



Redcoat Review

Berlin High School, Berlin CT

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Berlin Fair Back, Better Than Ever

By Jessica Peck and Alexa Fallon
Redcoat Review Writers

The Berlin Fair is a key part of Berlin and was highly missed throughout the nearly two years since it was canceled in September 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Berlin Fair has been an iconic event in Berlin since 1882. The one year hiatus was a shock to the Berlin community, since the last time this event did not occur at the Fairgrounds was 73 years ago. At that time, the Fair had experienced a 30-year break in 1919 until it was revived by the Berlin Lions Club in 1949.

Last year, in 2020, the Lions Club had no choice but to put the Fair on hold, leaving September 2020 with a vacancy where the excitement of the three-day weekend used to be. After this devastating break, the Fair was finally brought back for the 2021 year.

Enthusiasm was over the top throughout all three days at the Fair. Students at Berlin High, who get the day off from school for the Fair, long for the environment the Fair brings. Berlin High sophomore Sara Guzzardi said she enjoyed seeing the community come together once again for this memorable event.



Photo Credit: Jake Ferland

View from the peak of the Ferris Wheel of the Berlin Fairgrounds.

“Nothing is able to bring the Berlin community together like the Berlin Fair,” Guzzardi said.

The Berlin Fair is a fun place for people of all age groups. The environment, rides, food, and community coming together make it an important event for past, current, and future students.

Addison Whiteside, a Berlin High sophomore, said what she missed the most was the food. The food is by far the best known characteristic of the Berlin Fair. The fried dough is located at the Lions booth, and is made by students in Upbeat. Upbeat members pull dough, put sauce and cheese on and serve the fried dough. Students are an integral part of the fried dough making process at the Berlin Fair.

Another unforgettable food item at the Fair is the donuts. These mini-sized donuts are made by the Interact Club, another BHS club. Last but not least, the Berlin Fair food that needs to be mentioned is the “Freedom Fries.” These delicious and inexpensive fries are made by the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department, and they are the perfect snack.

The weather at the Berlin Fair this year was warm. The temperature reached 83 degrees and the humidity was high. Because of the temperature, one line that was never short was the freshly squeezed lemonade. This drink was the perfect refreshment for the hot weather. The many ice cream booths also found their lines filling up with people needing a treat to cool down.

The food and refreshments might be delicious, but nothing can replace the thrill of the rides at the Berlin Fair.

Judging by the lines, The Zipper and The Dream Catcher were favorites among the many rides. The Zipper has exciting and spine-chilling flips and dips while the Dream Catcher’s height of the swinging claw lifts you off your seat. The Himalayas was one ride that was missed by students this year. The popular ride did not return to the Fair, and instead was replaced by a new, similar ride called The Flying Bobs.

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Return of the Red Sea

By Ryan Stec
Redcoat Review Writer

Fall sports are back in Berlin, and players and fans are extremely excited for the upcoming success of Berlin athletics. The energy from the fans throughout the first part of the sports season this fall has been electric and the anticipation for the future is high.

The Red Sea, which had been quieted due to COVID limiting fans in attendance last year, was excited to be cheering for the Redcoats in their first Friday football matchup since the pandemic started. The Redcoats gave the fans something to cheer about, pulling off an impressive and dominant win against Middletown at Sage Park on September 10, 2021.

Senior Sal Dastoli, who was in the stands as one of the Red Sea participants, expressed his happiness on the resurgence of the Red Sea and how he had felt seeing students from every grade level cheering and engaging in the chants and excitement.

“The Friday night football game had most likely the best student section I’ve seen in my time here at BHS,” Dastoli said. “So we hope to keep that going all season into playoffs but more importantly for winter and spring seasons to come.”

If the turnout and energy from the Red Sea continues through all the sports seasons this year, the Redcoats should be looking forward to more exciting games and thrilling seasons. Not only can the Red Sea influence winning on the field, but it also gets students involved and shows school spirit.

“It’s always a great feeling seeing all the students connect. It’s an even better feeling after being away from the student section for almost two years,” Dastoli added. There wasn’t a transitioning period from no student section to full capacity as energy came right out of the gate and that spirit looks to be sustained all through the year.

Football is one of the sports most anticipated to start back up and get going as their chance to play last season was taken away due to the pandemic. The Redcoats started the season 1-0, a game that meant everything to the team, and has now translated into the team having a positive 3-2 record as of October 14th and looking to continue their winning ways on October 22 against Hall High School.

Redcoats on all sides of the ball have been looking to make the big play and that big-play potential has led them to success so far.

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Creating Healthy Habits for the School Year

By Alyssa O'Leary
Redcoat Review Writer

Fully in-person learning has seen students going from having all the free time in the world to now managing a fully-booked after school schedule.

It can be a struggle at times to feel in control. Balancing multiple activities, meetings, assignments, and free time can be hard, especially as a high schooler. Here are some healthy habits students can implement for a successful school year.

Self-Care

School workloads can be draining. As much as physical health is important, mental health is just as worthy. In order to manage the academic stresses, it is vital students incorporate the “treat” of self-care, according to studies from the University of Texas.

Self-care includes all different aspects of nutrition, emotion, and personal hygiene. Recognizing personal needs and taking care of yourself can give your body what it may need in times of stress. It's important to fuel the body with enjoyable foods. These studies suggest practicing self-care is different for everyone, and therefore making decisions should be based upon personal wants and needs, not from the influence of others.

