Great Vision Great Coverage

The Gazette '21-'22

Vol. 85 January 2022 Issue 4

Sleep...Does Anybody Get Enough or Are We All Lacking in it?

By Rachael Harbus

There is no doubt that students lead very busy lives. They start their school day at 7:40 and go to their typical 8 classes until 2:25pm. Between this time period, they are given classwork, tests, homework, etc. After school, most students play a sport or participate in a club, whether it is inside or outside of school. After their activity, it is usually their homework time. But it can also be their "prep" for the next day time. In the end, it is usually past midnight when these students finally go to sleep.

Getting enough sleep is crucial if schools want students to thrive at their academics, sports, and extracurriculars.

Studies show that children and adolescents who are lacking in sleep are at higher risk for obesity, diabetes, injuries, behavioral issues, and mental health problems.

According to The American Academy of Sleep Medicine (AASM), it is recommended that children and preteens get 9–12 hours and teenagers get 8–10 hours of sleep per night.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) conducted a survey where researchers asked students how much sleep they get on school nights.

60% of middle schoolers stated that they get less than 9 hours while 70% of high school students stated that they get less than 8 hours.

A high school student who has fallen asleep during his math class due to the lack of sleep from the previous night.
Photo from thetornadotimes.net

Some of our own students even fall into this statistic. When asked if they get enough sleep each night, one student responded with:

"Nope! I have so much homework and practice is super late. Plus, I still have to shower and do my chores. So, I don't start my homework until later... and then I'm up late," junior Ra'Miya Manning stated.

But let's not forget about the teachers. Teachers also have very hectic schedules as they also have homework (lesson planning and grading papers), sports (coaching), and clubs (club leader). Plus, most teachers have families of their own to take care of as well.

When asked the same question, science teacher Ms. Kolodziejczyk stated:

"No, I do not because I usually leave school late from either clubs or just getting work done here, making copies, making sure everything is set up in the morning, and then by the time I get home, I have to get my personal things finished. Then, I have to do more lesson planning and grading and usually by the time I go to sleep, it's like 10:30 to 11:00 o'clock at night. And then I usually stress over making sure everything is up and ready for the morning. I wake up around 4:30 or 5:00 o'clock and get to school early to make sure everything is up and ready and technologies are ready. I stress too much I think over this job."

While the majority of people say that they do not get enough sleep at night, there are some who do say that they get enough sleep at night.

"I would say yes. I get enough sleep on a school night because I prioritize my sleep and try to go to bed between 9:00pm to 10:00pm at the latest," junior Amira Jones claimed.

However, there are always ways to obtain a healthy sleep schedule.

For example, a student could go to bed at the same time and wake up at the same time every day. This promotes consistency with sleep, which keeps their circadian rhythm stable. Your circadian rhythm tells your body when to sleep and when to be awake. It is usually disrupted when the student decides to get more or less sleep than their average amount. When disrupted, the student may feel more tired than normal since their body is confused.

A teenage girl lifting her head up from her pillow and peacefully turning off her alarm clock on a sunny morning, excited to start her day.
Photo from 123rf.com

In addition, students can limit the use of technology before going to sleep. It has been scientifically proven that the blue light from our technological screens stimulate our minds, therefore forcing them awake. An easy fix is to not use any electronic devices an hour before we go to sleep. Instead, we could do a relaxing activity like drawing, meditating, or reading.

In conclusion, sleep is a very important aspect of a student's and teacher's life. So, it is very important that they both try to make the most of it.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Franklin News 2
Student Interest 4
Personality Profiles 9
Arts & Entertainment 14

Class Scheduling 101

By Lindsay Adjei

Before break, class scheduling can be a confusing and disorienting time for students that are trying to figure out what courses they should take and what classes are available. Mrs. Scott, the 10th grade counselor, is here to guide us through the process and recommend new classes for students and guide us through the process of course registration.

Fun times at the beach! This is Mrs. Scott, 10th grade counselor. Students can make appointments to go see their own grade counselors and talk to them about school, work, and other things in their lives.

"Before break we will be sharing more information about how to complete the portal registration. This year it will be a much more hands on process than when we were in school online," explained Mrs. Scott. On January 3rd, students will be able to access the course registration and look at the pre-selected classes and what options they have for electives. During the 4th and 5th, there will be brief informational sessions hosted to inform students about how the portal works and what they can do. During this time they can also pick out electives. On January 6th, counselors will come to English classes and go over their options and try to finalize course selections. Students can see their pre-selected schedule options now on the Focus software and also look to see what's available to them for their elective periods. Students who are interested in taking many AP or GT/AA classes can look into adding a seminar class to their schedule in order to get a break and have a study hall.

"This is going to be much more involved than online school, switching from virtual to in-person means we will be able to give more information and be able to help students better," said Mrs Scott. Last year, it was much more difficult for students to sign up for classes and understand scheduling. Without ready access to speak to a guidance counselor and confusion through online school, it was hard to understand how to sign up.

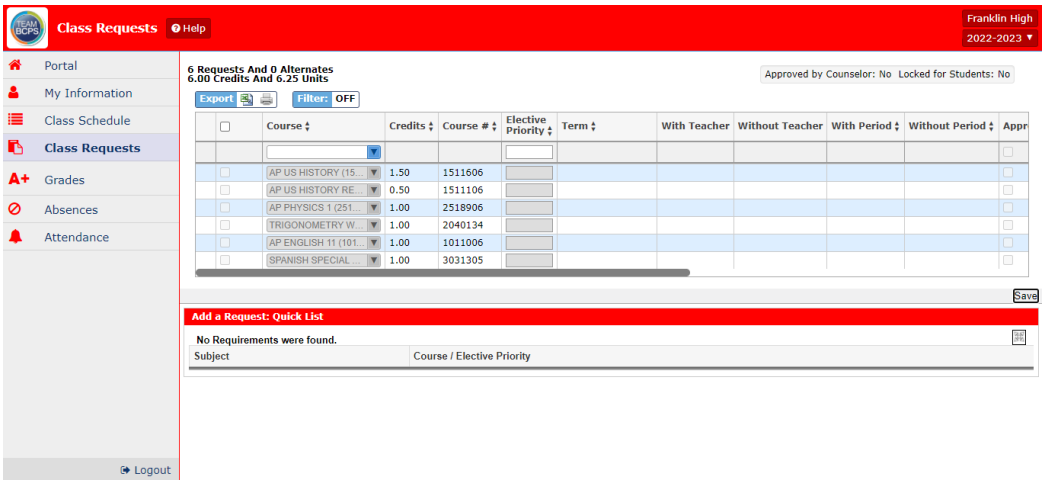
If you want to speak to your counselor more in depth about class scheduling and meeting up with them, you can make appointments online and come during school to see.

