

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*



New School Year

Written by: Ava Argento

The first day of the 2022-2023 school year was different from the last few years. This is the first time going back to school felt normal since before the Covid-19 pandemic hit in March 2020. Many restrictions from the pandemic have been lifted in the school. Masks in school are now optional and not required. There is no second cafeteria in the gymnasium. School is feeling more normal. Yara Khatib said, "Last year's first day of school we wore masks and now we don't. That's a good step in the right direction. It's nice to see everyone's face."

The WVV School Board adopted a new dress code policy that allows students to wear casual clothes with addition of leggings, sweatpants, and hooded sweatshirts. Lauren Bealla said, "I feel that the dress code is in a good place right now and makes people happy. It doesn't affect anyone's creative liberty, and everyone's safety is considered." These changes gave the students a larger and more comfortable selection of clothing to wear to school.

With the changes in Covid school restrictions and dress code, students,

teachers, and employees can focus their energy on education and having a great 2022-2023 school year.



ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Welcome Mrs. Shook

Written by: Janet Wormenor

We would like to welcome the new assistant principal Mrs. Shook. She helps with the 8th grade girls and all of 6th grade. Even though most of her time is occupied during the school day, she took some time from her day so I could interview her. Here is what I learned about Mrs. Shook:

1. How do you feel about the school so far?

Answer-"Overall I think we have great teachers and staff in the school and they create a good learning environment for the students to be successful. So, overall I think it's a pretty good middle school."

2. What is the hardest thing about becoming the assistant principal to a lot of middle schoolers?

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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Answer - "Ensuring that each student is addressed and taken care of to the best of my ability"

3. Were you ever a teacher?

Answer- "Yes, Health and Phys ED"

4. What aspects do you think you can bring to being the assistant principal?

Answer- "I'd like to be able to create different activities for the students throughout the year and improve the climate throughout the school to increase positivity throughout the building."

5. Do you have any favorite students here?

Answer- "No"

6. How do you want your school year to go as the assistant principal?

Answer- "I want to create relationships with each student to encourage them to make the correct choices in difficult situations and to become successful."

It was a pleasure interviewing Mrs. Shook. I asked her one final question, "Do you have any inspiring words for the students?" and her response was, "Make good choices. Think about your actions before you act on them and enjoy your 3 years at the Middle School because it goes fast."



New Year, New Teachers!

Written by: Aidan Propes

With the new school year there have been a variety of new teachers arriving at Wyoming Valley West to start fresh in their teaching career! After spinning a wheel with six of the new teachers, Mrs. Brady was selected to be interviewed.

Mrs. Brady teaches 7th and 8th grade Art Class in room 17. Her favorite part about teaching this class is seeing what kind of art her students come up with. She has been teaching at this district since this school year started. She wanted to teach Art at the Middle School to help her students with their creativity!

Teaching at a school was not Mrs. Brady's first career. "I decided later in life to start teaching students in school. I was teaching yoga classes and I enjoyed teaching, and I love art, so teaching an art class was the perfect combination. I have a lot of resources in

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*

the art closet to use for my projects as well.” Mrs. Brady said.

Outside of school, Mrs. Brady enjoys making art, taking hikes, and spending time with her dog.



What do Metal Detectors Detect?

Written by: Gianna Perillo

If you walk into a government building such as a courthouse, and unfortunately, nowadays a school, you will encounter a metal detector. They are there for safety and security measures. They are used to detect metals such as iron, nickel, cobalt, copper, brass, aluminum, and sometimes titanium. They are used to detect weapons mostly. The most effective are the single zones; these are when one search is conducted at a time because it is more thorough. There are others called “multiple zones” which is when all searches are conducted at the same time. Our school uses both.

Schools started using metal detectors around the years 1989-1990, starting in

Detroit, Michigan. It is estimated here that present day 12% of schools use metal detectors, and 46% use locker checks. Our school also performs both. In our school they have been successful in finding vapes and smaller weapons. Although you may think it's unfortunate that you have to go through these searches going into a school, you will also find that these are necessary in this world we live in.



