not wear facial coverings.

This was seen as a ray of hope for some, as there had been increasing support from the community for lifting the mask requirement all over Berlin.

BHS sophomore Nadia Kukula said the move back to no-masks was easier than anticipated and not a very tough transition. This feeling may reflect the desire shared by many people who hope to finally begin to phase out of the pandemic and into a sense of normality once again. Kukula also believes that mask wearing could become required once again next fall due to the recent trends seen in the past two years.

Julia Kielbowicz discussed her relationship with friends and staff after the mandate was lifted, saying her friendships and communication with others has improved, noting that it feels 'normal' again. When asked if she believed there is a high probability of getting COVID-19 at school, Julia said that because there has not been any notable increases in cases inside BHS and in the town, she feels safe from COVID-19, although she does understand that some people may continue to be concerned.

While some may see this as a sign of leaving the pandemic behind us once and for all, it is important to remember that all students and staff must respect every individual's decision whether or not to wear a mask, expressing administration's wishes for making Berlin Public Schools an accepting and respectful place for all.



Photo Credit: Samantha Negroa

Chief the Poet Inspires BHS

By Allie Nawalaniec
Redcoat Review Writer

This March, Berlin High School welcomed back Michael "Chief" Peterson to the auditorium.

Known by his followers as "Chief the Poet," Peterson is a spoken word poet, a motivational speaker, and the Dean of Students at New Britain High School. He spoke with passion, in both verse and prose, about overcoming adversity and the importance of pursuing your dreams.

This is his fourth time speaking "with" (not to) BHS students. He treated his engaging presentation as an open conversation with students, encouraging feedback from the full auditorium.

As excited as students and staff were to see Chief and his performance, they were perhaps equally as excited to have everyone back in the auditorium.

This was Berlin High School's first in-person assembly in two years, due to restrictions set in place throughout the pandemic. Peterson's visit was divided

into a performance for underclassmen, a separate performance for upperclassmen, and concluded with a small-group discussion with students in the library.

The assembly portion of his visit was well received by the student audience. He not only spoke to the students; he encouraged the students to speak to him. He was inclusive and made every effort to engage his audience.

Peterson talked through his life story and focused on how writing, especially poetry, has served as an emotional outlet for him. He strongly encouraged all students to try writing as not only an academic exercise, but also as a method of reflecting on the struggles and triumphs they encounter in their everyday lives.

Peterson fielded questions at the end of each assembly from the boisterous audience and, with every answer, handed out a journal to the participant.

A three-time Connecticut Spoken Word Grand Slam Champion, Chief shared his personal journey and encouraged students to explore their own.



Photo Credit: Courtesy of BHS Broadcast Club

Governor Lamont visited BHS in April to unveil his new Model Curriculum for Connecticut.

Russian Invasion of Ukraine Has Global, Lasting Impact

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

Since February 24, 2022, Russia has been launching a full scale invasion of Ukraine. With the conflict taking place for months, students and staff at Berlin High School can now better understand what it means for the local community.

The beginning of April has brought more intense conflict between the two forces. According to *CNN*, there has been an increase in air raids and the need for international support is dire. Peace talks took place in March, but with no major change.

President Zelensky has encouraged other countries to investigate President Putin for alleged ongoing war crimes, with a multitude of images being shared on social media and through news sources depicting the graphic deaths of citizens of Ukraine and the dire hostage situations that they are finding themselves in due to the invasion.

According to *CNN*, the attack began with aggressive air raids at the capital city of Kyiv, with troops soon following suit at the Ukrainian border and pouring into the country.

In the United States, President Biden and his administration have released trade sanctions on Russia and Putin himself, hoping to cut the country off from global trading and the international finance market.

Sanctions are economic penalties against other countries that are typically used in conflicting periods of time, ranging from social issues to outright war. These sanctions are meant to harm the Russian economy and Putin while avoiding physical involvement.