Because of new course requirements for current 9th graders, new courses have also been added for other accompanying half-credit options. "We've added some new fun courses for students because there are more half-credit requirements with the new graduating requirements," Mrs. Scott elaborated. "We have Aerobics and Body Conditioning to interest female students interested in fitness classes since most of our other fitness courses have mainly male students enrolled." There's also History through Sports Honors which gives students a look at sports history and background on sports and how they've originated. These new classes will be fun for rising sophomores for filling in elective requirements.

Rising seniors also have new options for classes next year with the addition of Marketing 1 Honors. "This is one of our new additions to the Business [route] that our school offers with the usual courses that are offered when students choose to take that path."

Some interesting courses also offered this year include Psychology, Juvenile Justice, and Film & History. These classes can be used to fill in elective options and can be great opportunities to learn new things. There are tons of elective classes to choose from with music and arts to psychology and the sciences. Journalism is even a class you can take to write in the newspaper like us! It's great to have a good selection, but even better to understand how to navigate it all.

Overall, choosing courses this year will be a much more informed and involved process for students. With fun new courses and a better understanding of the process, students will be able to start the next school year with a better understanding and have more fun with choosing their electives and potential classes they want to take.



Step 1: Look at your Focus software and sign in to see the classes counselors recommended for you. You can also check your grades, current classes, and other important information regarding school.

Reward & Retention: BOE Approves $1000 Bonus for Employees

By Logan Dubel

BCPS hopes this latest measure will assist in staff recruitment and retention. Image courtesy of Stateline Sports Network.

The Board of Education of Baltimore County unanimously approved a measure to put an additional $1,000 in the pockets of all Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) employees. The measure, approved by board members in early December, seeks to show both current staff and prospective hires that BCPS recognizes the hard work of its valuable team members.

With a hefty price tag of $21 million, BCPS plans to finance the bonus through the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER). National and local education leaders have supported moves to use these funds in retention and recruitment efforts.

With the exception of the Superintendent, all school staff, even substitutes and contractual employees will receive the bonus. While the system's top official will not receive the bonus himself, he strongly supports it.

"As we work to make BCPS a premier school system, it is important that we show our staff how much we appreciate them and their commitment to Baltimore County," said Superintendent Darryl Williams. "It is our hope that the steps we are taking today as a system will help us provide greater support and recognition for our employees and build a stronger Team BCPS."

As schools around the nation and in Baltimore County face a staff shortage, BCPS hopes that this capital gain will keep teachers in the classroom and even attract new educators. Data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows that there are now nearly 600,000 fewer public education employees in America than right before the pandemic. Additionally, 65,000 teachers resigned between September and October alone.

While a bonus is a step in the right direction, Franklin High School English teacher Mr. Brian Sommer believes that there is still more work to be done.

"I was surprised to hear about the bonus. While I am happy and thankful, I am also sad that my mind automatically goes to the systemic problems that indicate why education professionals should be paid more overall," reflected Sommer. "This is a nice gesture, but a band-aid meant to cover a larger problem, which is getting and retaining quality professionals."

Following nearly two years of uncertainty, virtual teaching, and now relentless burnout, the bonus is a welcome signal of appreciation.

"Educators have been (at times) wrongfully vilified for decisions about education that they had no part in. I think, on the whole, educators want to do the best job they can, so this is a nice bonus to just say 'thank you for all you've gone through,'" added Sommer.

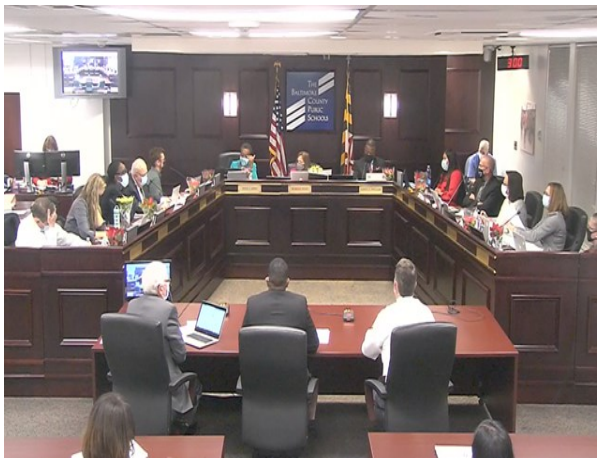
Students, who know the impact of their teachers firsthand, are applauding BCPS for acknowledging the tireless efforts of school staff.

"I know how hard teachers work every day and how little they get paid. I think that giving them bonuses will keep them very happy, which makes students happy," said junior Ryleigh Hetrick.

Senior Cynthia Gwan echoed Hetrick's sentiments. "That's great; teachers are so undervalued. I'm glad that they're getting a much-deserved token of appreciation for all their hard work," she explained.

Thankfully for staff, this bonus will not come at the expense of additional compensation, including annual salary steps. Each year, BCPS staff receive salary increases based on the number of years they have worked. The amount of the raise varies based on the education level of the employee, from a bachelor's degree to a doctorate. There had been considerable discussion surrounding step increases and salaries for 10-month employees over the past two negotiation cycles between BCPS and the Teacher's Association of Baltimore County (TABCO).

Pending state approval, staff will receive the one-time bonus in January. While there is truly no token of gratitude that can express how grateful our school communities are for teachers, this move is undoubtedly a start.



The Board of Education discussing the bonus while meeting on December 7th.

School Shootings Cause Safety Concerns among Students and Parents

By Gavin Burris

School shootings happen all around the country in America. Some very deadly; some not so much. But deadly or not, they can be very terrifying and demoralizing. That moment at school when there is an active shooter can stay in your head for the rest of your life without any ability to get rid of that memory. Memories like these can cause a lot of PTSD, stress, and anxiety. Shootings on school grounds can affect more than just students and staff at that school where it occurred.

Woman mourning the deaths of children after a school shooting in Ocala, Florida.