PASC Student Council Conference: Leadership and Memories

Written by: Aleni Kaupp

The eighth grade Student Council officers: Aleni Kaupp, president, Sadie Bond, vice-president, Cheyenne Hoefenner, secretary, and Meghan Singer, treasurer recently attended the yearly PASC State Conference along with advisors Ms. Derwin and Mr. Munzing. On November 4-5, 2022 at Boyertown Area Senior High the annual

BURGUNDY & GOLD

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87th Pennsylvania Association of Student Councils State Conference was held. There were motivational speakers, student-planned workshops, and leadership activities.

We learned what other students do in their school's student council. We were able to share ideas for activities and also discuss the problems each student council has encountered. The motivational speakers talked about leadership and living your life to the fullest. Some workshops we attended talked about how to create your own workshop, leadership, improving your student council, recognizing clubs, and motivation. Along with learning about leadership we met with other students and advisors in our region and many other students from all parts of Pennsylvania. We also talked to Wyoming Valley West high school students and their advisor about the regional conference being held at the high school in March of 2023.

This conference was an amazing bonding experience for the officers and we talked about improvements in student council with the advisors. On behalf of everyone, thank you to Ms. Derwin and Mr. Munzing for organizing this event for us and creating these wonderful memories. Thank you parents for driving us and being there for us. In the future, we will be

attending and helping at the regional conference at the high school with more of our Student Council members.



Spartan Spirit Week/Pep Rally

Written by: Caleigh Carr

October 11th through the 14th we held our annual spirit week. Tuesday was team jersey day and many students and teachers wore their favorite team's jersey. Wednesday was devoted to breast cancer awareness and we donned our best pink. Thursday was twin day and we were encouraged to twin with our best friend or group of friends. Finally, Friday was Spartan

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 — A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*

Spirit Day and many came to school dressed in their best Spartan gear. Ms. Ras organized a pep rally for the 8th grade class to get kids excited for the homecoming game that night. The pep rally included games and the participants won prizes. Everyone had such a fun time and really showed their spartan pride. Congratulations to all of the middle school cheerleaders and all the students who won as best dressed theme person for the spirit days.



Trunk or Treat

Written by: Meghan Singer

On October 30, 2022 the Annual Kingston Police Department held a Trunk or Treat on 3rd Ave in Kingston near the Kingston Rec. Center. Many different groups from the Kingston area parked their vehicles and set up their trunks for the event. The WVV MS Student Council came up with a theme of Hocus Pocus and Payton Cardillo drew and painted the signs and decorations for the trunk. Several

members of the Student Council signed up to help sort and pack candy on October 25 and 28 from 3:00-4:30. Over 1400 snack-size baggies were prepared for the event. A big thanks to those students council members, teachers, and community members who donated candy and ziplock bags.

The afternoon of October 30th was a warm fall day, so it was an ideal time for the trunk or treat. Members of the Student Council arrived at 1:15 PM in costume to help set up and get ready for the little kids. Giving out the candy and seeing all the little kids (and dogs) dressed up in sparkly, scary or cute costumes was the best part. It was enjoyable to see little kids having a great time.



National Junior Honor Society Elections

Written by: Rhiley Castro

The National Junior Honor Society started off wonderful this year. Elections were held with an average of 5 students each running for the positions of

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 — A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*

President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Speeches for the office of treasurer were done by Parker Cardillo, Owen Cowder, Adam Sales, Kaylah Sewell and Conner Karpowicz. Owen Cowder won the election. While Owen stated that math may not be his best subject, he will work hard to achieve his goals. It should also be noted that he was endorsed by Jacob Glucowski who ran for the office of president.

The secretary speeches were given by Zachary Ahmad, Arianna Baumer, Payton Cardillo, and Ava Shaffer. The role of secretary was won by Payton Cardillo. Payton's speech mentioned how dependable she was and how that tied in to her working well with others. Everyone who knows Payton knows that that is completely true. In my opinion, she also gave one of the best prepared speeches.

Speeches for the office of vice-president were prepared by Isla Carrozza, Rhiley Castro, Madison Dempsey, Larissa Derr, Nora Keating, Ava Shaffer, and Janet Wormenor. Tristyn Bascomb was expected to make an appearance, however he was absent the day of the elections. The position was won by Rhiley Castro via a heartfelt speech about compassion, duty, and responsibility, noting that to prove that

he is trustworthy and a hard worker, if he wins he will give brownies to everyone who voted for him. It was likely that promise which won him the vote.

