

A Look Back at the Events of 2015 & 2016

August 2015

27




First day of school!

September 2015

10 Open House at CHS to welcome families.

15 First College Fair of the year.



18



Pep Rally! Students get excited for sports to begin.

October 2015

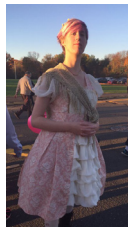
- 1 Students and teachers begin communicating through Gmail. 
- 3 

CHS faculty and staff participate in the Warrior Dash.
- 9 CHS welcomes German exchange students. 
- 10  Fall Blood Drive takes place. 69 pints of blood were collected!
- 13 National Honor Society induction.

14 CHS administers PSAT for sophomores and juniors.

17 Marching band hosts Music in Motion.

30 End of first quarter!
Students participate in the Halloween parade.

A photograph of a student participating in a Halloween parade. The student is wearing a white, ruffled costume with a pink sash and a pink headband. They are standing on a paved surface, and other people in costumes are visible in the background.

November 2015

8



Cheshire's Annual Food Drive is held on the Town Green.

11

BRAVE hosts Veteran's Day Breakfast.

14

Cheshire's Annual Lights of Hope




19-21

The fall play *Much Ado About Nothing*.



21 Leaf Raking for senior citizens.



24 CHS annual powderpuff game vs. Southington.


December 2015

1 CHS Chorus concert

10 CHS Instrumental concert

16 Pep rally to honor Dr. Greg Florio, Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools, as he leaves to take on a new job.

23



On his last few days in Cheshire, Dr. Florio attempts to high five all students in all the schools.

January 2016

4 AP Gov students take trip to New Hampshire for first in the nation primary

14-20 Mid-terms take place at CHS

February 2016

3 Junior Job Shadow Day

5 First Snow Day of the year!




7



Broncos Win 24-10

8 Last Snow day of the year - there were only two snow days this year.

10 Winter Blood Drive takes place. 71 pints of blood were collected!




11 CHS holds Broadway Highlights Chorus Concert.

23 Assembly held for juniors and seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

March 2016

16 CHS wins
CAS-CIAC
Battle of the
Fans

A photograph of three men standing together and holding a trophy. The man on the left is wearing a red sweatshirt with a white logo. The man in the middle is wearing a red sweatshirt with a white logo. The man on the right is wearing a dark suit and a patterned tie. The trophy is a dark plaque with a white ribbon and text. The background is a blurred crowd of people in a stadium.

17-19 Spring Musical Mary
Poppins

April 2016


5



A photograph of four people standing in a hallway. From left to right: a man in a brown jacket and plaid shirt, a man in a dark jacket and light pants, a woman in a dark jacket and blue shirt, and a man in a dark suit and tie. They are standing in front of a wall with colorful posters and a clock.

Students receive UCONN
Engineering Summer Program
Scholarships.

8



Students compete for the title of 'Mr. CHS'

21

National Poem in your Pocket Day is celebrated in school library.

Spring Blood Drive takes place.
73 pints of blood were collected!

27



Robotics Team 999 Competes in St. Louis World Championships



Club Spotlight Aid for Others - AFO

By Annie Wang 2018

You may have seen one of their many colorful neon posters hung up around the school, but AFO (Aid for Others) is one of Cheshire High’s newest clubs and is dedicated to raising money for underprivileged children in China and Africa. If you’re interested in getting involved in supporting a great cause, stop in a meeting in room 16 on Mondays!

Interview with Sarah Hubelbank, 2018, founder and president of the club:

Q: What made you decide to start the club?

I was inspired to start this club because my younger sister is adopted from China. She means the world to me, and it breaks my heart knowing that there are so many babies and children in China without families to love them. I’m extremely passionate about this cause, and so I wanted to start a club that would make a difference in the lives of many children.

Q: What does an average meeting look like?

A typical meeting is very casual. We talk about possible fundraisers, and plan for them. Sometimes we create posters to advertise for our fundraisers and we discuss where the money will be donated.

Q: What are your main goals for the club?

The main goal of this club is to provide much needed help to children all over the world. At the moment, our focus is helping children in China and Africa. We recently held a bake sale with an end result of \$267, and we are planning on using the money to sponsor a child in China in foster care for about 5 months.



Relay for Life in its 20th Season

By Gina Allegrini 2018

On June 3rd 2016, Cheshire held its 20th annual Relay for Life event, a fight against cancer.

Relay for Life is a non-profit organization, that raises money to find a cure for cancer. Once a year, a day is dedicated to remembering our loved ones lost, celebrate the survivors, and continue to fight back. This fight against cancer was created back in 1985 by Dr. Gordy Klatt, who resides in Tacoma, Washington. Looking to fundraise for his local American Cancer Society, Klatt thought up ideas on what he could do to achieve his goal. In May of 1985, Klatt spent 24 hours walking the track at the University of Puget Sound, asking friends and family to donate 25 dollars for every thirty minutes walking beside him. After the event was over, he raised a total of 27,000 dollars for his cause. Although Klatt had raised a tremendous amount to help fight cancer, his fight was not over yet. He began to extend similar ideas across the nation, creating the Relay for Life event. To this day, there are now about 4 million people helping to end cancer together. Cheshire has had the privilege to be a part of this event for 20 years, and continues to make a big impact to help find a cure to cancer.

When entering Dodd Middle School, I was welcomed into the Future Educators of America club and one of our main events that year was joining Relay for Life of Cheshire, and raising money



Student team, Dominating for a Cure from the 2015 Relay, get ready to walk the track.

as a club. We hosted bake sales, luminaria sales, tag sales, and door-to-door selling. After experiencing the event, I decided I wanted to help more. The next year in 8th grade, I became the captain for the relay for life team of FEA. We continued to raise money, and had another successful year in helping find a cure to cancer.

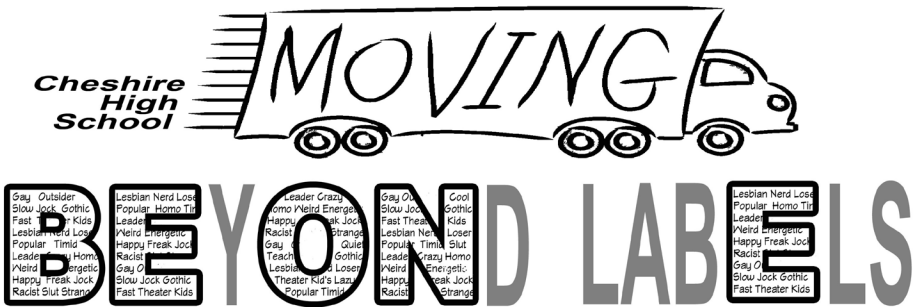
This year at CHS, I currently have a relay team comprised of 13 people. We have had many fundraisers this year, working hard to raise as much money as we can. Two unique fundraisers we have had this year were fundraising nights, at Panera Bread and Moe’s Southwest Grill. We handed out flyers to family and friends, asking them to go to the restaurants on our fundraising night, and got a donation from their meal. In addition to this, we have also held various luminary sales

around Cheshire, selling the bags in honor or memory of a loved one who has battled cancer. These fundraisers took place at places such as Mike’s Sideline Grill and Bagelicious. As we continue to individually fundraise, our team is preparing for our last big team fundraiser. We are collecting cans and bottles, which we will all go and cash in together and add the money to our team donations.

Overall, I have helped raise over \$6,000 to find a cure to cancer. Relay for Life has had a big impact on my life, and I will continue to be a part of it throughout my next two years at Cheshire High School. Everyone is welcome to the event on June 3rd, from 3pm to 11pm at the Cheshire High School Track. Look forward to seeing everyone there!



A New Look for B1 Day B1 Day 2016



By Simran Kaur 2018

Diversity is a concept that most people struggle to understand. You know the meaning behind it, but it’s hard to actually accept the diversity we have around us.

On April 20, 1999, two students of Columbine High School started to shoot students and faculty members in the cafeteria. Based off the information gathered by the police, they chose to shoot students because they were bullied. The students had odd obsessions with violence and Hitler; evidence says this most likely influenced their decision to start the shooting. After hearing about this traumatic event, a group of students asked to start B1-Day.

The students realized how cliquey CHS has become so they wanted a day where everyone can be together and supportive of each other. “They went to one of our retired guidance counselor and said they were scared because there were a lot of bomb threats and a lot of stuff was happening here and everyone was getting kind of segregated” says Mrs. Schumacher, one of our school counselors who used to coordinate B1-Day. It was hard to make B1-Day a thing, but after persuading the school to make it happen, it became one of our most important event for the students.

This year, B1-Day was coordinated by one of the assistant principals, Mr. Sansoucy. Due to being his last year as assistant principal, because he is retiring, he

wanted to make a B1-Day go to another level. This year’s B1-Day consisted of another take on the panel called StoryCorps. This had students, parents, or faculty members have a discussion in front of the other students to discuss each other’s point of view on a specific topic. The topics varied from a freshmen talking with a senior to a member of the Young Democrats talking to a member of the Young Republicans. The panel was then followed by a guest speaker, Hasher Nasim, who discussed his view as a Muslim-American. After that, the students were shown the B1-Day video. Most of videos had a humorous quality to it so that students can connect and understand the concepts. After that students went through a series of workshops such as “Cards You’re Dealt With” and “What Makes Us Unique.”

“When there’s a sense of community in any organization whether it is school or work, there’s a sense that we kind of know each other and everyone is comfortable with each other, there is a more positive community” states Mr. Sansoucy. But from what it came out to be, B1-Day seemed to be a success. Students enjoyed different parts of the day and had many opinions about them. Hopefully B1-Day continues to get better every year!



Summer Book Clubs Reading Made Fun

By Jessica Tan 2018

The CHS Summer Book Club has returned in its fifth year. Registration for book clubs has began, giving students the option of deciding from among 38 different books in a wide spectrum of genres. This year, the program is bigger and better than ever, with over 70 CHS faculty members hosting these books. The full list of books is available here.

Many books on the list have been made into movies recently. These books include The 5th Wave, Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children, Girl on the Train, and Me Before You. Some of these book clubs are planning to offer an activity outside of school to watch the movie when school starts in the fall.

In addition to the books being remade into movies, other book clubs have generated a great amount of excitement for other reasons. Mr. Wildermann will be hosting A Thousand Splendid Suns, the sequel to The Kite Runner—a favorite novel among many CHS World Literature students. Additionally, Ms. Hoag’s book club is reading 11/22/63, a fictional spin on Kennedy’s assassination. “I chose to read 11/22/63 because I find the chaos theory and how imposing changes, both large and small, on things will always have unexpected results,” says Jason Han, 2018, current student of Ms. Hoag’s AP U.S. History class.

From Ms. Griffiths’s and Ms. Roussell’s factual The Kennedy Assassination: 24 Hours After: Lyndon B. Johnson’s Pivotal First Day as President to Mr. Swanson’s comic books in The Immortal Iron Fist: The Complete Collection Vol. 1, the CHS Summer Reading Program offers something for everyone. Registration for these book clubs is highly encouraged by the CHS English Department.

Go to CHS website to sign up!



A Farewell To Our School Members

Sansoucy Says Goodbye After 40 Years In Education

Ms. Vanessa Montorsi is on the Move

By Roger Chen2017

After 40 years in education, 10 years as an assistant principal at Cheshire High School, Mr. Richard Sansoucy will be retiring at the end of this school year. Sansoucy has spent his life as an educator starting as a band director and then moving up to assistant principal. He has been an integral part of the school serving as the head of the Safe School Climate Committee and planning this year's B1 day.

"Sansoucy's retirement is definitely bittersweet. I congratulate him on his retirement, but his presence in the school will be missed. He put so much effort in making our school a better place and it's hard to imagine how the school climate committee or B1 day will shape up next year," says Arnav Velaparthi, 2017.

Sansoucy has touched so many students throughout his time at CHS. As the assistant principal who has to deal with discipline, he has helped guide so many students to a better path.

According to Sansoucy, he will miss the people the most.

"I enjoy being around the students and the teachers. I really like being around young people. I love the youthful energy that the students have," said Sansoucy.

"I like being apart of that amazing transformation from when freshmen walk through that door to kids at graduation walking out as young men and women, and



I'll certainly miss that," added Sansoucy.

Even after he leaves CHS, Sansoucy hopes that students will continue to give back to the community whether it be through raking leaves for senior citizens or raising money for charity.

Next year, Sansoucy plans to spend his extra time into getting back in music and running. He also plans to help his children out with a couple of construction projects around their house. We wish him the best of luck in retirement. Sansoucy will truly be missed at CHS.

By Roger Chen2017

After six years as a guidance counselor, Ms. Vanessa Montorsi will be leaving CHS to become the Director of Pupil Services and School Counseling at Fairfield Public Schools. Ever since she was young, Montorsi knew that she wanted to be an educator. As a child, Montorsi would set up a classroom in her basement and she would teach. Because of her love for teaching, Montorsi became a physical education and health teacher after college. Shortly after, she became a guidance counselor.

Montorsi will definitely be missed in the CHS community. She played such an integral role in the lives of so many of her students from guiding them throughout their high school career to helping them apply to college.

"I will definitely miss the students on my caseload. I feel like I have so many great students and families that I've been fortunate enough to work with. I will certainly miss the staff here, especially the counselors and secretaries that are in this office," Montorsi said on what she would miss most about CHS.

"I hope when people remember me they think that I always did what was right for them in that situation."



Ever since she finished her administrative certificate six years ago, Montorsi knew that she wanted to move into a leadership role. Although she'll miss, Montorsi looks forward to her new job and the impact she will bring to the school and community.

Montorsi will certainly be missed by the school. We wish her the best of luck at her new job in Fairfield.

A Look Back

Continued from page 1

28 State leadership conference held in Thorp Auditorium.

30 "The Roaring Twenties" Junior Prom is held at Aria Banquet Hall in Prospect.



17 Awards Convocation ceremony held in Thorp Auditorium. Juniors and seniors are recognized for academic achievement. Seniors are presented with scholarships.

19 Physics Day takes place at Lake Compounce in Bristol. Students found data to analyze in physics and math classes.



May2016

2 The stress of AP testing begins.

4 CHS spring chorus concert

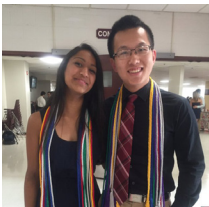
12 CHS instrumental concert

14 "Cherry Blossom" Senior Prom is held at the Aqua Turf in Southington



B1 Day is celebrated. CHS 2012 Alumn, Hasher Nisar speaks to the school about challenges and experiences he has faced in his life.

20



Honor Cord Ceremony held in Thorp Auditorium. The Salutatorian, Durga Rathi and Valedictorian, Shangda Xu are announced.



R&D students compete at Electrathon in Lime Rock, CT.

27 Eleven AP art students display their work in the Art Show.



By Roger Chen2017

After twenty-four years in the Cheshire Public Schools system, Ms. Joanne White will be retiring at the end of this school year. White has been a special education teacher at CHS for the past couple of years. She has dedicated thirty years of her life to education.

White has fond memories of her years teaching.

"I really love the communication I have with my students. I really enjoy watching kids over the years succeed. I have a lot of students who I've had years ago who I still see, and they're successful."

Ms. White's retirement will be an especially huge loss to the special education department. There is a strong sense of community within the department, and her presence will be missed.

According to White, she will miss many things.

"I'm going to miss every part of my job. . . I've always been really fortunate. I've loved being a teacher. I've loved every minute of teaching," said White.



