

The Messenger

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Issue 1



*It's a great day to be a Lion:
NRHS welcomes two new administrators,
Mr. Stewart and Mr. Kozlowski*

NRHS student body against wearing masks

Poll respondents value independence and freedom with their bodies

By: Lily Staton

During the 2021-2022 school year, masks have become more of a topic for debate. With the new COVID-19 vaccine and lifted mask mandates, this issue has divided our student body. At New Richmond high school, surveys showed that more of the student body are against masks.

A common problem with dealing with masks was breathing.

"Personally, it makes my anxiety worse when I feel like I can't breathe in it," said sophomore Paris Lane

"I feel like I can't breathe," said senior Laney Clemons.

"We wore masks last year and people still got COVID-19... it can affect the way we learn and the way we breathe," said sophomore Camden Lang.

"I don't like masks. It makes it hard to breathe and we don't even need them," said sophomore William Fletcher.

There were issues around distraction and communication in school.

"Masks make it harder to breathe and can be a distraction in school," said freshman Scarlett Glenn.

"I feel like we can understand our teachers better when we don't all wear masks," said sophomore Cailee Gilfillen.

"It's harder to understand what teachers are saying when you can't see their lips," said sophomore Taylor Elam.

"They're very uncomfortable and it's hard to hear or talk," said sophomore Carly Deavers.

"They are really difficult to

breathe in, and it's hard to understand what people are saying," said freshman Onyx Perry.

"I don't really like masks. They are hard to focus with and breathe in," said freshman Serenity Wells.

Another concern amongst the students was that the virus might not be as dangerous as we make them out to be.

"The survival rate is over 90%," said Elam.

"If the virus is 'so deadly,' and needs to be taken care of, then why is there a number between 97 & 99.75% that says it's the percentage of survival? I'm not saying a lot of people haven't died, but more people die from the flu, and we don't wear a mask when it's flu season, do we? No, we don't," said freshman Grace Marck.

Members of the student body feel that wearing a mask should be an option, and the option can allow freedom.

"I'm all for medical freedom. I believe in herd immunity. This was bound to happen. My body, my choice," said senior Trinity Albright.

"People should have a choice to wear masks or not," said Ben Fetchak

Lastly, individuals feel that if an individual is vaccinated, they should not be required to wear a mask

"It isn't necessary for most people. Most teachers are vaccinated, and not that

many people at school aren't vaccinated," said sophomore Shelby Arthur.

"Masks give me acne, and I'm vaccinated," said sophomore Caine Holcomb.

"I'm vaccinated, so I don't need one," said junior Cooper Tidball

"If a person is vaccinated, that individual should not be required to wear a mask," said junior Andrew Palagyi.

However, amongst the student body, there are students who believe masks should be worn.

A common concern amongst these students is that wearing a mask can help reduce the spread of COVID-19.

"Masks and the vaccine have been CDC and FDA approved. They help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Pending the circumstance, a mask should be on hand, ready to use," said junior Sydney Maus.

"I believe that masks help stop the spread of COVID-19 and people who are not vaccinated should still wear them," said freshman Ryan Fischer.

"I think people should wear masks. The more people that wear them, the less likely we'll have to quarantine again, and it will help stop the spread of the virus," said sophomore Jae Neeley.

"I feel like the only reason people don't like the masks is because it's hot... kind of a dumb reason. Just a mask can end up saving a non-vaccinated person from getting COVID-19. Why wouldn't you do that?" said freshman Breanna Couch.

"It's worth it for the safety of others," said senior Cadence Deitsch.



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Are canceled activities returning?

Yes, but still restrictions on some

By: Brooke Donley

During the past 18 months, COVID-19 has canceled or changed the way that people around the world have completed their everyday activities. In the past couple of months, some of the activities that NRHS staff and students have missed so long have started to return to those activities.

Many students at New Richmond High School feel that they are returning to their pre-pandemic activities, although some of them have been modified and others have returned as normal.

