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TIM TALKS: TIMOTHY LEONARD AND HIS HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Written by Abigail Gatdula

Edited by Jaidan Koudelka

You might see him in the halls: a tall figure, head peeking out from the crowd. You might also see him on the court playing basketball or on the field playing football. However, somewhere where you'd see him really shine is on the stage. Whether he's playing the bass in orchestra or percussion in band, you may catch a glimpse of him in the back with a smile across his face. *The Survey* spoke with senior Timothy Leonard, who reminisced over his high school career and discussed his future plans.

While Leonard is quite the charming comedian, his high school portfolio is extremely outstanding. He has an impactful presence in the Warwick community. He actively participates in a broad number of clubs, including Studio Music Club, Wire Choir, Guitar Club, and Jazz Band. He's also involved in sports, such as our varsity basketball and football teams. As for his electives, Leonard partakes in honors Wind Ensemble and honors Chamber Orchestra.

As the graduation date is steadily approaching, it's time for seniors to consider what college to go to and begin prepping for their futures. Leonard, inspired by his parents who are both musicians, is planning to study music.

Musician, athlete, songwriter, Timothy Leonard, has a myriad of accomplishments which adds to

recent scholarships he had received for William Paterson and Ithaca University, his top two choice contenders. "I'm very blessed, and it's making my decision a lot harder," Leonard confided. He has committed to William Paterson University and will attend in the fall of 2022.

While Leonard may be impressive, he had to work hard to establish his success. He shared, "I was failing class...I studied my way through and ended up getting academic scholarships." He said that he likes to create a schedule for himself each day and advises students to look to YouTube for academic help.

In the future, Leonard is contemplating becoming a music educator, much like his mother, Ms. Maynard, the Warwick Valley High School orchestra director. He hopes to give children the gift of music and teach them how music can help them in all aspects in life, whether it be for fun, therapy, or "getting your math grades up," he jokes.

Leonard has contributed tons to the Warwick Valley district, and in turn the schools have aided him on his path to success. Leonard tells *The Survey*, "Warwick is an amazing place; it really helps foster the art program. Music helped [and] inspired me to be who I am today."



Photos: Courtesy of the Leonard and Maynard family

ALL ABOUT JAZZ

WRITTEN BY MOLLY HEWITT AND PHOEBE PADDOCK, STAFF WRITERS

EDITED BY LENA JODRY, STAFF WRITER

The History Of Jazz

Though it may not be to everyone's taste, jazz is one of the most impressive types of music that is unlike any other form. It is a style that, when a song is covered, is rarely ever exactly the same as the original version. It first started in the U.S. in the early 1900s and was created with dancing movement in mind, as it is very rhythmic and uses the blues scale. Because it started becoming popular throughout the U.S, the first recordings of jazz were made in 1917. Some of the most well known jazz singers are Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Roy Eldridge. After its initial discovery, new types of jazz developed, including swing, bebop, Latin jazz, cool jazz, and many more. Since there are so many types of jazz, the music can elicit a wide variety of emotions. Some songs can make you feel sad while others make you want to dance! The lyrics also send good messages, including "sounds of freedom." This was notably seen as a powerful voice for those who were suffering from unfair treatment because of the color of their skin or because they lived somewhere with a cruel dictator. With such a rich history, many schools across the country incorporate jazz programs into their curriculums. Here in Warwick, we happen to be lucky enough for our school to provide this opportunity of a jazz choir for students who are interested in this music history.

A Look Into Jazz Choir

Jazz choir usually meets every Monday and Friday at 11:00 during lunch. It is run by Kyle Gutierrez with musical accompaniment by Ms. Hanson. We work on learning a jazz song with the intention of performing it at our music department concerts. In an average rehearsal, we start with warmups, which consist of singing up and down the blues scale and sometimes some scatting practice. Scatting is when someone sings using imitation noises instead of words. It can be hard for a lot of people because there isn't a wrong way to do it, and for some that could be intimidating. Practicing helps us become more comfortable and improve our performance in the end.

After warmups, we begin learning the song by singing together. This year, we have sung many different songs including "Autumn Leaves" (Joseph Kosma), "Fly Me To The Moon" (Bart Howard), and "Chattanooga Choo Choo" (Mack Gordon). Many of the students in the Jazz choir also participate in other music classes, so we are able to get through music pretty quickly because of their other singing experience. We also practice our Jazz All County/ NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) music with Ms. Hanson and prepare for the events. It's a very fun and loving club where everyone gets along with each other. The Jazz choir currently consists of about twenty people, including Kyle Gutierrez. Kyle became President of Jazz Choir after his predecessor, Geoffrey Hall. We decided to ask him about Jazz Choir, and this is what he had to say:

What inspired you to keep the Jazz Choir going/ take over for Geoffrey?

"When I was a freshman, we didn't really have the Jazz Choir, and it was kind of boring. But when I was a sophomore, resident jazz man Geoffrey Hall started to run Jazz Choir, and it was a great time."

What is your opinion on Jazz music?

"Jazz music is actually really fun to sing. Many people have reserved opinions about jazz and don't like it, but singing it is really fun, especially in a group because there's a great vibe. You're all singing and dancing around and just 'Doo Bah Doo-ing' and having a good time."

How does Jazz All-County connect to Jazz Choir?

"Jazz All-County especially is a good time. It's much more fun than regular All-County. Jazz choir is a chance to practice for All-County."

How did COVID affect the Jazz Choir?

"Last year, nothing really happened. There was nothing you could do about it [because] there was a pandemic. This year though, Ms. Hanson asked me if I wanted to run the Jazz Choir, and I said I'd love to run Jazz Choir and take over for Geoffrey."

Do you think Jazz Choir should be more well known in this high school?

"We are not desperate for members, but I think there's a lot of stigma behind jazz, so that's why a lot of people don't do it. I think they need to just get over it! Jazz is cool and people need to realize that it's actually a lot of fun. Jazz is also the building blocks for rock and roll, and rap music, and a lot of other music types people today still enjoy. END THE STIGMA BEHIND JAZZ!"



Kyle Gutierrez - Courtesy of Warwick Valley Central School District

Some people see Jazz Choir or just jazz in general as atypical. Jazz is a very fun and chill style of music that you are able to make your own and do what you like with it, especially when you scat. It is clear that jazz still influences our society today by not only developing and furthering our culture but by creating a medium for which students can interact with their past. The love for music still runs strong today, and we hope that our society continues to nourish it well into the future.

WVHS Presents... Little Shop of Horrors!

Lena Jodry, Staff Writer

Edited by Molly Hewitt

After the success of the Warwick Valley High School Drama Club's fall play, *Suite Surrender*, they were back at it again with their musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. Directed by Mr. Nick DiLeo, an English teacher at the high school, *Little Shop of Horrors* is a classic musical that captured the hearts of all who saw it. This musical is about Seymour Krelborn, a down-on-his-luck florist, who buys a unique plant. He discovers that the only way to feed the plant is with human flesh and blood. Because the plant grows to an enormous size, it attracts more business to the shop, leaving Seymour to face a harrowing decision: Should he continue to feed the plant, or should he go back to the way life used to be? It is a comedic horror musical that makes you ask the question, how much would you be willing to do for success? The cast of *Little Shop of Horrors* worked tirelessly for 12 weeks to bring this story to life.

One of the remarkable cast members was senior Natalie Kitchin who played Audrey, Seymour's love interest. Natalie, the vice president of the Drama Club, had a lot to say about her experience: "Through my four years in Drama Club, I have met some of the best people in my life and I've been able to grow as a performer. I was glad to have been able to continue Drama Club through quarantine; it gave me an outlet during a tough time. I'm going to miss putting on shows on the high school stage but I'm also excited for what comes next."

Many members of the cast are seniors this year, so while performing the show was exciting, it was also a bittersweet experience as this was their last time performing on the high school stage. However, it was a great way to end it, coming back for the first Drama Club production since 2019's *Mamma Mia!* without limited seating and without masks. It was exciting for many members of the community to return to the high school to see a show.

Mr. DiLeo was overjoyed with this year's musical. Here's what he had to say about it: "Directing *Little Shop of Horrors* for my third time was very enjoyable! I had a great cast this year who worked hard to create a wonderful musical for our audiences. In addition to a stellar cast, we had great sets made by the WVHS set design class, [and] the Audrey 2 puppets were made by local artists. [There were also] terrific costumes for everyone to wear. A favorite moment, among many, will always be the plant people at the end who gave our audiences a scare during the final number. It was creepy and fun at the same time! I'm proud of every aspect of this production!"

The costumes, set, engaging audience, and of course all of the hard work by the cast and crew lead to a very successful production that no one will forget for a long time to come. If you were not able to attend this year's musical, don't worry, because there will be more productions next year, which will be announced at a later date. Bravo to the cast and crew of *Little Shop of Horrors* on a job well done!

Life from the Perspective of the Other Side of the Coin



From the time that we are children some of us dream of being successful athletes. Climbing to the sky high heights of the top leagues of our favorite sports is a long journey, and one that many people give up on at the flip of a coin. One person who is making immense progress on his own journey is Aden Razukiewicz (Raz-uh-kay-vich). Aden, known as “Raz” to his classmates, is a soccer goalie, plying his trade to Warwick’s varsity boys soccer team since he was a freshman. In the 2021 season, following three seasons of making the playoffs but failing to go all the way, Raz and his teammates were finally able to win the Section 9 Title in his senior year. Raz is currently still finishing his senior year at Warwick Valley High School, but he has recently committed to Hartwick College to play for their Division III Boys Soccer team. We were pleased to interview this figure of the student body, and this is what he had to say.

Q: What inspired you to start playing soccer?

A: When I was a kid, I was a big fan of sports in general, so I wanted to figure out what sport I wanted to play. [Then] I met my hero Tim Howard, and...I knew I wanted to play it. Playing soccer gets me through a lot of stress and anxiety and helps me stay motivated.

Q: What’s the biggest challenge you have faced as a goalie?

A: Being a goalie is a very hard spot because everyone relies on you. If you mess up you feel like you messed up the whole game; you are the last one standing so it is very stressful and emotional.

Q: What was the lowest of the lows in your soccer career, and how did you come back from it?

A: When I was younger, I was always on the losing team; then I finally joined S.P.A (Soccer Plus Academy) which was my gateway out of losing teams. After that I kept winning and getting on to the big leagues, climbing up the ranks.

Q: What schools were you looking at and why, and what schools were looking at you?

A: My top five were Plattsburgh, Potsdam, Oswego, Clarkson,

and Springfield. I like the atmosphere, and the soccer teams were all really good. I could have definitely started on Potsdam.

Q: If you could play another sport what would it be?

A: I would play football. I am really fast and athletic, so I could route well and be a solid athlete.

Q: Being a student athlete, what hobbies do you have outside of sports?

A: [I enjoy] Valorant. It is a first person action game. I used to be Iron 1 and now I am Diamond 2 [which are rankings in the] top five percent of people in the game. It helped me get out of a lot of stress in my life, and it motivated me just like soccer. It is a very competitive game and has very promising eSports competition for the future. [In addition,] my friends and I like to hang out a lot of the time, especially on weekends and for get-togethers.

Q: Do you think that you will go pro? And if so, what league are you looking towards joining?

A: I have a dream about [becoming a] MLS pro. In college from D3, if I am amazing, I can transfer to D1, then I can pursue my dreams.

