



# Redcoat Review

Berlin High School, Berlin CT

March 2022/ Issue 3

## Redcoats Remember Coach Veneziano

By Jessica Peck and Alexa Fallon  
*Redcoat Review Writers*

On January 24, 2022, Berlin High School honored Coach Veneziano, who sadly passed away on December 15, 2021, during a ceremony before the home varsity basketball game against Bulkeley High School.

Mr. Veneziano, known fondly to his players and friends as “Coach V,” was involved in the BHS basketball program throughout his life, playing for all four years of his high school career and then coming back to Berlin High to coach the team for 13 more.

To honor his huge contribution to the team, his wife, children, sister, and parents were given a commemorative basketball. Additionally, the BHS basketball captains, Jake Ferland, Ryan Stec, and Mike Ciarcia, gifted Coach V’s family with a golden basketball signed by members of the 2021-22 team.

The ceremony garnered the biggest crowd of the season, with approximately 400 fans there to honor Coach V. The Red Sea student section packed the bleachers wearing the sold out customized shirts made to honor Coach V, along with countless parents, former basketball players, and friends, including the Superintendent. The shirts had this message from Coach V: “Accept your limitations, then exceed them.”

Brian Benigni, Superintendent of Berlin Public Schools, was among the many spectators at the game. Benigni was a close friend to Coach V and had a personal connection with him not



Photo Credit: Mr. Salina

Senior captains Jacob Ferland, Ryan Stec and Michael Ciarcia and their coaches presented Coach Veneziano’s family with a signed game ball and have dedicated the season to him.

only through the school system but also through the basketball program in which Coach V taught Benigni’s own kids.

“When he worked with my own children, I had even more respect for him,” said Benigni, who knew Coach V for 17 years. “He not only taught the sport, but had a passion for taking care of people. How much he loved this game and loved these players was immeasurable.”

The amount of effort Coach V put into the basketball community was evident, as Berlin dominated Bulkeley High School with a score of 67-33.

Jonathan Barden, a professional sports announcer for various local universities, attended the special game, demonstrating

his professional sports commentating.

Along with being active in the Berlin community, Coach V was a member at Indian Hill Golf Course. In honor of him, the country club is hosting a golf tournament fundraiser on May 9, in order to fund two scholarships at BHS in his name.

To make a monetary donation to the Coach V scholarship fund or donate a raffle prize, please contact Kellie Tralli at [kelliechris@comcast.net](mailto:kelliechris@comcast.net).

Coach V’s memory will continue to live on not only from his amazing contributions to the school, but also in his community. He has made an impact on so many people, beyond just the basketball court.

“Too young, too early,” Benigni said.

## Seniors Showcase Learning Through Capstone Project

By Patrick Matassa  
*Redcoat Review Writer*

On Thursday, January 13, 2022 Semester 1 Capstone students put their dedication and passions on display when they presented their projects to the Berlin High School community on Capstone Exhibition Day.

This required class involves picking a topic and diving deep into researching it to become an expert. Students then choose a deliverable of how they want to present their research. Students build websites, film documentaries, deliver TED Talks, create presentations, and share their newfound knowledge with the Berlin High School community.

Capstone teachers, Mrs. Hamad, Mrs. Masterson, and Mrs. Mayette guided students through the fall/winter semester to help students to be successful.

Mrs. Mayette, who was my Capstone

teacher last fall, has been teaching Capstone for several years and knows how students can best prepare.

“I think the most important thing students can do to prepare for the Capstone project is to think about something that is important enough to them to spend five months working on,” Mrs. Mayette said. “Students can think back to classes they have taken or units they have covered within classes. Students should consider what they like to do in their free time, or perhaps what they hope to do post high school.”

When examining presentations, teachers look for the creative aspect of the students’ work.

“The best Capstone projects that I have seen have been creative and have taken a fresh approach or a unique angle to a common topic,” Mrs. Masterson said.

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# A Look at Social Justice in the Classroom

By Lindsey Leary  
*Redcoat Review Writer*

The world is changing rapidly, and as such, our education system must prepare students to engage with the diversity that the world offers. Across the country, there have been calls for social justice to be incorporated into school curricula, lessons, and classrooms.

In the Berlin High School community, social justice is embedded into many Social Studies courses, with the focus being placed on equitably sharing different ideas and views in course teachings.

Social Studies department chair, Mr. Cronk, described social justice in education as ensuring that many perspectives are shared, recognized, and welcomed. Mr. Sobolewski, a Social Studies teacher at the high school, echoed these thoughts, stating that students in a learning environment should be welcomed to feel and express their viewpoints openly.

In a 2019 article titled “Social Justice in Education: The Role Educational Leaders Play,” Mills College with Northeastern University further defined social justice in education as the incorporation of students’ differences in backgrounds, beliefs, experiences, and views into curricula and lessons, rather than those differences serving as obstacles that might separate and divide students.

