

Eagle Times

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Bonny Eagle High School

Standish, Maine 04084

Hybrid learning will remain in place for now

By Macey Cabral

After conducting a survey of teachers and parents of specific grade groups, Superintendent Paul Penna has determined that MSADs's hybrid model, which splits schools into groups who only come to school on certain days of the week, will continue through November.

Parents surveyed were those who have children in Pre-K and kindergarten, 6th grade and 9th grade. Mr. Penna said those groups were specifically chosen because they are in the transitional years of their academic life.

"Pre-K and K are just learning how to do school, so that seemed like a population we should look at," Mr. Penna explained. "Then the 6th grade kids. That is the first time they show up together at school as a class in the district. And that seemed like a good population. to



Supt. Paul Penna. MSAD6 photo

shoot for as well. We wanted to make sure they had a good start. Same idea

with the 9th graders because they are coming into the school brand new. Statistically, students who fall behind their freshman year tend to be more at risk for not finishing high school."

While 72 percent of the parents surveyed would like to see their children return to school fulltime, they expressed concern about whether it could be done safely. Realistically, Mr. Penna does not believe parents will feel safe sending their children back to school full-time until there is a vaccine.

Mr. Penna said he shares those concerns, which is why the hybrid model will continue for the time being.

"Change for the sake of change doesn't make progress," he said. "Change for the sake of making progress is where we should be putting our energy."

Mr. Penna said the school is exploring the use of technology so that stu-

dents who are at home on their remote learning days will still be able to access classroom instruction along with their peers who are at school that day. This is being called "synchronized learning," and Mr. Penna hopes to have it in place in MSAD6 by the third trimester.

Before then, however, administrators are exploring how the Friday remote learning day can be better utilized. Parents have been invited to express their opinions. The first forum was held Oct. 29, and two more are scheduled for next week.

"What we are doing is working. It has stabilized....other than one minor incident, we've had no cases. We haven't had to shut down a building. If you look at schools around us, they've had different challenges," he said. "Bonny Eagle has been successful in finding its road map."

Ms. Maxwell has left the building but....

Her heart still roams the halls of Bonny Eagle

By Kaylei Myers

Ms. Margaret Maxwell will not be teaching at Bonny Eagle High School this year due to Coronavirus concerns. She is currently still involved with school by helping out with the remote learning students.

The beginning of this year would've been the start of her 38th year with us. Besides teaching art classes, she has advised the National Honor Society, the FACS (Fight Against Cancer Society), STAND (Students Affirming the Non-Use of Drugs), and the Outing Club. She mentored students in the GAR (Grand Army of the Republic) and had a Bible Club for a few years after school. The Eagle Times caught up with Ms. Maxwell (remotely) for a question and answer session recently. These are excerpts from the interview. You can read the full transcript at our website: www.behsnews.com

Was this a hard decision to make?

"This decision to not go back was and continues to be very difficult. It was made by me and strongly recommended by my doctor. After doing the research, she highly advised me not to enter the classroom due to my health issues. I do not want to make the students ill and I do not want to get sick either. My immune system is weak and I need to be aware of the current situation."

What are you going to miss most about working here?

"I will miss all of it. The students, my colleagues, the art room being such a special time for Mr. Twilley and I to share, that sacred place where so many students enjoyed making art, hanging out, and becoming great artists in the real world. Our classrooms were like open books. The door between us was never locked and students and teachers knew when and where to be in order to express their creativity and to find inspiration. Mr. Twilley was a great teaching partner. We had 30 years of collaboration, friendship and pure love of art."

Every day I woke up ready to teach in that wonderful room. Waiting for students, walking the halls with many smiles, and hearing 'Good Morning Ms. Maxwell.' I had a cluttered classroom, but I knew where everything was when someone needed something. I miss the students coming after school and needing to work on a project from another class and wanting help with posters, information, or just a cup of tea or pizza when we needed to clean the space."

Has Bonny Eagle High School been a welcoming place for the arts?

"The Bonny Eagle community always supported the arts, our requests for materials, workshops, and additional educational resources to make all of this

happen. This district rocks, including, the school board, administration at all levels, and the greater public. We have students working for CNN, Disney, Amazon, PBS, Nickelodeon...The list goes on and on. I just had a former student, Chelsea Johnson, make me a great Wizard of Oz platter reminding me of my continued references to Dorothy and the importance of having a heart, brains, and the courage to succeed in tough times, like now."

The MSAD 6 district has provided me with many opportunities to teach at the state and Tri-District levels with integrated Arts and STEAM workshops. All of this enhanced the curriculum for the students when I returned each fall to share the information and my work."

Are there hopes of you coming back after this is all over? And if not, what other ventures do you have in the works?

"As for now, I need to quarantine until this is over. I am not able to have vaccines even if there is one, so I'm working at home developing a non-profit on food security. My dream is to have my



Ms. Maxwell led many field trips to art museums like this one last fall.

Staff photo

puppets create online or Zoom presentations to teach children about food security. My dream is to start a production company at Bonny Eagle after I retire and work with departments who want to collaborate. I would like to have students on the board and willing to work with all aspects of developing a production company. My heart is at Bonny Eagle and that is where I want to end my career."

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New principal facing challenges head on this fall

From staff reports

Sitting in his assistant principal's office on the morning of March 16, with Scarborough High School shut down for at least two weeks because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Greg Applestein decided to email MSAD6 superintendent Paul Penna. He inquired if the job as principal, which had been filled on an interim basis by Mr. Michael Johnson in 2019-20, was still open.