Next year, White plans to take some new classes, get back into yoga, and do some construction projects around her house. Although she is retiring, White still plans to be involved in education through volunteering in schools or tutoring.

White will truly be missed by the student body. We wish her the best of luck in retirement.

June2016

2 Senior Picnic takes place at Holiday Hill, Prospect.

9 Principal Jeff Solan is officially appointed Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools



7-10 Final Exams



CHS class of 2016 Graduates! Congrats seniors!

Have a great summer CHS!

New Position for Mr. Dan Lee

By Michael Lewis

2019

When students come back in August, they will notice that there will be an absence in the physical education department. Mr. Dan Lee, one of the head P.E teachers, is transitioning to the assistant principal position Mr. Richard Sansoucy is leaving behind. He is also stepping down from his head coaching positions for boys basketball and golf.

"When new opportunities present themselves, it's just a new challenge. Maybe I'll have an impact with more students," said Lee, who has been the head boys basketball coach at Cheshire for the past 10 years.

Though he will miss his job as P.E teacher quite a bit, Lee also expressed some of the things he is excited about with this new position.

"[I'm going to] Find a way to know as many kids as I can, I'm a pretty outgoing person. Although my role will change, I will try to make my interactions with students as positive as possible" said Lee. "I'll miss my colleagues, but it's not like I won't see them. I keep telling my-



self that I'm not leaving the building. I'm just moving a few offices away. I'll still be teaching kids, but just in a different way," said Lee.

When you see Lee in the halls next year, be sure to say "Hi". He'll appreciate it, and he will do a great job as the new assistant principal. 🐼

CHS Principal Solan Appointed Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools

By Matt Davies

2017

Cheshire High School Principal Mr. Jeff Solan was appointed the new Superintendent of Cheshire Public Schools, June 9. He will begin his new job on July 1st.

According to Solan, he there are ups and downs to this move.

"I am excited about working with everyone in the Cheshire Community to help our schools continue to grow and improve. Of course leaving CHS is the downside of that opportunity," said Solan.

Solan has enjoyed working at Cheshire High.

"I have really enjoyed working here. As you know, I really enjoy joking around with all of our students and having a good time while helping them grow and meet their goals," said Solan.



Solan will be missed by everyone here at Cheshire High School. 🐼

CHS Drama Earns 'Best Musical' at Halo Awards

By Archana Mandava

2019

Cheshire High Drama Club wins 'Best Contemporary Musical' at the Halo Awards June 1 at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. Isabella Riccio won for 'Best Performance by a Featured Actress' in a Musical, as Miss Andrews in "Mary Poppins".

There were two nights of awards, ranging from Best Actor to Best Acting by an Ensemble Cast. Cheshire High School was chosen for many nominations, and most of the cast from Mary Poppins and Much Ado About Nothing attended this event. Judges attended the musical and the play, and CHS was chosen based off the performances of the cast and crew, as well as the entire play/musical. Congratulations to the cast and the hard working crew of the Mary Poppins musical and the Much Ado About Nothing Play! (Especially since there are around 64 other schools competing)

Nominee List;

- Matt Stayner-(Best performance by a featured actor in a play)
- Julia Torok-(Best performance by a featured actress in a play/Best performance by a leading actress in a contemporary musical/Best speciality ensemble)
- Isabella Riccio-(Best performance by a featured actress in a musical/Best performance by a supporting actress in a play/Best performance by a couple or dynamic duo in a play)
- Ariana Harris-(Best comic female performance in a play)
- Running Crew-(Best running crew)
- Sarah Joseph-(Best Stage Management)
- Simran Kaur-(Best Stage Management)
- Mary Poppins-(Best Chorus/Best Danc-



Photo courtesy CHSRampage.org

- ing/Best contemporary musical)
- Thomas Mueller-(Best Speciality Ensemble/Best performance by a couple/dynamic duo in a play/Best performance by a leading actor in a contemporary musical)
- Adam Majeski-(Best performance by a supporting actor in a play and musical)
- Alea Vernon-(Best performance by a supporting actress in a musical)
- Liam Thomas-(Best performance by a leading actor in a classical play)
- Marissa Nazzaro-(Best performance by a leading actress in a classical play)
- Much Ado About Nothing-(Best classical play)



How to Avoid the Freshman Fifteen: Tips on Healthy Eating in College

By Jessica Tan

2018

As the Class of 2016 gives their farewell to Cheshire High School's cafeteria-proportioned meals, they must soon face the task of keeping track of their own health if they plan to start college in the fall. They will be warned of the "freshman fifteen", a phrase implying that college freshmen fail to eat smart and, as a result, gain fifteen pounds by the end of the year. However, this "freshman fifteen" can be avoided.

Problem: College students often argue that they are on a strict budget that does not accommodate the purchase of healthy ingredients. They will instead buy junk food in bulk quantities for cheap.

Solution: Not all healthy food is expensive. In fact, most types of fruit are relatively cheap. Substituting a fruit for breakfast in place of Poptarts should not be very challenging. Also, the protein needed to keep students full throughout the day can be found in cheaper alternatives. For example, eggs are a great source of protein that do not break the bank. Chicken is also a great source of protein, and is one of the cheapest meats out there.

Problem: People argue that healthy food is tasteless and bland without the added sugars and fat.

Solution: Invest in some delicious spices. Not all foods need butter and oil to give them flavor. Buy some fresh or dry herbs



Photo courtesy Google Images

and add them into your foods for a delicious kick. If you are into spicy foods, get your hands on some red chili flakes, which are a must for any savory meal. And of course, the basic salt and pepper do go a long way.

Problem: There is no time to cook in college because of the hectic schedules and adjustments being made.

Solution: There are many recipes that can be premade and stored in a freezer. If you have time to cook on one day, make food for the rest of the week and store it away. The best meals to freeze include casseroles, stews, and even smoothies. To prepare these meals for the rest of the week, pop them into the microwave or the oven. This can be done without leaving your dorm, which is even easier and less time consuming than heading to the campus cafeteria.



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What It Means to be a Ram

By Michael Lewis 2019

It was Thanksgiving morning at about 10 a.m. Ram fans filed in with their families for the annual Apple Valley Classic. Southington came into the game with an undefeated record and #1 ranking. They were the defending Class LL championship and came in looking to continue their momentum into the playoffs. However, the Rams didn't make it easy. This game alone defined the sports seasons we have gone through this year as Ram fans, as the game exemplified what it means to be a R.A.M: Resilience, Atmosphere, and Memories.

To be a great athlete, you have to be resilient. Everybody is going to lose a game, as that is just the way sports work. However, it's how you bounce back from those losses that defines you. Cheshire was 4-5 entering their game against undefeated Southington, a game that people expected to be a blowout. However, with the CPTV camera crew in attendance, the Rams put together their best performance of the season. It wasn't just football that resilience was shown. Field Hockey, seeded #5, defeated the #1 seed Glastonbury in the state semifinals, a game that went to pen-

alty strokes. Boys Basketball was 2-8 at midseason, but bounced back to finish 10-10. The boys ice hockey team had a five game losing streak during the regular season, but two crucial overtime wins propelled them to the SCC/SWC championship game. Part of the reason these teams stayed resilient were because of the fans, may I say best fans in the state.

On March 19th, 2016, the thought everyone in town had become a fact: Ramland is the best student section in the state. The atmosphere at most athletic events is incredible, from hearing "Livin' on a Prayer" at halftime, to bringing signs and vuvuzelas. The students are a major factor in every game, one of the reasons Cheshire has seen so much success in the



all the memories we witnessed this year, but not fully. To completely remember something, you have to be there. So students, think about this. Were you at the football game vs Hamden, when Jack Raba threw a last-second touchdown pass to Eric Angelone to open the season with a win? Were you there when Cheshire baseball shut out the third best team in the state, Sheehan? Or were you there when Sam Simone hit a walk off home run in the 11th inning to give the softball team their first undefeated season in the program's history? If not, it's understandable. But for all underclassmen returning next year, come out and support your student athletes. You never know what is going to happen.

It's been an incredible year in Cheshire athletics. Every player who has stepped onto the field bearing red and black has tried their hardest to win. Every fan who has attended a game has tried their hardest to give Cheshire the advantage. That passion that Cheshire fans bring is what all you seniors should remember, and underclassmen should appreciate. As the chant says, "The Rams are the best".



Spotlight on Oxford University

By Annie Wang 2018



Photo courtesy Google Images

The majority of us Cheshirians may not be able to imagine leaving the country for college. Maybe you have never left the country in general. For these reasons alone, international colleges are often overlooked by high school students in the United States. Whatever the case may be, one must remain open-minded to all the amazing universities around the world. One of these universities being the world-renowned Oxford University. Oxford University is not only the home of many Harry Potter scenes, but also also a highly qualified academic school, proven by the fact that it is ranked #5 on US News Best Global Universities List.

Located 60 miles north of London, the university's history is both lengthy

and fascinating. As the second-oldest surviving university, the school can trace its roots all the way back to King Henry II in 1167. The university has 38 colleges and four academic divisions and the total number of undergraduate students is around 20,000, making it a fairly large college. On a side note, 6,740 of the 20,000 undergraduate students are international students so it is definitely a very diverse and versatile school. In 2015, 563 students from the US applied to the school and 40 were accepted (7% acceptance rate).

Although the school is highly selective, it doesn't hurt to apply. There are thousands of other great schools around the world, just remember to keep your options open and be optimistic!



A New Face of Fitness

By Michael Lewis 2019

Have you ever seen the show American Ninja Warrior? If not, it is a reality television show on NBC that airs during the summer, where contestants try to conquer the world's hardest obstacle course. It's essentially Wipeout on steroids. What is unique about the show is that the million dollar prize is not given out every season. It wasn't until last year, in Season 7, that someone actually completed all six stages (City qualifiers and finals, Mt Midoriyama stages 1-4) and got the prize money.

Drew Drechsel is one of the more popular competitors on ANW. He came in 4th last year, represented team USA in the USA vs the World special, and is also the lead instructor at New Era Ninjas. He feels that this season is going to be the year he goes all the way, a feat that was done for the first time last year.



"This year I'm smarter, wiser, stronger than I was before. I feel my grip and my endurance is a lot better than it was last year, and I've been training specifically for stage three (the third of four stages, where he fell last season)" said Drechsel.

If you watch the show and think "hey, I want to try that" like most others viewers, you now have the chance at New Era Ninjas in Hamden. It is the only gym devoted to ninja warrior in Connecticut, and has an advantage over regular gyms, according to owner Thomas Alberti.

"It's the most fun way to get in shape there could be. You lift a weight, you lift a weight. Wonderful. Here, there are new obstacles every week to challenge your abilities and to improve upon them" said Alberti, who has been coaching gymnastics for 33 years.

The atmosphere in a ninja gym also differs from being on a team sport, as Drechsel explained.

"Team sports, you obviously want to win" said Drechsel. "When you do ninja warrior, you want to be the best you. We're all looking to help each other out. If I get someone in here, I want to see what he/she's got. I want to help them. I want them to get stronger, learn some stuff, and if they happen to surpass me that's good. That drives me to be better. Maybe I can learn something"

Derrick Matthews, a senior at Southern Connecticut State University, is

a member of the gyms "ninja squad". He also one of the 70,000 people that sent in an application video for season 8. When asked about how the gym has changed him, he had nothing but positive things to say.

"This is a fantastic experience. Definitely try it out. I never thought that I would be in the position I am right now. This is something to try, and see where it takes you. It makes you stronger and a better person," said Matthews.

As for the future of the sport, Drechsel doesn't know exactly where it will go. He said that on American television, everything has a due date. People will get bored of it eventually, which he predicted would be about 10 years. When Alberti was asked the same thing, he referred the future to the youth.

"The adults will always want to do it, but for it to be a viable sport from the business sense, the kids need to be the one that generate the income for these places to grow," said Alberti, who hopes to see a national program for kids/teens developed within the year.

If you want a fun workout and be able to feel good about yourself, head over to New Era Ninjas this summer. Their slogan is "Together, we overcome obstacles", which includes physical and mental obstacles. As for the show, episodes will air on Wednesdays throughout the summer, beginning on June 1st.



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the
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Southern Connecticut
State University

Alyssa Adesso
University of Connecticut

Brian Ahmadi- Tabatabaie
Central Connecticut
State University

Colin Albrecht
University of New Hampshire
at Durham

Dominic Allegrini
Sacred Heart University

David Amann
University of Connecticut

Joey Amato
Pennsylvania State University

Alicia Amici
Quinnipiac University

Gabriella Amodei
Middlesex Community College

Natalie Anastasio
University of Massachusetts,
Lowell

Jacob Andrews
Military

Christos Bagtzoglou
University of Connecticut

Yiannis Bagtzoglou
University of Connecticut

Victoria Barbieri
Southern Connecticut
State University

Zachary Barlok
Salve Regina University

Robert Bartlett
Post University

Anne Bartram
University of California, Davis

Averye Bassett
Southern Connecticut
State University

Gabriela Batista
Brown University

Ian Beling
Eastern Connecticut State
University

Peter Bellantonio
Boston College

Samantha Bellina
Northeastern University

Jacob Beloin
Connecticut College

Jeremy Bennett
University of Connecticut

Esha Bhandari
Wesleyan University

Karl Bishop
University of Connecticut

Taylor Blouin
Cape Fear Community College

Phillip Bodurtha
University of New Haven

Tyler Brabant
Champlain College

Alexzandra Bradley
Quinnipiac University

Shawn Bradley
Eastern Connecticut
State University

Lauren Brady
Southern Connecticut
State University

Allyson Braun
Central Connecticut
State University

Rebecca Brewer
Emerson College

Giovanni Brino
Naugatuck Valley Community
Technical College

Vivian Bronson
The University of Alabama

Eric Brouette
Naugatuck Valley Community
Technical College

Owen Brown
Southern Connecticut
State University

Melody Bryden
Winthrop University

Andrew Budd
Utica College

Nora Burner
Colgate University

Sir-Michael Burrow
Southern Connecticut
State University

Niletta Burton
Rider University

Resmi Bylykbashi
Naugatuck Valley Community
Technical College

Kelly Byrd
Endicott College

Samantha Calabrese
Post University

Katie Caldwell
Fairfield University

Alaina Capasso
University of Rhode Island

Lauren Carbone
University of New England

Caitlyn Carlino
Emmanuel College

Kevin Cashmore
Military

Joseph Cashore
University of British Columbia

Xavier Celestino
St. Johns University
Queens Campus

Julia Champagne
Sarah Lawrence College

Joshua Chen
Boston College

Alexander Cheruk
Iona College

Thomas Conlon
Xavier University

Justine Connelly
Endicott College

Alexander Conrod
Plymouth State University

Andrew Criscuolo
Western New England University

Sabrina Cuda
College of Charleston

Griffin Cunningham
Oberlin College

Alexandra Czarkosky
College of New Rochelle

Dylan D’Addio
University of Connecticut

Matthew D’Andrea
Springfield College

Connor Davey
Southern Connecticut
State University

Gianna Davino
Hamilton College

Alexa Dayton
University of New Haven

Savannah DeBauche
Flagler College

Carter DeFigueiredo
SUNY Maritime College

Michael DeFrancesco
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Salvatore DeLucia
The University of Alabama

