

Interviewing and Writing

Day 4

Monday, August 19 (M)

Tuesday, August 20 (G)

body copy

story

CHAMPIONS

CELEBRATING STUDENT SUCCESS

The Day of Champions was hosted to celebrate students who received recognition in their respective fields. This includes students who excelled in art, sports, music, and academics.

Back row: Fiona Balas (11), Sarah Nicola (12), Katie Thies (11), Annabelle Wilson (10), Nick Williams (10), Gabriella Tamborino (11), Raphael Williams (12), Scott Harts, and Dominic D'Onofrio (12).

Front row: Parker Bennett (12), Gabe Herrera (12), Sabrina Balle-Voyles (12), Nora Collins (12), Grace Rich (12), Molly Wyatt (11), Mae Hayashi (12), and Layla Varnos (12).

Photo by Kaitlyn O'Connell



LEADERS

STUDENTS LEADING STUDENTS

Initiating change. Sienna Whelan (11) speaks in front of students during an open forum tutorial regarding the schedule change. Whelan said, "I learned the value of teamwork and that there really is power in numbers."

Photo by Kara O'Connell



Making a difference. Kelton O'Connell (10) speaks in front of hundreds of MCCSC students, teachers, and families at a rally. "It was such a sumptuous experience, being part of something so big," said O'Connell. "I learned so much throughout this process."

Photo courtesy of Adrien Peiper

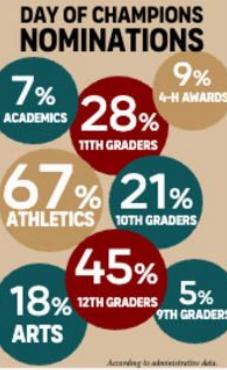


Loud and proud. Mr. Benny Braude, Lyle Henry (9), and Om Patel (10) stand holding signs at the courthouse. "I'm really proud to stand up for myself," reflected Henry. "So many students have put in so much time and energy and effort into that. I thought it was super important that the adults they're working with daily show up to show support," said Braude. "For students to be that involved with something says a lot."



Lauren Reynolds (11) said, "I think there were 90-some people at the open forum in the library."

Photo by Kara O'Connell



A part of the community. Claire Darn (12) and her friend in front of a Pridefest sign. "It was just a chance to see my community thriving and Bloomington is huge in pride... It was probably one of the highlights of my entire summer," Darn said. Photo by Brooklyn Iraian



PRIDEFEST 2023

Showing out. BHSU's Gay-Straight Alliance represents at Pridefest. Cora Dunham (10) said, "I think it's a good experience to go and see the community celebrating together."

Photo by Kaitlyn O'Connell



Celebrating. Hope Cooper (11), Asia Saitta (11), Jensen Baldwin (11), and Ruth Bartlett (11) experience Pridefest. "It's important to celebrate being who you are," reflected Saitta. Photo by Kara O'Connell

THE CHANGING CHANGE

STUDENTS UNIFY TO ADVOCATE OVERTURNING SCHEDULE DECISION

As rumors of a possible change to North's current block schedule circulated early this year, students from Bloomington North and South took action to make their voices heard.

Late September, news broke that a plan to unify the MCCSC high school schedules would be implemented for the **2024-2025** school year, raising questions as to what schedule the schools would switch to. Students, teachers, and the broader community raised concerns about the district's decision-making process: "For us that was a big part of it... we didn't like the way in which our administration was approaching the topic in terms of communication and openness in this decision," said Kelton O'Connell (10).

Ayla Sohrabi-Nia (10) said, "This felt really important to me... a student came to me and expressed concern for the subject. I thought that I could use my position... to bring change."

As sophomore class co-presidents, Sohrabi-Nia and O'Connell were **two primary leaders** in this movement. They organized an open forum and information session during school with over **100** students in attendance, publicized a rally at the Monroe County

Courthouse with about **250** attendees, and encouraged students to speak at school board meetings. During the October meeting, **hundreds** of students, teachers and families attended physically, with **thousands** of others watching online. The meeting featured nearly **two and a half** hours of public comment concerning the schedule change.

The school board eventually passed a motion to push the decision back at least another year, and to assemble a committee to publicly evaluate the need for a unified schedule and possible alternative schedules.

Sienna Whelan (11) said, "I think that a lot of people have the mindset that students have no power and can't accomplish something like this, so I think that it's really cool that we did. It is really gratifying to go through this process and to see a solution and to see its benefit."

Together, these students brought awareness about the subject to **thousands** of community members across the district and worked together to get the change they wanted to see. There will be no schedule change for the **2024-2025** school year.

Story by Hattie Wisler

Learn by doing Shay Planchmidt (10) and Cailyn Lauer (11) take notes on the water clarity levels in their brine shrimp experiment.



Photo by Sara Shedd

Day two Spencer Meyer (12) and Ethan Gauthier (12) drop brine shrimp cysts into their bag on the **second** day of their experiment.



Photo by Sara Shedd

How many? Molly Wyatt (11) and Marissa Larson (12) check for the estimated **number** of brine shrimp in their bag by using clear test tubes.