Mr. Cronk shared that his goal is to teach students to think critically, like a historian. In his words, “A purposeful examination of history accounts for our successes and failures.” Students can investigate and learn lessons about when America exemplified our core values, and

other instances in which we struggled. Then, students can take this information and explore how to further help the nation progress. Mr. Cronk also underscored the importance of exploring many perspectives, because students are products of their environment and do not know what they have not yet been exposed to.

Teachers can facilitate discourse that allow all students to feel comfortable speaking about their life experiences and values they hold close to them. These conversations can expose students to many different perspectives, enabling them to become empathetic, aware, and most importantly, understanding of the differences in our world. Mr. Sobolewski shared that the only way to grow is through adversity; students can develop and refine their beliefs through discussing with other students who may disagree or have a differing perspective.

At Berlin High School, Mr. Sobolewski teaches an elective course titled “Human Rights and Social Justice.” This course is available to students who wish to explore issues of human rights around the world and think critically about how these issues developed and can possibly be resolved.

Mr. Sobolewski shared that the class focuses on student-selected topics and concerns about the world, such as economic systems, gender-based issues, poverty issues, and more. Embedded in this course are class discussions and lessons from different political, social, religious, and historical perspectives. Current student, Abby Caliandri, explained that she took the class because

she thought it would be a positive and safe atmosphere to discuss important issues in our world. Caliandri described that the class is currently focusing on human rights issues in our own community, with plans to continue exploring these issues on increasingly larger scales.

Berlin High School senior, Emily Kobus, said that she felt the role of discussing social justice issues is to teach students how to treat others with respect, kindness, and equality—lessons that students must learn in order to become considerate and civil members of society.

Another senior student emphasized the importance of classrooms serving as locations for accurate, researched facts about social justice issues, with current movements and events being the center of discussions in the classroom. Mr. Cronk shared similar beliefs, describing that he often starts a unit with a current event, asking students what in history led our world to this point.

There are intense, heated debates about the idea of social justice in education, but there is also incredible misunderstanding surrounding the topic.

Social justice in education is not strictly about race. Social justice in education is about creating a welcoming classroom that embraces students’ opinions and backgrounds, with the goal of empowering students in order to connect them with the course content. Once students feel comfortable, included, and that their identity is recognized in the classroom, they feel more motivated to learn and explore the world around them, which will prepare students for their future after high school.

## Capstone, a Chance for BHS Students to Shine

Continued from page 1

“Capstone Exhibition Day is a chance to show off your talents, your interests, your skills. It’s a chance to prove that you are ready to enter the wide world beyond Berlin High School and that you are prepared to take it by storm!”

As the course and final presentation are a graduation requirement, students should pick a topic that they are passionate about. Doing so will make the research process easier, the final presentation stronger and the application to the future clearer.

“Students should pick a topic that they care about and want to learn more about. Students should go deep into research and learn everything they can to get the most out of the course,” Mrs. Hamad added. “Picking a topic that you are passionate and open-minded about, can lead to students becoming more excited about it.”

Students may question why they need to take Capstone, but the answer is simple.

“Capstone is essentially work that they have done over the years in their education,” Mrs. Mayette explained. “This is a culmination of all of that. Students should consider how they want to showcase themselves as learners, critical thinkers, and producers of these projects.”

Presenting can be uncomfortable to many, which is one of the reasons why Capstone is a semester long course. Developing the knowledge and confidence



Photo Courtesy of BHS

Senior Patrick Matassa poses in front of his Capstone project display in the library.

to present your Capstone project is what makes this course so valuable.

When it came to choosing my own topic, I thought of things that were important to me and what my future study might be. Over the past few years I have become intrigued by the effects of pollution on our environment and wanted to do my topic on ocean plastic pollution.

As I guided myself through the semester, I gained website building skills and strengthened my public speaking skills.

Yes, Capstone may be a stressful and nerve racking experience, but if students

use their time and effort wisely, they can make an extraordinary presentation.

“Don’t wait until class starts to start figuring out your topic,” Mrs. Mayette advised. “You know that this is a class that all seniors take, so start thinking about what you’d like to dive into ahead of time.”

“Also, and this advice comes from our previous students as well, don’t fall behind,” Mrs. Mayette said. “Students who use their class time wisely and keep up with their assignments along the way find the process a lot more manageable and create far better projects in the end.”



# District Cancellation Cup Contest is Fun For All

By Allie Nawalaniec & Taylor Desmarais  
*Redcoat Review Writers*

How exciting has this winter been for the Cancellation Cup? Mr. Leonard, who works with Mr. Forman and Mr. Recore, is the creator of Berlin Public Schools' well-known Cancellation Cup, a fun, guessing-the-weather game for students and staff across the district.

The math, planning, and publicity all take place in the hands of these three teachers who work collaboratively to make the district's survey accurate and enjoyable. The three of them are very passionate about the contest as well as predicting how the weather forecast will impact schools across the district.

To spice up the fun, the team recently created a podcast known as The Berlin Cancellation Cup, which is available for listening on Spotify. The team started the podcast last year, as they are always looking to add new things and improve the game. The team of three, alongside students, work together to run the podcast and create even more news and entertainment for the schools.