Jared Dennehy
University of Maine

Harrison Dent
University of Connecticut

Meghan Diamond
University of Connecticut

Daniel DiLeo
Florida Institute of Technology

Kailey Dion
University of Connecticut

Eric Dishnica
University of Connecticut

Kelli Doheny
Southern Connecticut
State University

Renee Donna
Champlain College

Marco Dugay
University of Connecticut

Paul Dumaine
Military

Meghan Dutchyshyn
Endicott College

Peter Earley
Stetson University

Kari Eisenberg
The University of Alabama

Ledia Fazo
Southern Connecticut
State University

Andrew Feinberg
Quinnipiac University

Zachary Feldman
University of Connecticut

Timothy Fiedler
Northeastern University

John Finkle University of Hartford	Michael Goodrich Alfred University	Megan Hodgdon Eastern Connecticut State University	Owen Kennelly University of Connecticut
Andrew Fiocco Jacobs University	Emily Gotowala University of Rhode Island	Christopher Horowitz University of Maine	Christian Kenny Southern Connecticut State University
Daniel Fisher University of Connecticut	Trai Gozzi George Mason University	Charles Housemann University of Rhode Island	Shadid Khan University of Connecticut
Sean Fitzgerald The University of Scranton	Lillian Graham University of Rhode Island	Margaret Hoynes University of Connecticut	Sumaina Khan Central Connecticut State University
Katherine Flight Keene State College	Marli Green The University of Tampa	Brooke Hulteen St. Johns University Queens Campus	Olivea Kieffer Bucknell University
Pablo Flores Keene State College	Jasmine Greene University of Connecticut	Ashley Hunt Mount Saint Mary College	John Klaas West Virginia University
Maddisen Fostyni Roger Williams University	Danielle Grenon Sacred Heart University	Brianna Hunt Iona College	Jordan Kolpak Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Alec Fowler Central Connecticut State University	Kaitlyn Gribko Gateway Community College	Madison Hunt North Carolina State University	Sydney Korman Pace University, New York City
Kendal Frazier University of Florida	Jennifer Grubov University of Rhode Island	Carly Hunter University of Rhode Island	Morgan Kranyak Sacred Heart University
Clare French Fairfield University	Hannah Hackett Western University	Austin Ingarra The College of Saint Rose	Alexander Kratzert Paier College of Art, Inc.
Stephen Friedler New Hampton School	Ciara Haensel Fairfield University	Emily Inzero St. John’s University Queens Campus	Patrycja Kruszewski University of Hartford
Lawrence Fritz Bryant University	Kendra Hall University of Connecticut	Marissa Jamele Quinnipiac University	Juliana Kuss Ithica College
Ryan Gallagher Fairfield University	Olivia Hally Quinnipiac University	Russell Jasman Central Connecticut State University	Ethan LaChance University of Connecticut
Alexandra Galullo Sacred Heart University	Micah Hannon Employment	Brianna Justice Southern Connecticut State University	Victoria Lahey Lebanon Valley College
John Gaudio Southern Connecticut State University	CarsonLee Harper University of Connecticut	Altrin Kabashi University of Massachusetts Dartmouth	Devin Lasher Bryant University
Hannah Gelmetti School of Visual Arts	Ariana Harris Gap Year	Leah Kaczmarek University of South Carolina	Maria Latta University of Connecticut
Isabella Gessman University of Vermont	Garrison Harte St. Johns University Queens Campus	Brennan Kane University of Connecticut	Andrew Levy Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Robert Gieseler University of Connecticut	Kristina Haskell Dean College	Alexa Kareco Northeastern University	Jessica Li Vassar College
Megan Giles Georgia Institute of Technology	Jarod Havriliak Eastern Connecticut State University	Carl Kasperson Point Park University	Daniel Light University of Connecticut
Harrison Ginsberg Iona College	Megan Heidgerd West Texas A&M University	Adam Kaszas Skidmore College	Thomas Lochowski Goodwin College
Alexis Giosa Wake Forest University	Devin Hick Elon University	Alexander Kavadas Central Connecticut State University	Nicole Lopes Sacred Heart University
Andrew Goggin Southern Connecticut State University	Christopher Hillburn Muhlenberg College	Natalya Kelly Southern Connecticut State University	Andrew Mahan Keene State College
Jacob Goldstein Bentley University	Nathaniel Hillburn Western New England University	Illya Makarkin Central Connecticut State University	
Marissa Gonzalez Paul Mitchell The School North Haven	John Hissick Siena College		

Madison Manware Auburn University	George Mott Naugatuck Valley Community Tchnical College	Shemuel Prudhomme University of Connecticut	Kyle Shadeck Keene State College
Brianna Mariano University of Rhode Island	Sean Mulligan Gateway Community College	Peter Purcell University of Connecticut	Michael Shalagan University of Connecticut
James Marinaccio University of Maine	Aidan Murray Bryant University	Valentina Ramirez Quinnipiac University	Bradley Sherman Western New England University
Michael Marotta Worcester State University	Amanda Murray Northeastern University	William Ratchelous James Madison University	Janaia Skibitcky Northeastern University
Joshua Mayer Central Connecticut State University	Merna Naguib University of Connecticut	Durga Rathi Yale University	Emily Sparago Quinnipiac University
Larae Mays- Hardy Temple University	Marisa Nazzaro University of Connecticut	Brenna Reach The George Washington University	John Stample Springfield College
Joseph McCarthy University of Connecticut	Jonathan Neely University of Massachusetts Amherst	Isabella Riccio Berklee College of Music	Matthew Stayner Lesley University
Conor McEvoy University of North Dakota	Nicole Neely University of Massachusetts Amherst	Samantha Richard Academy di Capelli	Serena Steskla University of New Haven
Tyler McEvoy Purdue University	Richard Novia Providence College	Troy Richmond Central Connecticut State University	Nicholas Strollo Central Connecticut State University
Alexa McIntosh Southern Connecticut State University	Mikaela O’Brien University of Connecticut	Ross Roberts Quinnipiac University	Roger Strollo Keene State College
Taylor McKinley Bryant University	Cameron O’Connor University of Connecticut	Matthew Robidoux American International College	Erich Strunk Syracuse University
Robert McMullin Sacred Heart University	Kaley O’Connor Quinnipiac University	Nicholas Roche University of Connecticut	Sidharth Subramani Bard College
Duncan McNeil Neumann University	Robert Oris III Worcester Polytechnic Institute	Michael Roke Southern Connecticut State University	Sydney Taylor Fordham University
Michael Melillo Gateway Community College	Matthew Palma Plymouth State University	Laura Romaniello Keene State College	Gabriella Terry Trinity College
Erin Mellitt Fairfield University	Benjamin Palmieri Southern Connecticut State University	Mackenzie Rossi Central Connecticut State University	Liam Thomas University of Connecticut
Justin Mercugliano The University of Scranton	Christopher Papa Bentley University	Jeffrey Russitano Quinnipiac University	Peter Thomas Quinnipiac University
Alex Messina Military	Emily Peck Colgate University	Nicole Salamone Colgate University	Karam Toor University of Connecticut
Daniel Miller Naugatuck Valley Community Technical College	Isabel Peck Boston University	Collin Salatto Quinnipiac University	Julia Torok Boston University
Jake Miller Bryant University	Sonja Pejovic University of Vermont	Nicholas Sansone Boston College	Courtney Turner Furman University
Joshua Mills Gap Year	Eric Penner University of New Hampshire at Durham	Devin Savold Auburn University	Olivia Valente University of Rhode Island
David Moran High Point University	Ariana Pepper University of Connecticut	Veronica Schaefer Roger Williams University	John Veivia DePaul University
Shannon Moran Merrimack College	Mairead Peters University of South Carolina	Matthew Schock University of New Haven	Jacob Verneris University of New Hampshire at Durham
Katelyn Morley Siena College	Alexander Pierce Syracuse University	Kaylee Scinto New York University	Leah Verrillo University of Saint Joseph
Shoshana Moskowitz Johnson & Wales University	Matthew Pinciaro Quinnipiac University	Lauren Segal Southern Connecticut State University	Jennifer Vignola Quinnipiac University
			Stephanie Villecco University of Rhode Island

Seniors Have Left Their Mark

Different People Different Achievements

Valedictorian

Shangda Xu

By Emily Peck

2016

Some people may know this student as the boy who finished the high school math curriculum his freshmen year. Others may know him as the president of the National Honor Society. Others may even know him as the high school student already involved in cancer research. Now, Shangda Xu will also be known as the valedictorian of his senior class.

Over the past four years, Xu achieved the highest GPA in the class of 2016 by filling his schedule with challenging classes and excelling in them all. Xu's talent is not only limited to the classroom, though. Much of his time is also spent with various school clubs including National Honor Society, Young Democrats, Science National Honor Society, Debate Club, Science Bowl, Math League, and Chess Club.

Xu's ambition has also led him to get involved in many programs outside of school as well. He is currently working with two professors at Yale on two different research projects. The summer before his junior year he also spent time interning at the National Cancer Institute to investigate the effect of time zones on cancer

rates. This past year Xu also started a program at the Yellow House in town called RAD LABS, which aimed to incite an excitement in little kids about science. And these are just a few examples of Xu's outside studies and service.

"Shangda has become much more comfortable engaging others. He has become better able in this way in sharing his talents with the world," remarks Principal Jeff Solan.

Next year, Xu will be attending Harvard College. He is currently undecided with his major but is interested in the area of government and applied mathematics.

How does it feel to be recognized as the valedictorian of your senior class?

I feel super honored to be named valedictorian. I feel like I get way too much credit that I don't deserve though. GPA is just one measure of ability and I know lots of people that are a lot smarter/better than me at a lot of things.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Uh...10 years is a really long time...especially for someone who barely knows what they're doing tomorrow. It could go a lot of ways; if I pursue government, I might still be getting a PhD. Otherwise, I could be anywhere - I've always wanted to travel the world, so maybe I'd do that.

Which teacher inspired you the most? How?

Without a doubt, this is Mrs. Shirk. I've had her in freshman year and in senior year. Mrs. Shirk's teaching is the very embodiment of critical thinking. Mrs. Shirk has acted as a mentor for many of her students, including myself. Past all of that, Mrs. Shirk's love for her career and her students mark her as incontestably the greatest educator I have ever had the privilege of learning from.

If you could have one superpower what would it be? Why?

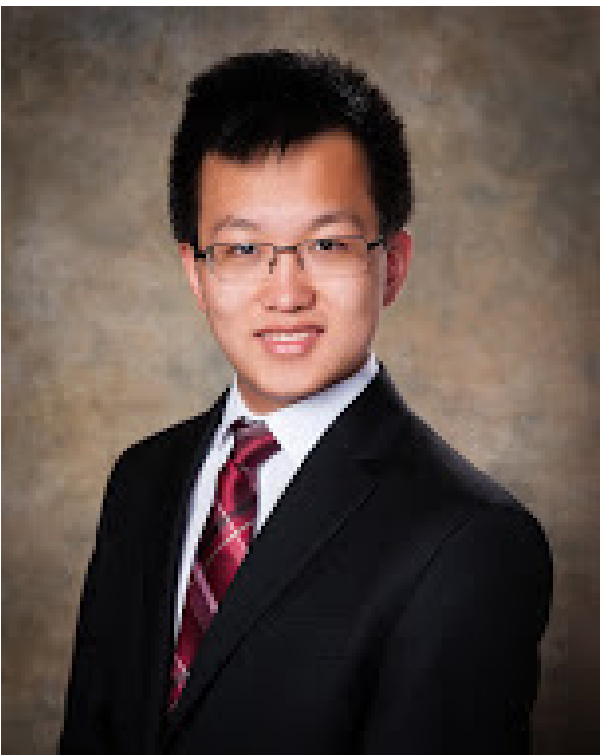
Manipulate time! There's not enough time in the world to do everything you want to do and being able to freeze, slow down, or speed up time would just be really cool in general.

What aspect of college are you most looking forward to? Why?

This is an easy one - setting my own schedule! I'm definitely not a morning person and will appreciate being able to choose not to have a single class before 10 AM.

Any advice for underclassmen?

If it's about being valedictorian, I'd say don't try for it. Trying to get a high GPA is really restrictive on what classes you take, and I wish that I had explored more at CHS. Also, just really enjoy your time



and let yourself slow down a bit. You'll be graduating before you know it.

What are your goals for the future?

I want to make an impact on the world somehow. Currently, I'm thinking government policy, but I'm really open to anything. Also, I want to have no regrets at the end of my life and also deliver really cool last words. I also want to backpack around the world.

What motivates you to work so hard?

A combination of a couple things. First, I think that working hard is a way to achieve my goals and change the world. Also, just respect for my teachers.



- Nicholas Virgulto
Employment
- Samantha Vitale
Merrimack College
- Lauren Votto
Marist College
- Karalyn Wright
Loyola University Chicago

- Christina Wu
Adelphi University
- Katharine Wu
Wellesley College

- Maya Wylie
Wheaton College MA

- Shangda Xu
Harvard University

- Liuxin Yan
University of Maryland College Park

- Avery York
James Madison University

- Callie York
The University of Tampa

- Sarah Zarra
Hofstra University

- Evan Zovas
Providence College

- Janine Zumerchik
Quinnipiac University



By Emily Peck

2016

What can be considered the perfect student? Working hard is definitely important, as well as getting involved in school activities and clubs. How about also being captain of a sport's team, president of the class, and on top of it all achieving the second highest grade point average of the class? Maybe that's a little specific, but salutatorian Durga Rath fits the description perfectly.

Since her freshman, year Rath has made her voice heard throughout the school by becoming a member of a variety of school clubs and even taking leadership roles in a few. This abundant list includes being president of the student government, a player and captain of the girl's tennis team, a member of peer advocates, the com-

munity service club, PTSO, the cross country team.

"Durga has developed a very mature outlook on the world and desire to make an impact on a large scale," says Principal Jeff Solan.

This desire can be evidenced through all of the programs and internships that Rath has involved herself in outside of school. Just to name a few, Rath has been working in Integrated Refugee and Immigrant Services (IRIS) as a "cultural companion" to an Iraqi refugee for over a year. Also, in March of this year, she was one of two delegates chosen from Connecticut to take part in the United States Senate Youth Program.

In the fall, Rath will be attending Yale University where she currently plans on majoring in political science. However, she is not sure if that is what she will end up wanting to get, but at the moment she is interested in going into health policy.

How does it feel to be recognized as the salutatorian of your senior class?

Lucky

What motivates you to work hard?

I guess it depends on what kind of work I'm doing. If it's busy work, Netflix is probably the main motivation.

What are you most looking forward to

Salutatorian

Durga Rath

in college?

Gaining that Freshman 15! When I went to my school's orientation, they said the place they always go to eat is Popeye's, so I'm pretty excited about spending a solid amount of time stuffing my face there. And obviously I'm really excited about meeting so many new people coming from all around the world blah blah blah.

What advice - academic or social - do you have for younger students?

I haven't really gotten to a point where I can give advice, Rampage! BUT, Morgan Freeman once said, "The best way to guarantee a loss is to quit." Now that's coming from Morgan Freeman so you can't really argue with that.

What was your favorite thing about high school?

The people I've met.

What is your favorite silly word? Why?

Bamboozle because it's just so silly

What will you miss most about CHS?

My pals, and certain teachers I've had over these four years.

What are your goals for the future?

Learn to cook, become a flawless Irish step dancer, and throw a frisbee correctly.



Female Class Leader Janine Zumerchik



By Annie Wang

2018

For the class of 2016, Janine Zumerchik was an obvious choice as a female class leader.

In her four years at CHS, she devoted a lot of her time to clubs and sports. As a three season varsity athlete and captain of the Outdoor Track team, she is undoubtedly a dedicated and talented athlete.

“Janine was an awesome senior to be around! She always made me feel like part of the volleyball team,” says Shivani Padhi, 2018. Zumerchik will be attending Quinnipiac University in the fall, majoring in industrial engineering.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?