"I knew sitting in my Scarborough office that I would be involved in the reimagining, the restructuring, and the retooling of high school education in Maine regardless of which office I would be sitting in, either as an assistant principal or as a principal," Mr. Applestein said during an August interview. "And I thought, number one, what a great opportunity, just the principalship alone....And secondly, what a great time to be serving as an administrator where, through the teamwork I totally believe in and the collaboration with not only administrators but kids and staff and families and stakeholders, how much of a blessing that would be to be a part of something that we've never ever done before."

After an exhaustive search, which included interviewing five candidates from inside and outside the state of Maine, Mr. Applestein was chosen to lead BEHS in this most unusual and challenging year.

"Mr. Applestein was the overwhelmingly favorite candidate of the selection committee because of his professional experiences in education," said Mr. Penna. "His enthusiasm and desire to be the principal of BEHS was well articulated, as was his passion for students."



Mr. Applestein makes a point during a zoom session.

Staff screenshot

Mr. Applestein says he had done his homework on Bonny Eagle and had come to realize that it would be a great place to start his career as a high school principal after five years as an assistant at Scarborough High School. Before Scarborough, Mr. Applestein was an assistant principal at Ellsworth High School for three years. Prior to completing his Masters in educational leadership at USM, he taught English and video production for 22 years at Belfast Area High School.

Mr. Applestein says he was impressed with the plan for remote learning that Bonny Eagle administrators and staff put together virtually overnight last spring. He believes our Hybrid plan is working extremely well.

"Students, staff, and families have done a fantastic job adhering to the 6 DOE, CDC, and State mandates we need to uphold to keep BEHS open,"

he said. "We all know the Hybrid isn't as ideal as being in person in school 5 days a week. But given what we are up against, I believe the entire BEHS school community has risen up to the challenge and we've all made the best of it!"

Mr. Applestein says our staff, students, and families have shown "great resilience in addressing and overcoming" the challenges, especially when it comes to the remote learning days.

"Again, 42-minute remote classes on Fridays is not ideal, but it's better than having no interaction at all," he said. "We're so blessed to have the dedicated faculty and staff we have here at BEHS and I can't thank them enough for all they have done and continue to do on behalf of our students every day! Students and families have also contributed to our Trimester 1 successes by rearranging their homelife schedules and adjusting their lifestyles to accommo-

date the Hybrid plan. Lastly, our fully Remote Learning Plan instructors, students, and families need to be applauded for their efforts. We've never tried all of this before on such a big scale, and it has certainly been a learning process for all of us!"

Mr. Applestein participates in a weekly Google Meets session with other high school principals in southern Maine. He says it's been helpful to compare experiences, although it would be unfair to rate one school's efforts over another's.

"I have no doubt each school and district is doing what they believe is best for their stakeholders and we're all adjusting things as we move forward and learn more about COVID and how it impacts all of us."

Moving forward, Mr. Applestein expects the goal of "synchronous learning" to be the focus for BEHS.

"It's clear to me that many folks want us to look into how we can provide more in person and/or remote instruction to all students in what's commonly called a 'synchronous learning environment.' This involves the blending together of students who are in person and in classes at BEHS with students who are tuning into those classes remotely from home through Google Meets and the use of other technology," he explains. "We all know students do best in an in-person learning environment, and we have to continue to try and find ways to make that happen as best we can for all students, given our current COVID mandates."

Macey Cabral and Kaylei Myers contributed to this article

Maine students give Democrats the nod, while Bonny Eagle students beg to differ

By Katrina Bunker

The 2020 presidential election, arguably one of the most life changing and heated elections in history, is just around the corner. While many people predict we won't know the outcome on election night, Maine students, as well as those at Bonny Eagle High School, have given us a preview, based on the results of last week's statewide mock election.

At Bonny Eagle High School, the winner of the mock election for president of the United States was incumbent Donald Trump, who received 284 votes, while Democratic challenger Joe Biden was a very close runner up with 261 votes,

For United States Senator, the winner was incumbent Susan Collins at 284, and the runner up was Democratic challenger Sara Gideon at 231.

For the seat in the U.S. House of Representatives, incumbent Chellie Pingree won 295 to 278 against challenger Jay Allen.

Ms. Dawna Cyr, a government teacher, oversaw the election as the advisor to the Bonny Eagle Student Council.

"The race between Allen and Pingree was much closer than I had expected," said Mrs. Cyr.

She was not surprised that Trump and Collins won in our school, even though statewide, Maine students chose Biden and Gideon over the incumbents.

How students voted statewide

Welcome to the Maine Student Mock Election 2020				
President and Vice President			Votes	Percentage
Biden, Joseph R.	Democratic		6521	50.4%
De La Fuente, Roque "Rocky"	Alliance Party		163	1.3%
Hawkins, Howard	Green Independent		369	2.9%
Jorgensen, Jo	Libertarian		303	2.3%
Trump, Donald J.	Republican		5341	41.3%
other			236	1.8%
U.S. Senator			Votes	Percentage
Collins, Susan Margaret	Republican		4964	41.0%
Gideon, Sara I.	Democratic		5654	46.7%
Linn, Max Patrick	Independent		489	4.0%
Savage, Lisa	Independent		836	6.9%
other			172	1.4%
Representative to Congress, District 1			Votes	Percentage
Allen, Jay T.	Republican		2885	40.1%
Pingree, Chellie M.	Democratic		4168	57.9%
other			150	2.1%

How Bonny Eagle students voted

PRESIDENT		REPRESENTATIVE to CONGRESS District 1	
261	BIDEN, Joseph R.	278	ALLEN, Jay T.
11	De La FUENTE, Roque "Rocky"	295	PINGREE, Chellie M.
28	HAWKINS, Howard	40	OTHER
18	JORGENSEN, Jo		
284	TRUMP, Donald J.	REPRESENTATIVE to CONGRESS District 2	
14	OTHER		
U.S. SENATOR			
284	COLLINS, Susan Margaret		CRAFTS, Dale John
231	GIDEON, Sara I.		GOLDEN, Jared F.
35	LINN, Max Patrick		OTHER
62	SAVAGE, Lisa		
29	OTHER		

(See back for important reminders.)