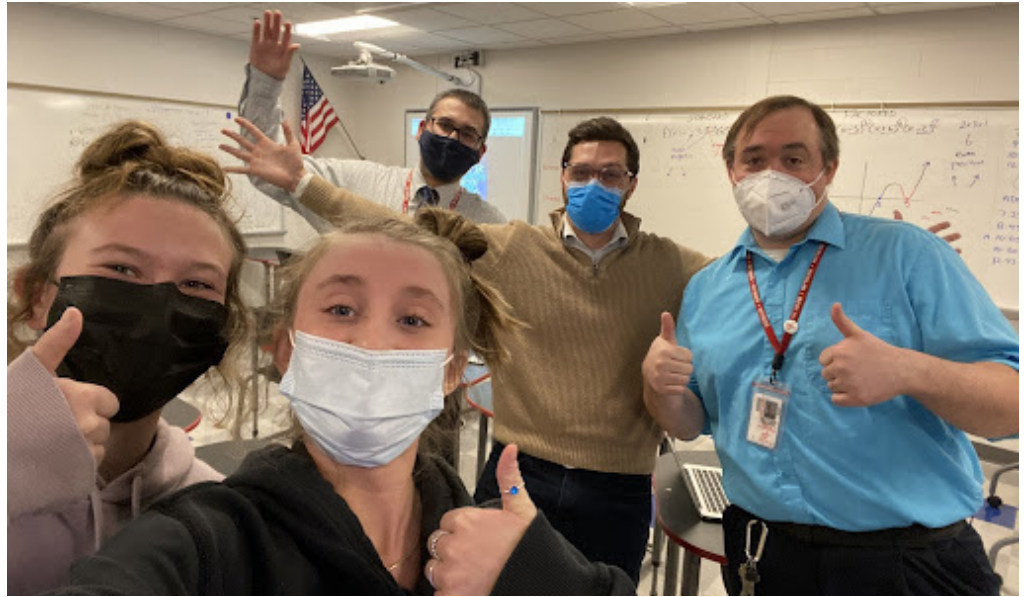
"It's a good skill set for students to learn," Mr. Leonard said. "Learning how to communicate and hold a conversation is a lost skill in this digital age."

You may be wondering how this all started. As the head of the science department, Mr. Leonard created it for staff only at BHS during the 2016-17 school year. The Cancellation Cup then became public to students and staff in all Berlin schools during the 2017-2018 school year.

Mr. Leonard came up with the idea when he was teaching a student who was very passionate about the weather, who actually is a meteorologist today.

The idea of keeping a record of peoples' predictions was sparked by several students and staff claiming that they were always right about the result of each snowfall. Thus, Mr. Leonard teamed up with Mr. Recore, who also teaches in the Science department. Together, they created the voting form and then worked on the system scores for each person.

Here is how the original score system



Taylor Desmarais (left) and Allie Nawalaniec take a selfie with teachers, Mr. Leonard, Mr. Forman and Mr. Recore, while discussing the fun weather guessing contest.

worked: if a person guessed correctly a point was earned and none were earned if they guessed incorrectly. Fortunately there were several voting chances, with a whopping 15 snow events, which led to a clear winner: Mr. Leonard.

However, there were some difficulties. During that first year, there was a four-way tie for first place. In the first version of the scoring system, an email was sent every time there was an opportunity to vote, and it led to everyone voting at the same time. This caused all participants to earn equal points due to the fact that all people would vote as soon as the email was sent out.

Thus, Mr. Leonard and Mr. Recore decided to move to a Kahoot-style scoring system. In the current revised system, if two people are correct, the first person who guessed first correctly will earn more points than the other person.

In 2018, Mr. Forman joined the team and offered to help with the math and scoring portion. The team collaborated once again on updating the scoring system. The three teachers designed a more complex format calculating speed, time-liness and difficulty of vote to determine one's score.

There have been many other staff

members and students who have contributed to advancing the cancellation cup. During the 2018-2019 school year, the team also was also interested in creating a logo for the survey. They worked with Ms. Galasso, an art teacher here at BHS, to create their first logo as well as Mr. Wincander, a tech ed teacher at BHS, to create a trophy for the winners.

Since then, students have gotten involved in the creative process, generating their own logos and entering a contest to represent the Cancellation Cup logo for that school year. This year, junior Domenic DeNardo won the logo contest, receiving a \$25 Amazon gift card for his winning logo entry.

Currently, the Cancellation Cup season is going quite well. We have had many opportunities to vote as there has been much snow, ice, and even rain on the weather forecast this year. This winter has already brought us a total of four snow days through the end of February.

The top scorers through February include Mrs. Francolino with 6,249 points and Madden DiMauro with 4,876 points. But there is still the chance of another weather event. We look forward to seeing who wins the Cancellation Cup for the 2021-2022 school year!

## Creative Writing Club Provides Outlet for Students

By Maddie Lazzara  
*Redcoat Review Writer*

Many students are aware of the Creative Writing class offered at BHS. However, few seem to have heard of the Creative Writing Club that was started last year.