I have joined a few clubs but what mostly took up my time is being involved Cheshire High School’s sports. I played on the volleyball team, which has made states every year. In the winter of my freshman and sophomore years I participated on the basketball team. For my junior and senior years I ran varsity for the Indoor Track team in the winter. In the spring, I was a varsity member of the Outdoor Track team and this year I was captain. I have been part of Book Club for my junior and senior years and joined Young Republicans this year. I also have been part of Link Crew for two years.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?

It is impossible that everyone to remember me because I haven’t met everyone. But to the ones that were part

of my life, I hope they know I loved to spend time with them and wish we had more time together. Four years is not enough.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years, I see myself living in an apartment in New York City and pursuing my career of being an engineer. Not sure who I will be working for because for engineering there is a lot of possibilities. I want to live in New York City because that’s where I grew up and I miss it a lot.

Describe your ideal breakfast.

For breakfast I would love to have some pancakes served with cream cheese and a side of strawberries and sausage. And you can’t forget the milk.

What is your favorite type of music?

My favorite type of music is pop. I love to listen to something that I can sing to and dance to. But I do love to listen to all sorts of music.

Who is your role model? Why?

My role model is my mother. I know it is a cliché but I have my reasons. She came to the United States from the Dominican Republic when she was only twelve. My mom had to learn English at school because her parents did not know. She was the second person in her immediate family to go to college right after her older sister. While in college, she still had to help around the house and maintain a job. She has made a life for herself and now has a great job at Quinnipiac University. My mom teaches me how to be a strong woman and do not let change bring you down but help in you in your future achievements.

What will you miss about CHS?

I will miss the teachers at CHS. The majority of the teachers here are very nice people and made the school comfortable place to be. They are also funny and of course taught me a lot. I will also miss seeing my friends everyday. In the real world, there are many factors that keep friends apart and you do not see friends all the time just like in high school. I will also miss participating on sports teams. Being on a team brings people, who do not really see each other during school, all together.



Male Class Leader Adam Majeski



By Katharine Wu

2016

Adam Majeski is someone whose energy is both endless and contagious. Over his four years at CHS, he has devoted countless hours to making the school a better place - through clubs such as Best Buddies, in which he is President, Link Crew, Model UN, and the CHS Drama Department, for which he has starred in multiple plays and musicals. Majeski leads by example, inciting excitement amongst his classmates no matter what the task.

“Adam is a good leader because he cares a lot about others, and he’s more interested in the community’s best interest than his own. He takes responsibility for universal issues and brings people together to solve them”, says fellow classmate Julia Torok, 2016.

Majeski will attend American University in DC in the fall and plans to major in International Relations.

Why did you start to get involved in the community?

My mom was always very involved with Relay for Life and other town fundraisers. But, it was really her involvement with Best Buddies (because she is an Occupational Therapist at Dodd) that really got me involved in the community- I joined the first day of seventh grade!

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?

I would like to be remembered as a passionate person that was always really dedicated to the things I did. I hope people see that I strived to make the things I was involved in the best they could possibly be.

Any advice for underclassmen?

Find the things you are passionate about do them well. Sometimes there is a lot of pressure to join as many clubs as possible and build the longest college resume, but just make sure that you’re doing things that you really want to do- it’s makes things so much more fulfilling.

Congrats on choosing American University for International Relations!



What made you want to pursue this path?

Thanks so much! I think I always had a very global view, and as a kid I was always very interested in different countries and the differences and similarities between them. Working in the International Relations field is the perfect combination of travel, politics, and giving back to the community, both on a local and global scale. But most importantly, it gives me a platform to make major change in the world.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I see myself living and working in DC in some big government agency (the State Department, the US Agency for Development, or maybe even the CIA) doing some kind of humanitarian or Human Rights work in areas of crisis/

places in the developing world. I also see myself going to a lot of musicals/ plays and being a member of a Best Buddies Citizens Chapter.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

As ridiculous as it may sound, I would love to create and lead a World Summit focusing on Mental Health help and Disability Rights internationally. There is a lot of disparity across the world, and many countries don’t understand the impact of their discriminatory laws and policies. If I knew it would get a lot of international attention and actually have an impact with world leaders, I would work my hardest to make it happen.

List three things you are obsessed with and why.

Best Buddies- it is literally my life and I don’t know where/how I would be without it.

The musical Hamilton- I love how it combines history and Hip Hop to tell an amazing story.

Traveling- one can learn so much about other people/life by visiting and immersing oneself in a different culture.

What teachers would you like to say thanks to?

I have to give major thanks to Frau Haase and Mr. Choldnicki. Frau has been a great teacher and mentor for the last three years. She is so passionate about her subject and has really taught me to live the life I want to life and find the things that make me happy. Mr. Choldnicki opened my eyes to the International Relations path with his amazing Comparative Cultures class freshman year. His Global Citizenship class this year (which I believe everyone at CHS should take) focused my passions and showed me the concentrations I want to work on in the professional world. Both of them have been really great role models through High School and I strive to be like them as adults.

CHS Faculty Gives Advice to the Class of 2016

“Make your failures successes come back from it.”
-Senor Pilch



“Study hard and do not sweat the small stuff.”
-Mrs. Weingart



Congratulations
Class of 2016
Best Wishes to All!

Female Athlete Janaia Skibitcky



By Matt Davies 2017

Senior Janaia Skibitcky is Cheshire High School’s Female Athlete of the year. Skibitcky is on the girl’s Indoor and Outdoor track team and has broken several records during her time herel.

She is a wonderful roll model to other students on the team.

Track teammate Emily Longmore, 2019 says, “Janania is an amazing member of the team! It seems as though she breaks the school record every meet!”

How do you feel about being named Athlete of the year?
I feel really happy to be named Athlete of the year. I love my sport, track and field, so much and I like knowing that you you can work really hard towards a

goal, and achieve it.

Who was your role model growing up and why?

Growing up, I don’t think I had only one role model. I liked to draw inspiration from everyone and everything around me, whether it was my mom who taught me that there are more things to life besides of athletics or a flower in a field that taught me it’s okay to grow at your own rate.

What got you into Track and Field?

It was a combination of my mom, my dad, and my gym teacher, Mr. Martin, who got me into running. Mr. Martin always held competitions in his class to see who was the fastest runner or skipper or even galloper. It was there that I began to realize that my legs were pretty cool, and they could take me far places. From there, my parents encouraged me to join the Dodd track team in 7th grade.

Who is your favorite Athlete and why?

My favorite athlete is actually a pro distance runner, Alexi Pappas. I admire her so much because she is able to find happiness in different areas whether it be running or making movies. Plus, she runs with a really funny bun.

Where are you going to college and what do you plan to major in?

Next year, I will be attending Northeastern University. Currently, I’m going in undecided but I’m interested in business, politics, philosophy, and economics.

What motives you the most?

I would have to say my team motivates me the most. I love the feeling of being at a track meet with a bunch of different people who run so many different events, yet we are all working towards one common goal which is to push yourself further than you could yesterday. This feeling inspires me.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

In ten years, I’ll be 27. I would like to have moved to Oregon and maybe become a hippie or something like that. I want to spend my free time reading books at cafes, running to and from places, and helping others somehow.

What is your favorite silly word?

My favorite silly word is lollygagging. I like the way it rolls off my tongue and sounds pretty whimsical to me.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

If I couldn’t fail, I would like to go into outer space and visit Neptune. Maybe see an alien or two.

What is one thing you want to do before dying?

Before I die, I want would like to visit every country/continent in the world, including and especially Antarctica. I want to see everything there is to see in the world.



What to Expect in College

By Jason Han 2018

Going to college can be a daunting experience. If you’re going to one distant from home, be prepared to make new friends. College is essentially a new start, as most people don’t know each other at all. In addition, the different cultures from students attending from all over the nation, and sometimes internationally, essentially exposes you to your first taste of the diverse world we live in.

College is much more independent than high school. Your discipline and self-control will define your success. If you have trouble with any material you’re learning, you should definitely ask your professor or their teaching assistant for help, as they are a valuable resource to augment your learning. Don’t expect college to be something you can easily just breeze through without much effort. It’s a big step up from high school level work, so you need to work hard and study.

However, don’t study all of your time away. Go out and get to know some of the new people you meet. It’s a great opportunity to learn about what life’s like in other parts of the country, or other countries. Joining clubs and participating in sports can also ease the transition from high school to college by becoming friendly with more people.

What should you expect in college? Expect a chance to experience and express more independence.

“I am most excited to experience more diversity in backgrounds and beliefs,” said Joshua Chen, class of 2016.

College is a great time to come to a better understanding with what it’s like to have more independence and experience new things, but also comes with new burdens and responsibilities.



Male Athlete Karl Bishop



By Matt Davies 2017

Karl Bishop is going to the Olympic trials in Omaha at the end of the June to compete in the 400 and 1600 freestyle. This is just one of the reasons he was named Athlete of the year.

According to Athletic Director Steve Trifone the criteria for selecting athletes is based on their athletic participation, performance and character. Coaches are asked who they feel would be good candidates.

“I usually receive multiple

nominations of the same athlete and that tends to be student picked. If there is a wide range, then the coaches vote based from the nominations,”.

Bishop was the swim captain for 2 year. He holds 4 school records, 200 free, 500 free, 200 and 400 free relay. He also the 2nd fastest time in school history in the 100 free, 3rd fastest in the 200 IM and the 6th fastest in the 100 fly. In his senior year he was the LL State Champion in the 200 Free Relay.

How do you feel about being named Athlete of the year?

I am honored to be Athlete of the year considering how many great athletes there are in Cheshire high school.

Who is your role model grow up? Why?

I would say that after the 2008 Olympics Michael Phelps became my role model because he was able to do something that no one else ever did. Watching someone win 8 gold medals and accomplish every single goal is very motivating.

What got you into swimming?

I started swimming because my mom would take me to swim lessons as a kid just so that I would know how to swim and I never stopped.

Who is your favorite athlete ?

Ryan Lochte

Where are you going to college and what do you plan to major in?

I am going to be swimming at Uconn in the fall and I’m going in undecided.

What motives you the most?

My motivation comes mostly from my friends and the people who I swim with. They are always there for me and pushing me to do better.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Hopefully with a well paying job and coaching swimming as a side job.

What is your favorite silly word?

Hippopotamus

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

Break a world record

What is one thing you want to do before dying?

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Female Instrumental

Isabella Riccio



By Emily Peck2016

Typically students who are recognized as the instrumental spotlight for their senior class excell in either band, orchestra, or any other class involving the playing of instruments. Perhaps the cello is their expertise, or percussion alone. This is not the case, however, for the female instrumental spotlight Isabella Riccio. Although primarily a singer, Riccio also plays the alto saxophone, piano, guitar, cello, and the Logic Pro X Drum Machines. “Isabella is a multi-talented musician,” says Mr. Ronald Ciasullo, music department teacher, “Her passion for music has led her down multiple paths including stage, voice and instrumental.”

In school, Riccio participates in a number of extracurriculars and classes that allow her to showcase her talents. Since her freshman year, Riccio has been involved in all of the spring school musicals and in all of the fall plays since her sophomore year. Much of her time is also spent in the Jazz Band, one of the ensemble music courses offered at CHS.

This year, for her senior experience project, Riccio also wrote and recorded her own studio album titled Transgression on which she sang, played guitar, bass, keyboard, and even some of the drums. She also performs with the band Phony Danza for which she sings.

“She has worked very hard to achieve her dreams of exploring her passion for music beyond high school,” says Ciasullo.

Riccio will continue to pursue her passion for music at the Berklee College of Music in Boston in the fall where she plans on majoring in jazz vocal performance. Remember her name, some day it might be in lights!

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Hopefully happy and successful and sustaining myself off of performing. Maybe in NY, LA or even better traveling the world performing.

Any advice for underclassmen?
Stay focused on your inner goals and ambitions because you can easily talk yourself out of them and lose precious time.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
I would take so many creative chances and make super bold decisions. From the music, performance and how I, as an artist, present myself to the world. I wouldn’t have to be worried about the possibility of the public rejecting my pushing the limits.

What inspired you to be involved in music? It’s not so much that I was inspired to be involved in music it’s more like it consumed me at a very early age. Some of my first memories are of listening to U2, Sheryl Crow and Madonna albums in the car with my dad or at home through the stereo. Just dancing and singing along. It just felt right. It was enjoyable and put life into my 5-year old soul.

What is your favorite type of music? Why?
This is really difficult because I listen to such a wide variety of music in depth. It varies from gritty blues, the bebop and cool jazz eras, funk, psychedelic San Francisco rock, disco, pretty much everything from the seventies (best decade for music) to modern music like neo-soul, modern R&B, rap, and modern rock. But if I had to chose one that has been a real foundation for my musical journey and just makes me feel so good is soul. I love soul music: Otis Redding, Aretha, Sam and Dave, Ray Charles, Stevie Wonder. You name it. I will always be in the mood for it if it is soul.

What instruments do you play? Which one is your favorite? Why?
I primarily sing, I play the alto saxophone at school, in my free time I dabble in the piano, guitar, cello, and the Logic Pro X Drum machines. My favorite is the cello. I suck at the cello but I wish I was a least a thousand times better at it. It is just a perfect instrument to me. It has a lovely rich low register as well as a satisfying high register with a smooth mid-range sound. I love listening to just cello solos. The cello is just so ideal sonically and it can touch your soul if you let it.

Who is your biggest influence at CHS?
My biggest influence has to be Mr. C, the Jazz studies director. I have been in at least one of his classes every year. He has taught me so many life lessons such as patience, the meaning of hard work, persistence, and honestly just how to be a better person. Mr. C has always pushed me to perform with honesty, expertise and a real sense of caring. He has really helped me to grow as a musician and a person these past four years.

If you were stranded on an island and could only have 3 things with you what would you have?
Spotify
Killer headphones. Like the highest of quality.
A giant black Steinbeck grand piano that will never go out of tune.

Male Instrumental

David Merola



By Emily Peck2016

This student is no stranger to the music department. His ability to belt out a beautiful saxophone solo alone could have earned him this title. However, student David Merola has an extensive instrumental resume behind him and talent to go along with it, earning him the male instrumental spotlight.

“David has demonstrated significant musical growth in the past four years,” says Mr. Ronald Ciasullo, music department teacher, “While some students have a talent or gift for music performance, not all of those students do the things necessary to foster the growth and development of those talents.”

Merola’s dedicated involvement in the music department is reflective of how talented he is at playing his instruments. Throughout his high school career Merola has participated in marching band, jazz improv, and the symphonic orchestra. Merola has also taken some of the classes offered by the music department to further his expertise.

When Merola is not playing any instruments he can also be found with the Young Republicans, Bible Study, and Latin Club.

Next year, Merola will be attending Western Connecticut State University to study Music Education with a concentration in Jazz Saxophone. He is looking forward to working with the Coordinator of Jazz Studies on campus, Jimmy Greene, who was nominated for two Grammys in 2015.

“David will be a real asset to the jazz program at WCSU and I’m sure he will really benefit from the expertise of their Grammy Award winning faculty,” says Ciasullo.

Merola hopes to become a teacher so that he can help young students interested in music learn more at a younger age as he wishes he had.

How does it feel to be recognized as the male instrumental spotlight?
I feel a slight pain in my shoulders actually.