The body and mind have a strong, natural connection, so do what is best for you and make yourself a better student during times of stress.

Time Management

There is no denying that once school begins, students face many predicaments of what should be done first on their to-do list. Whether it's sports, band, theater,

homework, or even spending time with family at home, students may not know the best way to manage their time. It is always a good idea to plan ahead. Set reminders for upcoming events on your calendar, set realistic goals for the week that you may want to get accomplished, move to another room that isn't distracting to get work done, and even set a routine for yourself. It is important to know personal limits and also what needs to be done first before everything else. Never feel guilty for saying no to things or even putting particular priorities first.

Extracurriculars

It's important that students incorporate balance into their lifestyle, especially outside of school. There are so many sports teams for anyone to join. But if athletics doesn't spark interest, don't hesitate to explore the clubs Berlin High has to offer. Take advantage of the numerous clubs offered at BHS. Participating in the student body not only helps the school community, but also introduces new interactions with new people. School engagement is also a good way to bring healthy distractions into a student's after-school life. Even though clubs and teams may associate with the school, their activities go beyond the focus of books and assignments.

Control of Technology

The thought of time can be overwhelming and hinder individuals' productivity levels, according to Zapier, a task automation company. Technology, like cell phones, can distract students. To avoid letting students' screen time detract from school work or important activities, it's okay to put the phone down once in

a while. Knowing when to put the phone down or away for a moment can help get things done. Try setting a timer, limiting screen time, putting the technology in another room, or even silence and face the screen down to stay on task. It's important that students maintain healthy and strong offline connections away from technology.

Sleep

Everyone desires the luxury of sleep. But as young adults, students don't always understand the importance of getting a good night's sleep. It can be unhealthy to rely on a poor sleep schedule during the school week.

According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, “teenagers 13 to 18 years of age should sleep 8 to 10 hours per 24 hours on a regular basis to promote optimal health.” School can run down the body and requires strong attention spans, but without sleep, students can't perform to their full potential. Regulating a sleep schedule and setting an expectation for a certain amount of hours each night can help to maintain healthy habits during the school year.

Ask Questions

High school can be a new, uncomfortable experience. Instead of keeping those feelings quiet, it is important to advocate for yourself. Reaching out to teachers for guidance or assistance can build a strong rapport between student and the adult, which makes the classroom environment a lot more comfortable. Also, asking questions can build better communication and most of all bring clarity to any gaps students may have. The more information a student can get, the better it will be to succeed academically and mentally.

Fun Time for All at the Fair

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The fun of the Berlin Fair does not stop at the appetizing food and exhilarating rides. Other entertainment at the Fair includes countless animal exhibits and games.

Individuals enjoyed walking through the huge animal exhibits filled with roosters, sheep, rabbits, horses and goats. People could also join fascinating competitions and hope to win a 1st place medal. Fruits and vegetables, artwork, and desserts were some of the things entered into these competitions.

Another event to entertain the crowd was a circus, complete with an individual on stilts walking around the Fair. The live music at the concert stages was perfect when you needed to rest your legs and take a break. People were constantly walking around with the huge prizes, like fish and stuffed animals, that they had won from the games.

After being mostly Berlin citizens on Friday, Saturday brought long lines for rides, food, and entrance. Adolescents from surrounding towns flocked the Fair, desperate to experience the normalcy of a regular Fair season; after Covid-19, people crave the sense of stability that the Fair offers.



Photo Credit: Jake Ferland

Berlin High School sophomore Alexa Fallon shows off her new fish friends at the Berlin Fair. The Fair was a welcome event in Berlin after being canceled in 2020.

The Berlin Fair will always be a meaningful tradition to the Berlin community, as well as the communities surrounding it.

SPOTLIGHT ON MATH TUTORING

By Libby Dunn and Molly Williams
Special to the Redcoat Review

Are you looking for math help from a fellow student? Then come on down to the Math Tutoring Center, located in the Library Media Center!

Tutors are available during a variety of study hall periods, as well as after school Monday through Friday from 2:15 pm to 2:45 pm.

The tutors have taken various math classes offered at Berlin High School, including Algebra I and II, Geometry, Precalculus, Calculus, and Probability and Statistics. Tutors can provide help in-person in the Library, or tutors can make a video demonstration and send it to you.

If you have any questions regarding availability or any other inquiries, please contact Libby Dunn (elizabeth.dunn@edu.berlinschools.org), Molly Williams (molly.williams@edu.berlinschools.org), or the Math Tutoring Center advisor, Ms. Gagnon (agagnon@berlinschools.org).

The Math Tutoring Center is a great resource that is offered at Berlin High School, so always feel free to stop by. We are happy to help!

America's Longest War Ends in Afghanistan

By Lindsey Leary
Redcoat Review Writer

No student currently enrolled at Berlin High School was alive to witness the events of September 11, 2001—with the current seniors being born after 2001. As such, most teenagers did not understand the significance of our withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The years of training and monetary aid that America funneled into Afghanistan and their troops were all for naught, when Afghan security forces and top government leaders fled as the Taliban advanced.