After speaking with student athlete Aden Razukiewicz, we learned more about Raz’s dream of being a professional soccer player. Raz is very passionate and dedicated towards his goals and dreams and the future is certainly bright for this future Warwick Valley High School alumni. In the words of Aden Raz “GO WILDCATS!”

JACK QUINN: JIU JITSU STORY

By Haukken Thompson, Staff Writer and Kieran Currao, Editor

Edited by Rocco Silvis

Brazilian jiu-jitsu may not be well-known among many, but it is an incredible sport and one that senior Jack Quinn wanted to learn about. Our interview with Jack Quinn gave us insight about his experiences in taking lessons for the last three years, along with how he fell in love with the sport.

Q. When did you start doing jiu-jitsu?

A: I started doing Brazilian jiu-jitsu in March 2019.

Q. Why did you start doing it?

A: I wanted to learn how to fight and defend myself. I first looked into kickboxing, but there weren't any local kickboxing gyms. I found Renzo Gracie gym in Warwick, and I decided to do jiu-jitsu.

Q. What belt are you?

A: Blue belt, and it took me two and half years to get this. The journey to getting my blue belt was long and difficult, and it took a lot of dedication.

Q. Are there any tournaments that you've competed in?

A: Yes, I've competed in six so far, and each tournament consists of anywhere from four to six matches.

Q. What's your normal practice schedule?

A: On the weekdays, I usually go from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM. On the weekends, I usually train from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM on Saturdays, and 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM on Sundays.

Q. What would you tell any aspiring Jiu-Jitsu practitioners?

A: Keep showing up because, unfortunately, most people quit. Make sure to always keep an open mind and keep working hard.

Q. Do you do anything that gives back to the gym?

A: I teach two kids' jiu-jitsu classes per week. I want to be able to give back to the sport that I enjoy so much. I never was exposed to Jiu-Jitsu as a young kid and want to show other kids how great it can be. I also aspire to be a teacher in the future, and this is a nice precursor.

Jack Quinn's experiences give us insight into his personal journey, and it can also give people who may be thinking about trying jiu-jitsu a reason to start. We thank Jack for his time and wish him luck as he continues his pursuits.



Photos courtesy of Jack Quinn

SECTION IX CHAMPS

Written by: Kiera Larney, Staff Writer
Edited by: Alexa Borner, Staff Writer

This year the Warwick girls' basketball team made history as we were the first team in over eleven years to make it to the regional championship game. This year's team was coached by an incredible staff of James O'Brien, Meghan Unger, and Deb Girardi. They have put in numerous hours to help us reach our goals, from watching film, to scouting, and even volunteering their time on the weekends to make sure we could be our best. Our season sadly came to an end after a heartbreaking loss against the Corning Hawks. It was a hard fought game and the end result wasn't what we hoped for. Nonetheless, the journey of making it to a regional championship game was a truly incredible experience.



Photo courtesy of Gregory Sirico, Warwick Valley Athletic Director

In order to make it to the regional championship, our team had to obtain a winning record and compete in several games. The first championship game was a section playoff against Newburgh. After this victory, the first of this type since 2008, our team advanced to the section final against Monroe Woodbury. Warwick girls' basketball has a history of falling to Monroe, but we were determined to break the cycle. In the end, our team came out on top, and we were announced Section 9 champions. This was an amazing feeling because all the hard work we had put in was finally paying off, and what made it even more rewarding was that we were able to experience this with teammates who had become family.

After that win, our team was able to compete in the re-

gional playoff game against Ketcham High School. Most Section 9 teams rarely make it past a regional playoff game, but our team had proven that we were more than capable of defeating another strong team. Up to this point, this had been such an incredible journey and we weren't planning on stopping anytime soon. Our next game was scheduled for March 13, 2022, in Binghamton, New York. Although we were all tired and sore, our team was excited because this game would determine which team would be given the opportunity to advance to states. The game was held in the Vision Federal Credit Union Veterans Memorial Arena, a beautiful location that was soon to be filled with all of

our friends and family who came to support us. The first half was a rough start for the Wildcats as we were down 13 points, but that didn't stop us from bouncing back. After halftime, our team pushed through and made an amazing comeback, down by only two points in the last few minutes of the final quarter.

Unfortunately, our season ended after a heartbreaking 54-52 loss. Although we were devastated to have our basketball season come to an end, the experience is something we will forever be grateful for. Reaching the regional Binghamton game was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that most Section 9 teams usually never experience.

A FUTURE IN THE ISRAELI ARMY

By Ally Turner, Staff Writer

Edited by Jenna Fiore, Staff Writer

I had the opportunity to sit down with Warwick Valley High School Senior Yirshalem Pinkus, who is seventeen years old and comes from an Israeli family. Growing up in an Israeli household, she has been exposed to many different aspects of its culture and traditions. Throughout her childhood, Yirsh would go to visit her grandmother in Israel every summer, and has grown to become fluent in both Hebrew and English. Because of this connection, she is preparing to enlist in the Israeli Army. With the support of her mom, who grew up in Israel and joined the army at age 18, Yirsh has been inclined to take on this commitment and responsibility this summer. I wanted to learn more about her plan for joining the Israeli Defensive Forces, so I asked Yirsh a few questions. These were her responses:

Q: What is your motivation for joining the army?

A: I grew up in America [but I was] constantly worrying about the missiles being shot into my country. This motivated me to want to protect Israel, especially since every kid my age there has to join the army, so I think I should do my part too. When I was living in a small village in Israel, I remember waking up and the entire village was quiet, and I just remember not being allowed to go outside and play. I was too young to understand, but I remember asking my mom why everyone was so sad. She told me that a soldier in our community had been shot and killed, and this memory has stuck with me and served as motivation for me to join the army.

Q: What are your plans?

A: If I do decide to draft this summer, I will be drafting with a group called Garin Tzabar, which is a lone soldier support group. Once I move to Israel, I have a three month absorption process, where I start my draft and my job is determined, then I will undergo basic training. My hope is to become a combat counselor, which is basically someone who receives soldiers at the beginning of their training. I would teach them how to become a combat soldier (how to use their gun, etc), and by the end, I will decide if they are ready to go into war or not.

Q: What do you hope to gain from this experience?

A: I hope to gain a feeling of accomplishment, to achieve a higher maturity level, and to feel as though I have done something important and different. Joining the army will also give me a second family and a sense of community, especially because we will all be in the program together and experience the same struggles.

Q: Would you ever move to Israel?

A: Yes, I definitely could see myself moving there. I have so many connections there by culture, friends, and family.

After speaking with Yirsh and her mom, I gained a lot of knowledge about the factors of Israeli culture, specifically the traditional parts of the army process. Yirsh's plan for after high school is unique because she will be traveling to a different country and undergoing many drastic lifestyle changes, unlike most other high school seniors. I am excited to see where the future takes her and to hear about her experiences.

Q: How do you feel about moving away from your family half-way across the world and serving in a foreign army?

A: Of course I feel several different emotions, including fear and anxiety, but also excitement. The army will allow me to visit home for a full month after I serve one full year, which is kind of nerve-wracking to think about.

Q: Do you plan on enlisting in the army right after high school or after college?

A: I know that I definitely want to go at some point. I'm not sure if now is the right time, but I know that if not now, after college will be perfect.

Irit Pinkus, Yirsh's mom, also shared her experiences:

Q: How would you describe your experience?

A: It helped me grow and it allowed me to add something to my country.

Q: What was your job in the Army?

A: I was a teacher for minorities in Israel who serve the army. Since these minorities grow up speaking Arabic, they do not have a great knowledge of Hebrew, so I taught them the language, as well as the history of Israel and the traditional army history. I was their officer for about three months. This was unique because they grew up in a traditional Arabic household, much different from the way I grew up. One major difference was that they were not used to women being able to exercise the same freedoms as I was, so it was strange for them at first to have a female teacher.

Q: What was the most difficult part?

A: The worst part was not being able to come home frequently, but I really didn't mind because I was working so hard and loved and really enjoyed my service. I helped solve so many issues and advocated for other young soldiers.



Photos courtesy of Yirshalem and Irit

Tattoos Of Warwick

Tattoos have been a big part of human culture for thousands of years. The art of painting or altering one's skin to express oneself has been around since ancient times. People would even paint their skin to communicate with each other. Today 145 million Americans have tattoos, with some having just one and others covered from head-to-toe.

Many people's tattoos are symbolic, so I interviewed Warwick Valley High School students to find out whether their tattoos have stories or meanings behind them. The first student I interviewed was senior Nick Simonetta who has a chest tattoo. It is a bible quote from *Isaiah 30:15* that reads, "In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength." Nick explained to me he had gotten this quote for when his father had passed away. He now looks to his tattoo to keep his mind straight and for strength through life.

The second student I interviewed was junior Chase Fogg. Chase has two tattoos, one on his forearm and the other on his side. The tattoo on Chase's arm is of the stars and sun from the Philippines flag, along with the quote, "You are my Sunshine." The stars and sun from the Philippines flag was for his ancestry, while

the quote is his family's saying. Chase's also has a tattoo on his side of a rose, the word "Alonte", and "GG". The rose is for his mother, grandfather, and sister. "Alon-te" is his mom's maiden name, and the "GG" is for Grammie and Grampie.

I also interviewed senior Keifer Rokeach, who has a tattoo on his shoulder. Keifer's tattoo is an American flag. When I asked why, he told me that he really believes in the morals and beliefs that the American flag stands for. Keifer went on to explain to me that he is very patriotic, and after high school he will be joining the army to serve and fight for those beliefs.



The last student I interviewed was junior Skylar Rodriguez. Skylar's tattoo is on his bicep. The tattoo is his cousin's birth date in Roman numerals. Skylar got this tattoo in memorial for his cousin.

Just about all human cultures have a history of tattooing. Today, tattoos can represent something important to people or simply be something they like. In the end, tattoos have been around for thousands of years and will continue to be for many many more years to come.

Written by Luke Hammel
Edited by Charlie Figueroa

THE RED REGIME ON

Without question, Russia produces brutal political leaders. Throughout history, Russia has consistently treated its enemies brutally and shows no remorse for civilians. This was thought to change after the Cold War ended in 1991; with a new Russian Federation taking over Eastern Europe, there was finally peace. This peace was short lived, however; just three years after the red thumb of the Soviet Union crumbled, a new agenda pushed into Chechnya.

Just two years later, Russia had displaced 45% of the Chechen population (450k) and by its own estimates, killed between 30-40 thousand civilians, though human rights groups estimate double that number. On January 3, 1995, Russian cluster bombs hit a civilian market, killing at least 55 civilians and injuring 168 more. Three months later, Russian OMON troops (riot police) shot into the houses of Samiski while drunk, and in the process of looting and burning the town, threw grenades into basements where women, children, and the elderly were hiding. The attack claimed at least 250 lives and caused the complete destruction of the town. The first Chechen war ended in 1996, but it wouldn't be long before Russia tried to reclaim the land they lost.

On October 7, 1999, a Russian cluster bomb hit the village of Elistanzi killing 34 and injuring another 20, and just two weeks later, a ballistic missile hit a shopping center in Grozny, killing 137 (27 women & babies) and injuring between 200-400 people. Then, in December of the same year, Russian soldiers took over Alkan-Yurt, a small village, and proceeded to summarily execute 17 civilians who opposed them. Human Rights Watch (<https://www.hrw.org>) document-

ed these 17 cases of murder, as well as three incidents of rape. These same style attacks that happened in Alkan-Yurt also occurred in Noyve Aldi (60 killed, 6 incidents of rape), and Staropromyslovsky (38 confirmed executed), in which case the last was acknowledged by Russian officials. In December 1996, six Red Cross nurses were killed in a hospital by a group of masked gunmen. Lastly, the Russian bombing of Grozny was so destructive that in 2003, the UN called it "the most destroyed city on Earth." In total the second Chechen war claimed another 40 thousand civilian lives, destroyed 70% of the villages, and 57 mass graves were reported.