Senior Grace Lazzara first started the club with the help of Mrs. Masterson as a way to help kids pursue their interest in writing without the pressure of grades. Lazzara was unable to fit the class into her schedule, but was really interested in creative writing. This caused her to reach out to her fellow classmates to see if they would be interested as well.

Creative Writing Club allows students who may be unable to fit the class into their schedule, as well as anyone else who enjoys writing without the grades, a safe space to share their work.

When asked why she likes creative writing, Lazzara said, "because I can explore different ideas and topics I may not normally write about or experience. It's fun to create alternate worlds and realities! I also love to hear what other people create!"

Noah Miller, another senior at BHS and member of the club, says the simplicity of the club meetings are a great way to finish his day.

"It pushes me out of my comfort zone a little, but with everyone sharing their own stories, I quickly find the courage to present my own," Miller said. "I would recommend the Creative Writing Club to anyone who is looking to just have fun with writing. Good, bad, dark, comedic, it's all welcome here."

Every week the club meets to share their stories they wrote for the prompt. Each prompt for the next story is chosen

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*"I would recommend the Creative Writing Club to anyone who is looking to just have fun with writing. Good, bad, dark, comedic, it's all welcome here."*

*- BHS Senior Noah Miller*

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at the end of every meeting and announced on the club's Schoology page. All genres are covered, and everyone has a say in what they want to do next.

The meetings are typically held after school on Fridays in Mrs. Masterson's room. The club members share unique stories, and often share a laugh! If you are interested in joining the club, feel free to stop by the next meeting! Even if you do not write a story to share, you are always welcome!



# Musical Expressions: a Sound Business in Berlin

By Paul Kendrick  
Redcoat Review Writer

Ever since I first picked up the trumpet in the fourth grade, my family has relied on Berlin's music store, *Musical Expressions*, for our musical needs. This business, located on 959 Farmington Avenue, has played a critical role in the musical development of countless musicians through its employees' and patrons' extensive musical knowledge.

Personally, coming from a musical background, I have bought sheet music, music lessons, instruments, and countless bottles of valve oil for my trumpet from *Musical Expressions*. This music store's resources have been key to the success of hundreds of local musicians.

*Musical Expressions* is owned by Don Rooney, who bought the store from its founder, Charles Calderon, in 2009. Though much has changed in the world since the store's founding in the 1980s, *Musical Expressions* has managed to preserve the old-school music store vibe that music enthusiasts often search for. To put it simply, *Musical Expressions* is more



than a store; it's a community.

Joe Pagliaruli has worked at *Musical Expressions* for five years. Though it may not seem of much importance to some, both Joe and Don go by their first names, which speaks volumes to the store's cordial atmosphere. To elaborate on this atmosphere, *Musical Expressions* is the type of store you can walk into for the first time without fear of judgment or awkward social interaction. The store is small, cozy, and packed full of all things musical. In the words of Joe, "the whole vibe is welcoming."

According to Joe, the store's mission is two-fold. On one end, the store seeks

to give back to the community and build an appreciation of music and the instruments, starting students on their musical journey.

On the other hand, the store aims to preserve what Joe claims to be the "old-school music store" vibe; that cozy, lighthearted and educational atmosphere that many modern stores seem to have lost. Since its founding, the store has been successful in completing their mission.

Every inch of the store is packed with musical supplies and instruments, the customers and employees are all friendly, and there is a personal connection that patrons share with the store.

The local musical community, from session musicians to school children, relies on *Musical Expressions* not only for musical supplies, but also for the employees' knowledge and assistance.

This store is well worth visiting if you are looking for musical expertise. This business has certainly earned its high reputation. If you visit, you will likely be greeted by Joe or Don, who will be happy to help you with any questions or needs you may have. In the words of Joe, "It's a small place, but it's a special place."

## Band Concert is Sure to Impress

By Ian Saunders  
Redcoat Review Writer

On April 26 at 7pm, the Redcoat Concert and Marching Band is anticipating another stellar performance under the direction of Mr. Dresko and Central Connecticut State University student-teacher, Ms. Mai.

The four pieces selected are "On Wind and Sails" by Roger Cichy, "Undertow" by John Mackey, "Seal Lullaby" by Eric Whitacre, and "Aquarium" by John de Meij. Each piece has a distinct tone, ranging from light and adventurous to dark and heavy, making every note and rhythm purposeful to the composer's intentions.

Ms. Mai will be directing "Seal Lullaby," which is a strong and peaceful composition that will be mainly led by the woodwind and clarinet sections. Conversely, "Undertow" is an intense and hard-to-describe feeling of suspense, as bursts from the horn section are scattered throughout, depicting a real-life natural event that takes swimmers' lives every year.

The new Spring 2022 theme is titled To the Sea! This is meant to represent the longing for summer, and to depict a fun and fresh vibe for the audience. In the past, Mr. Dresko has created multiple theme directions, such as Animal Kingdom, Celestial, Star Wars, Classical Music, Fuego (Latin-focused music), and Horizons, which aimed to push the boundaries of what composers could do and how they manipulate music to their standard.