Finally, candidate speeches for the office of president were presented by Ariana Baumer, Quinn Buzinkai, Schuyler Davis, Larrisa Derr, Jacob Glucowski, Stella Wojeciechowski, and Janet Wormenor. The position was won by Quinn Buzinkai by noting that he will be a good and trustworthy president who will pull the school through the year without any problems.

Owen's job in the NJHS is to carefully manage the funds and resources of the government and to find new sources of income. Payton's job is to handle communication within the society. While, Quin's and Rhiley's jobs are to manage all aspects of the society, for example, fundraisers. In terms of fundraisers, the NJHS is planning a raffle before winter break. So be on the lookout for Legos, food, sports, movies and more included in the raffle.

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*



Spartan Singer Tryouts

Written by: Nora Keating

Spartan Singers is a group of 57 students out of approximately 300 chorus students that are chosen through an audition process. The song students tried out too was “Where are you Christmas?” If you wanted to audition, Mr Coates called you up by section. The three sections are soprano, alto, and baritone. There were many soprano and baritones, but not many altos. Since there weren’t enough, altos had to try out again. Practices started the following week after auditions at 7:00 a.m before school starts. The Spartan Singers currently have three upcoming events: our school's Veteran’s Day Program on November 10th, the Catholic Choral Society Generations Concert in Scranton on November 13th, also our Christmas Concert on December 11, 2022 at 2:00 PM. We hope you can join us for some holiday music.



Spreading Joy through Music

Written by: Janet Wormenor

This year Mr.Coates, the WWV Middle School Chorus teacher held Spartan Singer auditions and had the new group perform at a few events. The first event that Spartan Singers performed at was Asher Diction’s Shabbat. It was a wonderful service. Asher and his family and some of his friends were there and they celebrated him being cancer free for 2 years and being healthy and well. It was a pleasure being there and singing for the event. They also had a big feast for everyone to eat after the service. Local news reporters interviewed some of the Spartan Singers and they were on the local evening news.

The Spartan Singers also performed their first concert on November 10th, here at the Middle School for the Veterans Day Program. They also performed on November 13th for the Catholic Choral Society in Scranton. Their holiday concert will be held December 11th at 2:00 PM in the WWV

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*

Middle School auditorium for the entire community. All are welcome to attend. All of the chorus classes will be singing at the holiday concert. Everyone is working very hard to make it perfect and to put everyone in the holiday spirit. In my opinion, Mr. Coates is giving everyone a chance to be something great and his chorus class is the best.



Band Events Galore!

Written by: Gianna Perillo

The 7th and 8th grade band has a tightly packed schedule this year! We have so many upcoming events! On Friday September 30th, our band marched down to the Spartans football game and played with the high school marching band. I personally wasn't there due to other obligations, but I heard amazing things about it! The next exciting event was the Halloween concert! We played a great selection of music with songs like "Thriller" by Michael Jackson, and other things like "Ghostbusters", and "Werewolves of London". We were allowed to dress up and wear our costumes. In December

we will have our Christmas concert, and then like always, our spring concert close to the end of the school year.

We have many other fun things to do that are more selective for the band. We go to Marywood University a few times a year and then sometime in May, we attend Band Fest! It is an all day event and you have to be selected by Mrs. Schneider to go. I have only gone once, but it was an amazing experience and I hope I get chosen to go again. Last year it was at the Hazleton Area High School. We practiced most of the time, but also had breaks, lunch, and then dinner, before we had a big concert in front of everyone's family who attended. We learned all new music that day and performed it all night! That just goes to show that practice makes perfect!



Orchestra Events

Written by: Lauren Bealla

The Wyoming Valley West Middle School Orchestra will have different performances for the rest of this year.

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*

Our school orchestra consists of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students who play a string instrument. Those involved in the school orchestra have the opportunity to play a string instrument. Options are the violin, viola, cello, and bass.

On October 14 and 15, 2022, members of the orchestra attended the Marywood University String Celebration. The 7th grade participants were Lauren Bealla, Yara Khatib, and Madison Stanislow. The 8th grade participants were Sadie Bond, Isla Carozza, Meghan Singer, Gracie Sprague, and Alexis Youells.