Congratulations are in order



Remy Levin, a Bonny Eagle junior, shot an 88 to take the girls Class A golf individual title on Oct. 8. The Class A win qualifies Remy for the 2021 High School Golf National Invitational held at Pinehurst Resort in Pinehurst, NC on June 23- 25. This 54-hole event will showcase 224 of the best high school female golfers nationally from state championship teams.

Congratulations Remy!

John "Abel" Sullivan has received a Commendation Letter from the National Merit Scholarship committee. He was one of 34,000 students nationwide whose scores on the PSAT earned this commendation. More than 1.5 million students took the test last year. Congratulations Abel!



Senior soccer star Hailey Koons now holds the BEHS school record for most career goals scored with 40 (and counting). The record-setting goal, her 37th, came in a game against Grey-New Gloucester, off of a cross from Laura Libby on Oct. 7. Emily Byrne previously held the record.

Hailey plays soccer year round, and is committed to playing soccer for Bryant University after she finishes high school. Congratulations on your new record, Hailey!

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The *Eagle Times* is the student voice of Bonny Eagle High School, published regularly with a circulation of an estimated 800 copies

The purpose of the *Eagle Times* is to:

- Present the news, as it pertains to the student body, in a non-biased and tasteful fashion,
- Provide a forum, wherein ideas and options, concepts and concerns may be freely and openly discussed,
- Provide the student body, faculty, and administration with a circulated medium in which letters, notices of recognition, and other submissions may be published.

The *Eagle Times* welcomes submissions from students, faculty, staff and community members. All submissions MUST be signed by their respective authors.

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Yet again, seniors feel pain of COVID-19

By Katrina Bunker

Last year's seniors took the hardest hit after COVID-19 forced the school to go remote for the rest of the year last March. Now with COVID-19 still spreading like wildfire, this year's seniors face the prospect of having their final year turned upside down as well.

A survey completed by 42 members of the Class of 2021 revealed that many in our class are struggling with the uncertainty surrounding this school year. Almost 75 percent of those surveyed think we'll be in our hybrid schedule for at least half the school year.

Senior athletes are especially worried. Almost 80% of the seniors are very concerned about the possibility of all sports being shut down if York/Cumberland County go red or if the CDC and the school administration find it necessary to keep them closed for safety.

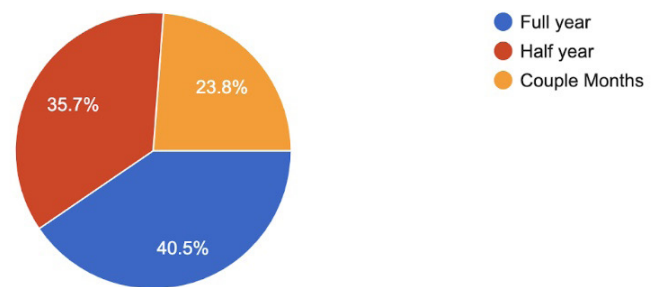
Some athletes participating in the sports that are currently being played miss having fans cheering them on, and report that playing sports does not feel the same. Other seniors were concerned about the possibility of not having their prom or other traditional senior activities.

The Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the MSAD 6 administration has created protocols where social distancing is important, and masks must be worn at all times with the exception of lunchtime, where students must face forward to prevent contact with others. Students also must stay home when sick and get tested if showing symptoms of COVID-19.

What is really hard for all (not just seniors) is everyone not being able to see their friends because of the decision to split the school in half with one group, BE, and the other, Scots, attending on different days. Many students are not fans of this new 'normal.' Most members of the Class of 2021 feel as if

How long do you think hybrid learning will last?

42 responses



their dream of having that classic and fun senior year is gone because of the changes and the protocols.

Though the precautions seem to be working, it is still hard for many. One question in particular 'What is the most difficult about this unexpected turn of events for you personally as a senior?' generated heartbreaking responses.

Sarah Geaumont, said, "We have missed out on the small things like making senior T-shirts together all the way to prom, homecoming, and being together as a class."

Mia Kovacs, said, "I think the most difficult thing for me has been readjusting to a new way of life. Although the changes we've made are relatively small, and I don't mind having to wear a mask or social distance, everything just feels so weird. I also miss a lot of the activities and freedom we used to have at school. I understand that the precautions put in place are to protect us, but I miss being able to eat lunch with all my friends or sit next to them in class."

With the transition from fully remote classes to part-time school, the challenge for teachers and administrators has been trying to make it as easy on students as possible. Another question on the survey asked seniors: 'How would you grade

your teachers and the administration in this hybrid setting?' More than half the seniors surveyed gave teachers and administrators an A or a B for their role in trying to make hybrid learning work. Almost 24% of seniors graded teachers/administrators a C and almost 5% gave teachers and administrators a D.

Those who gave teachers barely passing grades say they aren't getting the help they need to be successful on their remote learning days.

Hopefully people will adjust through these tough times, while the teams of hard-working individuals at the CDC find a cure/vaccine and improve treatment options for those who do get sick.

I believe it is also important to acknowledge the hard work of other members of the BEHS staff. The cleaning crew and custodians at our school keep our building clean so we can keep coming back safely. The cafeteria workers help kids by providing food during the day. Lastly, the bus drivers take us to and from school safely every day.

We all need to be thankful for the amazing individuals working hard for all of us, to make Bonny Eagle a safe place to come to and learn.

To everyone: BE Strong!

Final season of *Supernatural* might be the best

By Macey Cabral

The 15th and final season of *Supernatural* is off to an interesting start.