When asked about the level of musicianship expected, Dresko responded with enthusiasm and optimism that the band will do a great job, as they are always hungry for more advanced and explorative music.

The upcoming performance repertoire is not the most musically challenging compared to what he has selected in the past. Despite that, this concert is sure to be an extraordinary experience for the band and audience alike.

Mr. Dresko and Ms. Mai are highly talented individuals, both coming from different backgrounds but giving it their all for the BHS Concert Band. When asked if Dresko would ever compose his own music for the band, he explained that with his experience in creating music for his church-based a cappella group, composing concert music could be in the near future.

Other upcoming performances from the band will include Jazz with Pizzazz and the Memorial Day Parade. The April 26 concert is free and open to the public.

### JOIN REDCOAT REVIEW

The *Redcoat Review* is made up of a variety of writers and editors in all grade levels. Students have the flexibility to contribute regularly or simply submit a special one-time article. Students receive support throughout the writing process.

The *Redcoat Review* meets weekly after school in the Library Media Center. We have a Schoology group to communicate meetings and information. We are always looking for new members to write, edit, take photos, contribute artwork, learn layout and design.

If you are interested in joining or would like more information, contact Mrs. Rice, Mrs. Masterson or Mrs. Joslyn.



Photo Courtesy of BHS

## Join the Funky Fibers Club

By Ian Saunders  
Redcoat Review Writer

Looking for a new club to join? If so, consider the newly created Funky Fibers Knitting and Crocheting Club. This unique club helps to promote relaxation and craftsmanship and there is no experience necessary. Students can create their own scarfs, sweaters, blankets, stuffed animals, socks, gloves, and even more with countless online and hard-copy patterns.

Students can also enjoy mellow music and conversation between members. The club meets after school every Thursday in Mrs. Dumas's room (1504).

If you cannot knit or crochet, our club has multiple members that are willing to teach both skills and help you to develop basic skills and understandings!

"Knitting and crocheting are a great way to relax, channel your creativity, or make things for your friends and family," club advisor Mrs. Dumas said. "We may finish things quickly, or take a long time to perfect our skills, but either way it is a lot of fun to hang out and chat while we stitch."

Questions? Contact Mrs. Dumas at [kdumas@berlinschools.org](mailto:kdumas@berlinschools.org) or Cypress White at [ashton.white@edu.berlinschools.org](mailto:ashton.white@edu.berlinschools.org) for more information.



# Athletics Offers New Opportunities for Girls

By Kristen Kozlowski  
Redcoat Review Writer

This winter season, Berlin High School has expanded its opportunities for girls to participate in athletics. In addition to basketball, indoor track, and cheerleading, girls now have the opportunity to participate in wrestling, hockey, and gymnastics by joining teams in nearby towns. These girls are paving the way for future female athletes to feel confident representing themselves and Berlin through sports.

While in previous years there have been girls on the wrestling team, the 2021-2022 season has seen an increase in the number of female wrestlers.

Seniors Christianna Morley and Natalia Chorzepa, as well as junior Mary Morley, and freshman Sybella Landrie make up the four female wrestlers for Berlin, the most the school has ever had. There is not an official girls team for the Redcoats, instead the girls wrestle with



Berlin High Senior Kristen Kozlowski competes for Berlin as part of the Conard gymnastics team in West Hartford.

and against male wrestlers.

Chorzepa said that she felt lucky that Berlin had multiple girls wrestling as she grew up wrestling against mainly boys. Chorzepa also adds that she wants to tell girls who may want to join the wrestling team to not be afraid. Chorzepa expressed she wants girls to be proud to step onto the mat everyday, be proud to wear their singlet, and be proud to win or lose against boys and girls. With Chorzepa and Christianna Morley graduating this year, the wrestling team hopes to see a continued involvement of female wrestlers in future seasons.

In addition to girls joining the wrestling team, Berlin has a female hockey player for the first time in school history. Berlin is no stranger to hockey as its boys co-op team, which is made up of Newington, Berlin, Cromwell, and Manchester, has been a part of Berlin athletics for many years. This season, the

Redcoats have a female hockey player participating in a similar co-op team. Freshman Amy Wall plays for the Nighthawks Girls High School team which is made up of girls from Avon, Berlin, Southington, Wethersfield, Newington, RHAM, Lewis Mills, and Coventry.

The team practices and plays out of the Newington Ice Arena in Newington with away games taking place in surrounding towns against other teams in the Central Connecticut Conference (CCC). Wall's involvement this winter allows for future female hockey players to have the opportunity to represent Berlin through playing hockey.

For the first time in many years, Berlin has an athlete competing in gymnastics. As a senior here at Berlin High School, I am competing for Berlin Gymnastics as a team of one with the Conard High School gymnastics team. Two gymnasts from Hall High School compete as individuals with the Conard team as well. I practice and compete alongside the Conard gymnasts, but my scores count toward Berlin. While I can not qualify for any team competitions, I have had the opportunity to qualify for the individual state competition. My participation this winter makes me the first Berlin athlete to compete in gymnastics in 29 years.