Student Council advisor Logan Minning, said that there were many things that could

not happen last school year due to COVID-19.

“Last year was filled with an umpteenth amount of disruptions and changes due to the COVID quarantining regulations. We were unable to have our normal fall Homecoming and spirit activities, unable to have pep rallies and many other

missed being able to spend time with their friends.

“When I wasn’t going to school in person, I missed seeing my friends at school and hanging out with them,” said junior Cameron Whaley.

“Due to COVID, I missed going places with my friends like the movies or football games,” said senior Calandra Farrell.

“I missed eating out with my friends because that was when we could hang out when we weren’t busy,” said senior Brooklynn Bartley.

Athletic director Doug Foote, said that there were many changes to sports in the past 18 months.

“There were so many changes, especially in having to have your sidelines different with spacing, masks and water availability being observed by the OHSAA. Locker Room protocols, sanitizing during games were also different. The worst things though were fan limits and trying to get them to social distance, wear masks and understand it wasn’t a school decision, but the health department and the governor’s office to keep the teams playing. We had to eliminate any large invitationals to not spread COVID the best we could.”

Other students missed playing sports during the past 18 months.

“I play travel softball so I missed a lot of tournaments,” said freshman Izzie Carroll.

“Softball is a sport that I play every year, but in quarantine I had to miss out because the world was shut down,” said junior Freyah Stacy.

“I missed my sophomore track season and being social due to being at my house and not leaving for three months,”



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student events. I definitely missed our Homecoming week the most. One of the things that last year did provide was the opportunity to be creative. Our creativity allowed us to pull off a very unique Clash of the Classes in-school activity.” Many students say that they

said senior Dylan Iker.

Other students had different activities that they missed out on.

"I missed 4-H events, horse shows and leaving the house during quarantine," said junior Grace Reid.

"During school, I have missed the assemblies and pep-rallies," said senior Kylie Cox.

"I missed going to amusement parks and fairs because they are very fun and exciting to go to," said junior Andrew Washburn.

"I missed going to concerts and parties," said junior Liz Willis.

Most students believe that activities they missed have come back the same as before.

"It's come back the same because now I am in school in person with my friends," said

Whaley.

"People can now go to the football games and I can hang out with my friends more," said junior Tori Miller.

"Many horse shows have returned to normal, but this has been a gradual change," said Reid.

"Going to amusement parks has come back the same as it was before and it's not been modified at all," said Washburn.

Others say that things have changed from how they were 18 months ago, before quarantine.

"Things have returned for the most part except now I am a senior. I feel like I have missed out on the high school experience," said senior Abbie Heiden.

"For many concerts now, you need a vaccine, so that is definitely different than it was before," said Willis.

"Hanging out with friends depends on who the friend is, whether it is the same or different. Some of my friends want to wear masks when we hang out," said junior Bryce Manning.

"It's somewhat the same, but if people get sick then you can't go to the football games with them or go to the movies," said Farrell.

"Track has been modified by having to wear masks during the school year and at track meets," said Iker.

For others, there is uncertainty about whether or not the activity is coming back in the near future.

"I'm not sure if we will have pep rallies or not this year. I imagine if we do, they will be modified in some way. We really need to have them because we need school spirit badly," said junior Billy Foster.

"I'm not sure if we will have pep rallies or in school assemblies this year. I'm sure if we do they will be modified in some way," said Cox.

"By the end of the year last year we were able to pull off an underclassman Spring Fling dance and Prom. Even at the end of the year, we were limited by not being allowed to have outside guests and having to wear masks. Despite the fact that COVID is still around and creating many obstacles for us, we will be able to offer a normal Homecoming Spirit Week this year. We are all very pleased about this. As the year continues, I believe that we will still be able to offer as many of the New Richmond traditions as possible," said Minning.

Many changes to sports have since gone away, said Foote.