According to the Council on Foreign Relations, US troops first entered Afghanistan following the al-Qaeda attacks on the Twin Towers and Pentagon on September 11, 2001, after the Taliban government refused to turn in al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

In October of 2001, the US launched Operation Enduring Freedom, which had the goal of removing the Taliban and al-Qaeda from power, as well as rebuilding the government infrastructure

in Afghanistan. US troops also were instructed to provide training to the Afghan police and army, as stated by the Naval History and Heritage Command.

In 2005, The Council on Foreign Relations described that President George W. Bush met with then Afghan President, Hamid Karzai, to announce a joint alliance calling for US troops to organize, train, and aid Afghan security forces, with the ultimate goal of revamping the Afghan economy and political stability.

In April of 2021, President Biden announced that all US troops still in Afghanistan would be withdrawn before September 11. Problems arose on August 15, 2021, when the Afghan government collapsed after the Taliban led a resurgence and easily took control of Kabul.

American troops were quickly withdrawn from Afghanistan, with President Biden stating that “American troops cannot and should not be fighting in a war and dying in a war that Afghan forces are not willing to fight for themselves” in an August briefing.

On August 30, thirteen American service members were killed in a

bombing at the airport and all remaining troops were removed, effectively ending America's longest war.

The Brown University Costs of War Project estimates that in the nearly 20-year war, the US spent over 2 trillion dollars in Defense Department war budgets, veterans care, improvements to Afghan bases, and interest on borrowed spending to date.

Along with the US's hefty price tag, we also left a large amount of weaponry and machinery. Some equipment was able to be destroyed before our exit to render the machinery useless, but numerous top military officials estimate that there are millions of dollars in weaponry still in Afghanistan.

An estimated 800,000 American soldiers served in Afghanistan, as estimated by the US Department of Defense. Journalists, aid workers, and government officials also worked tirelessly to provide assistance to rebuild Afghanistan; their actions were forgotten and lost as quickly as American troops were withdrawn.

Those brave Americans' years of service must not be ignored amidst controversy and anger over our withdrawal.

America Remembers 9/11 on 20th Anniversary

By Ella Simcik
Redcoat Review Writer

September 11, 2021 marks 20 years since the day the terrorist attacks took place, silencing America. Al Qaeda, an extremist group, was responsible for the attacks. CNN reported that the group sent 19 men to hijack four planes from American airlines in an attempt to crash the planes into important and highly populated locations.

According to the *New York Times*, the original plan for these attacks included 10 planes covering all parts of America, which included the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., the White House, and areas on both the West and East coast. The hijackers were able to get past security, and take over the planes by going into the cockpit and overpowering the pilots.

The first plane was United Airlines Flight 11, hijacked by five members of al Qaeda. The hijackers flew from Maine to Boston in order to get onto Flight 11, and at 7:59 am, the plane took off on a flight from Boston to Los Angeles. Shortly after takeoff, at 8:19 am, the passengers aboard the flight knew that the plane was being hijacked.

At 8:46 am, Flight 11 flew into floors 93 and 94 of the North Tower of the World Trade Center building in New York City. At 10:28 am, 102 minutes after the plane hit the building, the North Tower collapsed, killing more than 1,600 people.

There were 91 people including crew members, passengers, and hijackers on the plane, and there were no survivors.

The second plane to crash was United Airlines Flight 175. There were five

hijackers aboard this plane as well. Flight 175 took off at 8:15 am from Boston heading to Los Angeles with a total of 65 people aboard. At 9:03 am, the South Tower building of the World Trade Center in New York City was then hit by Flight 175 taking a direct hit through floors 77 to 85. The South Tower collapsed before the North Tower, at 9:59 am, all 110 floors falling in 10 seconds.

The third plane, Flight 77, took off from Washington, D.C heading for Los Angeles with a total of 59 people, also including five hijackers.

Passengers on this flight realized the plane was being hijacked and one passenger named Barbara Olsen was able to alert authorities. Despite Olsen's attempts, the plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. at 9:37 am, killing all 184 people on board. Shortly after, at 10:15 am, the outer ring of the Pentagon collapsed.

The fourth and final plane was United Airlines Flight 93, originally intended for San Francisco and filled with 33 passengers and four hijackers. This hijacking was different from the others because the people on the flight heard about what had happened earlier that morning and ended up storming the cockpit and overpowering the hijackers.

Due to this, instead of crashing into the White House like the hijackers intended, at 10:03 am, Flight 93 crashed near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, killing everyone aboard. Many people consider those passengers to be heroes.

There were other heroes that day. Through the chaos happening in the Twin Towers, people united to help each other.

Acts of bravery and selflessness came



Photo Credit: Justin Lane, AFP Photo

The National September 11 Memorial and Museum is located on the site where the World Trade Center's Twin Towers once stood.

from not only the firemen running into the buildings but everyday people.

This past September, on the 20th anniversary, hundreds of people commemorated the day by assembling around the memorial pools located where the Twin Towers once stood. The pools have listed each name of those that died in the attacks.

President Joe Biden posted a video in which he called for unity, saying, “In the days that followed September 11, 2001, we saw heroism everywhere — in places expected and unexpected, we also saw something all too rare: a true sense of national unity.”

According to History.com, a total of 2,996 people died on September 11, 2001. Every year we learn about September 11 in school and remember it because it should never be forgotten.