"School shootings have lasting ramifications for each family and also impact relationships among community members including parents, the school, law enforcement, and local government," Children's Hospital of Philadelphia published.

Public catastrophes happen due to shootings of any kind on school grounds and people take sides on what to do going forward. Many people think in different ways and are more concerned about different things. And they have different fears if something like this would happen. Just like how Angelica Gurevich said, "I fear losing my friends over my own life." She cares a lot about her friends and doesn't want to see them go to earlier. Also, she doesn't want to see her friends' parents go through that grief of losing a child. This is a fear of many people in these situations. Some have known people their whole life and can't live without them, especially knowing how they passed.

Many also fear about how they will be getting out of the school in situations like these. Every school's escape plan is different and could impact how severe the shooting will be, which is also one of the biggest fears students and parents have when a shooter is on property. How fast, quietly, and orderly can the students and staff exit the building without alerting the assailant? In these situations, it is all about safety and making split-second decisions to get out as fast as possible. Jamie Howard, PhD, director of the Trauma and Resilience Service at the Child Mind Institute, says that "parents tend to worry about school shootings more than their children do." Even though the children are the ones going into the building five days a week, they tend to be less aware of the more serious sides of things, which is why parents are so afraid because they see the big danger while their child may not see the lasting issues that it will cause.

The Navy practice responding to a school shooting in order to prepare for an actual event.

First Year of High School for these...Sophomores

By Fiona Durante

The South building was empty during virtual learning when everyone stayed safe at home. Current sophomores are experiencing high school in-person for the first time.

Over the past 18 months, we have been through plenty, from complete lockdowns to in-person school, and simply being isolated in our rooms and staring at our screen for seven to eight hours straight. For some of us, it was chill, easy, and better than in-person. For the rest, well, it's been a nightmare. Online school may have been easier for students since less work was provided and we have ways to maintain our good grades. "I feel more motivated when doing my work, and I feel more influenced to get my work done on time," sophomore Ishaan Desai says. "I felt relaxed with the four classes." "While it was difficult to communicate with and establish good relationships with teachers, I was able to use my extra free time to increase my physical fitness," Adam Komenski stated.

As the 2021-22 school year starts again, in -person learning is back in session. "Educators have come up with creative ways to make students feel as comfortable as possible — even as the coronavirus threatens to upend yet another school year," reported Elizabeth Chuck of NBC News. Last time we saw these group of students they were only underclassmen. Now we have a new group of underclassmen that are new to high school, including the sophomores as they have their first year of in-person high school. So, let's look at how these 3 sophomores feel about their first actual year of high school so far.

As we transition back to in-person school, it had become an adjustment for students, especially for those who haven't been at school since middle school. Adjustments for the new school year may include a new sleep schedule, managing time to complete assignments on time, and making time for homework (especially with extracurriculars). Some sophomores think that eight periods a day is too much, especially since last year was chill, meaning they would have to adjust. "I'm not a big fan of the eight-period schedule due to me trying not to feel stressed, but I prefer the semester schedule," Ishaan says. Although most sophomores claim they have comfortably adjusted with the schedule.

With in-person school starting again, so are clubs and sports teams. This year, it's the first year sophomores can participate/experience more extracurriculars, interacting with others in real life. "I got to get to know new people and talk to them," sophomore student-athlete Norah Kahn says. "This year is way better and more enjoyable." "I do enjoy participating/interacting with unique people to accomplish goals for the betterment of the school and the community, while balancing school and sports," sophomore student-athlete Adam Komenski exclaims. Balancing extracurriculars can be difficult especially if you're a student-athlete. It is a lot of responsibility, balancing practice, games, and school. Last year may have been easier for our student-athletes since we are able to do our schoolwork in our own time especially with the four courses per semester schedule. Now that we are back with eight periods a day, it can be an adjustment for these athletes to juggle everything all at once. "When school started, I had already had soccer practice every day, so I really just had to go to bed early," Norah Kahn states. "It was very easy adjusting because I had to get things done. I'd just have to do homework on the bus or before practice."

Some students who would participate in sports and other clubs, balancing school just tops it off. As extreme as this sounds, it happens to be manageable for some people as they can adjust to the new schedule. Here we have Adam Komenski who is the Vice President of the Class of 2024, a member of Key Club, and a 3-sport athlete. "For maintenance of my grades, I focus on being as productive in school as I possibly can and working on my classwork and homework in an efficient manner, including dedicating morning time to stay 'ahead of the curve,'" Adam says. "Also, in the later and morning hours while also getting an adequate amount of sleep." Students like Adam who would participate in some sports and online clubs during virtual learning may notice it's more difficult in-person. "Balancing extracurriculars is more difficult this year than last year because of the rigidness of the in-person schedule versus the online schedule, which gave me greater flexibility of time to do my work," Adam points out. "As a result, I have to focus greatly on time management in order to balance my schedule."

Continued on the next page

First Year of High School for These...Sophomores

By Fiona Durante

Continued from page 5

So far, these three sophomores seem to have a good time in high school and enjoy it more than middle school. "The few quarters I've spent here have been way better than the three years of middle school," Norah affirms. All 3 students agreed that they are glad to meet new people/friends, old friends/teachers, new teachers, and new classes. "I feel great being back in person," Ishaan says. Adam and Norah's favorite part about this school year so far are the sports, as their parents and friends come out to cheer and support them. As for Ishaan it would have to be hanging out with friends again and doing good in school. As these sophomores get to meet new people, whether they're in their grade or not, they feel excited about creating those new friendships they may never thought that they would make. Things they're looking forward to for the rest of their high school career would be meeting new people, obtaining good grades, and in-person events such as homecoming/prom. "Coming back to school as a high schooler is definitely different than coming back as an 8th grader," Adam mentions. "I matured greatly from middle school to high school and having that virtual year in 9th grade allowed the people around me to mature as well."

Even with Homecoming canceled this year, some of the class of '24 put together their own Homecoming, having a good time.

Many Students Lack the Motivation for Learning

By Kylie Beveridge

No one is expected to be always on the edge of their seats with excitement. Whether in relationships, school, work, or even our leisure activities, there are times individuals simply lack the motivation or energy to go that extra mile, or even *the* mile itself. If this is a new feeling, it might be a good idea to reflect on what has changed in your situation lately.