Not long after the Chechen war, Russia moved after another satellite state: Georgia. Russia & Russian insurgents managed to kill 228 civilians by bombs and forced 20,000 civilians from their homes. Russian Forces caused so much destruction that only 7% of the former population still lives there. This was all in just 11 days

The worst case of Russian war crimes is the Syrian Civil War, in which Russia supported Bashar Al-Assad, the ruthless dictator of Syria. Amnesty International (<https://www.amnesty.org/en>) reported multiple attacks on schools, hospitals, and residential areas which all violate the laws of war. Tirana Hassan, Director of Amnesty International, even went as far to say that Russian planes would "loop around" after one attack to attack the humanitarian workers. Russia also bombed or supplied the bombs for the siege of Aleppo, a brutal battle with the use of fire bombing and cluster munitions in civilian areas. Russia also laid Siege to Eastern Ghouta, a move that killed almost 13 thousand civilians

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OF EASTERN EUROPE

Gavin Glynn, Staff Writer

and was compared to Grozny. The UN stated that the Russians had a “take no prisoners” mentality, with multiple bombing strikes on civilian centers and markets. In 2013 the Assad Regime (supported by Russia) released a nerve agent known as Sarin (a gas known to cause seizures, twitching and respiratory issues) in Ghouta, killing more than 1,400. Over the past 11 years, nearly 210 thousand civilians were killed including 25,000 children, 7,000 of whom were killed by Russian forces directly, and an unknown amount killed by Russian supplied weapons.

Most recently, Russian forces have started a campaign in Ukraine, again following the cycle of brutality and disregard for civilians. On Feb 24, 2022, Russia launched a war of aggression into Ukraine by bombing outside of a restaurant killing one person, and then four people next to a hospital. On Feb. 25, 2022, Amnesty International stated Russia “showed blatant disregard for civilians’ lives by using ballistic missiles with wide area effects in densely populated areas.” Just two days later a bomb struck a preschool killing two civilians and a child. On March 1 the Russians shelled a densely populated neighborhood for 15 hours, the deputy mayor stating, “At least hundreds of people [were] dead,” and the next day the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights recorded at least 1,006 civilian casualties. On March 3, a Russian airstrike killed 47 civilians in Chernihiv who were waiting in line for bread, and four days later killed 22 in an airstrike in Sumy. On the March 9, Russian forces bombed a hospital which killed three including a pregnant mother, the Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs calling it a “petrifying war crime” and Boris Johnson calling the attack “de-

praved.” Despite this, two days later a reported 56 elderly people were killed when a tank attacked their care facility. On March 16, Russian forces bombed the Donetsk Regional Drama Theater which was used as a bomb shelter, killing between 500-800 inside. This was said to be deliberately targeted because satellite images just two days earlier show the word “children” written in Russian outside of the theater as an attempt to mark it as a civilian location and not a military location. Four days later in Mariupol, Ukrainian authorities claimed 400 people were bombed while taking shelter in an art school. Russian forces have also bombed humanitarian corridors out of Mariupol while civilians were evacuating. As of March 28, 2022, there have been 1,119 UN-confirmed civilian deaths, with another 1,800 confirmed wounded, and 68 confirmed attacks on care centers.

Russia has also committed humanitarian crimes outside of war, such as the use of the nerve agent Novichok on Russian anti-corruption activist Alexei Navalny, as well as his false imprisonment for nine years as of Feb 2022 under a makeshift jury, the actions of which were condemned by the UN and multiple Human Rights Groups. Russia ignored these comments.

Since the fall of the Soviet Union the Russian Federation has killed an estimated 120-140 thousand civilians and displaced close to quadruple that number. Despite these violations of humanitarian laws and the laws of war, the same regime has been in power for over 20 years. The regime continues to oppress the freedoms of their former satellite states at almost any cost, including civilian lives.

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<https://www.vox.com/platform/amp/2022/3/27/22998458/russia-putin-war-crimes-designation-ukraine-invasion>

Celebrating a Century

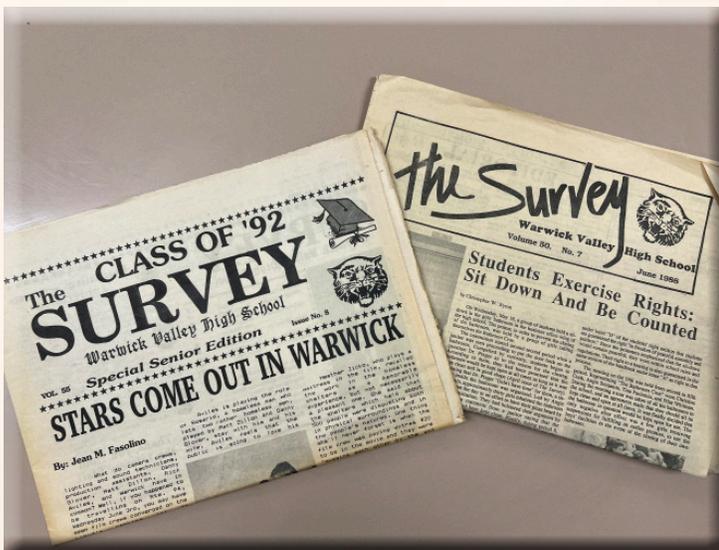
Maya Bieling, Co-Editor-in-Chief
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1922: President Warren G. Harding makes his first speech on the radio, Ralph Samuelson created the sport of waterskiing, America's sweetheart, Betty White was born, Chanel perfume No.22 hit the shelves, and most notably, *The Survey*, Warwick Valley High School's newspaper was founded.

2022: The WVHS Journalism program is celebrating a CENTURY of successful publishing!

To put a century into perspective, it is 1,200 months, 5,217 weeks, and 36,525 days. It is remarkable that this mostly student-produced publication has survived for this long within our school! Although the newspaper has become a digital and printed magazine, *The Survey* staff is still responsible for carrying out the same tasks students would have completed in 1922. From production schedule creation to writing numerous articles, and from practicing peer editing to creating page layouts, the journalism students do it all. In this special edition, we take a look back through *The Survey's* history.



This Younger Generation

Question—Girls:

Why does it have to be like this?
Why do boys just have to kiss?
No matter the face,

No matter the name,
Alone with a girl they're all
the same.

While driving along the road
so dark,

Their strongest desire is to park.
Maybe he likes the lipstick
taste.

Or maybe he has time to waste.
But time is like air, it's warm
and free,

When a boy is on a necking
sneeze.

And when the wrestling match
is done,
you wonder who has really won,
your lipsticks gone, or smear-
ed a lot

A sweet hair-do is all shot.

And in the dark he sure looks
queer.

With the lipstick smeared from
ear to ear.

I'd like just once to meet a
boy

Whose company I could enjoy

A boy who could command re-
spect.

Simply because he didn't neck.

Answer—Boys:

The answer girls is simply this.

It's you who makes us want to
kiss!

You send the night on a new
hair-da

To wvin a date you fret and
stew,

You turn on your warmest
glance

Until we poor saps haven't a
chance,

You pose and flirt and look so
sweet

That we will melt when you
turn on the heat.

With luscious lips and paint-
ed nails

You trap us unsuspecting
males,

And so we fall and like it, too

Just what you planned for us
to do

But if a boy won't kiss and neck

All you say about him is
"neck."

He's mother's little lambie pie.

30s - 50s

In celebration of our 100th anniversary, the Warwick Historical Society was kind enough to give us access to the few archives that have been saved from *The Survey*. While we could not get our hands on copies from the 1920's, the 1960's, or the 1970's, we were able to access some from the 1930's through the 1950's and from the 1980's to the present. We discovered that *The Survey* began its life a century ago as *The School Press*, a monthly publication of four pages. It was later renamed in 1932 to *The Purple and Gold*, and though it also started as a monthly, it eventually became a weekly publication. Students made copies using a mimeograph machine (the predecessor to the photocopier) which was purchased specifically for this purpose. Though the school newspaper was eventually discontinued "[d]ue to a lack of cooperation among the students," there was a renewed interest in the tradition. *The Survey*, as it was renamed again, began production in 1938, and it has been going strong ever since.

After reading through all of the articles from the archives, we realized that while there was some continuity, there was also a subsequent amount of change due to different cultural norms of the times. For example, in one of the first editions, there was a gossip section that included comments such as, "[Student]...has decided that some of the fairest game happens to be in room 205," and "[Student] surely must 'have something there'" since several named boys "fight to do her favors." Another article announced the 1938 Senior, Junior, and Sophomore Class Popularity Contest Results. Apparently, in 1940, there was also a poll box in the library where student peers could submit their votes for students they considered "most attractive," "most popular," "best dressed," "laziest," who had the "nicest personality," and even who was "most conceited"! The fact that students were even allowed to vote on such traits is very astounding to us today. Another feature from back in the day in *The Survey* was "Letters to the Editor." Students with school related concerns and opinions could send in anonymous letters to the editors in consideration for publication, giving the entire student body a voice. The 1950 Survey archives also shared literary pieces. A certain two-part poem displayed a dialogue between students. The poem starts off by saying how girls feel as if all boys wanted to do, at this time, was "kiss" when they go out. The boys' response included, "...with luscious lips and painted nails, you trap us unsuspecting males..." Regardless of whether any of these pieces were fictionalized, from a 2022 perspective, we thought they were interesting. They shared student judgments on one another which would not fly today! In fact, they would most likely be criticized by some for being misogynistic even.

Despite the large amount of opinionated writing, there were also culturally exciting articles that united the student body. In one addition that we found from 1940, there was an extremely intriguing article meant to excite

students upon a common interest and trend during that time: the nickelodeon! Many of you might be thinking, "What is a nickelodeon?" A nickelodeon was originally a term for a small movie theater, but later, people used it to mean a music-playing machine, similar to a jukebox. It was announced that this new device would be added to the gymnasium so students could dance during lunchtime. It is so wholesome to think about the student body dancing together to de-stress during lunch.

Nickelodeon Music Comes to Lunch

Music with your lunch is a new feature at Warwick High this year. A nickelodeon was installed in the gym this month.

The machine is rented from R. C. Carpenter of Chester. The profits will go to the G. O. fund.

"Music provides recreation and fun after a morning of study," said Roy W. Epting, principal, when the machine was set up.

"Music is not emphasized, however," continued Mr. Epting. "Our main noontime recreation is still the Intramural Program. We try to provide recreation because a large number of our students stay here for lunch."

Dancing of the latest steps is now practiced in the gym each noon. Twenty to thirty couples forget studies as they follow the rhythm of a well-known swing band.

80s

WVHS Sports

Warwick stands up to Middletown

The Warwick Varsity Soccer team defeated Middletown in a 2-1 victory on Saturday afternoon.

The Warwick Varsity Soccer team defeated Middletown in a 2-1 victory on Saturday afternoon. The game was played at the Warwick High School gymnasium.

Boys Varsity Soccer Kicks

The boys varsity soccer team kicked off the season on Saturday afternoon.