What instruments do you play? Which one is your favorite? Why?
I play tenor sax, alto sax, soprano sax, flute, and clarinet. My favorite is tenor sax, because it is the instrument I feel I have the most control over, seeing as I’ve been playing it for so long. It’s the horn

I feel most comfortable with, and I can effectively express my musical thoughts with it. On the contrary, my least favorite is clarinet, because I feel as if I have no control over it. As my private teacher says, the clarinet just feels like a broken saxophone.

Who is your favorite musician? Why?
A very difficult question, seeing as I listen to a multitude of musicians, and the list always changes. My two favorite saxophonists are Stanley Turrentine and Michael Brecker. They both have completely different playing styles and completely different sounds, but they are the saxophonists that I try to model my sound and improvisation after. Recently I’ve been listening non-stop to Kamasi Washington, who played on Kendrick Lamar’s, “To Pimp a Butterfly.” Getting away from jazz artists and into singers, I listen to R. Kelly, Teddy Pendergrass, and D’Angelo. The lists can go on for a while. If the music feels good, I’ll listen to it.

What do you want to do before you die?
See my favorite musicians in concert before they die.

What is your favorite kind of music? Why?
My favorite kind of music is anything that feels good. The genres I listen to range from jazz to R&B, soul, and hip-hop. I try not to classify any one type of music as being better than another, although I hate country music – it’s the antithesis of soul. If you like country music, you have no soul. And soul is something I believe to be essential in music.

Who is your biggest influence at CHS?
My biggest influence at CHS is Mr. Ciasullo, the jazz director. He always gives great musical advice as well as life advice. He’s honest, and he doesn’t sugar-coat anything.



Female Vocal Artist

Megan Giles



Relay For Life, raising money with a team and attending the event.

Next year, Giles will be attending the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta where she plans on majoring in Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering. In high school she discovered her love for these two subjects, owing gratitude to Mr. Steve Bertenshaw, science teacher, for helping her to realize that, and now wishes to continue her studies and learn even more.

that group as well as the coed a cappella ensemble. If neither of them work out, Georgia Tech has plenty of choral ensembles that are more like the traditional ones I’ve been in at CHS, and I’ll look into joining one of them. In a broader sense, though, I don’t think I’ll ever stop decorating my time with music, and so I think I’ll be singing, at least on my own, for the rest of my life.

What is your greatest memory from CHS?

I’ve had so many good times thanks to CHS, and it’s incredibly hard to narrow them all down. If I have to choose, though, I’d pick the four-day trip to New York City that seventeen other students from chorus and I went on. We had an incredible opportunity to sing at Lincoln Center with the composer of the piece we had been working on, and together with professional adult singers from around the country, we rehearsed for days and finally put on an incredibly moving performance. The musical aspect of the trip was certainly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, but even more than that, it was the people I went with who made the trip truly spectacular. We had four days in the busiest city in the world, and each one was full of sparkling adventures and magical moments. We were filled with music and wonder, with laughter and unadulterated joy, and it was a time that I will always cherish.

What is something you absolutely cannot stand?

I’m sure I’m not alone in this, but it drives me crazy when people don’t use their turn signals. Sure, if no one is around, it’s not as important to use your turn signal, but I can’t stand when I’m driving and someone suddenly turns or changes lanes and I had no indication that they were going to. I find myself muttering sarcastic things like, “Hey, buddy, thanks for using your turn signal!”

What is your favorite song to sing? Why?

Picking a favorite song to sing is impossible because I love practically every song that I sing. On my own, I love to sing along to

artists such as Ingrid Michaelson, Sara Bareilles, and Taylor Swift because their voices and songs are beautiful, and they sing in my range. However, in my years with the chorus department, I have found myself grow to love almost everything we sing, and the harder the song, the more I love it. In the VIPs ensemble, everything is a cappella, and often it is not in English. This has proven to be challenging, but in the best way. The harder we work to perfect a song, the prouder we are of it, and nothing can match the feeling of finally nailing a high note, a difficult harmony, or an impossible German word. So to answer the question: whatever song I am singing at the time is my favorite, because I love them all.

Who is your biggest inspiration? Why?

It may be cliché, but my biggest inspiration is my mother. She is truly the most incredible woman, and I am so lucky to have her. She is constantly sharing her wisdom and hugs, and she absolutely radiates love, giving it freely and gladly. She has taught me that mistakes do not define you, and that you can choose the life you want for yourself, even if it doesn’t turn out exactly how you hoped it would. She has shown me what it is to be a mother, and I only hope that I will one day be as patient, nurturing, and generous as she is.

What are your goals for the future?

My immediate goals include finishing college with no more stress than necessary and quickly finding a job that I love. I want to be able to use what I learned in school to make the world a better place, even if that only happens on a small, everyday sort of level. I don’t need to change the world to be happy; I just want to do whatever I can to make it a better place for my children and their children and so on. I want to love and be loved, and to be able to look back on my life and know that I lived it well.



By Emily Peck

2016

Not only does she love to sing, but she’s very good at it too! This student is one of the top performers in the choral department, immersing herself in the classes and ensembles that are offered. Since her freshman year, student Megan Giles has stood out in the choral department as both a passionate performer and a talented singer, earning her the female vocal artist spotlight.

Giles has participated in nearly every ensemble that is offered at the high school including Chorus, Women’s Chorale and, most currently, the VIPs select choir. This past year, her dedication even landed her the leadership role of Vice President of the Choirs.

“Her enthusiasm for singing is contagious. She is focused, reliable and articulate,” remarks Ms. Beth Rosenblatt, choral department head, “She leads by example and has a kind, generous spirit as well as a lovely voice.”

Giles’ enthusiasm is not limited to the chorus department alone, though. She is also involved in many of the schools’ organizations and clubs including the National Honor Society and Science National Honor Society. She is also an active participant of the annual

Why did you decide to join chorus?

Music is one of the most important aspects of my life. Whatever I’m doing, whether it’s homework, driving, or just hanging out, I’m always listening to music and singing along. For as long as I can remember, I’ve loved to sing, so I participated in chorus all through elementary and middle school. Because of this, continuing with chorus in high school was the obvious decision, and after my first year in the department, I knew it was something I wanted to do for the rest of my time at CHS.

Do you have any rituals that you do before performing?

On my way to a concert or performance, if I’m the only one in the car, I usually blast my music and sing along a little too loudly. It pumps me up to perform, and I like to think that it warms up my voice. Of course, singers always do vocal exercises to warm up before any performance, but I usually prefer my too-loud Taylor Swift to lip trills and scales.

Do you plan to continue singing after high school? How?

I certainly plan to continue singing in college and beyond. I’ve spoken with the head of the all-girls a cappella group at Georgia Tech, and I plan to audition for

Male Vocal Artist

Matt Stayner



career he has participated in Chorus, Concert Choir, VIPs select choir and Ramblers Men’s Chorus. This past year, he even served the Choral Department as Secretary of Choirs and has conducted the VIPs at several community performances, as well as in class.

“Matthew Stayner has been a strong leader in all ensembles in which he has participated over the past 4 years,” commented Ms. Beth Rosenblatt, choral department head, “He is an outstanding choral singer with impeccable tone quality, sense of rhythm and pitch and excellent sight reading skills.”

Stayner has also been involved in the Young Democrats as well as played on the rugby team his freshman year. However, most of his extracurricular activities have to do with being involved in the chorus department.

Next year Stayner will be

attending Lesley University in Boston where he will be majoring in Psychology. He hopes that by becoming a psychologist he will be able to help people as he has been inspired by other therapists who do so.

Why did you decide to join chorus?

I’ve been singing since I was about six years old. I’ve sung in my church choir since about 2006, and under the direction of June Hale, I learned to love singing. When I went into middle school, I decided to join the choir there, and I never stopped singing.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I hope to be a therapist of some kind in 10 years.

Do you have any rituals that you do before performing?

I do some breathing exercises to help me to relax before I go on stage.

What are you going to miss most about CHS?

I think that I’ll miss my friends that I’ve made over the last few years the most.

If you could go back to freshman year, what would you tell yourself?

I would tell myself to relax, and to remember to have fun.

If you had one month left to live, what would you do?

I would travel as much as possible, and spend time with my family and friends.

If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life what would it be?

Definitely sushi.

What are your goals for the future?

After college, I will be applying for a graduate program, to either earn a PhD, or a PsyD. From there, I hope to work as a psychologist, and to make a positive difference in people’s lives.



By Emily Peck

2016

Over the past four years, this vocal artist has been a vital component of many of the musical ensembles offered at the high school. His keen sense of pitch and rhythm has distinguished him among the other members of his choral groups. Acting as both a leader and strong performer in the choral department has earned student Matthew Stayner the male vocal artist spotlight.

Stayner’s involvement is extensive. Throughout his high school

Male Theater

Liam Thomas



By Emily Peck 2016

With a booming voice and confident composure, this student has the ability to take control of any production and draw all eyes on him. Inciting laughter, fright, and every emotion in between from the audience earns him the title of an outstanding performer. Whenever Liam Thomas takes the stage he is sure to put on a show given his dedication and passion for the theater, earning him the male theater spotlight.

“Liam stands out particularly for his love of learning and literature,” says Ms. Taryn Chorney, drama department head, “He is passionate about theater and has grown tremendously.”

Since his freshman year, Thomas has played a role in nearly every fall play and this past May was one of the performers in the Aries show which is put on by a class and is a collection of short scenes and monologues. Some of his roles have included The Man in the Forest in Ash Girl, Benedick in Much Ado About Nothing, and Aida’s father in Aida.

Thomas has focused most of his extracurricular activities at the high school on his involvement in the theater

department. He has also taken a breadth of drama classes offered at the high school including Fundamentals of Theater, Advanced Theater, Theater History and Aries.

In the fall, Thomas will be attending the University of Connecticut where he will be majoring in English as well as entering the Education program. He hopes that by taking these two paths he will be able to achieve his goal of becoming a writer and an English teacher.

Where are you going to school next year and what do you plan on majoring in? Why this path?

Next Year I plan on going to UCONN Majoring in English and entering the Education program.

I am pursuing this because I want to be a writer and an English Teacher. I write every day and love helping others as well as educating.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of at CHS?

At CHS I have entered a number of clubs but mainly my extracurriculars were focused on the theater program. I was a part of the CHS theater program all four years of high school.

How does it feel to be recognized as the male theater spotlight?

I am very honored to be recognized as the male theater spotlight. Ever since I began doing theater here it has become a very important part of my life. I have put a lot of work into my theatrical work and I have been very proud of what I have done on the Thorp Stage.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years (fingers crossed) I will be a published author, hopefully making a living off of writing alone. Quite possibly though, I will be a professor of english and

Please See **Male Theater** page 19

Female Theater

Julia Torok



By Emily Peck 2016

She’s been Mary Poppins in Mary Poppins, Duchess Estonia in Nice Work If You Can Get It, Lady Gianna in Much Ado About Nothing, and the Mother of Ash Girl. This senior has the ability to morph into any role that is assigned to her. Ever since her freshmen year, Julia Torok has made a point of being on stage for almost every play, musical, or production that the drama department has put on. Her name is a familiar one in the CHS theater, earning her the female theater spotlight.

Torok has been an avid student and performer in the theater department. Not only is Torok a consistent performer in the play, but she has taken many theater electives as well. This past semester, Torok was a member of the Aries production which is put on every year, and she has also taken Fundamentals of Theater and Advanced Theater.

“Julia stands out for her composure and the ability to take anything thrown at her,” comments Ms. Taryn Chorney, head of the drama department.

Outside of the theater, Torok is also involved in many of the school clubs. She is an active member of the Student Senate and PTSO and she serves as the president of the CHS choral department. Torok’s

lovely singing can also be heard in all of the school chorus concerts, not just the musicals.

Next year, Torok will be attending Boston University where she plans on majoring in Music Education. Torok wishes to pass on her love for music to others so that they can find the confidence that she found within it.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?

I would like to be remembered for my friendship and outgoing nature. I really love to make people happy, and I’ve always tried my best to spread kindness and positivity to my community. I can only hope that, in the past four years, my actions have made some kind of positive impact on my friends, classmates, and teachers.

How do you plan on using what you learned through acting in the future?

Wow, I don’t even know where to start. My experiences as an actress have taught me to be able to trust myself and others, sometimes blindly; I’ve learned how to take risks and how to rise from failure and rejection. My acting has made me very emotionally self-aware and given me a greater sense of empathy, and hopefully I will be able to use these skills throughout my life, particularly in my endeavors to become an educator.

What will you miss most about CHS and the drama department?

I’ll miss the people the most. I’ve had the privilege of working with such an amazing community, both within the drama department and just within CHS in general, and I’ve become so fond of my colleagues as a whole. I strongly feel like I belong here, and that feeling has been such a blessing these last four years—saying goodbye to that will be hard, but I’m so grateful for the connections that I’ve shared and the friends that I’ve made as a CHS student.

Please See **Female Theater** page 17

Technology Education

Joshua Perlroth



By Ethan Shan 2018

There are many students here at Cheshire High School who are gifted with technology and engineering, but one student who shines above the rest is Joshua Perlroth. In addition to being talented with engineering, he has also participated in many activities in and out of the school community.

Perlroth helped design and build the electric car in his Research

and Design class. He has also been a member of the CHS Band and Photography Club. Outside of school, he has volunteered countless weekends at the Yellow House through the science and math programs, and has helped run the science program through a leadership position. In addition, he has participated in Lights of Hope every year, and has dedicated his volunteer service towards “Cooking Forward”, where he cooked and prepared meals for the needy.

Perlroth will be attending the University of Massachusetts to major in Mechanical Engineering. Before he left, I was able to interview him and see what it’s like to be him.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?

I want my teachers to remember me as a hard-working and intelligent student, someone who has no problem speaking up in class to ask a question and has a sense of humor when appropriate. I would like my friends to remember me as someone they

could look to when they needed help, or just someone to speak to.

Where are you going to school? What are you majoring in?

University of Massachusetts Amherst. I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

What are planning to major in?

I plan to major in Mechanical Engineering. I enjoy every aspect of the engineering field; brainstorming, prototyping, designing/drawing, and manufacturing. Also, through the Research and Design class with Mr. McKeown, I recognized the responsibilities needed in order to create a successful product as an engineer. There was not one day that I entered class where I felt as though I would rather be in some other place, which definitely told me that I wanted to pursue a career in engineering.

Any advice for underclassmen?

Work hard and get the best grades you can get, but don’t let that stop you from enjoying school and everything else in life.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

I see myself working somewhere in the engineering field, hopefully in a leadership position where I can guide others towards the completion of a goal. I want to be able to

utilize my knowledge to solve problems, while at the same time passing on that knowledge to others in the workplace.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

I would travel to outer space.

What is your favorite song at the moment?

It would be Hotel California by the Eagles.

What is one great high school experience that sticks out in your mind?

I guess it would be One Acts.

What year would you redo at CHS and why?

I would redo senior year, because I have made so many new relationships with my teachers, made new friends, and have gained so much experience through many of my classes that I will be able to use throughout my college years and beyond.

Apple or Android?

Android



Family and Consumer Science

Melody Bryden

By Jessica Tan 2018

Melody Bryden received the senior award for Family and Consumer Sciences for the class of 2016. She shows genuine interest and true passion for health and wellness, making her a perfect choice for the award. After high school, she plans to dive deeper into the exercising sector of this field.

This fall, Bryden will be attending Winthrop University with the goal of majoring in exercise science. “I love being active and I want to help others lead healthy lives,” says Bryden.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I see myself having a career as a personal trainer and possibly going into physical therapy. Additionally, I would like to be able to have the flexibility to travel. I have always dreamed of experiencing

new places and cultures.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?
While I was at CHS, I participated in Science National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and Book Club.