''Most students are experiencing stress and lack of motivation because of the number of assignments they receive each day," said freshman Alexi Beveridge.

But can you picture the student you would vote "most likely to succeed" in your graduating class? This individual must have everything going for them. They probably had good grades, popularity, discipline, good health, and social and emotional stability. Now image twenty years down the road, after graduating college, running a successful business, having a beautiful wife and three kids, that same person could decide emotionally he is done and take his own life. Obviously, a variety of circumstances can evoke these mental health issues. Now imagine coping with these mental health issues and being expected to still be a normal student and conform to your peers around you. This is what we expect of our students dealing with a variety of mental health issues.

"I lack motivation because I get bored with the same routine every day, and nothing new is happening so I feel like a machine," said freshman Atiana Reyes.

Many students are experiencing stress and lack of motivation because of the number of assignments they receive each day. Many have a hard time learning the material and just worrying about getting that good grade. This view is shared by people across all intersections of society.

On the Apple Podcast "Anything Goes," Emma Chamberlain summed up how many teens may be feeling. "I don't care what people say about how everybody does school. You know there's no need for any kind of reward or celebration everybody. Does it not need to be celebrated? No, that's not true. Going to school every day is a success. Every single day you should just go and do your best—that is something to be literally celebrated, because it is so emotionally hard number one, you know? Learning is difficult in general and mentally taxing, but also the social side of school is extremely emotionally taxing every single day."

"Students struggle to find motivation in to tend to the heap of classwork that faces them." Photo from granitebaytoday.org

Senior Portraits -What They Mean to Students

By Noah Eaton

You know when it's that time to take school pictures? I know that all through your years of school from pre – k through 11th grade, it has been the same old format when it's time to take school pictures. It is, however, very different when you get to your final year of school, SENIOR YEAR! Senior pictures, in this case called portraits, are very important to seniors since this is their last time taking a school picture. Senior portraits are one of the best ways to commemorate all that the student has done so far in their life and is also a way to celebrate all the things the future has in store for them. Another thing is that Senior Portraits are a tradition dating all the way back to World War II, and according to Wikipedia, possibly all the way back to 1880! Before taking Senior Portraits, there is a lot of preparation that is involved. Looking extra nice for the final picture is what takes the most effort. I interviewed some of my friends about why taking a senior portrait is so important to them, what their own definition of a Senior Portrait is, and their experiences of trying to look their very best! Campbell Ruffhead shared her thoughts on Senior Portraits. "I want myself and others to look back on our senior year and use our portraits to remember the great times we had throughout high school," she said. "I would define a senior portrait as a picture to define yourself. I was definitely a little stressed when I was planning on what to wear for my portrait because I wanted it to be perfect." Tia Patel offered a similar opinion as she said, "Taking my senior portraits is important to me because they're the last official pictures I'm taking to mark my graduation. To me the definition of a Senior Portrait is growing and to see how much you've changed and grown over the course of four years." Ayden Kosmides added, "I would say from a girls' point of view it was a little stressful because you try to perfect your hairs, you wear makeup and put jewelry on to get that perfect look," she explained. "It's special to me because it's the picture that everyone will see when they look at me in the yearbook, and it's a picture I can show my children and tell them stories about senior year. My definition of a senior portrait is a picture that recaps the high school experience. It was definitely stressful to try to get myself to look my best, but once I got to the pictures, they helped me with my hair and body placement, and I felt more comfortable."

Many of you now might be assuming that getting ready for Senior Portraits requires a good amount of work to do. It is something that stands out when looking back at it, reminiscing about your senior year! You might also think it's just an everyday school photo, but when you get to your senior year, it's more than that!

"You have 5 minutes left." — Students Feel the Pressure of Timed Tests

By Kierra Richardson

The critical 40 minutes of a test brings me the butterflies, from sitting outside of the classroom studying your paper before you walk in, running over your flash cards like you're in a play behind the stage running your lines.

A high school girl shows disappointment and frustration from trying to complete a test where she doesn't know the answers. Photo from thedoilyallergen.com

Our students do all these things for 40 minutes of their life and call it the most important in life. Standardized tests analyze how much information students have taken in about a school subject.

School systems usually use the results from these tests for their classes in the future or to help teachers develop better ways to teach specific material to students in each subject area, such as reading, math, language skills, spelling, or science.

The world's obsession with testing has made our children pay the price with things like anxiety or depression which is leading to failing grades. "Testing low affects my mood because I know that one bad test will affect my overall grade or what class I take," said sophomore Tiara Cheathon. The average American student takes about ten test per year which can be overwhelming for our students, just as they think one is over, another one pops up. Not every student who excels in the classroom may perform well on tests due to anxiety, test format, personal issues, etc.

Some argue that standardized testing only benefits the students who are good at taking tests, and the exams have no meaningful measure for students' actual cognitive ability. Experts have repeatedly warn that using these scores can be harmful, as research shows that the test scores were linked to socio-economic factors and not predictive of college success, despite counter statements by the College Board and ACT Inc.

As the pandemic hit the world, it set back many students and changed the way they learn. Getting back into school full-time this year for students is tough because they aren't used to this routine, not to mention wearing a mask all day. Many students have said that when they start a test they are hit with symptoms like tiredness, loss of memory, etc.

Others argue for standardized testing being a benefit for lower class students. Standardized tests can level the playing field for low-income and rural students by giving them the chance to score high and receive academic scholarships. Research has proven that tests are indicative of outcomes for college success. Testing has benefits of seeking out gifted students who lack privilege, but we must remember that not everyone is a test taker.

Certainly, 30-40 minutes has proven to be not enough time for every student. When taking a timed test, it rushes students' answers because it takes their attention away from the actual test. "I am more concerned with getting the answers right then learning," said freshman Nyla Moultrie. The grading of a test has become more important to the students than actually knowing the material.