"I don't think there has been a lot of the changes that were made that have continued as of now. Some districts require visiting teams to wear masks but that is about it. I hope large invitationals can come back as they used to be and large crowds. They are so good for our athletes to play in front of and to have homecomings back to normal. For me personally other than the things mentioned

with crowds and students back is our Hall of Fame day and banquet. That is such a special day that we had to cancel."

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Is online school better?

NRHS students said no

By Dallas Shirey

Online schooling is a newer way of learning. Some people believe that online schooling is much better than regular school. But others believe that regular school is superior. This is an important issue because it affects kids' learning in many ways. In an informal opinion poll at New Richmond High School, most students who were online last school year said that they would not recommend online schooling.

"I wouldn't recommend it online because it will be harder if you don't communicate with your teacher and ask for help," said sophomore Kylie Willis.

"Personally, no, because I struggled and didn't get all the help I needed," said sophomore Paris Lane.

"No, at times it can make you unmotivated," said junior Freyah Stacy.

"I would not recommend online school. To learn from online you have to be very self motivated and let's be honest most kids aren't," said freshman Isaac Trees.

"I wouldn't recommend it unless you live out of district or you're looking for an easy grade," said junior Evan Moore.

Counselor Byron Trapp agreed that online schooling is not as good. "Student to teacher interaction is an important part of the education process. Students also have to get used to having homework again."

Carol Ann Coulter, a school counselor, said she preferred regular school for kids as well.

"Online is not my favorite form of education but I understand that some students find that it is necessary in order to be successful. I feel that in

person learning provides the best opportunity for students to be academically successful. I would say that it's a social challenge; students have been isolated at home and they have to relearn how to socialize with students and communicate with teachers."

Several students said that online schooling is easier than regular school, while others disagreed and found it more difficult.

"Easier because none of your friends are there and you are at home so it's easier to focus then going to school," said junior Cayden Napier.

"Easier, you could do it at your own pace. It's your choice in what order to do it all. Your quizzes were just reviews, simple questions," said sophomore Kassie Colvin.

"Much, much easier; you could cheat easily if you didn't care about learning. You got two tries on tests and you really didn't have to do much. If you wanted to stay on pace you only had to work for about two hours a day," said Trees.

"It was definitely easier because you had one teacher and it was all on the same thing for the whole year and at school you do different stuff every week and it gets really confusing," said Moore.

Other kids disagreed and said that online school was harder than regular school.

"Harder, because I wasn't getting the help I needed," said Lane.

"Harder, because you didn't have a teacher to teach or help you," said Stacy.

"I found it harder because you don't have the help you could get from talking to your teach-

er in person. I personally think I learn better in school because I get to understand what I'm learning," said Willis.

Several students that took the poll said that they found the best thing about online was just being at their house.

"The best thing about online school is being at home," said Lane.

"Just being home and not having to worry about tardies or negative things other kids did," said Moore.

"The later start times and working at home at my own pace," said Colvin.

"Waking up later and sleeping in," said Stacy.

"Waking up later, 8:00 am, and getting out at 12:00pm," said Willis.

"I can pay more attention, never get tired in the morning when working, easy to work. Almost enjoying it since you can work your own way," said Napier.

On the website Elearningindustry.com, author Priyanka Gautam published an article titled *Advantages and Disadvantages of Online Learning*. One of the advantages, she says, is the ability of students to connect at any place or time.

"Another advantage of online education is that it allows students to attend classes from any location of their choice. It also allows schools to reach out to a more extensive network of students, instead of being restricted by geographical boundaries. Additionally, online lectures can be recorded, archived, and shared for future reference. This allows students to access the learning material at a time of their comfort. Thus, online learning offers students

the accessibility of time and place in education."(<https://elearningindustry.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-online-learning>)

Past online students said that they would change the program and teacher communication.

"I would add more teachers so they wouldn't get you confused with other kids and putting a different website to get on wouldn't hurt," said Moore.