At first, I was disappointed by the overindulgence on special effects in the first three episodes. They lacked the finesse seen in most of the previous 14 seasons of the long running show, and Sam (Jared Padalecki), Dean (Jensen Ackles), and Cass (Misha Collins) just didn't seem to have their hearts in it. On the other hand, Rowena (Ruth Connell) was fabulous as always, even when her story took an unexpected turn, reminiscent of her son.

Eileen (Shoshannah Stern), whose death had been quite abrupt back in season 12, came back early on, which was a sweet surprise after she and Sam had grown so close.

Jack (Alexander Calvert) died at the end of season 14, as we all know, but his body then got possessed by a manipulative demon who Cass had to kill. This part wasn't exactly one of the highlights. Then later on in the season, he became an instrumental part of a plan orchestrated by none other than Death (Lisa Berry) herself—the steps of which were a bit strange.

After those first few episodes, things started to tone down. I enjoyed the throwback of regular hunts including vampires, werewolves, and a few thiev-



You can't binge watch this show, but it's worth the wait.

Netflix photo

ing witches (it reminded me of when things were much simpler), although the involvement of big-time villains and overcomplicated sub-plots sort of dampened the mood in episodes four and five. Otherwise, the quality improved dramatically thereafter.

I think my favorite episode of the season so far is episode 10, which was hilarious in all respects. In this episode, the Winchester brothers' luck runs amok, due to their soured relationship with Chuck (Rob Benedict). But, after a little advice from Garth (D J Qualls),

they were able to regain it in the next episode after a few games of pool, with the usual twists and expected surprises.

The only upside in this being the last season is you don't have to worry about bingeing it too quickly— you won't be able to watch the whole season anyway.

To put it bluntly, season 15 is off to a great start, incorporating small-time hunts with big-bad oldies, and bringing back some key supporting characters. I still hope to see more small-time hunts in the next half, but we'll see once the final episodes are out.

Bonny Eagle newcomers fitting right in

Mr. Yim welcomes musicians



Mr. Yim practices what he preaches in his band classes.

Courtesy photo

By Edwin Nickerson

Mr. Eric Yim is the new substitute band teacher at Bonny Eagle High School. He graduated from the University of Southern Maine with a Bachelor's degree in Music Education. Mr. Yim will be here all year and his goal is to leave behind a group that has the skills to continue on next year.

As a musician himself, Mr. Yim's primary focus is percussion instruments. He has played many musical theatre shows and performances, such as Maine State Music Theatre's *Sophisticated Ladies* and Portland Stage/Maine State Music Theatre's *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

He decided to become a music teacher because he wanted people to know that it could be accessible to anyone regardless of the person's background or their reputation.

Before coming to BEHS, his previous job was a work study experience at the University of Southern Maine. He also did maintenance on musical equipment. In his spare time, Mr. Yim likes to watch the New England Patriots and the Boston Celtics. He also cares for his two bunnies, his hamster, and a cat. He also just got a guinea pig.

Mr. Yim says he came in with a neutral mindset, thinking that he would have to start at the beginning with his students. He was happy to see how well the students were developing their music and enjoying their classes. He has been handling the hybrid schedule quite well. Mr. Yim would like kids to know that they can come enjoy a music class because they are open to anybody.

Art teacher encourages students to explore

By Destiny Wescott

Mr. Nickolas Smith is here to teach visual arts on a one-year appointment. He grew up in Bowling Green, Ohio and graduated from Bowling Green State University. He enjoyed growing up there and says that certain parts of Maine really remind him of it (despite it being very flat there).

Mr. Smith chose to teach here because he went to a large public school like BEHS. He said he wasn't the best student academically but found himself taking an interest in art and shop classes. He does well when it comes to creative problem-solving tasks, so visual arts have always made sense to him. This is what initially got him into visual arts.

In college, Mr. Smith got more involved with art and started learning more about artists and art movements. He became interested in continuing to learn about the arts, and fortunately had multiple opportunities to learn more about various artists through trips to museums, galleries, and art shows, both outside of the country and within.

He chose to be an art teacher because he thoroughly enjoys working with students and thinks it's interesting to see how they take everything he's taught them to create something new and unique.

He's also fascinated by technology



Mr. Nickolas Smith in school photo and different areas of science.

"As an art teacher, I take a very hands on approach," he explained, "I think that everyone really needs an opportunity to explore the materials they work with in order to really understand how to use them and manipulate them. The more hands-on work students can do, the better they will be at fully experiencing the art-making process."

When he's not at school, Mr. Smith enjoys spending time with his family and attending museums and galleries. Because of the pandemic, however, he hasn't gotten the chance to do the latter very much.

Mr. Smith says his favorite artist is William Eggleston, who is an American photographer.

Mr. Smith also would like us to know that he has a twin brother who studied art in college and now lives in Chicago where he works for an art handling company.

Well-traveled physics teacher still pondering career path

By Taylor Farwell

While most of us grew up with the freezing cold winters of Maine, our new chemistry and physics teacher, Mrs. Irene Brackett, was surfing in the waves of Costa Rica! She grew up in Costa Rica, a country of five million people, about the size of West Virginia, among waterfalls, volcanoes, birds, iguanas, monkeys, and jungles. Every day after school, all of the kids would carry their surfboards on their bicycles and bike down to surf.

"It was like living in a paradise," Mrs. Brackett says.

Mrs. Brackett attended Santa Cruz Bilingual International High School in Costa Rica and graduated as valedictorian. When she was a freshman in high school, she chose to learn one of the most difficult subjects: physics.

"Like you, I thought it was such a challenge," she explains. "...I just wanted to be able to do the hardest possible thing ... because I figured that if I could master the hardest possible subject ever, then everything else would just be easy."