Teaching and Learning: It's about Working Hard

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

Mr. C passing out classwork

Every high schooler, as they advance to the highest-grade, encounters a time that will help them get an idea of what career they want to have. U.S Government and History teacher Mr. Carreras, who was been at Franklin High for 2 years now, had his fair share of a struggle that brought him where he is today. "I have wanted to teach since I was a high schooler but I did change my major a few times in college," said Mr. C. He had obtained a major in Economics by learning for 2 years in a federal government agency, for which he was very interested in working. Like any other profession, being a teacher is no easy task, and talent for it can be an aid but is not necessary. "Teachers are constantly growing, and it is always a challenge to engage students," said Mr. C, "so I always look to improve upon that." Teachers embrace a talent such as communication within the school environment in order to work efficiently. "I love interacting with people and had so many teachers who helped me realize my potential in high school," said Mr. C. He believes that it is important for students to have positive role models at school and home. Role models that give motivation help anyone to make a decision when in a struggle. Not only that but life experiences too. "Applying for college and being a first-generation college student certainly encouraged me to be an educator," said Mr. Carreras. As he worked hard and gained confidence in his situation, he learned that he has potential and stayed confident with himself. Now as a teacher, he likes to advise students: "Your only limit is yourself-dream big." High School might be a tough point, but college is even tougher. As a teacher that will be there for you, Mr. Carreras invites students to work hard to achieve whatever you put your mind to.

Mr. C explaining the class

Striving In Structure, the Alec Nahum Story

By Ronald Edmund Jr.

Do you know what Lebron James, and Ronald Acuna Jr. have in common?

Both strive in structure. Junior Alec Nahum says the structure of his household and daily life is what allows him to strive in school, sports, and extracurriculars, and manage all these tasks. Alec says, "my parents give me everything I need, so I just have to focus on school and sports." Alec is grateful for his parents for providing necessary resources like sports equipment and nourishment so he can focus on what is important for his success. "I feel like it is mandatary for me to work hard in school and sports because of all of the sacrifices my parents have made for me."

Alec says his success in school is due to his natural ability to analyze problems, and how he manages his schedule. Classes like AP Economics and US History have a very linear way of problem solving so it makes sense someone with an analytical mind like his can thrive in those classes. Alec spends around 2 hours a day doing homework, and on days with lighter homework amounts, he uses that allotted time to get ahead in his other classes, College Algebra and AP Physics being the ones he prepares the most for. Alec does his best to study in small increments in advance before tests, so he never has to cram the night before and stress himself out. He tells me he recently pulled a 96 on his College Algebra test.

Alec for his whole life has been in love with sports and has played baseball for over a decade now. He uses his analytical mind to remember the meanings of all the advanced stats in baseball while watching his favorite MLB team the Orioles. He practices baseball multiple times a week, year-round. Alec says, "it gets busy, but it never gets old because it's something I love to do." His striving in structure applies to both the educational and recreational aspects of his life. Alec will be making his varsity debut this season for FHS and is excited for the upcoming season.

Alec values his downtime at the end of the day and uses it as relaxation, so he doesn't feel overworked. In Alec's downtime, he plays videogames, his two favorites being *Apex Legends* and *Rocket League*. Alec wants people to learn from his story that with a balanced schedule and hard work you will achieve a balance of fun and work which keeps you stress free.

Junior Alec Nahum

Introducing One of Franklin's Newest Teachers - Mr. Allan

By Lindsay Adjei

Afterschool, I went to visit Mr. Allan's room. The hallway was nice, settled and quiet as I went to his room for our interview. His classroom had a kind atmosphere with bubbly handwriting decorating the board. Mr. Allan is one of our new teachers at Franklin who teaches 9th and 10th grade chemistry. He's coached badminton and has become a mentor for many at Franklin.

"I used to be really quiet when I started high school; the very first day I didn't say a single word," said Mr. Allan. "It wasn't until the end of the even my sophomore year that I actually started to talk. From then I've become someone who's talked for a living." Mr. Allan had started our interview with some things he wanted students to know about him and wanted them to know that even though high school can be a defining factor in their lives, they still have room to grow and change. Throughout the interview he gave me a lot of advice and was an overall good role model which is something he said he looked forward to during teaching.

He also coached badminton. One of Mr. Allan's players mentioned that he really pushed the team to be our best and try as hard as we could to win. Practices were really fun and inventive, and Mr. Allan made it a great final year for the seniors. He was always engaged with team members and made sure to make practice lively and connect with us a lot.

Picture of a badminton racket and 2 birdies. Picture from pikin.com

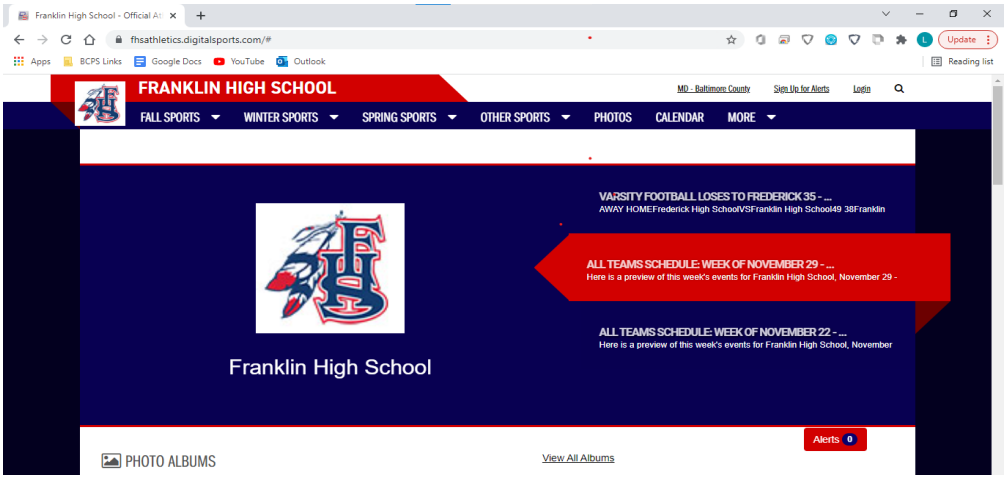
He started teaching because he loved to educate people, though at first he wanted to become a neurosurgeon. "I found that I liked the actual act of making people understand the stuff I was teaching them was better than the fancy techniques and medical stuff I was learning." said Mr. Allan. From then he decided to commit to becoming a teacher and an educator. All of his students that I've talked to have said that he's a great teacher that really cares about his students.

Mr. Allan is also a fan of video games and horror movies. "There's just something about being powerful and having a videogame that lets you fully see that," said Mr. Allan. He plays *2k* and *warzone* but Mr. Allan's favorite game is infamous on PlayStation. He liked what it feels like to be someone else, have a video game fully realize that for you. Mr. Allan gave me some great horror movie recommendations and said that he liked how much the genre could explore.