"I would make it easier to contact teachers. Not just the one teacher we all had but like a math or Spanish teacher," said Trees.

"I would change the communication because the teachers can't help much through an email," said Lane.

"I would change it so when you need help with something you could maybe video call your teacher so they can explain it better," said Willis.

"More zooms," said Colvin.

"If they could word the answers better and record a video explaining the problem," said Napier.

The majority of the students in the poll said the worst thing about online school was not being able to talk to people face to face.

"The worst thing about online school is not having much interaction with friends or teachers," said Lane.

"I would say the isolation and overall lack of learning," said Trees.

"Can't see your friends, if you don't understand a question you can't ask a teacher in person," said Napier.

"If I was confused there wasn't much help and it was boring," said Colvin.

"The attendance was a little

off because I would be on for three and a half hours and they wouldn't count me getting a full day. I also missed not seeing my friends," said Moore.

"I had only one teacher, the rest I had to do on a program and teach myself," said Stacy.

"Not getting much help because you couldn't talk to a teacher in person only through email," said Willis.

Online schools do lack the interaction that regular school has, according to elearning-company.com, Gautam explained what this lack does to students.

"Students can learn a lot from being in the company of their peers. However, in an online class, there are minimal physical interactions between students and teachers. This often results in a sense of isolation for the students." (<https://elearningindustry.com/advantages-and-disadvantages-online-learning>)

The transition back from online was difficult for some kids because they had been away so long.

"A lot to take in because I haven't been to school since freshman year," said Napier.

"It was pretty rough at first what we were learning in online school wasn't matched up with in person school. Then with classes like Spanish, I needed to be able to talk in Spanish and I couldn't do that," said Trees.

"It was hard, I had trouble finding classes for a while," said Lane.

"It was terrible because I'm really rusty and I forgot so much stuff that I did in freshman year," said Moore.

"It was a lot. Some anxiety and stress because of more people and work," said Colvin.

Trapp and Coulter try their best to help students having trouble coming back from online and have some advice for them.

"I personally tried to make their schedules with them. I tell them to just persevere and work through the process," said Trapp.

"We initially wanted to work with students so they could choose classes that worked with them academically and personally and we provided support for them if they struggled to adjust back into the regular high school setting. Keep communicating, talk to your teachers, talk to your counselors, if you have any concerns let us know," said Coulter.

If a child is having trouble adjusting, he or she can seek help from different people and places throughout the building.

"Guidance department, Child Focus, Counseling Source," said Trapp.

"You can meet with a school counselor, and we also have a case worker and therapist available for students to meet with," said Coulter.

In conclusion, online school has many positive and negative effects, but for NRHS students, the challenges outweigh the benefits and they seem to feel that in-person school is better and that students coming back from online have to get accustomed to being in-school again. Edweek.org, an informative website seems to support NRHS students' opinions about whether regular school is better than online. "... a new poll finds that a large share of them feel they learn better sitting in a classroom with their teacher. Sixty percent of teens say that online learning is worse than in-person learning, and nearly one fifth say it's "much worse." (<https://www.edweek.org/leadership/is-online-learning-worse-than-being-in-school-majority-of-teens-say-yes/2020/09>) ."



Two clubs welcome members with open arms

Student Council, Drama Club have many plans for the year

By Conor Johnson

Student Council and Drama Club are two very popular activities at New Richmond High School.

Logan Minning, science teacher, and Student Council advisor, is hoping that this year we can get back to normal as much as possible. "We want to make sure that our school traditions that encourage school spirit and instill pride in our community continue."

Two of our class presidents have some goals for this year.

"I want to get things done this year," said sophomore president Pike Gibson.

"I'm hoping to gain back the things we lost due to COVID and to make NRHS as prideful as possible," added junior class president Joli Boggs.