Mrs. Brackett attended a small liberal arts college in Georgia called Berry College. In her freshman year, she lived in a dorm that resembled a gothic castle! She graduated from the University of Maine in Orono with a masters degree in engineering physics. In 2018, she began teaching physics at the University of New England in Biddeford. She also worked at Edward Little High School as a substitute teacher in the same year.

Mrs. Brackett is still pondering her career path. She's been a physicist for the past year and also worked in the medical physics field, where she inspected medical machines such as MRI's. Many people inspired her to become a teacher, including past professors, and some of her friends, her mother, and her grandmother, most of whom are teachers. In her opinion, the best thing about teaching is the kids.

"I love how silly and funny they are all the time. I think that it's hysterical and they never stop to amuse me when they're saying goofy things, and I like that and that's the best," she said.

Mrs. Brackett plans to travel all around the United States. She's already been to California, Georgia, Florida, Connecticut, New York City, and Washington D.C. She also wants to travel around the world. She got her love of travel from her mother, who is the director of a nonprofit organization that specializes in education and social work in Costa Rica. She's worked in Africa, Central America, South America, and Mexico. Her mom was unafraid of moving and encouraged her kids to go see the world.

"Traveling is really important, especially when you are young," she says. "I always recommend everybody to go move somewhere one time. Just do it once for one year."

About a year ago, Mrs Brackett started taking jiu-jitsu classes three times a week. This martial arts class taught her about using the opponent's body weight



Mrs. Brackett could write a book about her experiences.

Courtesy photo

against them no matter what body type they are. Her other hobbies include playing the guitar, spending time with her family, entertaining her two cats, and playing video games.

Mrs. Brackett says she is grateful for how welcoming her fellow teachers have been. She's very thankful for how many students are ready to learn in her classes.

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Ms. Taurony is back where she started

By Zoey Lailer

Ms. Hannah Taurony is the new art teacher at Bonny Eagle High School. She has a lot of experience with art, especially studio art. She went to Cazenovia College in upstate New York, where she originally was going to major in interior design. Then, after realizing there weren't very many interior design jobs in Maine, she switched her major to studio art so she could stay where she wanted to be. When she got back to Maine, she went to the Maine College of Art for a year.

Ms. Taurony taught art at Bonny Eagle Middle School for six years,

where she enjoyed the staff, students and other elements of the job. However, she had been waiting for a job at the high school to open up.

When Ms. Margaret Maxwell, who had been here for 37 years, decided to teach remotely due to concerns about COVID-19, this opened up a position for Ms. Taurony.

A 2005 BEHS graduate, Ms. Taurony was a student of Mrs. Maxwell's. She remembers feeling so excited when she walked into the classroom for the first time.

"There were so many art materials that it was like I was drowning in them.

It was overwhelming but exciting at the same time," she said.

She said it is especially hard as an art teacher working under the hybrid schedule because most people do not have the art supplies at home. She is packaging up "take home" art bags just in case school becomes totally remote. The bags contain a mini Elmer's glue, a glue stick, a pencil, eraser, paper, and small plastic portion cups ready to be filled with paint in case students have to do art at home.

Ms. Taurony likes to spend her free time walking her two beagles and painting landscapes with oil paint. She



Ms. Taurony school photo

also enjoys working on the weekend at a breakfast and lunch restaurant in Limington called The Runway.

Ms. Russo is new, but no stranger to the Bonny Eagle community



Ms. Russo school photo

By Jack Ross

Ms. Amber Russo knows exactly what to do in her English classroom: keep class fun, teach important topics, and help kids learn the joy of reading. Ms. Russo is a teacher from Whitefield, a small town in central Maine where there are "more cows than people!"

A former salesperson, she decided sales was not for her, so she switched gears and got her Masters in education from the University of Southern Maine.

She actually started her career as a student teacher at Bonny Eagle middle School 13 years ago. She previously

taught at Scarborough High School and before that, Thornton Academy in Saco.

This year she is teaching Honors English 10 and English 11. She is currently doing graduate work toward her Assistant Principal's Certification.

Ms. Russo originally trained as a photographer and has a small studio at her house. She loves to hike, snowmobile, ATV ride, and tend to her big garden.

"We're outside as much as possible," Ms. Russo said. "I'm an outdoors person."

Like everyone else, Ms. Russo is adjusting to the hybrid schedule. She believes it is important to have some in-

person learning during the pandemic.

"I think we need to see each other, that students need to be with their teachers. Even if it's in a limited capacity, I feel like it's really important for students to be around each other," she explains.

She wants everyone to know the importance of school because, she says, she didn't necessarily like school when she was a teenager, but did know the importance of it.

Ms. Russo just wants to have a good time, have good debates and discussions, and make English a fun, relevant experience for everyone.

Rugby coach and philosopher

By Zachary Myers

Mr. Garrett Hodgkins is a long term substitute English teacher, currently subbing for Mr. Skipper Geanangel. He is from Rumford and graduated from Mountain Valley High School in 2010. Mr. Hodgkins went to the University of Maine at Farmington and decided to become an English teacher in his sophomore year because he loved reading.

After graduating from UMF, where he played rugby and took as many philosophy classes as he could, Mr. Hodgkins taught math and English at an elementary school in Chiang Kham, Thailand. Once he returned home, he spent a year teaching at Portland High School.

"Being at Portland really showed me what it's like to be at a large school," Mr. Hodgkins said.

Mr. Hodgkins describes Bonny Eagle



Mr. Hodgkins. Courtesy photo

High School as "awesome" so far. When he is not teaching or on lockdown, Mr. Hodgkins coaches rugby at the University of Southern Maine and plays in a men's rugby league. He says that coaching rugby is fun and tough because not many people in the U.S. play the sport and he has to coach from scratch. Otherwise, he describes himself as a "giant Celtics fan" and a drummer/guitarist who, to this day, still enjoys reading Harry Potter.