One of the integral parts of his life is basketball. "Basketball had always been something I've loved... I used to skip class or leave right after to go straight to the gym/courts and play," Mr. Allan explained. His love for basketball started in high school and continued through college, and he still plays basketball today.

Picture of students playing basketball. Picture from mcasiwakuni.marines.mil

Overall, I think that Mr. Allan is a great teacher who really cares for his students and those he works with at Franklin and is a great addition to the staff. All are welcome to visit at room 203 on the second floor of the South building.



Interested in sports at Franklin? Check out our sports website for more information regarding sports and other extracurriculars! fhsathletics.digitalsports.com

A Look into One of Franklin's Newest Teachers

By Laila Roodbari

Adapting to a new school can be a change that many students are faced with, but not only just students, teachers as well. Franklin has many teachers, from those that have been here for many years or some who have may have recently joined us. We may know some of the new teachers just by their names, but do we know them personally?

Mrs. Brown with Franklin's volleyball team

Around 2 years ago, Franklin gained another member of our community, Mrs. Brown. She is a very friendly person and has interesting hobbies outside of school such as kickboxing, sports, and working out.

Mrs. Brown teaches a variety of subjects. From solving math problems, to making robots move, she teaches pre-college math, computer science standard and AP, and she is also the coach of our volleyball team.

What Mrs. Brown enjoys most about her classes is watching students progress and grow. "My highlights about my computer science classes are watching students learn how to code for the first time and seeing how excited they get when they are able to make websites, games, apps, and more on their own," Mrs. Brown states. "For my math classes, I only teach seniors, so getting to hear about their post-high school endeavors always makes class enjoyable."

Overall, Mrs. Brown has had a very positive experience working here at Franklin. "I love it!" Mrs. Brown claims. "My coworkers are great, and the kids are fun. I enjoy most getting to know my students."

Of course, there are always going to be cons along with any pros when it comes to starting something new. So, Mrs. Brown has delt with some minor struggles when she first started teaching such as time management. "I would stay here super late to make lesson plans, and I just had no idea how to make them effectively," Mrs. Brown explains. But she did not let this get in her way. Instead, she overcame this by separating her school life with her personal life, which is advice she would give to any new teachers. "Ask for help whenever you need it and enjoy your life outside of school. Don't spend too much time doing school stuff at home," she explained.

Teachers are not only just educators, but they are people too, who have their own lives outside of school. They have hobbies, interests, family, and friends just like us students. It's important to understand this so that students can build a better connection with their teachers, instead of just feeling like teachers are only here for strictly providing work.

Establishing this connection builds trust and a better relationship with students and their teachers, which also may give the benefit of motivating a student to do good in their class. So don't be afraid to get to know your teachers, especially Mrs. Brown! She is very open and loves to talk to students about other things going on in their lives besides school. There is plenty more to learn about Mrs. Brown as the year goes on and many more to come! This is only the beginning of her adventure here at FHS.

Mrs. Brown with former Principal McCusker, winning teacher of the month in the 2019-2020 school year.

A Profile of Ms. Scannell

By Jaida March

Ms. Scannell is an English & AVID teacher who has taught here for 5 years. She enjoys Franklin's students and her coworkers. She graduated from Towson University and just finished grad school earlier this year. She enjoys golf, SGA, reading, and traveling (She is going to Mexico).

This is a story of how she ended up going to Towson. She struggled with choosing what colleges to go to. When she was 18 in her last year of high school in New Jersey, "I only applied to two schools, which limited how many colleges I went to," said Ms. Scannell. This was because of the need for money & scholarships. "I got through it with the support of family and teachers," Ms. Scannell explained. "I learned that you could make the best out of a not-so-good situation."

Her advice to students who are going through the same thing. "I'd say to not limit yourself and look beyond. A long-lasting impact is I learned more about myself."

Towson University logo and mascot. Image from Towson.edu

Thoughts upon Ms. Scannell from her AVID students

"She helps me get to know what colleges would suit me best and to know what college I want to go to," said Dominick Romano. "Which had a long-lasting impact on me. I liked her college selection lessons helped narrow down what type of colleges to apply to. Ms. Scannell made me think about how not just your SAT scores affect what school you go to. Your GPA is important."

"She teaches more about colleges, rather than classic kind of teaching (art, literature, math)," junior Camila AVID student explained. "She informs about colleges and what colleges you'd want to go to in the future. She helps you see what kind of college you for sure want to go to. She focused on the college location and size, instead of major. She also helps me look at some majors to go into."

"Her lessons help to narrow down college selection choices. She gives lessons that help students find colleges that might match their respective criteria when it comes to what they believe a college should have," said junior Joan, AVID student. "Yes, in the long run, it will help me make better choices and be more decisive regarding selecting colleges."

A Look into Junior Sarah Logwood

By Brady Davidson

Sara is a 17-year-old junior who attends Franklin High. She has recently been struggling with the adjustment from virtual to in-person. Sara has loved in-person school in the past and still loves some aspects. She has always liked the social part of school, from talking to friends to learning with teachers. Although she acknowledges the benefits, she has to note the dramatic change to school the pandemic caused.

"School doesn't feel the same. It feels less interactive," she said in an interview. "I feel like the teachers don't work with the students as much, and it's causing people to fall behind." Sara has slowly adjusted to this less interactive way of learning. To readjust she had to do a lot of work outside of school. She told me it was extremely overwhelming, but the feeling of getting some of the work done was accomplishing and relieving.

Sara has told me about her love for drawing. She uses things like art to relax her, and art allows her to have a second to calm herself. "Studio practice is definitely my favorite class. I dedicate a lot of my time in school to work on my art," Sara expressed. Sara is in the AP art class and loves to push herself. She specializes in photo-realism and pen. "I really like my favorite teachers Ms. Shuman and Ms. Campbell. I feel like they have gotten me to really improve my artistic ability," Sara said about Franklin's art teachers.

Sara doesn't participate in any extracurricular activities, instead she enjoys practicing the guitar. "I've been playing the guitar for about 3 years. It's probably my favorite thing to do outside of school. It's gotten me through some rough times," Sara explained. "I also really love watching movies after school. It relaxes me after a day of working," said Sara.