Julia Keith, the senior class president, much like the other class presidents, wants a 'normal' year and to do everything we have done in the past. "I am looking forward to our dances, especially Homecoming week, fundraising, Nap-a-thon, and supporting our school in general. Homecoming week is one of my favorite parts of high school, and I hope the freshmen and sophomores can finally participate in what a normal one looks like. We also have a lot of new ideas for the Student Council, specifically seniors this year, that we are hoping to implement."

Boggs loves being in a group that makes a difference and brings change. "My favorite thing about Student Council is getting to be a part of a major idea committee that helps better NRHS."

Gibson also enjoys Student Council. "I like to see others benefit from the work the Student Council does."

Boggs wants to see NRHS succeed. "I want to help students and the community make the best out of the school year, and Student Council is where that can be achieved."

Student Council offers a huge leadership experience along with being a part of a club, said Keith. "All of the students and teachers that are involved always make it entertaining and fun to be able to help our school."

Minning loves being an advisor to the Student Council because she gets the chance to share her spirit with the school. "I enjoy the creativity of planning and organizing events with students and watching them enjoy the payout."

Keith also loves that the Student Council can represent the ideas and students of our school. "Since we are a part of the student body, we know what students like and dislike to participate in and we always try to put the students' interests first," she said.

"My favorite thing about Student Council is the events we plan and then getting to be a part of them," said Gibson.

Events that Student Council is considering for this year include a Leadership field trip, the Halloween Hike, possibly doing something for Project Lunchbox and many more. Students who are interested in Student Council should talk to Mrs. Minning or come to one of the meetings, which are held on Thursdays after school in the media center.

As most of you know, the Drama Club does three shows every year, two are plays and the third is a musical. Director and history teacher William Harris Jr. said that for our first

show he has decided to do *12 Angry Jurors*, more commonly known as *12 Angry Men/Women*. "A winter play has not been decided yet due to a lack of guys in the Drama Club and we have some seniors but it isn't a senior dominated club; we have a new generation."

Kelly Merritt, English teacher and director of this year's musical has several ideas for what to do for the musical, and there are several shows she would love to produce. "It really will come down to who is interested and what kind of cast I can bring together!"

Lily Adams, this year's Drama Club president, advises new members to make friends and talk to the other members of the club. "That is the best way to start off the year and it only gets better. And the shows are always fun with your friends."

Kylie Cox, the secretary for Drama Club this year, advises new members that if they want to audition for a play, even just the tiniest bit, to do it. "Auditioning and not making it, is way better than not auditioning and wondering if you would have made it. We work extremely hard to get our productions out in time, but even through all of that we have FUN, which I believe is a rare thing. So yes, audition." Cox then added that boys should especially audition.

Adams joined drama in her sophomore year and has been in it since. Being in Drama Club for three years has let Lily do several productions, but with all these shows she can't pick a favorite production. "I pay more attention to what character I play and other people around me. The cast is what makes the plays and musicals

more fun."

Four years would mean a lot of shows and in those four years of Drama Club, Cox said that her favorite production is *The Last Lifeboat*. "I know others' opinions on this vary, as some thought it was boring but I think it was pretty great. It was based around the Titanic and bringing light on a person thought to be evil."

Harris is excited to do a show in the round and have a new generation. Doing a show in the round means that the cast and set are surrounded by the audience on three or four sides, instead of the usual audience on one side with everything on stage. "I've acted in a show in the round but never directed one," he said.

Merritt wishes that last year for the musical, both actors and directors could have had more time to record and edit certain scenes. "Overall, I think what we accomplished with the time and resources we had was pretty amazing."

Nothing could really have been done differently last year given the circumstances, Harris said related to the productions. "*All The King's Women* had been in my plans for some time. We'd have done that without the restrictions of COVID. The student one acts were a good fit for our seniors and kept us from having to build a set. The student-directed one acts gave our many newcomers a chance to be involved."

Students interested in Drama Club should see Mr. Harris in room 301 for information and listen to announcements about meetings and/or tryouts for plays.