Longtime teacher taking on new role

By Abigail Scott

Mrs. Selena Leavitt is a familiar face to Bonny Eagle, but now she has a new role: Dean of Students. Mrs. Leavitt is a Bonny Eagle graduate herself, and attended Saint Joseph's College of Maine for her bachelor degree, master degree, and now her administrative certificate.

Mrs. Leavitt has only left Bonny Eagle once, and that was to attend college, but she was quickly hired to teach math after she graduated. She majored in secondary education at college so that she could coach cheerleading full time. Mrs. Leavitt was the cheering coach for 22 years, and has won one state championship. In her role as Dean of Students, she interacts with students in many ways, such as monitoring academic progress, recognizing student achievements, and disciplining when needed, among other things.



Ms. Leavitt. Courtesy photo

"I have seen myself as a leader for a long time," she says.

She didn't go into her previous year expecting it to be her last year of teaching, but she's very happy and excited to be in this new role, helping all students, not just her own.

She's a resource for students who need to know they aren't forgotten

By Madison Bradley

Mrs. Kate McGeehan-Sawyer, who spends her free time outside of school gardening, knitting, weaving, and doing glasswork, is spending this year as a special education teacher at BEHS.

Originally from Scarbrough, Mrs. McGeehan-Sawyer attended the University of Maine in Orono. She has been working within the district for a while now, first as a substitute at the middle and high schools for about a year, and then as an ed tech at the high school.

In our school's resource program,

she is one of six teachers who work in spaces throughout the school in both the new wing and old wing. The resource teachers also hold literacy classes, typically consisting of 12-16 students.

As a resource teacher, Mrs. McGeehan-Sawyer helps students with learning disabilities and difficulties in understanding and staying on task. Occasionally, she will modify an assignment to give a student a better perspective on the work.

She says that the hardest part of teaching is "getting kids to understand how important it is to get their work in on time," and "to get it done and not put

it off."

In all the madness that comes with online and hybrid learning, Mrs. McGeehan-Sawyer finds it challenging not being able to work hands on with students and help walk them through school work.

Specifically, she also feels that virtual learning makes it harder to have "that connection with students that you can only really get in a classroom."

However, she is doing what she can to make it feel as normal as possible for her students and to create a comfortable environment while still abiding by our school's social distancing rules.

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behseagletimes

Staying in for Halloween? Watch one of these...

Editor's Note: We asked students to tell us what their favorite scary movies and TV shows are by ranking them on a 5-star scale. Then, we reviewed some of them to help you decide what to watch on Halloween.

Your top 5 TV shows

Stranger Things - 4 stars
American Horror Story - 4 stars
Supernatural - 3 stars
The Haunting of Bly Manor - 3 stars
Julie and the Phantoms - 2 stars

Your top 10 movies

The Nightmare Before Christmas - 4 stars
Hocus Pocus - 4 stars
Halloween (1978) - 4 stars
Hubie Halloween - 4 stars
Casper - 3 stars
A Nightmare on Elm Street - 3 stars
Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark - 3 stars
Us - 3 stars
The Babysitter - 3 stars
Winchester - 3 stars

Stranger Things

"This is an awesome show. The special effects are amazing, the storyline is really interesting and surprising at times, and it's generally pretty creepy. I love that the balance between scary and fun are maintained throughout the show, and how normal and paranormal often collide and intersect. Characters are well developed throughout the show, and new characters are also skillfully integrated. Cliffhangers are not unusual to this series, but no need to balk—they're certainly worth it. I would recommend this show tenfold to anyone looking for a good binge, and give it 5 stars."

Macey Cabral

American Horror Story

"Every season brings a new thrilling adventure, from the circus, to witches, even to the Lost Colony of Roanoke. I haven't watched every season, but my top three would have to be Murder House, Asylum, and Coven. I recommend watching this series, but just know that the seasons are usually hit or miss. I would rate this 4 stars because for some reason (depending on the character or actor), the recasting of certain main characters playing different roles from season to season doesn't sit right with me."

Kaylei Myers

Supernatural

"This is definitely a binge worthy show, though it will take longer than your average. I wouldn't say it's a scary show, but as the title suggests, it's all about the supernatural. The first few seasons are more creepy, and they're certainly the best. The later seasons, on the other hand, have much better special effects, but are angled toward more significant threats. The characters are really interesting, and each goes through many phases throughout the different seasons. I would highly recommend this show, but be warned- there are fifteen seasons, and once you start watching, you can't stop. I would personally rate this one 4 stars."

Macey Cabral

The Haunting of Bly Manor

"A new nanny is hired at the Bly Manor to look after two siblings. After noticing strange behavior from the children, she soon realizes that the house is haunted. I would give it 5 stars because it took an unexpected turn for the better. It turned out to be a beautiful, emotional love story and did not end up being as scary as I had anticipated."

Kaylei Myers

Julie and the Phantoms

"This wasn't exactly a Halloween-related show, or even a scary series for that matter, but it's focused on a (literal) band of three ghosts that come back from the beyond to get over some unfinished business, so I felt it deserved a place on this list. It's actually a cute show, there's a lot of music, but also an annoying amount of clichés. It's an easy binge though, sad at times, and I'd probably watch it again. I recommend it to those just looking for a quick low-key binge. I'd give it 3 stars."

Macey Cabral



Just three of the many possibilities for scary viewing this weekend.

At left, a poster from the long-running TV show, *Supernatural*.

Netflix photo.

Below left, *Stranger Things* also has maintained its popularity.

Netflix photo.

Below, one of the most recent additions to the scary movie collection: director Jordan Peele's *Us*.