The new quarter gives a lot of students a fresh start for grades. Sara had this to say on the new quarter, "I've been making sure to keep up with my work, and when I do miss work I don't let it pile up. This new quarter has really encouraged me to do better," Sara said. Sara has really started to see improvement because of this. Hopefully this will lead to a successful school year for Sara Logwood.

A Different Perspective of Teaching

By Matt Luniewski

Teaching is a very demanding job, so getting a perspective of what teaching is like through the eyes of a teacher gives us a unique viewpoint of what goes into being a teacher as well as how that position as a teacher reflects their daily life outside of the classroom. When thinking of the best teacher to give me this insight, I immediately thought of Mr. Showalter. He is an English teacher who has been teaching for over 20 years and has spent much of his career at Franklin High School.

Mr. Showalter's classroom is decorated with vintage art, particularly velvet paintings, that he has collected over the years.

When asked why he chose to become a teacher, Mr. Showalter said that it always just felt like it was what he was supposed to do. He always enjoyed helping people on his own time even before he became a teacher so teaching just become sort of second nature for him. Helping people through teaching was something he felt pride in but also enjoyed for the social element of it, so becoming a teacher is what felt only natural. However, even though teaching came naturally to him, he believes that teaching students the material is only half of the job.

The second half of the job is not always apparent to students as some see teachers only as people who teach instead of people. This other half of the teaching is the connection between the students which Mr. Showalter values and stresses immensely. To him, the relation between teacher and student shouldn't be valued over the actual teaching, but it should still be recognized as fundamental to creating a positive and productive work environment. "The reason I teach high schoolers, or rather 10th, 11th, and 12th, instead of middle or elementary school students is because of their maturity level. Because they're close to adulthood, it is much easier to make a connection with them, and in turn support their learning experience." Mr. Showalter describes this way of teaching by explaining his distaste in distant, formal relations between teachers and students, saying that he would never want to be called 'sir' by a student but would also never want to be called by his first name. Instead, he aims towards an almost mutual treatment of formality between teacher and student with clear boundaries. "Treating students as people makes student's outlook of their education much more positive, and it also makes my job more interesting," stated Mr. Showalter. "By being able to have conversations where both me and the student learn, it keeps my life refreshed and is basically why I do what I do." He made it certain that he really tries to avoid the mentality of being the teacher who has all the answers because he recognizes that no one does. Alternatively, he tries to make it apparent to his classes that he understands this and is open to conversing with and learning from students as it is ultimately why he teaches.

Him being a teacher reflects in his day-to-day life outside of school, especially in being a father. He explained how students fail to see that he is a person too who has hobbies like hiking, reading, working on his house and his motorcycles. While he enjoys all this, he still refreshes through his conversation with students. Through this held value of a mentor figure and the student, he found himself as a father benefitting by understanding the importance of a connection outside of being a mentor.

Hopefully this interview into what Mr. Showalter believes being a teacher means helps put it into perspective for students the passion teachers have for doing what they do, even outside of just teaching.

Virgil Abloh and His Legacy

By Naza Nnagbo

Virgil Abloh was the first African American to be an artistic director at a French luxury fashion house in 2018 Louis Vuitton menswear. He was also the founder of Off-White, running for 9 years, since 2012, with headquarters in Milan, Italy, and over 40 locations. Abloh studied engineering and architecture and came to fashion with the help of Fendi.

Virgil Abloh commissioned this statue of himself on the runway in Miami spring/summer 2022

Abloh died with a rare cancer at the age of 41, leaving an adoring wife Shannon Abloh, his children Lowe Abloh and Grey Abloh, his younger sister Edwina Abloh and parents Nee and Eunice Abloh. He gained even more popularity than he already had in the last decade with the rise of grand streetwear.

Streetwear is a staple in many people's closet. Do you ever contribute to the streetwear casual look? "Yea, I often wear so called streetwear for lounging around or maybe running errands," sophomore Kylie Leeks responded. Streetwear could include a flannel, huge sweaters, fitted sweatpants, sneakers, and straight fit jeans.

Long time friend of Virgil Abloh, Kid Cudi on the runway spring/summer 202

Abloh was honored in Miami at the Louis Vuitton spring/summer 2022 show. As stated by Elle, the show began with a clip of a young boy riding a bicycle arriving at the beach. In time a giant red hot air balloon decorated with the LV logo appears, and it then cuts to night time in Abloh's voice.

"I've been focused, in terms of my art and creativity, on getting adults to behave like children again. That they go back into this sense of wonderment. They start to stop using their mind, and they start using their imagination." Then came the clothing, collaboration with Nike, Abloh's signature casual-cool and the obvious "childlike wonderment," said longtime friend of Abloh, Kid Cudi.

"I usually wear sweatshirts and leggings time and time again because it's comfortable and when styled correctly it can fit the setting and mood of that day," said sophomore Isabel Nunez on a category of clothing she wears most of the time.

LV hot air balloon before the show started

Dapper Dan, an American fashion designer who is best known for logo design and textile printing says Kanye West is a good idea to fill Virgil's shoes. West and Abloh had been friends for over a decade when he went to the memorial in Miami to honor the fashion icon.

Caves and Cliffs: Looking Inside Minecraft's New Update

By Mariana Noyola-Hernandez

The official promo image of part 1

Minecraft, home to only four cornered shapes, has been filled with endless creations built by many people around the world since 2011. This online sandbox game was created by Mojang, a Swedish game developer company. In the recent year, Minecraft released a two-part update that was to deliver a change to the terrain perspective of the game which was given the name of Caves and Cliffs. The first part was released on June 8th, and five months later the second was released on November 30th. In a Q&A, Minecraft's help center had responded that the decision of releasing the update into two parts was to give extra time to the developers as they completed its final touches. Five months just for extra time would seem accurate, but it was also said that due to the pandemic, the developers had to work from their homes, a place where many distractions can be found rather than an office. A game as large and complex as *Minecraft* requires much coding and attention to detail because even after it was released its developers continued to work on getting rid of game bugs. Even though the game was released on time, in it was found to have a security weakness that can affect the online servers. In order to be resolved, developers had to close and rest the game. This issue could have been avoided if the update was launched a little bit after the coming of the new year even if it meant making fans displeased. In the first part of this new update, the features added were cute and fun mobs which were goats and axolotls. Cool new items such as a telescope as well as new blocks and ores were included too. These new ores and blocks have not disappointed but neither quite creates enthusiasm. As for the new items and mobs, they have proven to be useful and interesting, but in this category, a special mob that was to be included called the warden has been postponed for the next update. The addition of Warden could have made this new update much more interesting and most appreciated. In the second part of the update, the changes occurred by increasing the world height, transforming mountains and caves, and the addition of the most notorious new biomes like the lush caves and the deep dark. Unlike the first part of the update which only captured attention from its new additions, the terrain transformation definitely showed that a difference was made. If fans thought that the caves and cliffs within the *Minecraft* world played with our sense of direction, this new update brings it to a different level.