Everyone has their own story of 9/11, whether they were directly affected, or just horrified as they watched the events unfold. One thing's for sure: that day changed lives not just in America, but all over the world, and should never be forgotten.



New Texas Law Impacts Abortion Rights

By Ian Saunders
Redcoat Review Writer

On Wednesday May 19, 2021 Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed into law the “Heartbeat Bill,” which bans abortion past six weeks of fetal development or when a heartbeat is detected. The law does not include any form of power executed by the state government to prevent abortions from occurring, but instead allows for citizens to sue abortion clinics and professionals that have performed and aided in the procedure. The new law also bans abortion procedures in cases of rape and incest, essentially forcing victims to carry the pregnancy to full term or birth.

This “Heartbeat Bill” has fueled social unrest in an already unstable political climate as it has further polarized two opposing belief systems.

At the signing of the new law, Gov. Abbott said, “Our creator endowed us with the right to life and yet millions of children lose their right to life every year because of abortion...[politicians] worked together on a bipartisan basis to pass a bill that I’m about to sign that ensures that the life of every unborn child who has a heartbeat will be saved from the ravages of abortion.”

Activist groups, along with over three hundred Texas lawyers, have challenged the new law, disagreeing with the



Photo Credit: Jay Janner
Austin-American Statesman

way it has been executed. Along with saying that the “Heartbeat Bill” had no justification due to the previous Supreme Court ruling of *Roe v. Wade*, Shannon Najamabadi, a writer for *The Texas Tribune*, explained that Texas lawmakers also claimed it did not support the long structured legal system in Texas and in the United States.

Najamabadi stated, “The bill bans abortions after whenever an ultrasound can detect what lawmakers defined as a fetal ‘heartbeat,’ which can be as early as six weeks into pregnancy.

Medical and legal experts say the term is misleading because embryos don’t possess a heart at that developmental stage.”

In the “Heartbeat Bill,” it does not explain how embryos have no heartbeat at six weeks of development. In fact, at six weeks of pregnancy the embryo is the size of a lentil and the eyes and ears are starting to form. Because specific child developmental information is not explicitly stated in the bill, the message it sends to the American public can be misleading and does not provide people with all the information to personally know if the bill is justified.

In an article written by Tessa Stuart from *Rolling Stone* titled “How to Order an Abortion Online,” she explains how women and activist communities are going around the Texas abortion ban. “And no need, if you live in the state of Texas, to expose anyone to the threat of a lawsuit under the state’s medieval new abortion ban,” Stuart said.

Now that people are taking advantage of online abortion services, Texans are finding a way to entirely avoid protesters and potential lawsuits. These self-managed abortions then make it impossible for Texas citizens to sue providers or abortion patients, as the process is much more discreet.

This demonstrates how the American people will adapt to certain changes in the way our political system works, regardless if they are justified in the eyes of the public, especially with the new “Heartbeat Bill.”

The Resignation Revolution of US Workers

By Paul Kendrick
Redcoat Review Writer

In March of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic unleashed an economic crisis on the United States, disrupting global supply chains, increasing unemployment, and shutting down entire industries.

According to the *COVID-19 Scenario Modeling Hub*, a collaborative modeling effort that projects future COVID-19 cases, it can tentatively be declared that the worst of the pandemic is behind us.

One would expect that, as the United States lifts itself out of the economic rut dug by the COVID-19 pandemic, record numbers of laborers would be returning to work. However, this optimistic expectation is not yet coming to fruition.

It seems counterintuitive that a worker would leave their job after being unable to work for months on end. As it turns out, according to NPR, record numbers of workers are resigning from their jobs in search of greater pay, greater flexibility and greater job satisfaction.

Take last June, for example, when the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 3.9 million people quit their jobs, leaving the United States with over 10.1 million job vacancies. This data demonstrates that the benefits of working a low-wage job are not great enough to incentivize Americans to work.

Leading the charge in the resignation revolution are retail workers - those who sell goods directly to the public. Accord-



Photo Credit: Amy Furr

This picture, taken in Lincoln, Nebraska in July 2021, illustrates the toll the pandemic has taken on the U.S. economy.

ing to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, retail salespersons have a median hourly wage of \$13.02, which falls well below what the Massachusetts Institute of Technology considers a living wage for a single adult in Hartford County: \$15.22 an hour.

Given this low pay, it is no wonder why, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, a record 678,000 retail workers quit their jobs last July, leaving employers racing to fill these vacant positions.

The conditions and work environments of retail workers in the United States are exemplified in some Amazon warehouses. Over the past few years, the

multibillion dollar corporation has repeatedly made international headlines for the abuse and exploitation of warehouse workers.

According to investigative articles put out by *The Guardian* and *Forbes*, discrimination, unsafe working conditions, toxic work environments, and aggressive anti-union practices are commonplace in some of these Amazon warehouses.

Amazon’s warehouse conditions are no more than a conspicuous example meant to elucidate the abuses many low-wage workers face. According to a report released by the U.S. National Library of Medicine, “A long line of social scientists from Marx (1992) forward have recognized that many aspects of modern labor are alienating, exploitative, and even dangerous.”

From the fast food industry to the landscaping industry, workers are often subjected to poor working conditions in exchange for low pay and equally abysmal benefits.