Universal Pictures photo



The Nightmare Before Christmas (1993)

"This is yet another all time favorite Halloween movie. With its skillful stop-motion animation, this film tells the tale of how Jack Skellington, known as the 'Pumpkin King', brought Christmans to Halloween Town. It's a creepy yet sweet movie that works for both Halloween and Christmas, which is perfect if you miss out on it for Halloween. It's not actually scary, just a bit creepy, so it's great to watch with younger kids. I'd give it 4 stars."

Macey Cabral

Hocus Pocus (1993)

"This is another classic Halloween movie. Set in Salem, Mass., it centers around three wicked witches from the 1600s that come back from the dead to wreak havoc and grow more powerful. It's very funny, and ridiculous at times. I would recommend it to anyone going on a classic Halloween binge. I'll rate it 5 stars."

Macey Cabral

Halloween (1978)

"After being locked away 15 years ago after killing his sister, Michael Myers escaped a detainment center for the criminally insane the night before Halloween. In search of his next victim, he starts to stalk a high school student who dropped a key off at Michael's former house. I would rate this movie a 4 out of 5 stars because I felt like most scenes were kind of predictable, but I liked the old movie feel."

Kaylei Myers

Hubie Halloween (2020)

"This was a really funny Halloween film, starring a lot of famous comedians, and although it was pretty good, it did not live up to my expectations that culminated while watching the trailer. I was only slightly disappointed though, and would still recommend it to anyone wanting to watch a comedic Halloween movie. I would give it 4 stars, mainly because of the lack of action. Otherwise, it was good, and very suspenseful toward the end."

Macey Cabral

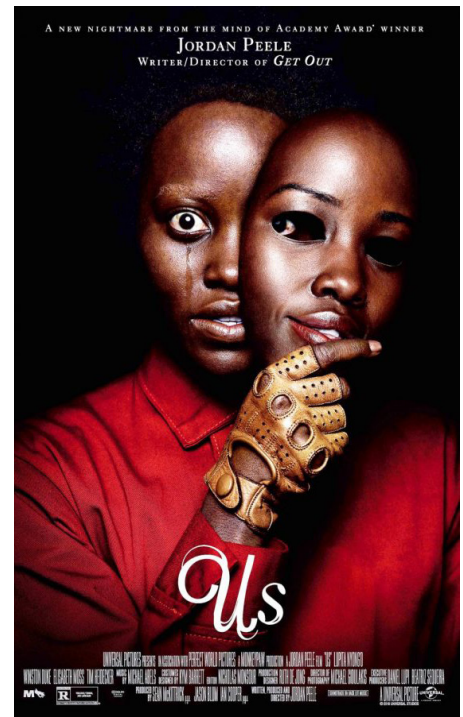
Casper (1995)

"If you haven't seen this one before, you should watch it. This is a classic halloween movie set in Maine, it's kid-friendly, and very funny. I'd give it 4 stars, and highly recommend it, especially if you haven't seen it already."

Macey Cabral

A Nightmare on Elm Street (1984)

"You've probably at least heard of Freddy Krueger by now (a burnt killer with a bladed leather glove) even if you haven't watched this movie. Freddy Krueger is a character who invades people's dreams. Basically, if you get killed by him in your dreams, you get killed in reality as well. The fear of being killed leads to insomnia for many people who have these dreams which makes them sleep longer or heavier when they do sleep. I give this movie 4 stars because it is one of those movies that really hits you psychologically. The night after I watched this movie, I was sort of hesitant



to go to bed, to be honest."

Kaylei Myers

Scary Stories to Tell in The Dark (2019)

"This film follows a group of teenagers who go into a mansion on Halloween night and find Sarah Bellows, the book of a girl who used to live there, which is full of scary stories. The kids didn't know what they had signed up for; when they opened this book full of scary stories, it spontaneously came to life. I give this movie a solid 4 stars because the graphics were splendid and the plot had me hooked almost right away."

Kaylei Myers

Us (2019)

"It all started when she went in the house of mirrors as a child. After revisiting the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk years later with her own children, not only hers, but her whole family's doppelgangers appeared. The family's mirror image, so to speak, followed the Wilsons' home with the agenda of causing nothing but havoc. I would 100% recommend this movie if you enjoy suspenseful thrillers. The background music made this movie much scarier, and I also liked how a strong message was implied within the whole movie. I would give this movie 5 stars."

Kaylei Myers

The Babysitter (2017)

"This is one of the most hilarious movies I've seen- it's really gruesome, and totally worth it. This one's not super scary, but enough that I'd consider it a horror movie. I recommend it if you're looking for something startling, but not nightmare-inducing. I'd give it 4 stars."

Macey Cabral

Winchester (2018)

"Normally, I am not a fan of horror movies, but this was a spectacular scary movie. The ghosts made me very jumpy, and the whole storyline was also very interesting. This is inspired from the true story of Sarah Winchester, heiress to the Winchester fortune, and her obsession with building a maze-like house to supposedly trap the spirits that haunted it. I would definitely recommend this movie, though you probably shouldn't watch it before going to sleep. Personally, I would give it 5 stars."

Macey Cabral

V-ball senior hopes to salvage season

By Amelia McAvoy

While most of our athletes got the chance to play their sport this fall, our volleyball and football players have missed their fall seasons due to COVID-19 regulations. This left senior members of these sports in an upsetting, uncertain position.

Emily Bartash, a senior, has been playing volleyball since her sophomore year. She had played field hockey before that, but had trouble continuing because she couldn't find a stick long enough for her height. Still wanting to play a fall sport, she decided on volleyball because she could use her height to her advantage. She plays a middle blocker/hitter position, meaning her role is to block the other team's hits and offer quick attacks.

Volleyball has been an important part of Emily's life for

the past few years, so the news that she would lose her senior season was devastating.