Any advice for underclassmen?
Don’t be afraid to put yourself out there. Admittedly, I was afraid, but I wish I had been more outgoing.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
I would be a gymnast. I think gymnastics is one of the most difficult and impressive sports there is. I would love to have that skill.

What has been your favorite class?
I really enjoyed the human nutrition class and I wish it had been a full year course

instead of a semester long course. I am very interested in health and nutrition, and this class taught me a lot.

Which teacher inspired you the most?
I was inspired the most by Mrs. Yamamoto. She encouraged me to go out of my comfort zone as a writer and in general.

What do you think it takes to receive this kind of recognition?
It takes hard work and dedication to receive an award like this.

Do you have any unusual habits or quirks?
I am always playing with my hair.

Apple or Android?



Apple!

If you were a food, what would you be?
I would be peanut butter. It’s been my favorite food since I was little and I eat it all the time. If I could only eat one food for the rest of my life, it would also be peanut butter.

Business

Danielle Grenon



By Simran Kaur 2018

Danielle Grenon is a senior at Cheshire High School who will be attending Sacred Heart University and majoring in accounting.

Grenon exhibits the qualities of a good student through her work ethic, maturity, and determination. She also shows enthusiasm in her extra-curricular activities, like swimming. She puts a lot of effort into her business classes so that she can be successful in college and her future.

How has taking business classes shape your future?
After taking business classes, I realized that that was what I was interested in. I am going to be majoring in accounting at Sacred Heart next year and I would not have known I wanted to do that without taking intro and advanced accounting here at the high school.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?
At CHS, I have been a part of the swim team for 4 years, link crew for 2 years, and best buddies for 3 years.

Any advice for underclassmen?
Take electives that you’re not sure you would like because there may be a chance that you may be interested in that but you would never have known.

If you could go back to freshman year, what would you tell yourself?
I would tell myself to study more and try harder because your gpa starts the first day of freshman year and it becomes harder to bring it up throughout your high school career.

Who was your biggest influence?
Mrs. Taillon is one of my biggest influences because she’s always spreading kindness to her classrooms and to strangers even if she has a bad day which makes me want to do the same.

If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?
Friendly, energetic, compassionate.

What is your favorite TV show?
One Tree Hill

What was the last thing you ate?
Cherries

French

William Ratchelous



By Katharine Wu 2016

Billy Ratchelous is someone whose name is synonymous for non-stop laughter and enthusiasm. His sense of humor and true passion for learning livens any classroom, and French is no exception.

“I selected Billy because he has shown the most growth over the four year of his French career with me. This year as a senior in French AP/ECE I’ve seen him work harder than ever before and he has become both one of my most solid writers and one of the students who does not shy away from taking risks as a speaker. I am so proud of him!” says French teacher Madame Ocone.

Rachelous is the type of person you can go to both when you’re in need of a laugh and when you need advice on essays. He goes above and beyond what is expected on assignments, adding comedy and personality to everything he does.

“What I will miss most is his personality, especially his quick wit and unmistakable sense of humor. He actually invented two words that I use on a regular basis in class because they describe elements of French grammar perfectly and are really funny on top of it! I hope his next French teachers enjoy having him in class as much as I have!” adds Ocone.

This upcoming fall, Ratchelous will be attending James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, where he plans to major in marketing. Ratchelous chose marketing because he loves discussing things he is passionate about, such as cars, and one day, he hopes to work for a major car company.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?
Here at CHS I’ve played rugby for all four

years as well as been a part of Best Buddies, and FBLA. Outside of school I’ve worked at Big Y for almost a year now. I think that everything I’ve been a part of in high school has shaped me into a better, more well-rounded person.

What made you choose to study French?
I actually chose to take french going into middle school because one of my friends wanted to take it, and I wanted to have a class with them. Today, I am so glad that I took French because since the classes are so small, and I’ve had the same teacher for all four years of high school, my class has become more of a family than a class. I also love that from French class I’ve learned more than just a language - I’ve learned about French history and art.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?
I want to be remembered at CHS as the guy that made everyone laugh. Knowing that I have the power to make people laugh or maybe just improve their day is a great feeling, and it’s one of my favorite things to do.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
In 10 years, I hope to have stable career and possibly be (but most likely not), making enough money to buy some of the expensive cars on my ever-growing list. I’m not exactly sure what I would like to do with my degree, but that’s why I chose to major in marketing, because there are so many things that I can do with a B.B.A., and eventually a master’s degree.

Any advice for underclassmen?
My advice to underclassmen would be to appreciate their time at CHS while they still have it. High school has been far from easy, but it’s going to be even harder leaving behind some of the best friends I’ll ever have. Growing up is scary, so don’t do it too quickly.

What teachers would you like to say thanks to?
I would like to thank Ms. Tina Ocone for being the best teacher/ second mother to me and the rest of my class for these last four years. I would also like to thank Miss Girard in the Guidance department for all of her help during the college application process, and helping me make the biggest decision of my life (#GoDukes)

German

Joey Amato



By Katharine Wu 2016

Joey Amato’s presence in any classroom is unmistakable, and German is no different. Her bubbly personality and witty comments lights up any room. Amato’s strong work ethic and genuine kindness earn her the respect of classmates and teachers alike, and her enthusiasm for the German language never ceases to excite others. “You can tell that Joey loves the German language and strives to gain the skills of being bilingual. She is passionate about her goals with the language and always makes sure she knows the information in order to apply her language skills in a practical manner.” says Adam Majeski, 2016. Amato will be attending Pennsylvania State University in the upcoming fall as a Communications, sciences, and disorders major. Penn State was Amato’s top choice, so she is really excited to go.

Amato’s major includes both speech pathology and audiology, so she will be able to take classes in both fields and then choose which career she prefers. Amato has worked with people who suffer from different speech disorders for the past six years and would like to help make communication easier for them.

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?
I was in DORAK and Best Buddies for 3 years. I’ve been working at Autism Services Resources Connecticut for 6 years, and running for about 4 years.

What made you choose to study German?
My mom and my brother both studied German, and my brother is majoring in it at UConn. I really wanted to challenge myself and take a language that not many people take. I also really wanted to go to Germany and experience all of the different cultures there.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?
I want to be remembered as someone who worked really hard and still had fun at school. I worked super hard this year to make sure I got into my top colleges, and it’s nice to see the work pay off.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I would really like to be in Philadelphia working at the children’s hospital. I love Philly, and their children’s hospital is incredible. I would love to do research there to help improve communication.

Any advice for underclassmen?
My advice is to work really hard, even when you don’t feel like it. And, every homework assignment helps, so don’t skip that assignment because you think it won’t hurt your grade. Also, make connections while you can. Teachers that you can get close to are really helpful in the long run.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
I would still try as hard as I can, just to make myself feel better and to achieve at a maximum level. It’s good to challenge yourself even when you can’t fail because it’s good motivation for when you can fail.

What is something you absolutely cannot stand?
I can’t stand doing things at the last minute. I try to space my work out so I don’t end up rushing at the last minute. Procrastination is definitely not worth it in the end because the quality of your work suffers.

What teachers would you like to say thanks to?
Mr. Wildermann, Mr. Rood, and Ms. Yamamoto. They’ve all been great influences on me, and how I do my work. Frau of course has been incredible. I’ve loved every minute of class with her. It’s super important to make good relationships with your teachers because they help with more than just your grades.

Spanish

Elizabeth Perry



By Jordan Nann 2018

This year, CHS senior Lizzie Perry is in the spotlight for the *Rampage* Spanish Spotlight. This honor was given to one student in each subject area and was chosen by the teachers in the subject. Perry is a great Spanish student and deserves the recognition. According to Esha Bhandari, another senior and friend of Perry’s, “Lizzie Perry is an amazing student- especially in Spanish. It is inspiring to see how hard she works to master the language.” Perry spoke of her love for Spanish. She loves the thought of “jumping the cultural and communications barrier, and being able to communicate with the millions and millions of other people who speak a complete different language.” The culmination of great interest and the motivation and drive to succeed in Spanish has all led up to her success.

Perry attributes her success to great teachers like Sra Velez, Sra Corrado, Sr Pilch, and Sra Smith, who all helped her and made her want to work hard in Spanish. According to Perry getting recognized for constantly working and bettering her communication skills is nice, and she feels that she earned it.

What is your favorite word in Spanish?
I have to say the imperfect tense of hablar which is hablábamos.

What made you first want to study Spanish?
Spanish seemed to be the most practical. I also wanted to go to Spain, but my trip got cancelled two years in a row.



Congrats

Class of 2016

You

Rock!

Latin

Alyssa Addesso



By Angela Zhu 2017

Integritas: a Latin word that perfectly describes Alyssa Addesso. Addesso brings a cheerful smile and a great work ethic everyday. As a Latin student she is well versed and has a great understanding of the ancient yet difficult language. Her teachers have nothing but a plethora of laudable adjectives to describe her. “She is very intelligent. She is hardworking. She is kind. She is well man-

nered. She is polite. She is respectful,” says Latin teacher Magistra Oparowski. In addition to excelling in the classroom, Addesso is an active member of the school community. She is an incredible athlete and teammate in Girls’ Soccer and Girls’ Outdoor Track. She is also in Book Club, the Rampage, NHS, NEHS, and Link Crew. Though she will not be pursuing a career in Latin, next year at UCONN, she will embark on an exciting journey towards the increasingly important field of genetics. She will be studying molecular and cell biology in hopes of becoming a genetic counselor or something in the field of genetics. Addesso deserves nothing but *summa cum laude*. Congratulations Alyssa and the best of luck to you in your future endeavors! Before leaving, Addesso added some words of wisdom and reflection.

Any advice for underclassmen?
My advice for the underclassmen is to get

involved in all of the things that CHS has to offer...and do your homework.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I hope to be a genetic counselor! Or doing something in the field of genetics!

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
I would love to go on a tv show like The Amazing Race or Family Feud. When I was in elementary school, my family would always watch the Amazing Race and Survivor. Although I have stopped watching them, I always thought that it would be amazing to be able to go on one of those shows and win!

If you were a food, what would you be?
I would probably be ice cream. Ice cream is the best food on earth and I could eat it every single day of my life. Personally I think vanilla is the best because you could add whatever toppings you want and it wouldn’t taste weird! I also wouldn’t mind being grapes...I could eat them every day too.

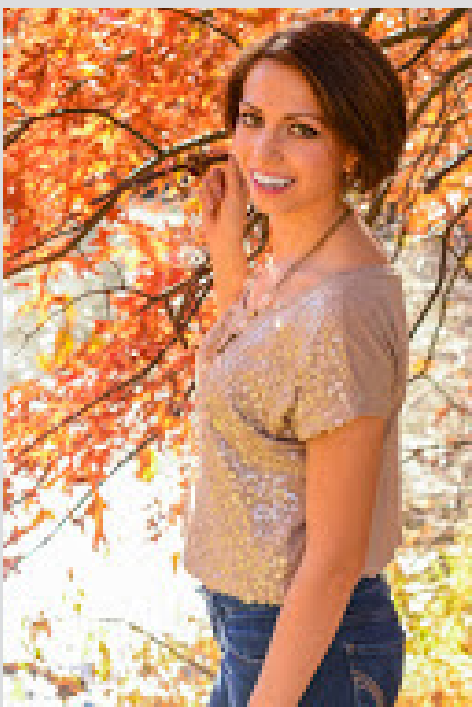
What is one superpower you wish you had?
I think that if I had one superpower it would be to fly. Flying would be such a cool way to get from one place to another! I love the feeling of flying!

What will you miss most about Cheshire?
I will miss my friends and family.



Social Studies

Lauren Carbone



By Shivani Padhi 2018

From the class of 2016, an outstanding senior, Lauren Carbone was named by history department as their senior spotlight. Engaged in in the life of the school in many ways, Carbone is the captain of the Girls Volleyball team, and the captain of the Indoor Track team.

“Lauren is always ready for anything and brings a smile to my face,” said Indoor Track runner, Catherine Tang, 2018.

Lauren is loved by people due to her charming personality.

According Jenny Wang, 2019 and Alicia Stitalksi, 2018, teammates, Carbone is charismatic, and out-going. Carbone, who is fond of giving back, has volunteered with Cheshire Youth Services at the Yellow House. She has been part of many youth programs and has impacted the Cheshire community. Cheshire High School is proud to honor a student like Carbone with a history spotlight. CHS will dearly miss Carbone and wishes her a good luck in her nursing career!

What extracurriculars have you been a part of during your time at CHS?

I’ve been on the volleyball team, indoor track team, and outdoor track team. I’ve also participated in Best Buddies, Latin Club, Peer Advocates, One Acts, Relay for Life, and Prom committee.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?

I want to be remembered as a kind hearted person who cared about others.

Where are you going to school? What are you majoring in?

I am going to the University of New England in Maine to major in Nursing.

What would you like to/are planning to major in - why this path?

I want to major in Nursing because I care

about the wellbeing of others. Eventually I would like to be a nurse in the Army and after that become a Psych APRN.

Any advice for underclassmen?

Honestly do what makes you happy and be true to yourself no matter what. Stop stressing out over things you can’t control, and don’t dwell in the past; truly try to enjoy being in the present. You only get to be in high school once so surround yourself with people who are only going to lift you higher.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

In ten years I see myself doing my part to serve my country and helping others.

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?

I would probably become a doctor instead of a nurse, maybe even a surgeon.

How does it feel to be recognized as the Social studies senior spotlight?

Surprised and excited I guess, it’s an honor.

What is your favorite Disney movie? Why?

I absolutely love them all but if I had to pick one I would say Lady and The Tramp because the dogs are adorable and I love the spaghetti scene!

Do you have any unusual habits or quirks?

Um I mean I like Ketchup on a lot of things.

How would you spend one million dollars?

Pay off my student loans, buy a fancy car that is not a gas-guzzling Ford Explorer, and give the rest to cancer research and charities like Toys for Tots.

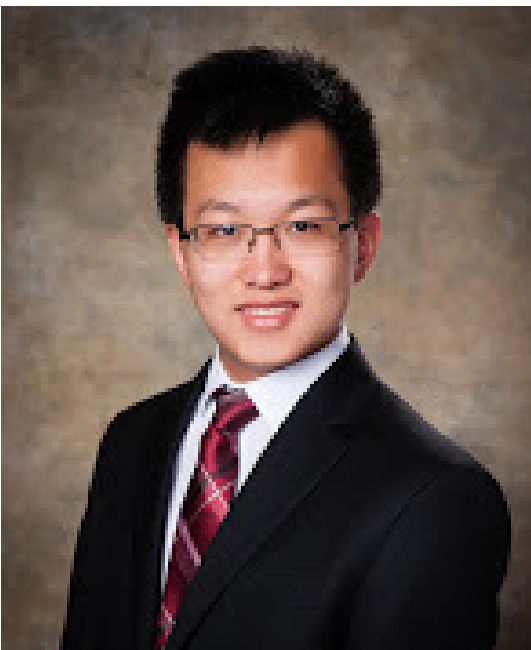
What is your favorite silly word? Why?

Pantyhose... because it just is.



Math

Shangda Xu



By Mara Tu 2017

For Shangda Xu, math is his thing. While this year’s valedictorian has many skills and talents up his sleeve, his liking for and skill in math lies beyond just adding 2+2. With his keenness of mathematics and strong numerical abilities, Xu earns this recognition for his math brilliance and math mastery.

“My favorite thing about math is how versatile it is!” Xu exclaims, “You use math in a ton of different places.”