All things considered, it may turn out that this mass wave of resignations is ultimately beneficial for the United States, as, according to political pundit Hasan Piker, it may lead employers to realize the true value of their employees.

At the very least, the mass resignation of millions of low-wage workers will encourage employers to reevaluate the conditions they subject their employees to, leading to a labor market where workers feel valued, satisfied and compensated.

No More Remote Learning?

By: Zachary Ulan
Redcoat Review Writer

March 2020 brought the beginning of the COVID-19 virus and students were shot into a confusing and strange world of remote learning. What most thought would be a brief two-week break turned into an unfortunate few months to end the school year. Students had to navigate classes online as well as adjust to brand new software.

The start of the 2020-2021 school year then brought hybrid learning: one week online, one week in person. Some students may have enjoyed the time at their home over the past year, away from the noisy hallways and bustling classrooms. Others may have missed their friends or just the atmosphere of being in person at school. How students worked and performed in this at-home setting varied. Some students' grades fell due to the numerous distractions in their house, but some thrived in the quiet.

In April 2021, marking a year since the shutdown, we shifted back into regular, full-in school learning. Students went from constant Zoom meetings and days of sleeping in to the opportunity to follow a typical school schedule. Some students chose to stay home even though they were given the opportunity to come back

to school full time. This year, there is no more remote learning. Instead, students that haven't been in school in a year get the chance to walk the halls and reconnect.

In Berlin, some of the protocols and rules put in place to prevent the spread of COVID are still in place. They include keeping three feet in between each other inside classrooms, additional seating in the cafeteria and the wearing of masks inside the building at all times.

Some of the youngest students in BHS - the freshmen - have addressed their feelings on remote learning.

"Being in school full time is much better than hybrid learning," one freshman said. "There are way too many distractions at home to focus on schoolwork and the Zoom calls."

Many students agree. Another freshman stated that it was much easier to get stuff done in school, particularly when doing a group project. Although breakout rooms in Zoom were commonly used last year for group projects, they were often glitchy and not many people seemed to have the confidence to talk in them.

No one knows what's next for COVID - whether there will be another uptick of cases causing us to jump back into remote learning or if this will all smooth over. It has proven to be unpredictable in



Photo Credit: Zachary Ulan

Students are headed to the buses after a day of in-person learning in October.

the past. Scientists predict that a spike in cases most likely will happen around the holidays.

On September 27, the Berlin School District announced that they will be reinstating remote learning for students who are quarantined. While this is bad news for people who just want to regain a normal lifestyle, it is temporary.

Remote learning and the hybrid model will always be one of the strangest and most unforgettable eras in our school's history. Let's hope when this is all over we can sit back and have a good laugh about this. If we all do our part, we can help stop the spread of the virus. Let's also hope that if we do end up doing remote learning again, Zoom has improved their software!

The Writing Center Returns

By Kristen Kozlowski and Jethro Grumo
Redcoat Review Writers

On Monday, October 4, the Berlin High Writing Center reopened for all students.

After experiencing a forced shutdown and a turn to virtual tutoring due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Writing Center is returning to in-person tutoring sessions taking place in room 1500, located in the English wing.

Tutees will be able to sign up for appointments via a link provided on the BHS website or through QR codes. Tutees should report to their study hall or class to sign in with their teachers before coming to the Writing Center.

Tutors will be available for sessions during the school day, as well as Monday - Thursday after school. Sessions usually last up to 40 minutes during the day and 30 minutes after school.

The Writing Center can help students with the entire writing process. Tutors can help with starting an outline, beginning a draft, or revising. Additionally, tutors can also offer help with English assignments, or any writing assignments for classes like history or science.

The Writing Center and its tutors do not just critique essays and call it a day. Instead, they walk tutees through each revision, starting with higher order concerns, such as improving evidence analysis, and move onto lower order concerns, such as editing spelling and grammar.

While the Writing Center leaves

Schedule An Appointment

1. Visit the BHS website
2. Click on the 'Student Services' tab across the top, select 'Writing Center'
3. Find the link to 'Make an Appointment' at the bottom or top of the screen
4. Select an appointment time



students with a better understanding of how to improve the piece of writing they bring, at the end of the day, tutors strive to shape tutees into better writers, overall.

Last year, tutoring sessions were conducted via screencastify and communication was based solely through email. These practices, although unconventional, did come with some positives.

Advisor Christine Glass says that she saw an increase in the amount of students who utilized the Writing Center. Furthermore, online tutoring provided a comfortable method for hesitant tutees of the Writing Center to test the waters before committing to an in person session.

Although online tutoring was successful given the circumstances, Writing Center advisors and tutors look forward to the return of a traditional tutoring setting. Tutors look forward to authentic, face-to-face conversations, as well as applying the knowledge gained from the



semester long peer tutoring class.

Having a face-to-face conversation about writing is extremely beneficial. Instead of a brief comment on a Google Doc, tutors can provide an explanation. A face-to-face conversation allows for learning; it allows for growth. Writing Center tutors have strategies that they can share with tutees in order to make writing easier. Ultimately, the goal of the writing center is to leave tutees with the tools and knowledge to improve their writing.

Tutor Julia Greenwood is excited to work in person and build rapport with tutees in hopes that they come back for future tutoring sessions. Griffin Hilbie said he is thrilled to have in person sessions as well. "I'm looking forward to being able to tutor other students in a more hands-on-sense," said Hilbie.