The boys varsity soccer team kicked off the season on Saturday afternoon. The game was played at the Warwick High School gymnasium.

'89 Cheerleaders go to camp

The Warwick Varsity Cheerleaders went to camp on Saturday afternoon.

The Warwick Varsity Cheerleaders went to camp on Saturday afternoon. The camp was held at the Warwick High School gymnasium.

Girls Varsity Swim Team

The Warwick Varsity Swim Team competed in a meet on Saturday afternoon.

The Warwick Varsity Swim Team competed in a meet on Saturday afternoon. The meet was held at the Warwick High School gymnasium.

Along with leg warmers, shoulder pads, and boom boxes, the Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier court case made a big impact on student journalism during these decades. In 1988, students in Journalism 2 at Hazelwood East High in St. Louis, Missouri wrote articles on sensitive topics for the school sponsored and funded newspaper, *The Spectrum*. These topics ranged anywhere from teen pregnancy to divorce, and the principal took the liberty of deleting the pages before they ran to print. Angered by the actions of their principal, the students claimed it violated their First Amendment rights and brought the case to the local lower court. They argued that they were writing for a public forum and that the school had no authority in censoring their speech. The case was ultimately brought to the Supreme Court, and in a 5-3 decision, the court ruled that school administrators could censor student speech "so long as their actions were 'reasonably related to legitimate pedagogical concerns'" (Oyez.com).

Since *The Spectrum* was a school sponsored newspaper, administrators could exert some control over what would be published. As a result, Warwick Valley High School, along with high schools across the country, were affected by this court case. This means that we, as journalism students, do not have the complete freedom of speech rights as we would if we were writing for a professional publication. All of our articles must be submitted for prior review by administrators before they can be published. This way, any legitimate concerns can be addressed, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of all students. Interestingly, before the ruling of the Hazelwood court case, *The Survey* covered topics that would not necessarily be deemed appropriate in today's day and age. For example, the aforementioned "Popularity Contest," the question-answer poem, and the gossip section could all be cited during prior review for being potentially disruptive to the educational process for their insensitive coverage of students.

In addition to some of the content changes, the appearance of the newspaper evolved as well. In the late 90s, newspapers all over the country, both professional and student-published, started to become more than just black and white. Advertisements, pictures, backgrounds, and titles all showcased this newfound incorporation of color, creating a more vibrant and lively layout. A 1993 article included the following quote: "More than 97 percent of North American newspapers now print some of their news pages in color, up from 12 percent in 1979" (Glaberson *New York Times*). The color helped bring attention to certain aspects of the paper and allowed for students to further explore their creative abilities.

2000s

During this decade, *The Survey's* articles covered topics that varied from school news to world news. In September 2000, Sanfordville Elementary School opened its doors for the first time. This was a big change for the Warwick community and our school's paper included many articles about it. Additionally, there were many changes made to New York school systems as a whole. Governor George Pataki signed into law the historic school safety plan in the hopes that administrators and teachers could help create a better environment for their students. Past articles also discussed the tragic events of 9/11. Politics and current events are still the types of topics that interest our writers today.

Not only was the world changing in the early 2000's but again, so did *The Survey*. In this decade, the newspaper changed from a traditional paper newspaper to a glossy magazine. While some people enjoy the traditional feel of a newspaper, the creation of a magazine is one of the best things to happen to our beloved journalism program! Our modern magazines consist of around 20-24 pages with one long article or two short articles per page. Currently, the pages of *The Survey* are very eye-catching! To create the pages, the journalism staff uses a software program called InDesign. InDesign is a very in-depth program in which students can add pictures, diagrams, colorful backgrounds, intriguing headings, and even fun and fancy fonts. InDesign also provides the editors with the ability to create colorful covers. Last, we can use the program to make digital PDF files which get sent via email directly to our printer, and the district communications department uploads the files to our school's website, making our work more accessible to our school community.

It is so interesting and fun to look back on how much *The Survey* has changed over the past one hundred years. Being able to see old school photos and the hard work of talented Warwick Valley High School student writers and editors is truly inspiring. It is also very fascinating to have read about so many different topics and past Warwick events that were written about over the past one hundred years!

What Tops the Charts page 5

Seniors' Most Embarrassing Stories page 3

What Should You Take To College? page 6

The Survey

Warwick Valley High School, Warwick, N.Y. June 1998

NHS HONORS NEW MEMBERS

By Kristine Bortone

The National Honor Society (NHS) at Warwick Valley High School was established in 1928 by the late Dr. C. Lawrence, the founder of our school. The organization has since grown to include students from all over the state. The current members of the society are: Kristine Bortone, Sarah Leland, and Sarah Leland. The society is proud to have these new members join the ranks of our distinguished alumni.

Seniors Say Good-Bye

By Jenise Charle

The school year is winding down. The SATs are over, the AP exams are over, and the seniors are saying good-bye to their friends and teachers. It's a bittersweet time, but it's also a time to celebrate the accomplishments of a great year. The seniors will be leaving behind a legacy of hard work and dedication that will inspire the students of the future.

THE SURVEY

VOL. 56 WARWICK VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL ISSUE 3

Prom Time Again!

Short, Show-all Dresses!
De's and daes!
At Home or Fringe House!

Afternoon

By Jenise Charle

Prom is just around the corner, and it's time to start thinking about dresses. The school is holding a dress contest, and everyone is excited to participate. The contest is a great way to showcase your creativity and style. The winners will receive prizes and recognition from their peers and teachers. It's a fun and exciting event that everyone should look forward to.

School

SHINING LIGHT ON THE NEW SAT

By Kristine Bortone

The SAT is a test that many students take every year. It's a test that can determine your college options and your future. The SAT is a challenging test, but it's also a test that can be prepared for. There are many resources available to help you prepare for the SAT, and it's important to use them. The SAT is a test that can make a big difference in your life, so it's important to take it seriously and prepare well.

Kyle LeDuc: A Football Life

By Kristine Bortone

Kyle LeDuc is a football player at Warwick Valley High School. He is a talented player and a leader on the team. Kyle has been playing football since he was a young boy, and he loves the sport. He is a hard worker and a team player, and he is proud to represent his school. Kyle is a role model for his teammates and a source of inspiration for his fans.

What do you want for Holiday Season? pg. 5

Take an IQ Test on pg 13

THE SURVEY

Issue 3

The Broken Home/As

By BECKY BYLLER

Every year, the Broken Home/As is a special feature of *The Survey*. It's a collection of stories and articles that deal with the challenges of growing up in a broken home. The Broken Home/As is a place where students can share their experiences and find support from their peers. It's a place where everyone can find a sense of community and belonging.

December 2002

Replicators win control of the Senate

U.S. Welcomes Inspector Arrive

December 14: National Admissions Day and Alabama

December 16: National Christmas Eve

December 17: National Christmas Eve

December 18: National Christmas Eve

December 19: National Christmas Eve

December 20: National Christmas Eve

December 21: National Christmas Eve

December 22: National Christmas Eve

December 23: National Christmas Eve

December 24: National Christmas Eve

December 25: National Christmas Eve

100 Years Later

The Survey began as a four-page mimeographed newspaper published by 12 staff members, and it has grown into a 24+ page, bi-monthly print and online newsmagazine produced by a journalism staff of 50! Thanks to past advisors as well as our current advisor, Ms. Carrie-Lynn Taylor, students have been able to create a locally appreciated publication that has spanned an entire century. In many of the modern editions, we have continued the tradition of announcing exciting school news. This year, we've covered our school's music and drama programs, school sporting events and achievements, we've profiled noteworthy students, and much more! We've also covered world news events and other serious topics. Like the newspapers of the past, this variation still remains a part of what *The Survey* is today. Despite the different kinds of music, changes in how the articles are reviewed before publication, and the addition of color and other stylistic updates, *The Survey* is something that we hope will always be a constant at the WVHS!

After perusing the few historical artifacts on record, it was a little bittersweet to find the archives somewhat incomplete. However, we are excited to report that Sue Gardner, Deputy Historian for the Town of Warwick and Local History Librarian for the Albert Wisner Public Library has graciously offered to start archiving our magazines from this point forward. We are so thankful because our hard work will be saved and hopefully appreciated by future generations! And who knows? Maybe, 100 years from now, the WVHS journalism class will feature our articles in the 2122 Century Edition!



PANDEMIC: THEN AND NOW

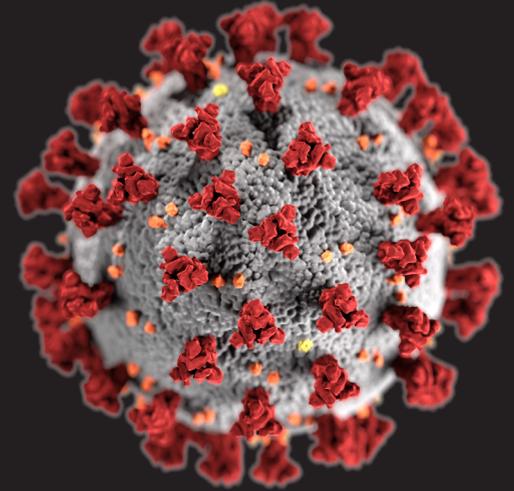
The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the lives of many. Interestingly, about 100 years ago, the world was in a similar situation when “Mother Nature unleashed the deadliest strain of influenza in modern history” in 1918 (History.com).

Dubbed the “Spanish Flu” based on people’s misunderstanding of where it originated from, the 1918 flu pandemic infected approximately 500 million people worldwide (CDC.gov). Just like COVID 19, the 1918 flu pandemic came in multiple different waves. This disease was highly contagious and was transmitted to other people in the same way that COVID 19 was. When a possible sick person would cough, sneeze, or even talk, the germs that came out would be spread out all through the air and anybody in a six foot radius could have inhaled the sick person's germs and that would later result in contracting the virus. Those who were exposed to the virus would experience the typical normal flu symptoms, such as upper respiratory issues, chills, fever, fatigue.

However, according to BMJ.com, there were some differences between the influenza pandemic of 1918 and COVID 19: Victims of the 1918 flu pandemic who perished were mostly those five and under, between the ages of 25-40, and those 65 and older while those who died due to COVID were mostly those 65 and older and those with comorbidities. Victims of the flu died from a secondary bacterial infection while victims of COVID died due to organ failure brought on by an overactive immune response. Last, though the infection rate was similar for both pandemics (~500 million), the 1918 flu reached far fewer countries while COVID was spread virtually worldwide.

COVID 19 began in 2019, and it is still lingering through the world today. This disease spread as quickly as it started, taking over people’s day-by-day lives and changing them drastically. Thankfully, we have more advanced technology, and modern medicine has become far more advanced. While there was no vaccine to prevent influenza in the 1920’s, and there were no antibiotics that could treat bacterial infections back then, we do have those advantages today.

Sam Sloginski, Staff Writer



History Colorado

1920'S FASHION



Glamourdaze.com

In the 1920s, women started gaining more rights, and they realized they didn't have to fit into society's strict expectations. They were taking risks and were motivated to make changes, proving that they could be different. They wanted to have more fun and dress in outfits that expressed themselves and made them feel confident in their own skin. Fashion was becoming more fun and unique. Certain rules were becoming more relaxed, and suddenly, women were wearing more makeup, dressing scandalously, and cutting their hair.