Beyond just math and school, Xu, a humorous and humble student, steps out into many extracurriculars. At CHS, he’s been a part of National Honor Society, the Young Democrats, the Science National Honor Society, Debate Club, Science Bowl, Math League, and Chess Club.

Heading off to Harvard College in the fall, Xu will prospectively be majoring in Government and Applied Mathematics.

Laughing about his plans, he explains, “I’m really interested in government due to my participation in the Young Democrats in high school, and I feel like a combo of gov and applied math could lead to lots of interesting things in the future. Don’t quote me on my major though - I’m indecisive.”

Shangda answers some questions about his experience here at CHS and more.

What was your favorite math class taken?

My favorite math class taken at CHS was AP Calculus.

Who/what was a major influence for you in CHS?



Without a doubt, this is Mrs. Shirk. I’ve had her in freshman year and in senior year. Mrs. Shirk’s teaching is the very embodiment of critical thinking. Mrs. Shirk has acted as a mentor for many of her students, including myself. Past all of that, Mrs. Shirk’s love for her career and her students mark her as incontestably the greatest educator I have ever had the privilege of learning from.

Where do you think you will be in ten years?

Uh...10 years is a really long time... especially for someone who barely knows what they’re doing tomorrow. It could go a lot of ways; if I pursue government, I might still be getting a PhD. Otherwise, I could be anywhere - I’ve always wanted to travel the world, so maybe I’d do that.

What will you miss most about CHS?

The people. The teachers, administrators, and students all form a really great community and I’ll definitely miss it in the future.

What are you most excited about for college?

This is an easy one - setting my own schedule! I’m definitely not a morning person and will appreciate being able to choose not to have a single class before 10 AM.

Favorite food?

This is the hardest question...can I say McD’s French Fries?

Female Theater

Continued from page 14

What inspired you to be involved in theater?

I auditioned for my first show because it was something my older sister was interested in, and my mom thought it’d be nice if I tagged along. Honestly, I hated my first show and swore I’d never perform again...but there’s something really special about creating such a fantastic story and telling it to an audience. Once I realized the impact my work had on others, I came to love it indefinitely, and I’ve been doing it ever since.



I know this is such a cliché, but my all-time favorite musical is The Phantom of the Opera. It was the very first show I ever saw on Broadway, and I grew up listening to the soundtrack and singing all the songs. My whole family loves it, so the show has always had a strong presence in my household, and I just think it’s so complex and absolutely beautiful.

What is your favorite musical/play? Why?

Congrats to 2016 Fall Sports Captains

Football: TBA

Boys Soccer: Mitch Manware

Girls Soccer: TBA

Boys Cross Country: Erik Galuska, Jake Lawlor

Girls Cross Country: TBA

Girls Volleyball: Molly Michaud, Taryn Murasso

Field Hockey: Bailey Cunningham, Sarah Pierpont, Julie Roche, and Sam Simone

Cheerleading: TBA

Girls Swim and Dive: Emily Murphy, Kathryn Robinson

Science Maria Latta

By Mara Tu 2017

To be a great science student, a learner must be intuitive, analytical, and curious. An affinity for sciences is often times not shared among all students, but for one, her interest in the sciences, lovely attributes as a science student, and warm personality have shaped her goals for the future.

Maria Latta, earning this recognition for her excellence and dedication to science for the past four years, has proven her interest in sciences by taking rigorous science courses and engaging in science outside of school. She’s taken a variety of AP science classes: AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1, and AP Biology. Latta has also served as an officer for the Science National Honor Society.

“What piques my interest about science is the fineness of it,” Maria explains, “Even though it’s so complicated, there is such an elegance in concise explanations of what we see and

experience every day in the natural world.”

Besides excelling in school, Maria engages herself in the community and other activities through extracurriculars. Latta is an active member of the National Honor Society and the National English Honor Society, the CHS Bible Study co-founder, manager of the football team, Volunteer at the Elim Park Retirement home, and ASBDA/CMEA Regional Flutist.

With one of the warmest smiles, kindest advice, and delightful personalities, Maria Latta will be greatly missed from Cheshire High School.

In the fall, Maria Latta will be attending UCONN in both the Honors program and the Special Program in Pharmacy. There, she is looking forward to the great new experiences and new things to explore ahead of her. Before her prosperous future in the world of college, science, and life, Maria answers a few questions about her time here at CHS and her hopes for the future.

What is your favorite science class

taken?
Chemistry was definitely my favorite science class.

What are your college plans (major, school, etc.)?
I’ll be going to UConn next year in both their Honors program and their Special Program in Pharmacy, majoring in pre-pharmacy.

What made you choose to study pharmacy?
I chose pharmacy because after losing a younger cousin to leukemia, I was really inspired to take part in saving lives. After job-shadowing North Haven Pharmacy and Gaylord Hospital Pharmacy, I really just saw myself doing that type of work everyday.

Where do you think you will be in ten years?
Ideally, in ten years I will be working as a pharmacist and potentially earning a degree in public health as well to pursue work that combines pharmacy with local or global health policy.

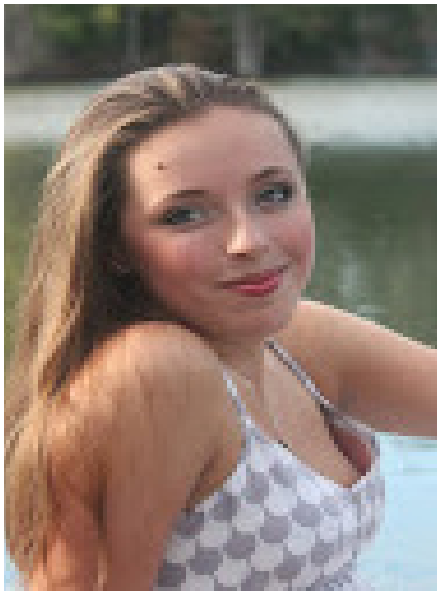


What will you miss most about CHS?
The thing I will miss most about CHS are the teachers. I have had so many teachers over the years that have cared so much about me and my learning and have really helped me so much to grow.

What are you most excited about for college?
I’m most excited in college to explore new things. Since I’ll be at UConn, they have a really diverse population and literally any club you could think of.



English Olivea Kieffer



By Shivani Padhi 2018

Effervescent. If there was one word that could possibly come close to describing Olivea Kieffer in all her enthusiasm and liveliness, it is effervescent. Kieffer is someone whose passion for the things she loves is so undeniable that anyone within a ten foot radius of her is bound to become excited as well.

“Olivea is very creative” says friend and classmate Veronica Schaefer, 2016.

Teachers from the English department praised the innate kindness Olivea expresses to everyone she encounters.

“She is unique in everything she does, and is a mix between a gorey, masterfully, bloody, special-effects artist and sparkly literary teacher to-be,” exclaims Mr. Rob Schaefer.

As a TA to Ms. Dawn DeMeo her junior year, Kieffer had the chance to help out a sophomore World Literature class. It was during this time that Kieffer fell in love with teaching, and without a doubt a time when students fell in love with her contagious enthusiasm.

“I had the best time working with Olivea. She is so solid in her knowledge of the literature, but was so understanding of the students and how challenging it was for them to approach a new text. Olivea found ways to support them in having those same exciting discoveries that she had and our class had a great year. She is kind, thoughtful, reflective and extremely aware of her strengths and weaknesses. She is expressive and open, which just inspires everyone around her to be at ease.” said DeMeo.

Kieffer will be attending Bucknell University in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania where she will be majoring in English and Secondary Education. Bucknell has a program where they get their students out into schools at the end of freshman year, which was one reason Kieffer was drawn to the university.

What extracurriculars have you been a

part of during your time at CHS?
I am the current co-president of PTSO, an NEHS member, a BRAVE member, a Bible Study Club leader, and I am also on the girls golf team. In freshman year, I signed up for almost every club there was, and then overtime I weeded out the extracurriculars that did not suit me and stuck with the ones that accomplished what I felt was needed in the school. That is why a lot of the clubs I stuck with involve community service.

How do you want to be remembered at CHS?
It would be nice to be remembered as the girl who had crazy costumes. Since about sophomore year, I have dressed up for every holiday that you can think of, and I did it hardcore. I have come into school with my entire face painted for halloween, a heart shaped hole in my chest for Valentine’s Day, and a pencil through my nose for April Fools Day. I think my crazy makeups and special effects will be what most remember me for, and I’ll be proud of that.

Congrats on committing to Bucknell University! What made you want to major in English and Secondary Education?
Thanks so much! I started thinking about becoming an English teacher my sophomore year at CHS and I decided to talk to my current Lit teacher about it to she if she had any insight. Ms. DeMeo talked

with me and then offered a spot of being a teacher’s assistant in her Lit class next year. I eagerly accepted and in junior year, I fell in love with teaching. It seems like a good fit for me and I can’t wait to force my own class to challenge themselves with difficult books.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
I don’t really have that specific of a plan. It would be great to come back to Cheshire to teach along side my past teachers, but there would have to be a lot of different things that would fall into place for that to happen. I guess as long as I am teaching Lit somewhere, I’ll be happy!

What would you do if you knew you couldn’t fail?
I am currently living without the fear of failure. I am just going to go for the gold and hope for the best, so I’d be doing the same thing I am doing now ... except maybe I’d try a little harder to bring world peace.

Apple or Android? Why?
Apple, because an apple a day keeps the doctor away.


What is the meaning of life for you?
I think we are living to learn a bunch of L words. Language, laughter, liberty, light, and love.




CHS Faculty Gives Advice to the Class of 2016



“Be open to new experiences and new adventures.”
-Mrs. Girard



“I will miss my seniors boys in study hall and try to be careful and stay out of trouble.”
-Ms. G



“Take advantage of every education opportunity so you can go to many places. You will be a better individual, and you will have a better opportunity for a job.”
-Nurse Ruddy

Male Visual Artist

Alex Kratzert



By Emily Peck 2016

Creativity is no feat for this senior artist. Give him a pen and paper and he could draw anything you ask, and well too! Alex Kratzert has spent much of his high school career in the art department, perfecting his skills and learning new ways of creating art, making him deserving the male visual artist spotlight.

In the past four years, Kratzert has made an effort to get involved in a variety of art classes to diversify his talent

including Drawing 1 and 2, Painting 1, Advanced Drawing/Painting, Advanced Digital Photography, and AP Studio Art: Drawing.

“My guess is that from the way that I see him interact with other students in class, he is going to be an excellent art teacher someday,” comments Mr. Michael Earley, head of the art department, “He has the ability analyze his fellow classmates art, diagnose what needs to be done and then to offer help in a kind and support way.”

Kratzert’s involvement in the

high school is not limited to the art department, though. Up until his senior year, he was a member of the club Writer’s Block and performed in all of the One Acts plays. Unfortunately, his job limited him from being a part of these two activities his senior year as he would have still loved to be a part of them.

Next year Kratzert will be attending Paier College of Art where he plans on majoring in graphic design. He hopes this major will take him in the direction of pursuing a job in graphic design.

Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
My goal for ten years I actually have had a lot of time to think about and I know just what I want. My goal for ten years is to be a graphic designer at a large company. One day I want to be a creative director (who oversees projects like designing huge ad campaigns for big name companies like mac or nike), and ideally I’d like to be living in New York by then. I love it there so much!

Who is your role model? Why?
I think my role model would have to be my grandfather. He is such an inspiration to me. He is so great just talking to anyone no matter where. He can make a life-long friendship just by starting up a conversation with someone in line next to him. He has built up his reputation, name, and character into someone who’s really confident, memorable and great.

If you won a trip in which you picked the destination, and someone else paid

for it, where would you go? Why?
That’s a tough one, but it would have to be Russia. I’m adopted from Russia and I always thought it would be cool to visit the place I came from.

Who or what is your biggest influence at CHS?
I think my teachers have made a big impact on me. I’m someone who always ended up really liking my teachers, and through conversations with all of them, I learned a lot of things and they’ve offered great advice that I wouldn’t have gotten if I didn’t get to know them so well.

If you could be anyone in the world, who would you be and why?
If I could be anyone for a day or two I would choose a big singer or actor. That would be fun to be on a big movie set for a day. I think Melissa McCarthy is really funny, she’s one of my favorite actors.

What’s your favorite color crayon and why?
My favorite color crayon is tropical rain forest green.

What is your favorite piece of artwork you’ve ever created?
My favorite piece of artwork I ever created would have to be my self portrait in high school. I had only drawn myself once before, and it didn’t turn out so well, so making one that actually looked like me was a really big accomplishment.

If you had to describe yourself in three words, what would they be?
Sassy, fun, thoughtful. 🐼

Female Visual Artist

Hannah Gelmetti

By Emily Peck 2016

She paints, she draws, she photographs, and can’t forget to mention she’s an animating fiend. Throughout the past four years of her high school career senior Hannah Gelmetti has immersed herself in the art department, by taking a multitude of classes to sculpt her talent and artistic skills.

“Although many people know that Hannah is heading off to school to

major in animation, I wanted everyone to know how talented she is in all aspects of visual art,” says Mr. Michael Earley, head of the art department, about why he chose to spotlight Gelmetti.

Gelmetti has established her presence in the art department with her creative style and confidence in her work. Every year she has made a point of taking at least one art class, those including studio art, computer art, drawing one, painting one, advanced drawing & painting, and

photography 1 & 2.

“Hannah stands out from others in the class because she is NEVER afraid to speak out, voice her opinion, offer suggestions, or give her support,” remarks Earley.

Next year Gelmetti will be attending the School of Visual Arts in Manhattan for animation. She is looking forward to the opportunities that going to school in the city will have to offer. 🐼



Male Theater

Continued from page 14

working at a college or a university. I see myself being in a committee relationship in the future and having made enough money to hopefully travel and see the world as much as I can.

How do you plan on using what you learned through acting in the future?
Acting will be abundantly helpful in and outside the classroom. Public speaking is of paramount importance in the education field and through acting I have learned not only how to speak clearly but how to speak effectively and with conviction. I learned a lot about empathy and teamwork through doing acting as well. A show can only be successful if the entire ensemble works together as a team and can help each other out when needed. I can use this to work with other educators and work with students towards bringing out the best in them and helping kids reach their full potential.

What do you like best about the theater department?
What I like best in the theater department

are the connections that I made with people and all the moments that are shared onstage and off with those people. It has been said time and again but the theater program is a family and I think that everyone should give it a shot if they have the chance to.

What is your favorite musical/play? Why?
My favorite play is Long Day’s Journey Into Night by Eugene O’Neil. This is single handedly the most powerful and impactful play I have ever come across. This play explores an entire family coming to terms with their lives and their regrets. When someone reads this play their heart is ripped out and examined time and time again. I would recommend this play to anyone because there is something powerful in it for everyone.

What was your favorite show to perform in? Why?
My favorite show was by far *Much Ado About Nothing*. Acting in a Shakespearean play was such an amazing experience. I got to speak and live out the words of one of

the greatest writers in history. There are few who can come close to the linguistic brilliance of Shakespeare. Reading and acting that show was like living out a language lover’s dream. I could still recite most of the lines if I really wanted to because it was just absolutely fascinating.

Who is your biggest influence at CHS?
I don’t know if I have a single major influence in CHS, but I would say that the whole of the English department has made the largest influence. I have encountered most of the English staff at least once, and I have never met a group of individuals more caring and intelligent than them. They serve as an inspiration to me as what it means to be an English educator and what It means to become a well rounded person.