After losing a large class of experienced tutors, the Writing Center is excited to introduce a group of virtual tutoring experts. Additionally, the Issues and Methods in Writing and Peer Tutoring class is filled with tutors in training. These students will join the Writing Centers as tutors for the second semester.



Girls Soccer Enjoying 2021 Season

By Madelyn Lazzara
Redcoat Review Writer

The 2020 fall sports season was anything but normal. This was true for the Berlin High School girls soccer team.

Spending most of the first couple weeks of 2020 socially distanced and playing the same cohort of teams for the whole season, it was easy for the female athletes to hope for a better season in 2021.

This fall, the girls soccer season has been an improvement over last year. They are off to a 4-2-3 start and this year has been especially special for Head Coach Alex Joslyn and the senior class. This 2022 senior class is the first class that Joslyn has had for all four years.

“The seniors have been great, all 10 of them,” Joslyn said. “In the back you have Grace Lazzara, Olivia Salina, Kylie Gentile, and Lauren McBride, who anchor it down. Then you have Natalia Chorzepa in net. You work your way up, you got Kylie Jefferson, Clare McGeever, Jocelyn DiMatteo, Gwen Tighe, and Morgan Biello.

“They all have done a great job and have given so much to this program over



Photo Credit: Madelyn Lazzara

Senior Captain Kylie Gentile is cheered on by her teammates during starting lineups at Sage Park on September 13, 2021. The Redcoats went on to beat Bristol Eastern, 4-3.

the last four years. I can't thank them enough, and I wish them all the best in their future,” Joslyn added.

This season has also been special for two of the captains, Gentile and Jefferson, who are coming back from injuries.

“This season has been especially exciting for me, coming back from a two-year long ACL recovery,” Gentile said. “Being able to play my senior year with my closest friends is really exciting.”

Jefferson had similar thoughts, saying she was excited to be playing with her teammates for her final year of high school.

The two other senior captains, Salina and McGeever, were both just as excited to start the season. Salina shared that despite starting off rocky, she believes that the 3-1 victory over E.O. Smith on Sept. 21, 2021 would be a turning point for the Lady Redcoats.

McGeever was also excited to come back after barely having a season last year because of COVID, and said this year's dynamic has been awesome.

“It's not just two teams of 20, this year it is one team of 40,” McGeever said. “We are really emphasizing team bonding and getting through the year strong.”

The Newest Fall Sport: Boys Golf

By Garrett Fallon
Redcoat Review Writer

This fall, the makeup of the Berlin High School sports scene looks much different. This is due to the transition of Boys Golf from the spring season to the fall season. As a result, athletes who previously played a different fall sport were forced to make a difficult decision between two activities they cherish.

Some athletes have chosen to stay with the golf team, while others opted to remain with their previous fall sports. Two boys soccer players, Tommy Lewis and Ryan Garrity, were faced with this decision, with Lewis choosing golf and Garrity opting to stick with soccer.

Even in the midst of a tremendous shake-up, many golf athletes are enjoying the benefits of playing during the fall.

Senior Captain Kyle Carlone cited the improvement in weather conditions as a bright spot of the alteration. In the spring, rain causes many cancellations of matches and practices. As expected, thus far the rain in the fall has been much less compared to the spring, leading to only two cancellations the whole season. In addition, golf athletes no longer need to worry about playing in the rainy and cold weather that is commonplace in April.

Also, now that the golfers have been playing through the summer months,

they are enjoying increased success.

“Coming off a long winter it takes a while to get your swing back,” Carlone said. “Now that everyone has been playing all summer our swings and scores are peaking.”

Furthermore, the courses are in better condition at this time of year as opposed to the spring.

According to BHS senior Matt Matan, the courses tend to be in poor shape coming off the winter months. Matan explained this is partly due to the melting of snow and the long layoff where the course is not being maintained.

In the fall, courses have already been maintained for multiple months, leading to them being in peak condition. In addition, the bunkers have been raked all summer, so the sand is typically in great shape.

There is a downside to this sports' season shift, as only half of the state has opted to make the move. The proposal to move golf to the fall was debated for many years by the CIAC and its member schools. Proponents of the move cited improved weather and greater course availability due to boys and girls playing at different times of year. Ultimately, there wasn't enough support to transition the entire state; so, the CIAC let individual conferences choose their season. As a result, two of the four boys golf divi-



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Lindsay

Riley Soybel (left) and Tommy Lewis represent BHS on the Boys Golf team.

sions moved to fall, while the other two remained in spring. As a result, the JV golf team at Berlin High only has five matches this year, due to lack of available teams. It remains to be seen whether the remaining two golf divisions will eventually follow suit and transfer over to the fall season.

Thus far, the benefits seem to outweigh the potential drawbacks. An improved course, improved weather, and improved play indicate that Boys Golf in the fall is likely here to stay.

A Legendary Movie: *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings*

By David Perkins
Redcoat Review Writer

The 2021 blockbuster *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* is not only an incredible movie for representation of Asian culture and martial arts, but is also a well-written and fantastically-choreographed cinematic masterpiece.