Photo by Sara Shedd

JUST ADD ALGAE

Prepped and ready to go, Stephen Opoku (12) prepped the food for his Thanksgiving meal. Opoku stated, "I like waking up early to make food for my family."

Sweet as honey, Jaycee Fisher (10) made Thanksgiving dinner in class. Fisher said, "I love getting to know new recipes and showing them to my family and getting to know the foods that different cultures eat."

LET THEM COOK



Photo by Kiley O'Connell

Photo by Ayden Cornwell

Photo by Kiley O'Connell

PUSHING BOUNDARIES NEW CLASS BROADENS PERSPECTIVES

AP African American Studies is shining a light on an area of history that has often been largely overlooked. The Advanced Placement course is piloting this year at roughly 800 schools across the country, including BHSN. Mr. Chris Blackburn, teacher of the course, spent much of the 2022-2023 school year, and the following summer preparing to teach the course, taking relevant graduate-level courses and attending trainings at Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

"When we think about the experiences of African American peoples, it gets confined to compartmentalized elements in our history classes... history courses are very much grounded in these patriotic ideas; freedoms and so forth... but a lot of groups were denied these same freedoms," said Blackburn.

Aidan Kocarek (12) said, "It's very interesting. It's very connected to American history and learning more about the truth of American history versus... general stuff."

"[The course] gives a much more complete picture of our entire history in the specific background of a major segment of our population," said principal Matthew Stark. "As a former social studies teacher, I believe the beauty of our country is our diversity. And the more we can learn about the variety of cultures that make up our country, their historic backgrounds, where they came from, their experiences... we become richer as a nation."

The course has caused some controversy in the nation, with some states, including Florida, rejecting the course, saying it pushes a political agenda. Blackburn stands with the scholars involved in creating the curriculum. He said, "There's no indoctrination going on. What's happening is that especially white people [who] take the class, they get to understand at a deeper level some of the challenges [Black Americans] faced at the founding of our country... these things continued to happen even today."

Blackburn said African Americans have a vastly different relationship with society than White Americans, and "to understand why they have a different relationship is very much at the heart of what we're looking at."

"It's very engaging and I like the class discussions," said Samantha Scott (12). The class is structured similarly to other social studies classes, with the added aspect of a final presentation as a portion of the end-of-year AP exam. Blackburn has incorporated lessons on evidence, source analysis, and argumentation to prepare students for the AP exam.

"I am very proud of the fact that it's offered at North," said Stark. "We celebrate our differences; we celebrate our cultures; we celebrate who we are."

Story by Kaiton O'Connell



LARGER THAN LIFE

SOMETHING TO WRITE ABOUT

Hunter Broomall (12) pulled a "massive" prank on Mr. Kupersmith at the beginning of the school year when he supped Kupersmith with a super-sized cutout of himself. When Broomall found that it would cost "only" \$180, he decided to start fundraising, which he said took **one** day to fundraise all of the money from North students. According to Broomall, when the cutout was finally revealed, Kupersmith yelled, "Hey, I'm finally tall!"

Photo by Sara Shedd



UNDER OATH IN THE COURT OF LAW

On trial, Tim Beckum (12) as a lawyer at the stand, pleading his case for the government class's mock trial. Beckum described the experience as "cool being on the stand and getting to give my opinion on the topic and prove (my) point."

Photo by Brooklyn Lewis



Head of the court, Nors Collins (12) was the chief justice during the government class's mock trial. Collins said, "It was a really good and fun way to learn how the Supreme Court works through experience learning. I really enjoyed the simulation."

how to begin writing a story

- gather basic/general information to get a feel for the topic
- brainstorm potential angles to cover: something unique
- decide on a **theme** for the story from the angle chosen
(teamwork, overcoming challenges, making a difference, etc.)

interviewing!

- talk to students involved
- target:
 - those who excel and/or are especially involved
 - those who may lack representation in other places
 - those who lack coverage already in the book (talk to coverage managers!)
- it can help to talk to teachers for information or to find students

interviewing!

- write questions in advance
 - no yes or no questions, except to verify information or establish the beginning of the conversation
 - questions should be as open-ended as possible, until they can't be
 - find uniqueness!
 - "What made this year special for _____?"
 - "What traditions does _____ do or have each year?"
 - "Describe the most important events or obstacles that affected _____ this year."
 - "Why was _____ important to North this year?"
- don't just stick to the questions you write
 - follow-up questions can be the most powerful parts of an interview and get the best quotes

interviewing!

basic formula for interviews:

- easy, short, factual biographical information
 - puts the interviewee at ease
 - gives you background information
- factual information about the topic
 - get the facts
 - get the anecdotes
- thought questions
 - analysis
 - reflection
 - explanation
 - advice
- anything else to add?

the actual writing

- quotes are so important! write around them
- introduction and conclusion
- every sentence should have a purpose; craft each sentence carefully
- sentence structures should vary
- avoid esoteric language: use plain language
- past tense, active voice
- don't editorialize

say “the player scored the touchdown,” rather than
“the touchdown was scored by the player.”

stories should:

- be personal to those involved in the topic
- be specific to the year
- be as objective and accurate as possible

TREY SCOTT

Trey Scott is a freshman varsity football player. He began the sport at the age of five, back when it was just tossing the ball in the air. When COVID hit, Scott was unable to practice with his little league team. Afterwards he picked it right back up and came out on top. As a seventh grader at Tri-North Middle School, Scott began to take football seriously. He was the biggest player on the team at 5'9". Scott said, "There was never much competition in middle school. But in high school, on the team at North, I found myself equal to my other teammates."