Jazz was popular in that decade, so women wanted clothing that would look dazzling when they were dancing. That's why intricate beading, uneven hemlines, and other edgy design details were popular at this time. When they went out for the night it was common for women to wear dresses made out of shimmering, lightweight material with a beading overlay. This fashion trend has continued to remain in style. Party dresses are now enhanced with sequins and decadent beading. Some more specific twenties-inspired styles that are making a comeback are satin slip dresses, the boho oversized faux fur coat, geometric blouses, fringe dresses, rose gold heels, and rhinestone evening clutches to name a few.

Fashion is and always has been a huge part of any culture. It's fascinating to see how much has changed since the 1920s, but it is also amazing to see how trends that were popular back then have found a way to make a comeback 100 years later. People have put a twist on certain fashion trends and have modernized them. The 1920's was a huge turning point for women and fashion. Some styles today are completely different, but a lot originated in the 20's and are just modernized.

Memories of Wildcat Football

Written by Dennis Wilson & Jacob Gibel

Edited by Harrison Rogers

This year's 100th anniversary of The Survey inspired us to look back at the history of Warwick football. As it turns out, Warwick football has been around since the 1800's. We learned about how football has changed since then.

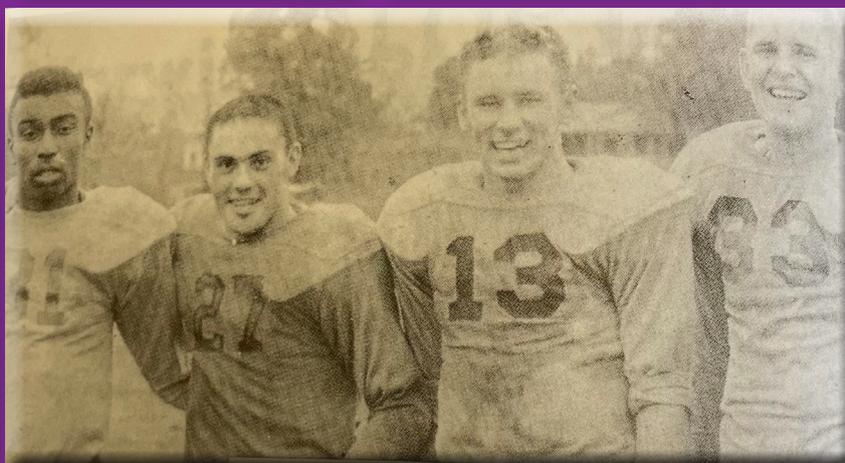
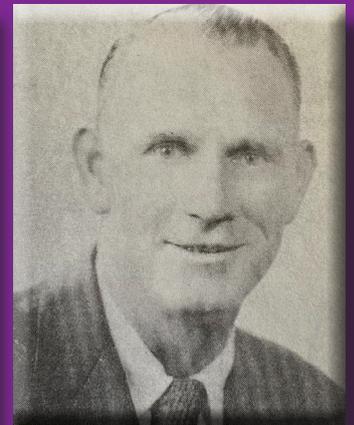
One interesting fact is that the Warwick-Goshen rivalry started over 100 years ago. The first game was formally recorded in 1896, and Warwick lost 6-0. The next year, we ended in a tie of 4 to 4. We questioned the score because that isn't a score one would typically expect. We found that scoring was different and touchdowns were only worth 4 points, meaning, there were only two touchdowns the entire game. As we approached the 1900's, there were no records at all. Coach Sirico has a record book of every game, but because of World War I, there are no records from this time period.

A second aspect we researched was the coaches and players themselves. Warwick has had lots of great players go through the football program. John Longwell was on the team in 1899 and he was the first recorded scholarship athlete in Warwick history. One of the greatest coaches in Warwick history is C. Ashley Morgan, who our home field is named after. He coached the team from 1952 until 1963. One of his coaching years was one of Warwick's best in 1962. We won the Little 3 Championship that year competing against Walden and Goshen. The top four players of that year's offense were nicknamed "The Four

Horsemen." The Four Horsemen consisted of running back Mark Kuertz, running back Moses Winfield, running back Jim Watch, and quarterback Frank Green. Warwick players have gone on to varied paths, including continuing their academic careers at Ivy League schools, and we've even had David Iannucilli and John Marion become Black Hawk pilots. One of our best more current players was Eric Blanton who took his academics and athletic career to East Carolina. Another one of our best players was John Garcia, who now teaches math at Warwick Valley High School.

Finally, Warwick football has a longstanding history with traditions that continue today. The number 44 jersey, for example, represents a team leader who has the best qualities to make the team stronger together. This tradition started in 1982 when then-defensive coordinator George St. Lawrence had a discussion with the middle linebacker, Bobby Kreutz. They had talked and decided that the jersey would represent the captain with the best qualities. Currently, senior Jake Durie wore this jersey during the 2021 football season and he passed the jersey down to junior Ryan McLaughlin for next season.

As we recognize The Survey's 100th anniversary we have seen how football has changed. However, Wildcat culture still includes traditions. Although our time here at Warwick is temporary, the beliefs and legacies will be upheld for future generations.



L-R, top-bottom: The original Spirit Trophy, located in the display cases outside the library; Jake Durie running on the field in the 44 jersey; Coach Sirico, WVCSD Athletic Director; C. Ashley Morgan, former WVHS coach; the current Spirit Trophy which sits in Warwick Valley High School's Hall of Champions; The Four Horsemen: Winfield, Watch, Kuertz, and Green; and JWVHS math teacher John Garcia

Off-Campus Lunch

Written By Alek Grzegorzewski and Kayden Zachgo
Edited by Harry Coard and Robert Foschini

Off-campus lunch has been something that seniors and juniors have been wanting for years. However, the ability to have the freedom to leave school during school hours, get food from local bagel places, and visit coffee shops comes with pros and cons. This very idea of having the privilege to leave school grounds has come up more than ever in recent years with COVID-19 and the protocols that go along with it. The more people that could be leaving during lunch, the safer people could feel in and outside of school.

First, here are some pros to off-campus lunch. A majority of kids have a tough time in school due to the volume of work they might have or just the time spent sitting in classrooms. Having the ability to leave the school environment even for an hour could be very helpful. Students would also just like to be able to hang out with their friends and get food during lunch. For the past few years, schools have been more lenient with kids going to their cars for lunch due to COVID-19, but now, schools are starting to be more strict about it again. This could make students feel that their freedoms are being stripped from them.

Moving on to the cons, one has to do with student safety. With off-campus lunch, there will always be the risk of students getting hurt. New drivers are always going to be prone to accidents no matter how safely they drive. With only an hour for lunch, students may drive faster than normal, rushing to get back to school in time and risking an accident. A vast amount of trust would have to be put into the students to drive safely and obey rules instilled by the school. Likewise, parents put their trust into district teachers and administrators to keep their children safe. The decision to allow off-campus lunch must be very difficult for high level adminis-

trators to make due to the risks. Associate Principal Sweeney's expressed his views on the topic: "My greatest fear is calling a student's parents, telling them their child got in a car accident." He also said that the school prioritizes student safety.

Other schools, such as Knightdale High School in North Carolina, have off-campus lunch and rules for students regarding the subject. These rules allow seniors only to leave for lunch, and they may not take passengers with them in their cars. Also, if they break one of the many rules made by the school, their passes can be taken or they would be restricted from leaving for a certain amount of time during the lunch period. Therefore, the school has considered students' safety, but still allows some freedoms.

Obviously, the vast amount of cons can make a school sway toward not having off-campus lunch. However, there are also many pros that we think should be considered before denying the option of letting students leave for lunch.



The Ugly Truth Behind Beauty Filters

Jenna Fiore, Staff Writer

We've all seen the beauty filters that have taken over social media. People are editing out any imperfection they can find. Between changing the color of their eyes or extending their eyelashes, you can barely recognize people after they're done. Has this filter craze gone too far, and have these filters contributed to the overall decline in teen mental health all over?

We've all seen the funny filters where animals are running across the screen or where they put sunglasses on you. Aside from those, there is a whole section of filters where their only purpose is to change your physical appearance. These filters provide an augmented reality where people can almost become different people. Big influencers on social media definitely are not helping either. Tiktokers, for example, with huge followings, especially ones of young girls, have the power to either convince girls that filters are necessary or show them that there is no need for them. Olivia Ponton, a 19 model/influencer, has made a living based off of her appearance. She is known to post dozens of videos using various filters. She has videos where she is seen airbrushing her skin, for example. These kinds of videos set unreachable expectations about what young girls are supposed to look like, and if they can't get themselves to look like that filter, they start to believe something is wrong with them.

High school senior Emma Kardell says, "Beauty filters today can do so much as change the shape of your face, which causes girls to think they look a certain way and eventually

worsen their self-esteem when they see how they look without the filter on." She also stated, "Putting on beauty filters and then seeing myself without makeup on doesn't help my mental health and self esteem."

Not only are people using these unrealistic filters, but now they are even going as far as to surgically change their features. Doctors are witnessing people coming in with edited photos of themselves and expecting to look like them when they leave the office. According to the American Society of Plastic Surgeons, "The number of minimally invasive procedures tripled between 2000 and 2018....It can be argued that these apps are making us lose touch with reality because we expect to look perfectly primed and filtered in real life," the authors wrote. Even though people know that these filters aren't realistic, they are still comparing themselves to these photos, which is causing their self-esteem to plummet. Now that we have data and physical proof that people are spending thousands of dollars to alter their appearances, I think it is safe to say that this filter craze has gone way too far.



TikTok user Beautyjulianna_ demonstrating the effects of a beauty filter.

The Psychology Behind **WORDLE**

Written by Laura Kaplan, Staff Editor

Wordle, a daily word puzzle invented by Josh Wardle, has skyrocketed to popularity since its release in October of 2021. Originally created to entertain his partner, who had become invested in similar games during the pandemic (like *New York Times*' spelling bee and crossword), it was unexpectedly sold less than six months later to the *New York Times* for over one million dollars. In the handful of months that it has been in existence, Wordle has proven itself capable of captivating a diverse audience, solidifying itself as a daily ritual for many. Psychologically, what is it about Wordle that has allowed it to surpass other games like it and achieve such great success?

Beginning on a surface level, the uniform squares, clean font, and use of three main colors (gray, yellow, and green) leans strongly into the minimalist design aesthetic. Such a simplistic color palette, in addition to a recognizable layout, creates a deliberate and refined feeling that contributes to the game's ethos: an appeal that keeps people coming back to play day after day. Wordle also costs nothing to play and is completely free of advertisements, which is an anomaly in today's ad-driven world. As a result, the game feels like a brief respite from news and social media sites plastered with advertisements in which players can take a few minutes out of their day to focus on and complete something fun without distractions.

Next, many phone or video games are immediately classified as vices, as they are created with the intent of allowing people to turn off the analytical side of their mind to simply relax. In contrast, Wordle is likened to activities like crosswords, jigsaw puzzles, or sudoku that require a bit of thinking and brain power to find the solution, making it a "guilt-free" source of enjoyment for many. In addition, the fact that each puzzle takes little time to complete makes the daily Wordle feel like a small, satisfying accomplishment for the day, similar to making one's bed in the morning or tidying their room at night.