The movie follows a man by the name of Shang Chi (Simu Liu), who fled to the United States after being trained by his ruthless father, the Mandarin (Tony Leung). Shang Chi and his friend, Katy (Awkwafina), travel across the world, with Shang revealing the secrets of his past and the legend of the Ten Rings.

Director Daniel Cretton and choreog-

rapher Andy Cheng deliver some of the best combat sequences in the entire Marvel Cinematic Universe, and writer David Callahan balances the fight sequences with plenty of comedy and emotionally impactful moments throughout the film.

The film also provided plenty of representation, with every character given proper character development and their own time in the spotlight. Also, there were a lot of references to Asian culture and other martial arts films.

For example, multiple scenes and dialogue in the film reference Bruce Lee and Jackie Chan movies, one of them most notably being *Enter the Dragon*.

Because of this, *Shang Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings* is one of the most popular MCU movies yet, with a 92% rating on *Rotten Tomatoes* (98% on release) and making more than \$200 million at the box office. That is higher than any other film throughout the pandemic, except for the titan-sized showdown *Godzilla vs Kong* (\$467.8 million).



Photo Credit: Berlin High School
The student section at BHS is referred to as the Red Sea and is back and excited to be supporting student-athletes.

Red Sea Shows Up to Support Fall Sports

Continued from Page 1

Jon D'Amore, a senior captain on the football team, said it felt amazing to be back on the field.

"We have been waiting two years to finally be back on the field and we are just trying to take advantage of every moment with the team," D'Amore said.

"Every practice, every dinner, every game, everything. As seniors this is our last time to experience football in our hometown and we are not wasting a second of it."

The seniors look to finish off their high school football careers strong while every teammate hopes for the same results to build upon for a great future.

Soccer is another sport making its return to fall action and the energy can be felt throughout both the women's and men's teams. No matter the results of the games, it always feels good to get back on the field and play.

Last season, various restrictions were in place such as only two tickets per athlete, masks on the bench, and a new schedule including local opponents only and no state tournament. This year, the Redcoats have qualifying for the state tournament to look forward to.

"It brings a new level of intensity to games with an end goal to play for," senior captain Jacob Ferland said. "Every practice and game is building us up for a run in the state tournament, and we are starting to accumulate a crowd for the games."

Much like soccer, football, basketball and every sport that Berlin boasts, the end goal is reaching the ultimate level of accomplishment. Having as many fans in the stands as possible gives student athletes the chance to create energy that will definitely assist on that journey.

Students and Staff Show Off For Annual Spirit Week at BHS

By Alexa Molina
Redcoat Review Writer

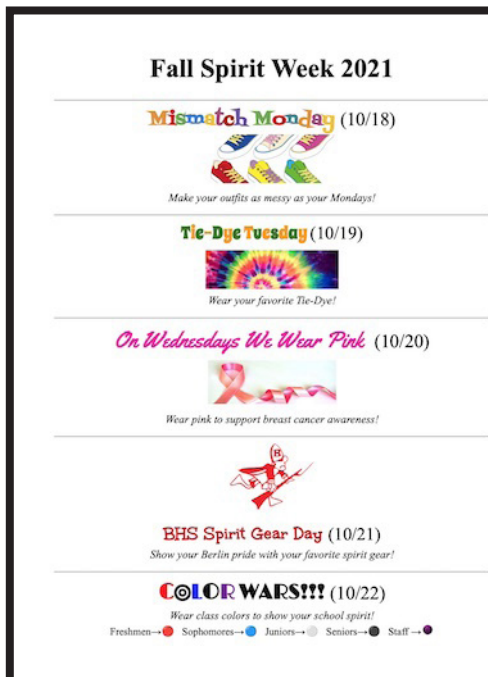
Berlin High School's annual Spirit Week is the perfect place to show off team spirit and bond with classmates.

Spirit Week takes place during the week before Homecoming, October 23. It gives students a chance to show their school spirit by dressing the same way as their friends, and even staff members, in a variety of themed spirit days.

The schedule for Spirit Week 2021 encourages students and staff to wear mismatched clothes on Monday. On Tuesday, students will bedeck themselves in tie-dye. Wednesday asks students to don pink in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. On Thursday, the Berlin High School community wears BHS spirit gear. Finally, on Friday students wear their class color: freshmen wear red, sophomores wear blue, juniors wear white, and seniors wear black. Teachers symbolically wear purple on the last day of Spirit Week because it represents the mixture of all the class' colors.

At the end of the week, there is a pep rally and the hallway decorating, known as "Color Wars," which is a competition between each grade level. Students will spend weeks getting ready for it and then each class is assigned a hallway to decorate and given one day to put it all together.

Previous years' Color Wars hallway themes included *Wanda Vision* and *Carnival* for the freshmen, *Up* and *Jaws* for sophomores, *Wii* and *The Office* for juniors, and *Monopoly* and *Stranger Things* for seniors.



This year's pep rally returns, but will be held outside due to COVID precautions. Students will celebrate their school pride by participating in different activities related to the sports teams, wearing different school colors based on their grade, and competing in different contests such as a pie eating contest and a field goal kicking contest.

In order to participate in the Spirit Week festivities, students have to demonstrate good sportsmanship, responsibility, and respect. It is a fun week of activities that many students look forward to participating in.

The spirit behind the pep rally and spirit week is that students should continue to celebrate their Redcoat pride all year long.