Berlin previously had a gymnastics team which was last coached by head coach Kristin Moon and assistant coach Mike Bantle. Former captain of the Berlin gymnastics team Sue Zibell, who is now a science teacher at McGee Middle School, competed during the 1992-1993 season. This was the last season that Berlin had the team as the program ended due to a lack of funding for new equipment. The team practiced and competed in the school's B gym, and the girls set up and took down the equipment everyday for practice. Zibell said opposing teams did not enjoy coming to Berlin for meets as the floor was made up of wrestling mats instead of the bouncy spring floors most gymnasts were used to.

The female wrestlers, Wall, and Kozlowski have created opportunities for future female athletes to participate in sports outside of Berlin's typical winter sports.

If you wish to support the girls and their teams by attending their games, all schedules are posted on the Berlin Athletics website.



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Pieciewicz

Freshman Amy Wall competes for Berlin as part of the Nighthawks Girls Ice Hockey team, made up of athletes from seven towns.

## Go See *Spider Man: No Way Home*

By David Perkins  
Redcoat Review Writer

The most highly anticipated film of 2021, *Spider Man: No Way Home* is a massive crossover event, and is the culmination of numerous beloved franchises. After *Spider Man's* (Tom Holland) identity is revealed and his life flips upside down, he visits Doctor Strange (Benedict Cumberbatch) to ask for a spell that will erase everyone's memory of Spider Man's identity.

However, the spell that Doctor Strange casts goes horribly awry, and it drags in Spider Man's most dangerous villains from across the multiverse! Green Goblin (Willem Dafoe), Doctor Octopus (Alfred Molina), Electro (Jamie Foxx), Lizard (Rhys Ifans), and Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church)!

With a little bit of luck, a lot of love, a heart crushing loss, and a surplus of magic, Peter Parker must fight the fiercest and most emotional battle of his life, and learn what it truly means to be Spider Man.



*Spider Man: No Way Home* is directed by the brilliant Jon Watts and written by Chris McKenna and Erik Sommers, who craft a beautifully emotional and epic storyline, complete with fantastic CGI and hilarious fan service moments. The cinematography was directed by Mauro Fiore, and he provides a variety of epic and grandiose shots.

That, combined with the talents of Michael Giacchino, a well-known composer who has composed music for franchises like *Jurassic World*, *Star Wars*, and even the upcoming film *Lightyear*, has created a masterpiece of a soundtrack, fitting for a box-office obliterating event like this movie.

Currently, *Spider Man: No Way Home* is the most successful movie since the COVID-19 pandemic began, making more than \$700 million domestically, and making a spectacular \$1.8 billion worldwide!

The hard work and dedication of the cast, crew, writers, and director of this film paid off, officially marking this massive crossover event as the sixth-highest grossing movie of all time.

Overall, *Spider Man: No Way Home* is an incredible cinematic masterpiece, and is a must-see IMAX experience.



Photo Courtesy of Berlin Wrestling

Christianna (left) and Mary Morley pose with their dad at Senior Night.



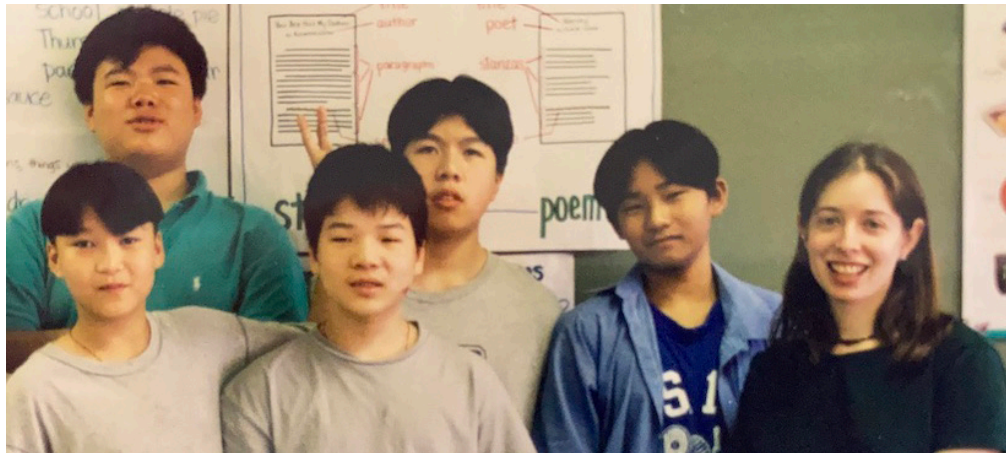


Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Borrup

Mrs. Borrup teaches English to multilingual students at Berlin High School. She is pictured here in this photo taken during her early teaching days in New York's Chinatown.