Image includes the new features added

An Old Beloved Doll Line Could be Rising from the Dead

By Tina Tran

Made by the same company that produces Barbie, Mattel released their new doll line, Monster High to the toy market in early July 2010. This release showcased the first signature dolls: Frankie Stein, Draculaura, Clawdeen Wolf, Cleo de Nile, Deuce Gorgon, and Lagoona Blue.

The first six dolls were well received with their unique fashion.

Originally, Monster High started off with their web series of short animations of the doll Frankie Stein starting at her new school called Monster High and her journey on making new friends. The first episode was released on May 10, 2010.

The online web-series consisted of 186 episodes. Each episode was 2 minutes long and followed the daily life of Frankie Stein.

Many kids in 2010s owned at least one doll from the series; they were one of the most popular doll lines aside from Disney princesses.

"I had a couple. I remember having Lagoona and a Draculara," senior Darcy Johnson exclaimed. The doll line promoted the messages that everyone shouldn't be afraid to express themselves and how no one is alike and individuals are special in their own way.

While the show and doll line were very popular, Disney withdrew their partnering contract in 2016, citing many complaints from parents claiming that the dolls faces were "too scary." At this time, Mattel was not only producing the Disney dolls, but also their own Barbie dolls, Monster High, and their other series, Every After High. Since the majority of Mattel's budget came from their partnership with Disney, and since Disney felt like their dolls were being neglected, Disney withdrew from the partnership, and the budget for doll productions was cut.

Due to all the criticism and the budget cut, the dolls' quality dropped. Mattel introduced the reboot of the Monster High doll, and people were not happy. The clothes were not molded onto the body and were simpler compared to their old outfits. The face sculpt was also changed and the dolls now have bigger round eyes and softer cheekbones.

"I'm not very fond of the reboot. I know that brands are always trying to stay afloat in the toy industry, but rebrands are not always the way to do this," sophomore Patricia Alegria states. "Especially with the classic like Monster High, people would have been fine with the original designs. Similar with the face sculpt, the changes in the reboot just make the brand's image unfamiliar."

Monster High official stopped producing dolls in 2018 and made their last Instagram post on March 8, 2018. It was not until the beginning of 2021

The reboot fist premiered with a movie which did not get a lot of good feedback. They then released the doll which was completely different and cheaper looking.

when people speculated that they were going to have a comeback, but no news was heard for months. On March 22, 2021 Monster High made an Instagram post that reads "When the fan love is giving you life" with the caption "Monster High' 22. Stay tuned for the skulltimate reveal! Keep your eyes peeled for sneak peek content, surprise drops, and lots of ghouly fun along the way." Since that post, Monster High's Instagram has been posting more, with sneak peaks and reposting fan art.

Many fans are excited for the comeback of Monster High, hoping that it will bring back the childhood magic it once had but for the new generation to enjoy as well. "I'm excited to see what future idea they will have, the quality of the doll, and the outfits!" sophomore Kay exclaimed.

"I'm quite surprised but am excited and think it's cool," freshman Nancy Argueta said.

The Gazette Extra

Walking in a Winter Wonderland

By Dannah Tinio

"A beautiful sight we're happy tonight…" is nothing but a true statement thought in many elementary, middle, and high school students' heads. On snow days, breaks are finally given to students from their daily 7-hour school routine. But for some students, it's no break, as they'll try to be as productive as possible throughout the day off. Are snow days something all students look forward to?

Wishing all teachers and students a lovely winter!

There are many different perspectives of having a day off from school: some would want school open to see their friends, some would want school to continue learning, and some would just want the day off to relax. A perfect example of this comes from junior Xavier Shedrick. He expressed how he always looks forward to snow days because of the day off. "It opens up a lot of free time that I would rarely have in my normal routine, and there's a chill vibe outside which always puts me in a good mood." I'm sure plenty of students feel this way too! Going into the free time students have available, Xavier said he tries to be as productive as possible but tends to take more breaks. This makes sense as students have the luxury of being home with no set responsibility over their heads. Junior Sam Kinstlinger, on the other hand, talked about how on snow days he has more time to do his own activities such as programming and working, giving him more knowledge than he would have. "I finish all of my school work and study." Something students may relate to… or not.

Regarding the 2020-2021 school year, snow days were nonexistent. Virtual school was still in session regardless of whether or not it was snowing outside due to everything being online. "I wished I was outside playing in the snow with my friends," Sam stated.

Good luck to all student athletes participating in winter sports!

Although there are many good things that come with snow days, the days do get added on to the end of the year. Students don't worry too much about this though. "I don't really worry about the added days because by the end of the school year, students, as well as teachers, are exhausted and don't end up doing too much work," said Xavier. Sam didn't mind either!

Depending on the student, snow days end up being productive, or they end up being complete breaks! Overall, they're seen as good things brought into our school life.

The Gazette Editors:

Logan Dubel, News & Managing Editor
Simone Tillman, Features and Entertainment Editor
Kierra Richardson, Sports, Entertainment, and Social Media Editor
Lindsay Adjei, Business Manager, Social Media Editor, Copy Editor
Ms. Hodskins, Advisor and Editor-in-Chief

Thanks to Gazette Staff Writers and Contributors:

Lindsay Adjei, Kylie Beveridge, Gavin Burris, Noelle Cheeves, Brady Davidson, Fiona Durante, Noah Eaton, Ronald Edmund, Kevin Folgar, Rachael Harbus, Genesis Iglesias, Aryaan Khan, Matthew Luniewski, Jaida March, Jayden McClung, Chinaza Nnagbo, Mariana Noyola-Hernandez, Kierra Richardson, Laila Roodbari, Peach Schulman, Dannah Tinio, Tina Tran, Desean Walker, and Raul Williams.