"I was very disappointed. I love playing volleyball. I love the people, the coaches and I was very sad when I found out that our season would get cancelled," she said.

Varsity volleyball coach Kelley Champagne still holds practice twice a week with respect to COVID guidelines for those who can make it, but compared to a regular, six-day-a-week season, Emily's schedule has been very free.

She spends her newfound time mostly doing homework and working at Richardson's Boat Yard.

All hope is not lost, though. The Maine Principal's Association has talked about a short season for volleyball and football in February and March, between the winter and spring

sports season, if the pandemic allows.

"I'm just happy that we're getting a season. I wasn't really sure we would be getting one, so a shorter one is still good," she says.

With the start of winter sports being pushed back several weeks, however, time may be running out on that idea.

Whether a season is going to be possible or not, the volleyball seniors still are going to have to move on to whatever comes next for them.

Saying goodbye is going to be hard for Emily and, according to her, will not be without tears. She views her volleyball team like a family. These past few years she has spent so much time with her teammates, whom she will miss dearly, along with Coach Kelley, whom she says has really helped her develop as a player.



Emily Bartash at the net in a 2019 game. Courtesy photo

In the years to come, Emily wishes her team good luck, and she knows they will do great. To any aspiring volleyball players, she offers this advice: "Just keep working on

bettering yourself as a player. Don't give up, just keep working hard."

Emily plans to go to college, but says she will not be continuing her volleyball career.

Celtics couldn't quite capitalize on time in the NBA bubble

By Kaylei Myers

The illustrious Boston Celtics basketball team failed to close out the Miami Heat in Game 6 of the Eastern Conference Finals (ECF). It's almost as though history was repeating itself.

In the 2011-12 season, the Celtics lost to LeBron James and the Heat. Now, they've lost to Jimmy Butler and the rest of the 2020 Heat team. I feel like there would have been a better chance of the Celtics winning the ECF if Gordon Hayward hadn't been hurt and could've played in all of the games.

Although some Boston fans may take this series and season as a loss, it showed what these players, especially Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown, are capable of putting forth in the upcoming seasons.

Twenty-two-year-old Jayson Tatum is one of the league's rising stars. Just this year he earned a spot on the All Star team for the first time, as well as a place on the All NBA Third team. In February, before the league was suspended for the time being, Tatum improved tremendously and even got the attention of LeBron James, who considered Tatum an "absolute problem."

When the Celtics first started playing in the bubble, however, it took a couple of games to get Tatum back in the groove of things, and then he picked up



Marcus Smart, left, dunks during warmups before an early season game at the TD Boston Garden, as Jaylen Brown looks on. Staff photo.

where he left off. Last (regular) season, Tatum put up 15.7 points, 2.1 assists, and 6.1 rebounds per game. These numbers aren't much compared to his stats this year (playoffs) being 25.7 points, 5 assists, and 10 rebounds per game.

One noticeable aspect of his game that he's been working on that was a problem last year is not relying on his mid-range shot as much. Tatum has now been flourishing and becoming a more efficient scorer and playmaker. Even though Tatum has taken on a much larger role leadership wise this season, there's still room for improvement.

Another young, soon to be rising star in the NBA is Jaylen Brown. He

has never been named an all star, but the path he's taking and the improvement he has been exhibiting shows that he undoubtedly could be one in the future.

Last year in the regular season, he ended up with an average of only 13 points, 1.4 assists, and 4.2 rebounds per game. This postseason was an immense improvement because of the spike in playing minutes due to Kyrie Irving and Al Horford leaving in the 2018-19 season. Brown ended up living up to the expectations. By the end of the postseason, Brown averaged 21.8 points, 2.3 assists, and 7.5 rebounds per game.

Two noticeable things he improved

on were his handles and defending difficult players like Pascal Siakam and Bam Adebayo, who are both all stars.

As far as trades go, I would say Jayson Tatum, Jaylen Brown, and Marcus Smart are the only Celtics that are untouchable.

Danny Ainge (the Celtics General Manager) has a lot of thinking to do this offseason, considering it's very important that we get a better big man like Aron Baynes. Ainge traded Baynes to the Suns last year, but I think they should trade Enes Kanter for him because he has improved his 3-point shooting, and he's strong in the paint, which is what the Celtics need. If that gets done, they would have Aron Baynes, Daniel Theis, and Robert Williams.

Along with a center, the team definitely needs to improve its bench players. If they do that (assuming there would be good team chemistry), then the Celtics could probably be a championship contender.

The future of this team is bright and it's safe to say that the two J's, along with Kemba Walker and Marcus Smart will continue to improve next season. If the Celtics make some good moves trading wise, then it may even lead to the Celtics becoming true championship contenders in the near future, whether it's next year or the year after that.

Even offline, Madden 21 is a super fun game

By Zachary Myers

I got Madden 21 a month ago, meaning that this is the 21st year of the Madden franchise, and this specific version has been a fun game to play.

While I don't play online, I find the offline version equally as entertaining. I play offline so that I don't have to pay the fees that are charged for playing online.

I have been playing Madden for four years and I usually play for at least an hour a day. The graphics have mostly stayed the same, but they are still really nice looking.

There is this new game mode called The Yard, which is basically street foot-

ball, and that has been super fun. You can get some insane catches in this game mode, and it is awesome.

Face of the Franchise, which is a game mode where you start your high school career with teammate Tommy and try to make it big in the NFL, is back as well. I think this year it is better because you can actually play from high school all through a Hall of Fame career.

If there's anything wrong with the game, I find it is too easy to make catches on offense. Fumbles are also easy to get.

Also sometimes when a big hit stick is performed, someone fumbles.

But overall, Madden 21 has been an



exciting new game to play and if I get the chance to play online, maybe the review will be a 10

EA Sports photo