## Humans of BHS: Mrs. Borrup

Written by Jean Borrup  
Promoted by the BHS Random Acts of Kindness Club

At the start of my career, I lived in Manhattan and taught English language for a few years at a middle school in Chinatown.

I was an "other" in that environment in obvious ways, but I also felt very connected - my grandmother, a new teenage immigrant in the early 1900s, had lived in the very same (literally the very same) tenement building where some of my students lived now.

My kids, 33-34 tweens and teens per class, were all recent arrivals from two provinces of China, all beginners with English, speaking either Fukinese or Cantonese. Most of them could commonly speak Mandarin. I immediately loved every one of them and everything about Chinatown.

Being young at the time with few responsibilities other than to myself, I spent a lot of time in the community there and took Mandarin classes at a little hole-in-the-wall language school. I found it a beautiful language, musical, artful, and terrific fun to learn.

## New Albums Released in 2021

By Eli Mahler  
Special to the Redcoat Review

From Lana Del Rey to ABBA, some of the biggest names in music released an album this past fall.

After a six-year hiatus, Adele announced 30, her first release since 25 in 2015. The album, said to be her most personal yet, was released on November 19. The singer said in an interview with Vogue Magazine that the album includes her favorite lyrics that she has written.

While Adele has returned to the scene, Lana Del Rey has been hard at work, releasing her second album of 2021 on October 22. Blue Banisters expands on the midwestern-inspired sound of her last album Chemtrails over the Country Club - released in March of 2021 - as well as



But it wasn't from language classes that I picked up my first words — the bad words, of course. I learned those from hearing them used by students, exactly as so many typical tweens and teens would use the same words in English. It was easy to pick them up.

Those were the first Chinese vocabulary words I knew. Initially, I didn't know if they were Fukinese or Cantonese or Mandarin, but I could identify them easily. I found great amusement when students would use a bad word in my classroom for the first time, thinking I wouldn't understand, and I'd instantly give them that polished teacher glare (except that I'd do it with a little half smile because I was so amused) and say something like, "Let's not use that word in here, thanks." They were always a mix of shocked and mortified but also overjoyed at me knowing some of their language. Then they began to know I was a beginning Chinese learner and they loved that about me.

It's a joy to think about those days and those kids. They will live in my heart always. Don't be afraid to be an "other" and experience things so different from your own norms.

touching on sounds that can be heard from earlier in her career.

After 40 years and some inner conflict between band members, ABBA's ninth studio album Voyage was released on November 5. Agnetha Faltskog, who has reportedly felt mistreated by her fellow band members in the past, stated in a post on the band's Instagram account that she had "no idea what to expect" when the group returned to the studio, but, "[Benny Andersson]'s studio is such a friendly and safe environment, and before I knew it I was really enjoying myself!"

In addition to these new records, Mac Miller's 2014 mixtape Faces became available in October on streaming platforms for the first time since its release. On October 29, A\$AP Rocky's debut Live. Love. A\$AP became available on streaming platforms as well to coincide with the mixtape's 10 year anniversary.

This music season is shaping up to be a good one, with the arrival of new releases and the comeback of old gems from many of the industry's greats.

# Grammys Set to Return

By Ian Saunders  
Redcoat Review Writer

Every year a monumental event occurs in the world of music: the Grammy Awards. This prestigious award is presented by the United States Recording Academy and given to the top musicians of the year.

Originally, the Grammys were set to take place on January 31, 2022 at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles, California, but on January 6, 2022, the Grammys announced that the date for the awards has been postponed to April 3 at the Las Vegas MGM Grand Garden Arena. It will be televised, including the pre-show, any performances, and the official awards ceremony.



Some famous awards include Artist of the Year, Album of the Year, Record of the Year, and Best New Artist. Past Grammy award shows included high-profile artists and nominations for Taylor Swift, Nicki Minaj, Lana Del Rey, Ariana Grande, Lady Gaga and Billie Eilish among others.

For the 2022 Awards, Record of the Year nominations are as follows: ABBA's "I Still Have Faith in You," Jon Batiste's "Freedom," Tony Bennet and Lady Gaga's "I Get a Kick Out of You," Justin Bieber's "Peaches," Brandi Carlile's "Right on Time," Doja Cat and SZA's "Kiss Me More," Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever," Lil Nas X's "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)," Olivia Rodrigo's "Driver's License," and Silk Sonic's "Leave the Door Open."

Album of the Year nominations include, Jon Batiste's "We Are," Tony Bennett and Lady Gaga's "Love for Sale," Justin Bieber's "Justice," Doja Cat's "Planet Her," Billie Eilish's "Happier Than Ever," H.E.R.'s "Back of My Mind," Lil Nas X's "Montero," Olivia Rodrigo's "Sour," Taylor Swift's "Evermore," and Kanye West's "Donda."

Song of the Year nominations include "Drivers License" by Olivia Rodrigo, "Fight for You" by Dernest Emille II, "Happier Than Ever" by Billie Eilish, "Kiss Me More" by Doja Cat and SZA, "Leave the Door Open" by Silk Sonic, "Montero (Call Me by Your Name)" by Lil Nas X, "Peaches" by Justin Bieber, and "Right on Time" by Brandi Carlile.