What are your goals for the future?
My goals in the future are pretty straightforward when they are boiled down, become a writer, be in a healthy committed relationship, and travel around the world. 🐼

CHS Faculty Gives Advice to the Class of 2016

“Be more productive students.”
Mrs. Corrado-



“Not to Judge your success or failure on social media but instead on your own success.”
-Mr. Solan



Scholar Athlete - Female

Alyssa Addesso



By Matt Davies 2017

Senior Alyssa Addesso has earned the title of Scholar Athlete. In order to become Eligible to receive this award a student has to have one of the best GPAs in Cheshire high School and has to be a talented athlete in more than one sport. Alyssa Addesso played for the Cheshire High School soccer and track teams. According to Cheshire High School Biology teacher James Trifone, “Alyssa is a stellar AP Biology student. She is self-motivated, conscientious, and very bright. From my perspective she is truly a scholar and, from what I have also observed, quite an accomplished athlete.”

How do you feel about earning the title of Scholar athlete?
I feel extremely honored...I put a lot of effort into school and athletics!

Who is your role model/hero when you were grown up and why?
My role model is Michelle Akers. She was an amazing soccer player but is an

even better person. She was diagnosed with Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, a condition that leaves a person really tired all of the time, but still managed to lead the US team to World Cup Victories. Her determination is something that I hope to embody!

What got you interested in playing track/soccer?
I started playing soccer when I was 7, so, to be honest, I don't really remember why I started playing. I started running in 8th grade because I found out that I liked it.

Who is you favorite athlete?
Michelle Akers is my favorite player. She played soccer for the US National Team as a center mid and I loved watching her play.

Where are you going to college?
I am going to Uconn for molecular and cell biology!

What motivates you the most?
I would say that doing my best motivates me. I know that I can always be/do better, so I push myself to do so.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?
I see myself hopefully working as a genetic counselor...or doing something in the field of genetics.

What is your favorite silly word?
My favorite funny word would be “fartlek”

What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?
I would go on a TV show like The Amazing Race or Family Feud.

What is one thing you want to do before dying?
I really want to drive across the country!



Scholar Athlete - Male

Robert John Oris

By Matt Davies 2017

Senior Robert John “RJ”Oris has earned the title of Scholar Athlete. In order to become Eligible to receive this award a student has to have one of the best GPA in Cheshire high School and has to be a talented athlete in more than one sport. RJ oris was a member of Cheshire High School football team and is currently a member of Boys lacrosse team. Coach Rich Pulisciano said “ RJ is one of the hardest working student athletes we have here at Cheshire High School”



How do you feel about earning the title of Scholar athlete?
It feels to be recognized for all my efforts both in the classroom and the athletic field throughout my time here at CHS.

Who is your role model/hero when you were grown up and why?
I would say i've looked up to various people growing up and have tried to take a lot of certain qualities that I admire. I have looked up to older athletes on my sports teams, coaches,my parents, and older cousins.

What got you interested in playing football/lacrosse?
My Dad played in football in high school and college and he got me interested in football when I was young, about 4th grade. Over time, I began to enjoy football more and more. I started playing lacrosse in 5th grade when a lot of my friends also started playing.

Who is you favorite athlete?
I don't really have a favorite athlete.

Where are you going to college?
I am going to WPI.

What motivates you the most?
What motivates me is a desire to reach my full potential in sports.In School, what motivates me to work hard is the importance of adcademics for my future in both college and the work force.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?
In ten years, I see myself working either as an engineer in business, living in either an apartment or house.

What is your favorite silly word?
Mildew

What would you do if you knew you couldn't fail?
I would work as hard as possible to make sure I wouldn't fail.

What is one thing you want to do before dying?
I'm not sure



Senior Prom, May 14th 2016, Cherry Blossoms



Congrats to
the class of 2016!
Always work for
your dreams!

Live Your Dreams!
Always Be Happy!
Congrats!
MR. LeBauer

Best of Luck!
Congrats - Mr. Kelly
You are a great
class. We will
miss you!
Good Luck Seniors
Best of luck in
the future!
~Miss Collins

Bonne!
Chance!
♥ Mme

Best of Luck!

- Mr. Moyer

Best Wishes
+ Good Luck!

Mrs. Fickel

Congrats seniors!
I wish you a life
full of health and
happiness! Miss you
all! - Ms. Russell

Congrats
Class of 2016
Be the best
You can be,
+ the new things
+ live the best
The best always!
Mrs. Gaeff
Carbone

Congrats and
good luck seniors!
- Ms. Yorman

Don't go cheap.
Good

Congrats!
Remember to reach
for the moon because
even if you miss you'll
land in the stars.
Good Luck.
Mr. Lohp

Good Luck
in where ever
life leads you

trabjen duro,
sean productivos y
felices
Sra. Corrao

Follow your
dreams!
All the best -
Mrs. Close

To My Awesome Speech
Students + American Lit.
Students - Go conquer the
world!! Carpe Diem! and
Congrats

Congrats
Best of Luck
to the
class of
2016!

Congrats to the class
of 2016. Good
luck in your
future
Miss Miller

Congratulations
Seniors! Wishing
you all the best in
your future endeavors!
Ms. Baume

Best of Luck + may
all your dreams
come true!
Ms. Yorman

Congratulations!
Good luck with
wherever your life
leads you!
Best wishes!
Miss Munk

Good luck Class
of 2016!!
Mrs. Balisevic

Congratulations
Seniors!
Best wishes,
Mr. Redford

It has been a
great ride! Congratulations
and good luck!
Mr. Solan

Congratulations to
an amazing class
Best of luck in all
you do.
Mrs. Rooney
Congrats!
Lou-G

SENIORS -
CONGRATS, WAY
TO GO!
DO YOUR BEST!
MR. WILLIAMS

Congratulations
to the class
of 2016 - your
may all come
true. Be happy
and work
hard!
Mrs. Alvarado

Best wishes to the
Class of 2016!
- Mrs. Tabor

Felicitades
La clase de 2016

Congrats!
You did it!
- Mrs. Warburton



Speeches You Won't Hear On Graduation Day

Seniors Share Words of Wisdom

by



Alexa Kareco

Good evening fellow graduates, families, and Cheshire High faculty. I would like to begin by extending my deepest congratulations to the Class of 2016! In just a few moments, we will be receiving our diplomas, the exit slip of the familiarity we have enjoyed for the past eighteen years and our official ticket into the unknown, exciting, and nerve-wracking world.

I cannot believe it has been four years since we have walked through those front doors. I distinctly remember, on the second day of school, walking into a class filled with seniors. My face turned bright red and my colossal freshman backpack—filled with unnecessary supplies, of course—slammed against the door as I scurried out, hearing the laughs of upperclassmen because of my foolishness. To this day, I am still embarrassed and slightly-traumatized, but we have all been through one of those situations these past few years, right?

Aside from those ever-so-

common embarrassing moments, these past few years have been adventure filled. From minute-to-win-it competitions in advisory to watching amazing productions produced by the drama club to celebrating prom and the senior picnic with our friends, we have filled our years with fun experiences, connecting us with one another, and changing us for the better, little by little.

We all experienced these memories together, and that is something we should never forget. High school is about forming relationships with people whom you will be friends with for the rest of your life, people who will always be there to push you higher, people who sometimes know you better than you know yourself. Cheshire High School has formed a community that all three hundred and eighty-six of us are a part of, making every single one of us a better, more complete version of ourselves.

Wherever you go, whether it be hundreds of miles away for college, staying nearby to work for a family

company, or preparing to represent the country in our nation's troops, remember where you came from. After tonight, we all begin a new journey, a new journey without each other, without the familiarity we have experienced for so long. This school has created a close-knit community we will always call our home.

I would like everyone to take a moment to look around the room and take every sight, sound and emotion in one last time. The metal bleachers to the right of us hold the memories of Friday night football games, pep rallies, and countless assemblies. Behind us is our school, our home for the last four years, where teachers have taught us the twenty-seven amendments and pythagorean theorem. Most importantly, however, take a look at the faces of the people sitting next to you, your friends, your classmates. These faces you see now, faces you may have known for four, six, or even twelve years, will be the faces of people you know you will always have with you, wherever you go. Our experiences at Cheshire High will withstand the test of time. The memories we have made, lessons we have learned, friendships we have created were more than just classroom interactions, but moments that will last a lifetime.

Dr. Seuss once wrote, "Oh! The places you'll go! You'll be on your way up! You'll be seeing great sights! You'll join the high fliers who soar to high heights. You won't lag behind because you have all the speed. You'll pass the whole gang and you'll soon take the lead. Wherever you fly, you'll be best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest."

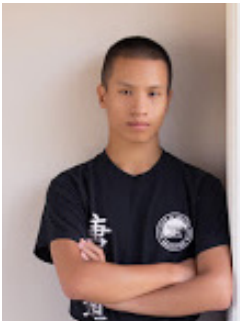
I have watched our class go from shy, nervous freshmen to powerful, dauntless seniors. We have the potential to do anything we set our minds to. We have pushed each other to strive for our goals and reach places we would never have imagined possible. We are young and imaginative, courageous and resilient, kindhearted and selfless. We are the class that can change the world, one person at a time. Like Dr. Seuss said, we will top all the rest.

Once again, congratulations to the Class of 2016, the families, and the school for getting us all to this moment. Finally, it is our turn to start a new chapter and be best the best we can be. We entered high school as children, most of us unsure of what we wanted to do in the future, and now we all have made it to a day we thought would never come. Through teachers teaching us everything we needed to know for the next step, parents who have always supported us, and friends to help push us to our goals, we are exiting as adults with futures holding new adventures to be explored. The next adventure begins today, after we step off this platform and accept our ticket into this exciting, unfamiliar world. This is not the end of the journey, but the beginning of the next expedition.

Thank you to the parents, faculty and everyone who have helped us reach this milestone, and most importantly, thank you to the graduates for giving us four years of moments that will never be forgotten.



by



Trai Gozzi

Good evening friends, families, faculty, distinguished guests, and members of the class of 2016. Tonight is a special night. It is a night where we can celebrate everything we have accomplished thus far and everything we will accomplish in the future.

But our accomplishments were not made on our own. While many people have helped us along our journey, two groups of people stand out. First, our parents and family members. They have been with us every step of the way. They praised us on our most joyous days and comforted us on our hardest. And on this day, it might be one of the hardest for them. In a few moments they will watch their child graduate from high school and move on to the next chapter of their life.

The second group is the teachers and faculty of Cheshire Public Schools. Although their jobs are to teach a subject they specialize in such as math or English; they do much more. They are the first people that arrive at school and the last ones to leave. They help us when we struggle and are there for us when we need them. Our teachers and faculty have not just taught us a certain subject, but have taught us invaluable traits such as being a complex thinker, an effective communicator, and a community contributor.

It is because of these two groups,

that we have been afforded the opportunity to fulfill our ambitions. Cheshire High School has given us the chance to grow and discover what we want to do with our lives. We have learned to study. And we do every day.

We have studied in the classrooms, on sports teams, on the stage, and as part of the band. We have studied with people in various school clubs. We have studied alone, or with friends. It is because of this studying we can go out into the world and be successful. Whether it is continuing our education at college, or joining the workforce, or picking up the sword of freedom and serving in the finest military this world has ever known.

And as many people will see the students graduating here today as one class, I do not. I only see a family. I see a family that has laughed and cried together. We have had some of the greatest memories together and some that were not so great. And like all families we have suffered losses. Skylar Ardito is one of them. And although I never truly got to know her, she may not be here physically, but she is here.

As I look across this field and I am proud to say this: congratulations on your monumental achievements, Cheshire Public Schools Family of 2016. Thank you.



by



Alaina Capasso

Good evening everyone, my name is Alaina Capasso and it is with great honor that I stand before you, the class of 2016, today.

Four years ago we nervously entered the front doors of Cheshire High School, scared out of our minds, wondering how we will manage to go from opening our lockers to sitting in our next class within five minutes. Can you remember looking up in the hallways at the upperclassmen that were so much bigger than you? How about the first time entering the lunchroom, where you were going to sit, and who you were going to sit with? Or what about looking outside the senior walk when you were in History Class bored out of your mind thinking, "I can't wait until I am a Senior." But we overcame these first and scary moments and within weeks this became our new routine. I want you to think about this as you enter the next stage of our lives, whether it's college, careers, military, or anything you want to do because all of these feelings will be coming back again as you begin your next chapter.

Change can be scary at first and we fear the unknown. But remember, just like when we were freshmen, within a few weeks we will find our new normal. This next leg of our journey relies only in the hands of our decisions that we act upon here on out. Our new and lifelong

friendships, our families, and where we see ourselves in 5 to 10 years all depends on ourselves. For me personally, it has been a wonderful experience to see how we have grown and something I look forward to the most is seeing what dreams of ours will come true. But before we fast forward that far, we should recognize where we are right now. And finally, we are sitting here today with our caps and gowns like we imagined four years ago. WE FINALLY MADE IT. It did feel like forever sitting in math class waiting for the clock to turn to two, but looking back I don't measure high school in 6 ½ hour school days, but in the amount of responsibility and relationships we have gained.

On behalf of all of our classmates, I would like to congratulate everyone of you as well as thank our parents, relatives, and support systems outside of school who have helped us through our journey. I would also like to thank our teachers who have shaped us into the people we are today, whether it be in class help, or long hours after school, we are forever indebted to you for your time in and out of school. From this point on, we are in control of our destiny. Good luck to everyone, and I'm sure we will see 100 picture from tonight on Instagram so I know this won't be our last goodbye. Thank you for listening.



Quotable Quotes

After four years, what was your favorite experience at CHS?



"When my indoor track team won SCC East, we weren't expected to and it was a great moment for the seniors to end the season that way."

-Brenna Reach
2016



"I have been a senior for over 50 years and I keep coming back for more."

~The Ram
1957



"Being with friends and hanging around, being on the senior walk."

-Giovanni Brino
2016



"Making new friends through school and sports."

-Sam Calabrese
2016



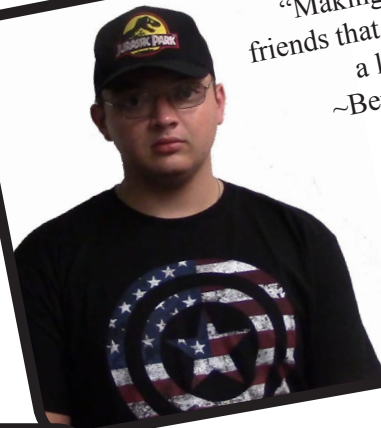
"All the memories with the wrestling team."

~Mike Marotta
2016



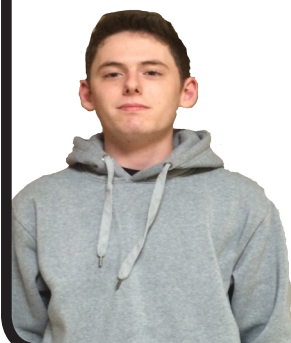
"Making a lot of friends that will last a lifetime."

~Ben Palmeri
2016



"The FBLA meetings, every wednesday, represent."

-R.J. Strollo
2016



"being apart of the football and lacrosse team."

-Sal DeLucia
2016



"meeting all my friends and hanging out in study hall."

~ Collin Salatto
2016



"Being pulled out of class by Mr. Sansoucy."

-George Bonadies
2016



"Probably graduating in a couple weeks will be my favorite moment."

-Ricky Novia
2016



"All the Shadank memes."

~ Shadid Khan
2016



"When Jack Klaas poured water on himself and told our teacher he pee'd and got to go to the nurse."

-Steve Friedler
2016



"Going to the football games."

~ Aiden Murray
2016



"Good times, hanging out with friends on the senior walk."

-Sam Bellina
2016