In addition, as the conflict has worsened, President Biden has requested that Congress approve \$33 billion in funding to help support Ukraine in this time of crisis, according to *USA Today*.

Ukraine is not a NATO, or North-Atlantic Treaty Organization, country. Which means that the United States and the 29 other countries under NATO cannot deploy troops into Ukraine to try and solve the conflict. NATO was formed in 1949 after World War II in an effort to

unify multiple countries through their military prowess.

In NATO's agreement, if one country is attacked then all of the other countries would help to defend that attacked country.

As a result, world leaders are left with trying to mitigate the situation in a non-violent way. Leaders have worked together to sanction Russia to the fullest extent and provide Ukraine with military supplies, medical aid, and other goods and resources.

Solidarity can now be felt throughout the world, with many people in the United States raising the Ukrainian flag, which can even be seen in Berlin.

According to *The Hill*, which is an independent American newspaper covering domestic and international political events, even Russian citizens have protested the war. More than 3,000 have been arrested just in the month of February due to their protests.

Later in the same month, the Russian government strongly reminded citizens that protesting is illegal and they would face harsh legal, and possibly physical, repercussions.

The Berlin High School community may feel the impact of these conflicts swarming the international stage. For example, both supply chains and gas prices, which were already stressed due to COVID-19, have been further impacted by this conflict.

Fuel has risen to a national average of \$4 per gallon during March 2022, according to the American Automobile Association (AAA) with the highest being in California at \$6 per gallon.

Beginning in late March and early April, the prices have fallen around 7 cents per gallon in Connecticut, according to *ABC News*, due to the release of a national petroleum reserve and Governor Lamont's efforts to eliminate a gas tax until the end of June 2022.

If students or staff would like to support Ukrainian refugees, major organizations such as the Red Cross are providing urgent assistance and medical care to Ukrainian civilians and soldiers. Contact the Red Cross at 1-800-Red-Cross, or 1-800-Help-Now.

“Unmask The Truth!” Go See *The Batman!*

By David Perkins
Redcoat Review Writer

The first major superhero blockbuster of 2022, *The Batman* is a dark, yet beautifully crafted detective thriller, revolving around the iconic defender of the dark: Batman (Robert Pattinson).

For two years, the caped crusader has struck fear into the hearts of every criminal, gangster, and lowlife in Gotham, but a rogue serial killer and a shocking conspiracy might finally unmask him.

Alongside his loyal butler Alfred (Andy Serkis), the commissioner of the G.C.P.D. Jim Gordon (Jeffery Wright), and the Catwoman (Zoe Kravitz), Bruce Wayne must uncover the dark secrets of his family's past and discover the truth in order to defeat the elusive and dangerous Riddler (Paul Dano).

Directed and co-written by Matt Reeves, *The Batman* has an expansive runtime, but manages to keep the audience's interest by inserting visual cues into numerous scenes, in order for the audience to remain invested in the mystery.

Returning from *Spider Man: No Way Home* is composer Michael Giacchino, whose dark and brooding score matches perfectly with the tone of the film, and he also makes perfect use of the well-known song Ave Maria, incorporating it into the soundtrack remarkably well. And the beautiful cinematography is by Greig Fraise, who ensures that every shot is incredibly detailed, filled with visual clues, and pleasing to the human eye.

Overall, *The Batman* is another massive success at the box office, with it currently having \$386.1 million at the domestic box office, and \$750 million globally! *The Batman* starring Robert Pattinson is a dark, brooding, and beautifully cinematic masterpiece, and definitely deserves the box office success that it achieved!



JOIN OUR STAFF

The *Redcoat Review* is made up of a variety of writers, editors and photographers in all grade levels.

Students have the flexibility to contribute regularly or simply submit a special one-time article. Students learn how to write for a newspaper and receive support throughout the writing process.

The *Redcoat Review* meets weekly in the Library. We have a Schoology group to communicate meetings and information.

If you are interested in joining us next year, please reach out to Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Masterson or Mrs. Joslyn or any of our student members.