Nominations for the Best Pop Vocal Album include "Justice" by Justin Bieber, "Planet Her (deluxe)" by Doja Cat, "Happier Than Ever" by Billie Eilish, "Positions" by Ariana Grande, and "Sour" by Olivia Rodrigo.

Despite the elite few that win a Grammy Award, there are some artists, like Nicki Minaj and The Weeknd, who have made the decision to boycott the awards entirely, believing that the Grammys were not recognizing their music and influence on pop culture.



# New Business Course Offered for 2022-2023

By Alyssa O'Leary  
Redcoat Review Writer

As course enrollment opened for the 2022-2023 school year, the BHS business department is excited to introduce a new class. The *Finance and Investments* class will be available for students to enroll in for the new school year.

The business teachers worked collectively to devise the curriculum for this new program and all are available to teach it as well. Enrollment of this great learning opportunity does have the prerequisite of full completion of the *Personal Finance* course. Students will explore an in-depth understanding of personal wealth and risk management of the real world in this half-year course.

"In the BHS business department, we try to give students real world applications that they might be interested in," Mr. Parisi, one of three BHS business teachers, said. "Something all students regardless of their path will need and have when they get out of (BHS)."

The *Finance and Investments* class will cover investing, stocks, bonds/funds, real estate, insurance, retirement planning, and possible careers. Students will understand the reality of an investor through decision making and simulation. This class will expand the knowledge of students' financial market structures, equity and fixed income securities, investment strategies, behavioral finance, and the stock market.

As interest in digital currency and trading grows, it is only fitting to have this course filled with this valuable information. Appreciation of short or longer term financial risks individuals encounter each and every day will be at the top of the skills students will come out of the course with.

"I expect students to gain an appreciation for understanding the risks between speculation and differentiation of investment," Business teacher Mr. Jones said.



"It's a fun course for students to be studious but it can get deeply technical."

Mr. Jones, Mr. Parisi and Ms. Nelson hope to give students real world experiences and address students' inquisitive requests and introduce investment and insurance to the student body.

Jones said he believes that having a better understanding of individual financial decisions can be eye-opening and give a broader insight as both a consumer and a career. It is hoped students will be able to approach investing in different ways depending on the circumstances. *Finance and Investments* fits perfectly into the world students live in today as "time values money: you have to start early," Parisi said.

Though *Finance and Investments* sounds similar to *Personal Finance*, this new course will educate students beyond basic financial skills. This course will allow students to study investment strategies, analyze markets, improve risk tolerance, and understand how to invest. Jones and Parisi hope that students can get deeply analytical in this fun course.

The business department couldn't be more excited to begin teaching *Finance and Investments* for the 2022-2023 school year. This curriculum is designed to provide information needed for the present and future independent life.

At the end of the day, who among us wouldn't want to make more money?

The business department believes this course can get students there.

# Course Spotlight: AP Psychology

By Joe Kiniry  
Special to the Redcoat Review

Have you ever wondered what the real psychological cause behind certain mental processes are, and what is actually happening in the brain?

Or what physical processes are involved with thinking and decision making or involuntary actions in the body? Or what causes someone to develop a progressive disease such as Parkinson's or Alzheimer's? All of these questions and more can be answered in the Advanced Placement (AP) Psychology course offered at Berlin High School.

This year-long class taught by Mr. Rush can be very challenging with many fast-paced units. The majority of the assignments include note-taking from the textbook, pop quizzes and unit tests.

AP Psychology is a course that allows the student to sign up for the AP Psychology exam. This optional exam, which costs \$96, is highly recommended. If a student passes the AP exam they will not be required to take the course again in college, which is a huge savings as the cost for the class would be significantly more at a college or university.

In the high school program of studies, there are two psychology courses offered. Along with AP Psychology, the school offers Introduction to Psychology. It is not a prerequisite for AP.

"Taking Introduction to Psychology is really helpful but not necessary," says Mr. Rush.

In AP Psychology, students will learn about human behavior and mental processes. The class studies concepts spanning from examples of behavior and why it happens, natural selection, to specific parts of the brain and their functions. In this course, students learn about notable people in the field of psychology and what they have done for the profession.

"Psychology is a very broad subject that relates to probably every career path students may be thinking about pursuing," Mr. Rush said.

Even if a student is not planning to pursue psychology later in life, it is still a very good class to take with many many topics to learn from.

For those interested in the inner workings of the brain, or certain behaviors or mental processes, sign up for AP Psychology for your next year at Berlin High.

## Students Go to Washington

From February 19-22, students in the AP Government class at Berlin High School had the opportunity to visit the nation's capitol through the annual Close Up Washington, D.C. trip.

Students had the opportunity to meet students from various high schools around the country and engage in discussions surrounding issues that impact our democracy. Students were able to meet with policy experts and members of Congress. They also had a chance to explore the rich history of Washington, D.C.