The 8th grade orchestra students are invited to perform for the Veterans Day Breakfast on November 10th, 2022. They will also perform for the Life Skills students throughout the school year.

The orchestra's Holiday Concert will be held on Sunday, December 4, 2022 in the Middle School auditorium. It is free of charge. Anyone is welcome to attend. We hope to see you there.



Soccer Season

Written by: Nora Keating

This past August, boys and girls both started practicing for the Fall 2022 soccer season. Practice was held every weekday, until school started. The first week were tryouts; although, they weren't *really* tryouts because there were not many people that joined, so everyone made the team.

During the first week, we did mostly conditioning and the basics, to see everyone's skill and running levels. The boys and girls don't practice together or play games together. We practiced for 2-3 weeks before our first game.

Teammates had to pick captains based on who they think would be the best leaders for the team. The girls captains were Stella Wojciechowski, Meghan Singer, and Nora Keating. The boys captains were Chase Evanofski, Noah Fetko, Schuyler Davis, and Quinn Buzinkai. The season went well. The boys had a record of 11-1-2 and girls had a record of 3-10-1.

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*



Spartan Football

Written by: Ava Argento

The football team is back in action. The middle school program lays the groundwork and is the future of the WVW high school football team. Many football players previously had experience from their local mini football teams. Kaden Dubaskas said, "Moving from mini-football was a bit of a challenge. We were facing bigger and older players. The practice and training was more intense at the junior high level. I think that will make us a better team in the long run."

Coach Prohaska heads the 7th/8th grade team and junior high team. The assistant coaches include: Coach Ruddy, Coach Kozick, Coach Rukstalis, Coach Ragukas, and Coach Halenda. The 7th/8th grade football team ends the season 2-3. The junior high team finishes 3-4. Neal Bennett said, "Football was a great experience for me. I look forward to next season."



Spartan Field Hockey

Written by: Ava Argento

The junior high field hockey team had a full schedule and finished the season strong with a record of 10-1-1. Coach Ryleigh White and Assistant Coach Payton Boler headed the team and guided the players to victory. The team carried momentum from returning players and some new faces. There were 16 players on the team, 9 in 8th grade and 6 in 7th grade. "Field hockey is a team sport. Every player has an important role. You have to help each other out," said Elizabeth Vankuyk.

Teamwork and hard work paid off with a winning season. Savannah Refuse Franco said, "We definitely have team spirit and that helps us win." The field hockey team had one tie with Crestwood. Their only loss was to Wyoming Area. "Team captains and returning players, Charlotte Yelen and Kiana Mahle, really stepped up to show our new girls what it takes to want to play, to be there practicing, and getting better everyday. I think the team's success came from all of the hard work the girls put in during the off-season in addition to in-season months," explained Coach White. Paige Yurko said, "I feel that we did very well this season. We ended the season with an amazing record of 10-1-1!"

BURGUNDY & GOLD

Issue #1 A Wyoming Valley West Middle School Newsies Publication *Fall 2022*



Spartan Spotlight

Written by: Aleni Kaupp

Cheyenne Hoefener is the chosen student for this edition's Student Spotlight. Cheyenne is in 8th grade and is involved in the Student Council; she was elected by the 7th and 8th grade Student Council members as secretary at the end of last school year.. Cheyenne also is in the National Junior Honor Society at Wyoming Valley West Middle School due to her excellent academic standing.

When not in school, Cheyenne is also a competition dancer at Back Mountain Dance Studio. She does many styles of dance including, tap, and pantomime. She received high scores and also earned Student of the Year this year at her dance studio.

She says her favorite thing about the Middle School is having great teachers

and hanging out with friends. Her favorite subject is science. She also has a younger brother who is 11 years old. She does not have any pets. Cheyenne attended Chester Street Elementary School. Her dream job is to become a famous dancer, Rockette, or a psychologist. Cheyenne is on her way to meeting her goals!

**If you are interested in possibly being chosen for the Burgundy and Gold Student Spotlight and included in future editions, you can pick up a Student Spotlight form in Room 106 or 204, fill it out, and return it to Mr. Munzing or Ms. Derwin.*