Mrs. Lovely Inspired By Berlin Mission

By Allie Nawalaniec & Taylor Desmarais
Redcoat Review Writers

Mrs. Morgan Lovely, one of the newest additions to the teaching staff, truly lives up to her last name. Mrs. Lovely is the new physical education teacher, replacing Mrs. King, who retired last year.

The specific reason Mrs. Lovely was drawn to come work at Berlin High was the district's mission: Purpose, Passion, Pride. She said she felt as though Berlin High School really expressed the importance of our district mission statement and she wanted to become a part of it.

Though she is a Connecticut native, Mrs. Lovely moved to Pennsylvania to obtain her Masters of Education in Healthy Living and Physical Education. She then taught at a K-8 school in Pittsburgh, developing important social and motivational skills prior to joining the BHS community.

Mrs. Lovely now describes the difference between the elementary level and the high school level as being in two different worlds. She says the way she converses with the students at the high school is very different as opposed to working with little kids. She can have



Taylor Desmarais (left) and Allie Nawalaniec (right) spotlight Mrs. Morgan Lovely, who is a new Physical Education teacher at BHS.

intellectual conversations and is able to learn alongside the students. She also notices that the high school students want to be a part of what's going on and make the best of their high school years.

As she was interviewing for the position, Mrs. Lovely noticed how many teachers and staff were returning to Berlin as teachers or coaches after attending BHS as students. She considers the staff to be very welcoming, supportive and friendly. She's had many welcome conversations with students as well.

Mrs. Lovely's transition to Berlin brings her back to her home state. She graduated from East Hampton High School and studied at Manchester Community College where she earned her Associates of Science degree and Certified Nurse Aide Certificate. She earned her Bachelors degree in Exercise Science: Human Performance from

Southern Connecticut State University.

Through her different paths in college she decided to become a teacher; she wanted to make a positive impact in creating healthy lifestyles for children. She attended Indiana University of Pennsylvania and received her Masters Degree in Education in December of 2019.

Mrs. Lovely has many passions outside of teaching. She enjoys spending time with family, especially her two year old daughter and her two dogs. She stays active outside of school by hiking and loves to go to Sleeping Giant Mountain. She enjoys baking, especially cookies.

Mrs. Lovely also loves traveling and learning where and how others live and learning about other cultures. Her energy and positive attitude that she brings into every class reflects on her students' moods, participation and overall performance in class.

Course Spotlight: AP Language & Composition

By Dan Lamoureux
Redcoat Review Writer

Have you ever sat through a class and wondered whether or not your time is truly being well spent? Perhaps you have found yourself thinking, "Why do I need to know this?" or "How does this apply to my life?"

In my experience, it takes a course that provides both a reasonable challenge and an application to the real-world to counter these two questions educators likely dread hearing from students.

By that measure, one of the most truly rewarding courses to take at Berlin High School is the English Course: Advanced Placement Language and Composition.

"The course involves preparation for the AP exam, but it's also a course to make you a better writer, thinker, and collaborator," says Ms. Andrea Rodrigue, one of the BHS teachers of the course, known as 'AP Lang'. "The focus is improving what you can do as a writer at any given time, with a sub-focus in language and rhetoric."

It is easy to consider writing a 'common sense' skill, one which only requires a brief understanding in order to be successful in life. However, as a year of AP Lang progresses, it becomes clear just how easy it is to forget certain aspects of basic grammar, and how much there is to learn for students invested in the course.

In addition to improving their writing skills, AP Lang helps students master a set of formidable vocab terms. One way Lang encourages students to improve their vocabulary is through having students search for "power words" for every vocab unit. This recurring assignment incentivizes students to hunt for new words they would never have learned otherwise.

As an AP course, Language and Composition is a terrific opportunity to earn college credit. AP courses are designed to simulate the expectations of a college class in a high school setting. Students are assessed on whether or not they meet these expectations with the AP test at the end of the year.

The AP Lang test involves the completion of a multiple choice section and three timed essays. Although the test may sound daunting, students are given extensive instruction and resources to ensure they are successful. Students who pass the test with a high enough score are able to carry over their credits to college, reducing the amount of classes - and stress - students will have to contend with at universities.

"I would say the difficulty is not the same in terms of other APs because AP Lang is skill-based rather than fact-based," Rodrigue said. "Students aren't memorizing statistics or anything like that as much as they are focused on demonstrating abilities."

While the class is a college level

"I would recommend challenging yourself and going for it, because there are plenty of supports built in."

- Ms. Rodrigue, BHS English teacher

course, any student recommended for it should not be discouraged due to its difficulty.

When asked about the class's difficulty, many students cite the four long-term essays completed throughout the year, each with a distinct style. Although this may sound overwhelming at first, students are given extensive notice before their essays are due, providing the perfect opportunity to get creative and hone writing skills through peer review and a good amount of elbow grease.

"I would recommend challenging yourself and going for it, because there are plenty of supports built in," Rodrigue said.

Ultimately, all students who wish to take another step towards complete mastery of their writing and analysis skills owe it to themselves to take AP Language and Composition. If recommended for it by your teacher, AP Lang is a class you do not want to miss out on.

"I think that after we get past the first few weeks many students are able to see that the things they learn in this class are applicable to other classes" Rodrigue said. "I think kids like it because it's unlike any other English class they've taken before."