Another facet of Wordle that makes it so unique is the fact that there is only one puzzle each day. In social psychology and economics alike, the principle of scarcity states that humans subconsciously place a higher value on things that are lower in abundance. Because of the twenty-four hour span between each new puzzle, players are given time to become excited and crave the next game, thus developing a ritual. There is also the principle of delayed gratification at play that makes the daily component so psychologically alluring. The intentional triggering of dopamine, the neurotransmitter that elicits pleasure and satisfaction, is what makes activities like video games so satisfying on a neurochemical level. Though when gratification is delayed, the release of dopamine is compounded to even further enhance Wordle's daily mental reward. Also, as a result of its growing popularity, Wordle has been able to spark dai-

ly conversation and bring people together, meaning that the twenty-four hour cycle allows time for people to discuss their thoughts on the word, the strategies they used, or how well they did that day.

One potentially polarizing aspect of Wordle is the feature of easily sharing one's results to their social media without spoiling the word of the day. On a psychological level, choosing to implement this shareability feature was ingenious on behalf of the developer for three primary reasons. The first of those reasons is the self-affirmation that comes with sharing one's success. When one posts their daily results, they are essentially spreading a message that says, "Look! I am intelligent and capable, and I completed something today!" Receiving views, comments, or likes on those posts may further that feeling of catharsis, causing people to continue playing and sharing their results. The second reason is pertaining to competition. There is no doubt that games bring out the competitive side of many people, and Wordle is no exception. On one hand, when someone sees that they were able to solve the puzzle quicker than their peers, they will subconsciously feel astute, superior, affirmed, and encouraged to play again. WVHS senior and avid Wordle player Brielle Rosario agreed, stating, "It's kind of a competition, and I [enjoy] feeling like I am winning and doing [well] at something." Conversely, if one sees another person performing better at the game, they will feel motivated to think harder and perform as well the next time they play. Finally, logging onto your social media and spotting the familiar and captivating Wordle visuals serves as an automatic social pressure and reminder to participate yourself. Although it is subdued, this tactic is highly effective in turning the game into a standard and acceptable social norm, according to Jen Clinehens from choicehacking.com. This is where the concern seems to lie for students like Tim Leonard, who has not taken part in the Wordle craze. For Tim, it is clear that "a lot of people play it every day, and it seems addicting." He expressed some resistance to falling down the "Wordle hole" himself.

In short, Wordle fulfills what Iowa State University psychology professor Douglas Gentile considers "the ABC[s] of human needs," with A being autonomy, B being belongingness, and C being competence. Furthermore, the fact that it has spurred the creation of other spinoffs, like Semantle, Lordle of the Rings, Subwaydle, and Nerdle, points toward a lasting influence of such simple, yet engaging, games that, in the words of Brielle, "expand your vocabulary and make you think." As of today, it is up in the air as to how long it will last and in what direction *The New York Times* intends to take it, but signs suggest that Wordle will continue to be a relatively wholesome and user-friendly source of fun for people of many ages and demographics in the near future.

Lifelong Companions

Written By Alexa Borner, Staff Writer
Edited By Alexandra Turner, Staff Writer

Dogs have been known to be lifelong companions because you can form an emotional connection with them. Many people in my life, including my mom, say they're known to cheer you up when you're feeling down; it's almost like they can tell you're upset. My mom used to joke that the dogs loved her more than the family did because when she got home from work they would go running to greet her and my family wouldn't even get up off the couch. I never really believed this until about a year and a half ago, when I formed a bond with my dog Miles.

In July of 2020, my family's love passed away. My parents say he was the best behaved dog we've ever owned. His name was Jax and he was a German Shepherd, lab, and miniature pinscher mix. We rescued him when my brother and I were five, so I don't remember my life without him. He'd take your shoe but look at you and drop it because he knew he was in the wrong. He was the perfect family dog and made a huge impact on my life. When he had passed, we still had Stella, our Havanese. When we brought her home, he was there to greet her which is why she and Jax had such a special bond. After he passed, Stella was not the same. I never believed that a dog could be so upset until I witnessed this. You could tell that she was absolutely heartbroken and she needed someone to spend her time with.

The loss of Jax took a big toll on my family and we were all devastated for a while. We knew we eventually wanted to get a new dog, we just didn't know when the right time would be. It was clear that we needed something to cheer our family and Stella up, so in the fall of 2021, I started to look for puppies. My parents didn't want another large dog or something that shed considering the amount of hair lab mixes shed. Personally, there is something about Australian Shepherds that I love;

their coloring is absolutely stunning. We started looking for mini aussiedoodles so that there would be a mix of australian shepherd and miniature poodle which would slow down the shedding. After searching and searching, in December of 2021 I found the one. As soon as I showed my parents this dog, we immediately got in contact with the breeder and were on our way to Pennsylvania. My family all loved the name Miles and my dad suggested that we should name him that because of how many miles we drove to get him. I instantly loved him and knew I'd found that connection.

As a kid, every time we had a puppy my parents did all the work of raising it. My mom compared it to having a newborn baby. They wake you up in the middle of the night, they aren't potty trained, and they need to be entertained all the time. I never knew the amount of work it took until I was doing it myself. All of a sudden I was the one waking up with our new puppy and playing with him when I was on my breaks from virtual learning. One of the advantages of distance learning for me was being able to grow that relationship with my dog that I don't think would've been as strong if I was in school every day for eight hours. My parents would teasingly say that I needed to back off a little so that he won't be devastated when I go to college in two years.

I genuinely get excited to go home and see my dog, and if I'm ever having a bad day my pet is the one to cheer me up. It's almost like he can tell if I'm upset and he tries to make me feel better. It's because of this that I absolutely adore having a pet. Not only does he help me emotionally, but we do fun activities together. We go on walks, car rides, play fetch in my backyard, and so much more. Being able to have a companion throughout your life is one of the most exhilarating things.





Electric Requiem:

The Making of Queensrÿche's
1988 Masterpiece,

Operation:mindcrime

"I Remember Now"

"I remember now/ I remember how it started/ I can't remember yesterday/ I just remember doing what they told me." Geoff Tate's first words on the title track unlock the door to Queensrÿche's 1988 album, *Operation:mindcrime*. Largely considered a magnum opus of the progressive rock and metal genre, this rock opera covers themes of religious and political corruption, drug abuse and mind control. Being the fourth release from the band, their back catalog demonstrated their ever increasing musicality and talent, and 1988's *Operation:mindcrime* is where they once again proved themselves as a progressive metal powerhouse.

Following 1986's *Rage for Order*, Queensrÿche received moderate success with the release of the "Gonna Get Close to You" single and video, a cover of the 1984 song originally performed by Canadian singer Lisa Dalbello. Given the opportunity to open up for major acts of the time, such as Ozzy Osbourne and Ratt, Queensrÿche was exposed to a whole new audience who was at the very least intrigued by the band's unique sound.

As the initial flame for *Rage for Order* grew dimmer and the 1986 and 1987 tours came to an end, it was clear that the band had to once again outdo itself. The ultimate culmination of the tour left frontman Geoff Tate in snowy Montreal, where he would begin to develop the concept behind the band's forthcoming album. The concept was initially conceived when Tate found himself in the back of an empty church. Over the next few months, his experiences with various personalities would help shape the characters that would be the focal point of the story.

"Breaking the Silence"

It's fair to say that Queensrÿche was a band always ahead of its time. Moving away from the more industrial and experimental sound of *Rage for Order*, the band enlisted the help of producer Peter Collins, who had previously worked with Rush on their *Power Windows* and *Hold Your Fire* albums. Needless to say, the production of this epic is absolutely flawless. Geoff Tate's four octaves of fury are in full effect and are accompanied by the driving rhythm and soaring leads of guitar duo Michael Wilton and Chris DeGarmo. Together with the signature snarl of Eddie Jackson's Spector bass and Scott Rockenfield's explosive drums, the band is firing on all four cylinders. The atmospheric sounds and the effortless blending of effects and narration only further add to the depth of the album. The orchestration of renowned composer Michael Kamen, who had worked with the band since their 1984 album *The Warning*, along with a plethora of other iconic musicians including Pink Floyd on *The Wall* album, adds a beauty and elegance to an otherwise abrasive sonic experience.

"Speak the Word"

The album chronicles the story of Nikki, a young, streetwise kid who is fed up with his surroundings and seeks an escape through the use of drugs and the idea of revolution. Coerced into an underground radical organization by the despicable Dr. X, inspired by a real separatist revolutionary from Quebec, Nikki becomes a pawn to *Operation:mindcrime*, which feeds his addictions in exchange for his aid in the assassination of various political officials. The love interest of Sister Mary, portrayed by Pamela Moore on the album, comes into play as the parallels of Nikki and Mary's afflictions draw them closer together. Nikki begins to spiral into a mania, questioning his role in this masterplan, resulting in a Shakespearean tragedy surrounding the relationship between Nikki and Mary.

"REVOLUTION"

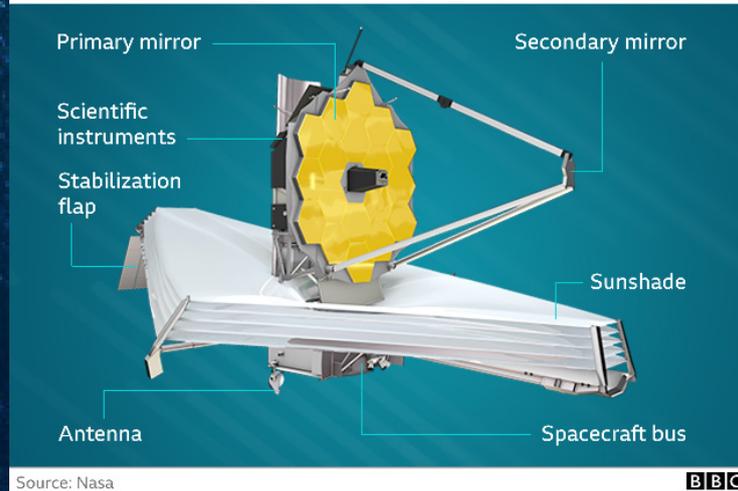
The best way to fully experience this album is to take the 59 minutes and listen to it from front to back. It is an incredible feat of storytelling and an astonishing musical achievement; the performances and songwriting are second to none, and the emotion and drama portrayed could stand its own against any classic piece of cinema or literature. The album ends on the same note as it did in the beginning, stating, "I remember now."

JAMES WEBB TELESCOPE

The James Webb telescope is an infrared observatory built by NASA and has been worked on for the last 30 years. James Webb, the late government official, was the administrator of NASA for many years and was majorly involved in the Apollo mission. Thus, NASA named this amazing new technology after him. It's designed to discover stars and galaxies over 14 billion years old and seek out any possible signs of life. Launched on December 25, 2021, the telescope has already captured some amazing photos giving scientists a better idea of the universe. But what can it do? Well, according to Reuters Graphics, "One of the goals of the telescope is to look back through time to when galaxies were young. Webb will do this by observing distant galaxies that are over 13 billion light years away from Earth." To do so, the telescope uses infrared light to study the phases in cosmic history. Made with the strong lightweight metal, beryllium, and equipped with 18

gold-plated mirrors, the telescope is "so powerful it can detect a bumblebee as far away as the moon," says CBS News. Unfortunately, new technology isn't cheap. NASA was originally granted a budget of 500 million dollars for this project. However, by the time it was launched, they spent 10 billion dollars. This leaves people wondering if it is really worth it. With a world population of 7.7 billion people, "More than 2 billion people do not have regular access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food," according to globalgiving.org. Plus, an estimated 150 million people are homeless worldwide. With a budget like that, there'd be a simple fix to problems like this. However, this new technology has created many new jobs and is helping us evolve as a society and learn more about the planet and universe we live in. We can't deny the overwhelming potential this telescope has and the incredible opportunities it has opened up for us.