Scott likes to be pushed by his coaches and fellow teammates. "I started playing quarterback in seventh grade, but I soon found out that running back was the position that fit me best," Scott said. One of his main goals is to acquire a Division I scholarship so that he can continue to play in college.

Scott is a very driven football player, bursting with motivation to do well for himself and his team. Scott said, "I feel the most support from Coach Henkins or Coach Lindsey. I'm with them all day at practice, so they are constantly pushing me to be better on the field." He is surrounded by good influences, who continue to inspire him to work harder.

Scott's jersey number, 44, has a deeper meaning: "A new beginning at a bigger and better school," he said. He was excited for this opportunity to perform in a different environment. "This is where I can hopefully turn that 44 into something great and grow a connection with that number like I did with 33."



Photo by Stella Council

"better on the field"

Story by Stella Council

VIOLETTA PRYSHCHEPOVA

Violetta Pryshchepova and her mother came to America from Ukraine last year due to the war. They felt that it would be a more secure and safe environment for them. They came to Bloomington because Pryshchepova's sister was studying at Indiana University and wanted their family to stay together. They don't know when or if they will return to Ukraine because of the conditions, but she hopes she can see her grandparents and friends who are still there soon.

Pryshchepova's grandparents couldn't come with her because they felt it was too hard to pick up their whole life and leave. She said, "They are old and it's really hard for them."

Pryshchepova said that school in Ukraine was very different than in the US. Ukrainian education is divided into primary, basic secondary, and upper secondary levels, with a focus on academic subjects. The grading system is strict and maintains a formal atmosphere with strong student-teacher respect. Pryshchepova said the change wasn't too much of a culture shock, though.

Pryshchepova is eager to pursue her passion for athleticism. She said, "I have danced and done ballet for seven years and right now I want to do cheerleading."

While Pryshchepova is enjoying her new life in the States, she really misses one Ukrainian dish in particular: borscht, a hearty soup featuring potatoes and meat.

Pryshchepova has been touched by the kindness and support of the people she has encountered in Bloomington, especially those who have extended their helping hand to support Ukraine during these challenging times.

Story by Kaitlin Bouvier



Photo by Edan Trader

"touched by kindness"

Story by Kaitlin Bouvier

FRESHMEN

SPOTLIGHTS



Photo by Edan Trader

CAITLIN STEELE

Caitlin Steele has been a committed gymnast for almost eight years and is on the BHSN varsity cheer team. She doesn't have any plans to join the BHSN gymnastics team but is currently a member at Rising Star Gymnastics. She started the sport at a young age after her mom noticed her curiosity about gymnastics. Steele said, "My mom did gymnastics when she was in high school. I always loved seeing the pictures of her from when she was younger which made me excited when she decided to put me in gymnastics as well."

Steele dedicates four hours a day, six days a week to the sport. Two out of those six days she works on strength training to help with upper body muscle. In 2022, she won state and competed in regionals where she placed third overall.

Gymnastics can be a very stressful and draining sport for Steele. "Once you think you have something, there is always something bigger and more advanced in front of you so you have to always stay prepared for what lies ahead," she said.

When Steele was ten years old, she was injured at a trampoline park. She had to get 22 stitches and was very limited on a lot of activities even outside of gymnastics. She credits her coaches for helping her the most with growing and learning as she becomes more advanced in gymnastics. These three coaches have made such a big impact on my life as a gymnast. They talk me through mental blocks and always push me to be better no matter how hard it seems. They always believe in me and make me believe in myself that I can do anything I set my mind on."

Story by Ayden Cornwell

"always stay prepared"

LYLE HENRY NASH HENRY

Lyle and Nash Henry are both freshmen at Bloomington High School North. Their passion for sports has extended to the world of entertainment. From a young age, they both enjoyed discussing sports with their family and playing sports themselves.

"We're big sports fans, mainly football, golf, basketball, and baseball. We're really into sports all-around," Nash Henry said. Eventually, they decided to share their takes with the whole world.

"I had the idea to get a podcast up and running, and then my brother quickly agreed to do one with me," Lyle Henry said. On their podcast, *Diving Into Sports*, they discuss current sports events, upcoming games, predictions, and much more.

The podcast started in January 2023, and episodes come out every week on Spotify, YouTube, Amazon, Google Podcasts, and many other streaming platforms. Lyle and Nash Henry have big plans for the future too.

Nash Henry said, "We'd like to continue growing our audience and eventually try and get some more prominent people on the podcast, like athletes." Until then, Nash and Lyle Henry continue to pursue their passion, week by week.

Story by Aiden Woods



Photo by Edan Trader