James Webb Space Telescope



ELLIE LADOUCEUR, STAFF WRITER

LYDIA BINGHAM, EDITOR

gorilla VS bear

harrison Coard & robbie foschini

Living in the forests of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, and Uganda, the silverback gorilla is one of the most powerful animals in the world. Then prowling the plains and woods of North America in Alaska, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington state, and parts of Canada is the grizzly bear. The interaction between the two would likely never occur due to their geography. However, if this hypothetical matchup were to take place, it would be a battle for the ages.

Size: Size is a very important aspect and can be a deciding factor in who prevails in a fight. The silverback comes in on average weighing around 400 pounds and can reach up to six feet in height. The grizzly bear is an extraordinarily massive animal, standing up to nine feet tall and weighing around 850 lbs. The grizzly has a clear size advantage when compared to a silverback.

Defense: The gorilla is the clear winner when it comes to bite force. According to Don Vaughn at Scoutlife.org, a grizzly bear has a bite force of around 975 PSI, while a gorilla has one up to 1,300 PSI. However, grizzly bears have very thick fur, compared to the soft springy hair of a gorilla. They also have long, thick ra-

zor-sharp claws. So, although the gorilla may have a stronger bite force, I do not think the difference is enough to make a huge effect on the overall fight.

Temperament: The gorilla is a more laid-back and relaxed animal. Unless they are provoked, which can happen when another silverback tries to steal one of their females, they are more gentle and calm whereas grizzly bears can feel threatened if they are under the impression that either their cubs, food, or themselves are in danger.

On one side of the argument, the grizzly bear has a clear size advantage compared to the silverback. Although on the other hand, the gorilla has overpowering strength and agility. The gorilla vs the grizzly, how would the battle go? We think that the grizzly would dominate the gorilla. The grizzly is much bigger than the gorilla and has defensive adaptations which could severely injure the gorilla. While the gorilla has the grizzly beat in terms of strength, we don't think it would matter because the grizzly is strong and has thick enough skin and fur to withstand a gorilla bite. All in all, we feel like the grizzly would reign supreme over the gorilla.

edited by brent Secord

LET'S GO ON AN ADVENTURE

Writer Kaley Haskew & edited by Sienna Thurber

Spring is here, which means that summer break is right around the corner. Summer is about relaxing and having fun, and it's the perfect time to take a vacation and go somewhere you've never been before. I interviewed two students at Warwick Valley High School to gain different traveling perspectives: Faith Kelley, who has traveled around the United States, and Melissa Negron, who has traveled abroad. They both discussed their favorite places to go and gave tips on how to have the best time on your summer adventures.

Faith has traveled to a multitude of National Parks. Her favorites include Zion National Park in Utah and Acadia National Park in Maine. Zion National Park topped her list, as it has many attractions to choose from and incredible landmarks to see. Faith recalls the most exciting activity she did while in Utah was hiking the Narrows. The trail in the park leads you through massive, narrow slot canyons throughout the hike. Another activity her family participated in was hiking Kolob Canyon, fifty minutes away from the main Zion Canyon. Faith felt that Kolob Canyon trails were longer and more adventurous. Moreover, it is visited far less than Zion National Park, so you are more secluded and can take your time seeing all the beautiful sights. In visiting Acadia National Park, Faith had the opportunity to hike Sargent Mountain South Ridge Trail. This incredible trail is 6.5 miles long and takes an average of three hours and thirty minutes to complete. Additionally, it is open year-round, and visitors are welcome to bring their dogs. Furthermore, this trail is very popular for walking, hiking, and other nature activities. Faith also



Photo courtesy of Faith Kelly

hiked Penobscot Mountain Trail, which is 2.9 miles long and takes an average of an hour and fifty minutes to complete. This trail is extremely popular for running and was really crowded. It stays open year-round, and your furry friends are welcome to walk the trail with you. Overall, Faith believes both parks have equally beautiful views and would be exciting places to visit on your summer vacation. Just remember to pack your hiking boots and lots of water!

Melissa expressed that her favorite place to visit is Columbia in South America. She went last summer and highly recommends it for a family vacation. If you are looking for breathtaking national parks, remarkable cities, and idyllic beaches, Columbia has it all without breaking the bank. Melissa

spent the day at La Piedra del Peñol, where she miraculously walked 750 granite steps to see the astounding Guatape Reservoir. She mentioned that it took approximately forty-five to fifty-five minutes to get to the top of the steps, which are over 721 feet tall. The views from the top were worth every step. Melissa's favorite part of the trip was horseback riding with her family in Aburrá Valley. A fun fact that she mentioned was that Aburrá Valley is a natural river basin of the Medellín River and is very populous to over 3,000 inhabitants. In fact, it is 1,500 meters above sea level and 37 miles long. Melissa enjoyed Columbia immensely and is already planning her next visit.

Whether you are looking for adventurous hiking trails or admiring views on horseback, these exciting places have a variety of outdoor activities that are perfect for a summer vacation with the family.

TOP 8 healthy habits for a happy summer

Written By Alayna Mead, Staff Writer

After an everlasting school year of waking up early, preparing for exams, participating in extracurriculars, and facing a world wide pandemic, it is quite obvious that most students have felt high intensity pressure and stress. As summer is just around the corner, students become excited at the idea of a long break, seeing it as a chance to take a vacation, hang out with friends, relax in the sun, and have some fun. But it is also important for us to keep ourselves safe and maintain our wellness outside of a school environment. We already know the basics such as “apply sunscreen” and “stay hydrated,” but here are 8 more healthy habits for the Summer of 2022.

1. Stay Organized - Clean your room or write your weekly schedule in a planner to prevent stress and clear up your mind.
2. Turn off the screens and head outside - Take a break from your tablets and get some fresh air. You can ride a bike, read a book, or just relax in the sun. Too much screen time can lead to sleep problems, anxiety, and weight gain.
3. Make some exercise goals - Reaching exercise goals will help you to feel more confident and destress your body for the day; even just going for a daily walk can improve your mood!
4. Make time for yourself - Is there a movie you have been dying to see or a new recipe you want to try out? Go ahead and enjoy some individual time. Not all of your break has to be spent with others.
5. Catch up on sleep - School had us constantly waking up early so aim for 8-10 hours of sleep each night; sleep helps us perform better and improves our moods. Plus, a good night of sleep will set us up for an awesome day!
6. Help out in your community - Volunteer or get involved in a local activity; you will feel closer to your community and maybe even have some fun.
7. Explore somewhere new - Whether you take a vacation to a new country or explore locally, get out and seek for an adventure. It is important to see and explore rather than containing ourselves inside.
8. Spend some time with family - After such a long and stressful year of school, catch up with family and friends. You can visit them in person or just make a quick phone call!

Whether you spend your summer on vacation, working, or relaxing at home, let's take some measures to work on our wellness. These habits may be difficult to incorporate into your daily routine at first, but they will all work towards keeping you healthy and happy this summer, both physically and mentally.

Finding Fun Ways To Work

Written By Sienna Thurber, Staff Writer

What does summer mean to you? To me, it's the time to explore and create memories you will never forget. So, what are your plans for this summer? If you haven't already decided on going to the beach every day, you should consider getting a summer job. “Why would you want to work over the summer?”, you might ask. Having a summer job could be one of the most fun experiences, and it has many benefits. It could be a great way to occupy your time, meet new people, and build your resume, and at the end of it all you'll have spending money.

The first summer jobs I ever had were dog walking and babysitting. Those two jobs may not seem very fun; however, they were great experiences overall. I was able to have time alone to myself and go on a walk every day while hanging out with adorable dogs. Sometimes I would bring a friend and we got paid to have an amazing time laughing and joking as well as getting a workout. Babysitting was also a very fun and important experience as it helped me build my character. I learned how to take care of myself and be responsible for others.

My next summer job was at an art camp where I helped kids create their art projects. I would go in the morning and set up their tables with paints and water, and at the end of the day I would clean up and throw everything away. At the camp, the kids would call me Ms. Sienna as I helped them color, paint and draw. Per-

sonally, I love working with little kids as it was very entertaining, but even better, I worked with many of my friends as well. They also had very enjoyable summer jobs such as working at ice cream shops, doing paddle board rentals, and working at local restaurants. Whenever I went to see my friends working at Bellvale Creamery, they always said it was fun but demanding because of the crowd. Sophomore Kari Annunziato explained how the view was gorgeous, and she made close bonds with her colleagues all while learning how to work under pressure. Sean Mulcahy, another peer, told me his experience working at Jersey Paddle Boards. He discussed how he got to work all day with his friends out on the lake in his bathing suit in the blazing sun. Along with having fun he also learned communicative skills over the phone and in person.

The summer is your time to have fun, and having a fun job can be an easy way to improve yourself. Having a job shows colleges that you are dependable and responsible, which is always a good thing to see on applications. Any job promotes social skills needed for life, including confidence, which is important in a growing teen's life and helps one learn time management. Whether you are going to be a lifeguard, work at an ice cream shop, or dog sit, having a summer job can be a fun way to benefit you in the future.

Edited By Sienna Battifarano, Staff Writer

JOURNALISM TA



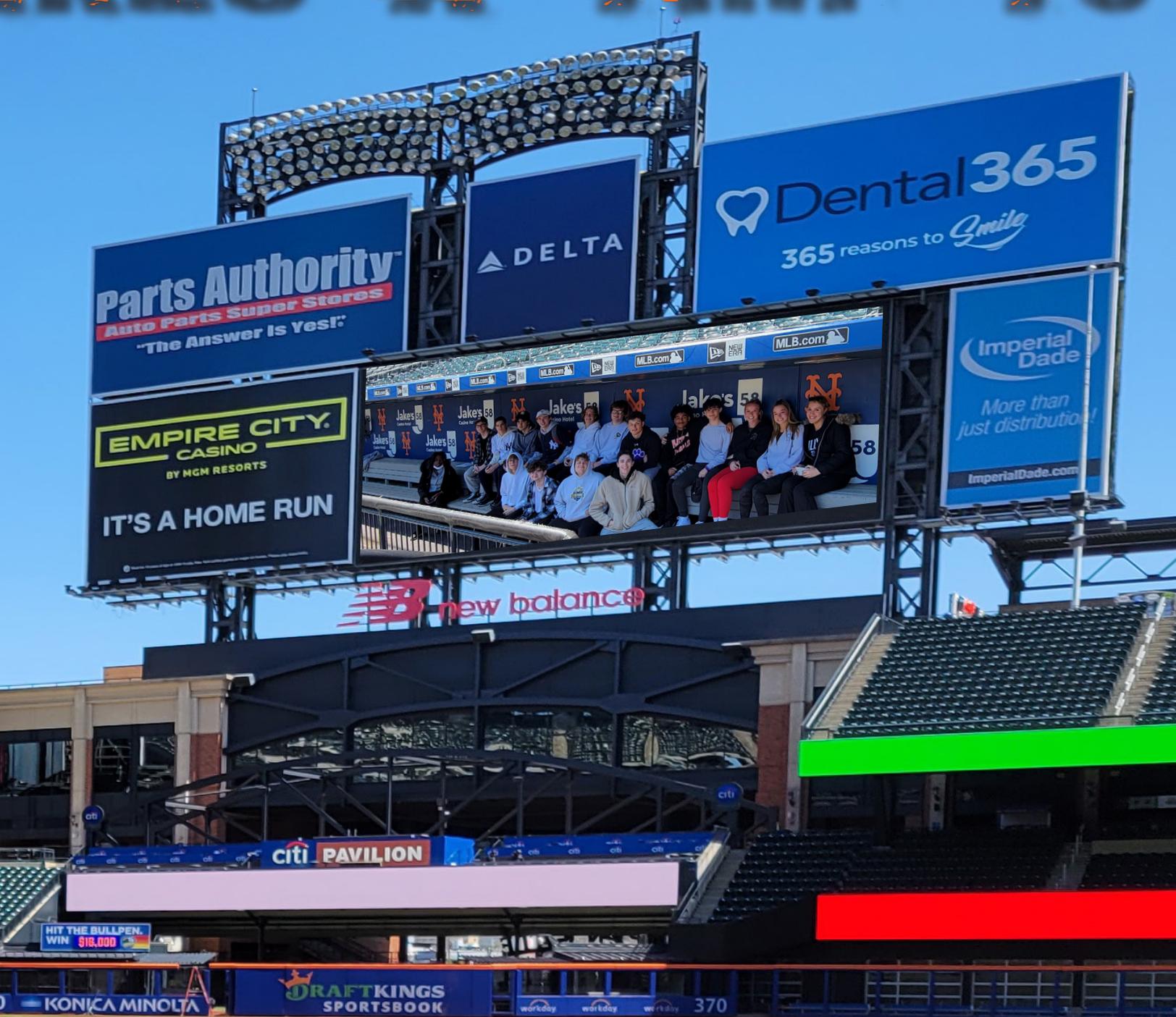
It all started when Tyler, one of our staff editors, suggested an idea for a field trip: “Let’s go to a ball game.” Logistically, however, we had to find a trip that could accommodate our need to book a school bus during school day hours. We also wanted to find a trip that worked well with our journalism program. After a bit of research and networking, the WVHS *Survey* staff made it to our ultimate destination in Flushing, Queens on Thursday, April 28, 2022: New York’s Citi Field, home of the New York Mets.

Upon our arrival, we first glimpsed the new 10-foot tall Tom Seaver statue, which shows the legendary pitcher in his signature pose, his knee scraping the dirt, along with the original Home Run Apple, the latter of which we posed in

front of for a photo. As we entered the facility we were greeted by Dan Tyrell, our tenured tour guide. He led us into the press room for the opportunity to interview Director of Consumer Strategy & Insight, James Benesh, who began with his own background and then touched on topics from fan interactions and guest experiences to Met’s history. Essentially, he oversees merchandising operations for sales of non-food items: “I like to say that anything you buy in the stadium that’s not a ticket and not edible is something that I deal with one way or another.” Furthermore, he assists in managing consumer technology to ensure that guests have a “frictionless” experience attending the park, encouraging them to return time and again.

When asked about the importance of building and

JAKES A TRIP TO



maintaining the brand, along with making connections with the fans, he said, “You take home a hat...it keeps that fan connected... [he or she becomes] a billboard for the team.” Benesh additionally runs the memorabilia program, in which they sell one-of-a-kind items such as autographed baseballs and game-used jerseys. All profits of the memorabilia program benefit the Amazin’ Mets Foundation, whose funds have been allocated to “providing needed services and opportunities to children, families, and under-served groups in our neighborhoods and communities,” as described on the MLB website.

We asked about how Mets owner Steve Cohen impacts day-to-day operations, and Benesh talked about the Cohens’ philosophy: “Steve and Alex [Steve’s wife] believe we can always

be better, and we want everyone to be happy,” from the players, to the support staff, to the fans. Benesh says they’ve been achieving that. To this, Tyrell interjected, “We wanted new scanners to smooth entry for the fans, and we got them! They responded just like that!” Benesh concurred and said since the Cohens have been at the helm, he’s seen payroll growth, an increased number of staff members in the front office, and stadium changes. “You can see and feel the follow through.” All of these changes are meant to “make sure our guest experience is top notch,” and “even the best in entertainment in the local area.”

We next wanted to know how journalism is

connected to what Benesh does. Patrick, a staff editor, asked, "How does competing in a big market city like New York affect your public relations and image?" and "How do you prepare for media interactions?" Benesh responded by saying, "Pretty much everything you do is under a microscope, but you can't operate under fear." He talked about a situation in which an unnamed organization's systems went down. Rather than face a press nightmare, the stadium ended up giving away hundreds of thousands of dollars in merchandise for free. In his case, he says he's "always on the move" on game days and he deals with situations as they come up. As a result, his press interactions - three a day at least - are primarily positive. In an ironic twist, this work ethic that keeps his media relations running smoothly means he almost never gets to watch a game live. It is a bittersweet tradeoff to being able to work for an organization he loves. Still, he says it is a really fun industry in which to work and no two days are the same. He said it is "awesome to call a venue your office."

Finally, Benesh reminisced about a job he once got as a teenager. He was there to make some summer spending money until, one day, his boss asked him if he could help modernize the business. Benesh was able to digitize things since he had a better understanding of computer technology. "I found myself learning to handle inventory, [work with] customers, handle sales... You'd be surprised how seemingly meaningless experiences can help you in the future." In fact, these "seemingly meaningless experiences" became a stepping stone to his current career. He left us with the idea that the skills needed for journalism - how to speak, how to write, how to present yourself, how to ask the right questions - are part of a skillset that can be applied to anything.

We left the press room and made our way to the clubhouse. We walked in and got to see the various places where teams prepare for a game. We saw the visitors' locker room, complete with wooden closets labeled with the name of each

player, a seating area, a workout room, a massage room with tables and ice baths, and indoor batting cages. It was impressive; we felt this intimate look was an interesting and unique experience.

However, nothing was more surreal than the next stop on our tour: walking out through the tunnel and into a Citi Field dugout. This was a highlight of the trip. After spending some time sitting on the same bench as the professional players we normally watch on TV, we marveled at the view. Next, we got to stand on the field itself. There's nothing like walking out and noticing the grit of the dirt, complete with the previous night's sunflower seed shells on the ground. Tyrell offered in-depth information about everything from the types of grass seed - four kinds of Kentucky Bluegrass - to the drainage system - the field can drain 10 inches of water per hour - to how the grounds crew prepares the field, and gave us trivia: the Mets logo was derived from the Dodgers hat color and the NY Giants' logo lettering. While there, we noticed two players having a catch. As it turned out, it was Pete Alonso and, we believe, Jeff McNeil, though Dan wouldn't confirm nor deny. When a few of us yelled, "Pete!" one of them threw a ball across the field and Jenna, our Co-Editor-in-Chief, got to take it home as a souvenir.

After the field experience, we walked through the Piazza 31 Club, a restaurant named for former Mets catcher, Mike Piazza. Tyrell brought us to the expansive wall of windows that overlook the parking lot and pointed out where Shea, the original Mets stadium, once stood. "Look at pole D. Then count two trees to the left. That's where second base was." He joked that former third baseman and captain David Wright got the first Citi Field home run. During construction, Wright, still playing at Shea, hit the ball so far, it went over the Shea wall and landed in the soon-to-be new stadium.

We headed toward the press box next. That vantage, high above the field, provided an astonishing view. Tyrell pointed out "The Great Wall of Flushing," and described how the home



run wall was adjusted so that more players could get home runs, thus making games more interesting for fans. When Gavin, one of our staff writers, asked him about Shannon Forde, a former Mets media relations specialist who passed away due to breast cancer, Tyrell spoke reverently. He discussed how beloved she was by all who knew her. Tyrell's knack for mixing trivia with personal experiences within the Mets organization impressed upon us how the ball club is more than just an employer, but also a family.

On the way to our next stop, we got a brief glimpse of one of the stadium's control rooms where all audio and video is processed. While there, Tyrell told us about Marysol Castro, a broadcaster and reporter. She is also a current Mets PA announcer and the first Latina woman to hold the position in the MLB. She shares duties with Colin Cosell, grandson of the famous sportscaster, Howard Cosell, who he called "baseball royalty."

The penultimate stop on the tour was the Jackie Robinson Rotunda. Interestingly, Robinson was never a Met, but he was an incredible player in his own right and the catalyst for helping to desegregate baseball. Former Mets owner Fred Wilpon, inspired by seeing Robinson play as Brooklyn Dodger, modeled the space after Ebbets Field. The cavernous rotunda is filled with imagery that is a tribute to his life. Huge black and white pictures of Robinson with his teammates, his family, Branch Ricky, his general manager, and even Martin Luther King, Jr. adorn the brick walls, along with one of the aforementioned and since demolished Ebbets field. One of Robinson's famous quotes is inscribed above the entrance to the 19,000 square foot space, toward the top of the archways: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." Detail was given to every inch, even the floor. Inscribed in the tiles in front of an eight foot "42" sculpture is "Jack Roosevelt Robinson. 1919-1972. Trailblazer. Humanitarian. American." Likewise, his footprints are also

etched into the floor. We marveled at how large they were, and a few of us pondered whether others could measure up physically or symbolically to this legendary American hero.

Finally, Tyrell took us to the Mets Museum. He pointed to a picture of Joan Whitney Payson, the first team owner, and George M. Weiss, the first team president. He explained how the team's official name, The Metropolitan Baseball Club of New York, was shortened because Payson and Weiss felt it would have been too long in newspaper headlines, hence the team became the NY Mets. We saw the 1969 and 1986 World Series trophies, the 1969 one being unique to all of baseball because one flag includes the Seattle Pilots. The team existed for only one year, and then it was moved to Milwaukee where it was renamed the Brewers. Walking past various pictures and plaques dedicated to former Mets throughout the years and a life-sized Mr. Met statue in 1986 regalia, we saw display cases of other relics such as Tug McGraw's signed contract. McGraw, an adored pitcher, was the one who coined the now famous "You gotta believe!" mantra. Two signed baseballs, Mookie Wilson's 1986 World Series ball and one that Mike Piazza used for a ceremonial first pitch at Citi Field's first World Series game, both sit in display cases along one wall next to Edgardo Alfonzo's glove and David Wright's All Star ring. Hearing about these and other artifacts made for a nice end to our tour.

All in all, we thought it was an entertaining and interesting trip. We learned about baseball history, and we gained insight to the everyday routines of those who make up the franchise. One thing that stood out to us was how highly Benesh and Tyrell spoke of the organization. Each and every employee, from tour guides, management, grounds crew, and the athletes are respected equally as essential to the club. In fact, all of those we encountered during the tour appeared happy and clearly took pride in their work. The trip was an "amazin'" and unforgettable experience, and one we hope to take part in again.



Jack Roosevelt Robinson
1919 - 1972

To
Arthur
The Ball Man
at For US
Mookie Wilson
10/25/86

Dear Reader,

All students in the journalism program have the opportunity to see their writing published throughout the year in one of our five editions. However, the magazine itself is typically produced by Journalism II students. This special edition is not only the first one of the 2021-2022 school year to be produced by Journalism I students, but it also marks the 100th anniversary of *The Survey*. Special thanks goes out to Warwick's Deputy Historian, Sue Gardner, and our very own Athletic Director, Coach Gregory Sirico. Both were instrumental in helping us with necessary research. We hope you enjoy it!

-The Editors

The content of this paper reflects students' writing efforts and views, which do not necessarily represent WVCSD or *The Survey's* staff .