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NRHS welcomes new principal

Joe Stewart has many goals for the school year

By: Brooke Donley

New principal, Joe Stewart, has goals for this school year. “One of my goals is to have every student from New Richmond college ready. I want them to be ready for college even if they don’t want to go. I want to meet students where they are and meet their specific learning needs in the classroom. I want more Advanced Placement classes and have teachers to teach those classes.”

There are a few things that Stewart would like people to know about him that are not easy to see. “I’m a laid back person which you may not be able to tell from seeing me in the hallways. I love to laugh. I am approachable. I would like people to be able to come and talk to me whether it be about school or not. I am a good listener. I also don’t like pickles. Since I was a kid I don’t like the smell and if there has been a pickle on my sandwich I will never eat it. I have never had a personal experience with pickles that makes me dislike them so much.”

Before coming to New Richmond Stewart was at Walnut Hills. “I was their vice principal and director of curriculum. Before that, I was a social studies teacher there for eight years.”

Stewart became an administrator because he feels that he connects with students outside of the classroom. “In the classroom, you connect with students in a different way than as an administrator. I wanted to support teachers in the building and their specific needs. I understood the needs that teachers had because I was a teacher myself.”

One thing Stewart loved about teaching was the connection with students. “It is one

of the most important things that an adult can do. A teacher’s influence reaches outside the classroom and that can be a lifelong affect. I still remember my favorite teacher from high school. I taught history and I love teaching history. You get to make students understand why the world is the way it is. Hopefully, that shapes students to make the right decisions.”

So far, Stewart enjoys the community feel of New Richmond High School. “There is a lot of positive support. The staff is tremendous in the way they speak about their students. The student body that I’ve talked to seems to be on a positive pathway to success.”

Over the years, Stewart has faced many challenges. “One of my first challenges was moving to America from Scotland. Being a small kid in Florida was challenging because there was some teasing and bullying that went on because I dressed a little differently and had a heavy accent. Another challenge I’ve faced is that working at a school like Walnut Hills is academically challenging so you have to be at your best every day.”

To see what changes to make to high school, Stewart would first survey students. “They are the most important people in this building so their opinion matters to me. Based on the students I taught, students would like to see later start times. Most teenagers’ brains don’t function until ten in the morning. I would like to see a lot more teaming in high school. I would like to see teachers working together. I would also like more mental health support. Teenagers today are going through the most distressing time than they have ever before. I think

that students need the help and high schools are not meeting those needs as of right now. It is something that every high school could work on.”

Stewart’s advice to high school students is: “Experience everything. Students should experience the whole high school experience which doesn’t end in the classroom. Try a club, a sport and get involved because you don’t get this time back.”

What bothers Stewart the most about kids today is the abuse of social media. “Way too many students are looking for instant gratification. They are getting upset if they don’t get that instant gratification through how many likes they are getting on social media. If there was one thing I could uninvent it would be social media.”

One thing that bothers Stewart most about adults is an unwillingness to listen. “Over the years people have become more polarized. People should listen more than they speak. That is why people have two ears and one mouth.”

Stewart has a very regimented routine for the day. “I get up at 4:30am and I have a cup of tea. I read the newspaper and have a second cup of tea. I like to be well informed about what’s going on in the world. I respond to emails or phone calls once



I get to school. Once school starts, I have meetings with administrators, work with the vice principal and pop in and out of classrooms.”

A role model to Stewart is his older brother. “He never complains and rolls with the punches. There have been a lot of times in his life that he could have just given up, but instead he continued to keep fighting.”

Some of Stewart’s family lives in Scotland while others live in America. “I have two wonderful children; Isla and Declan. They are wonderful kids and they keep me on my toes. I have a sister who lives in Florida who is a retired police officer. My extended family lives in Scotland.”

Stewart doesn’t have a lot of free time. “When I do have free time, I like to play with my kids. I also like to read and play soccer.”



Lawrence Kozlowski enjoys positive attitude at NRHS

NRHS Assistant Principal also enjoys fitness and job

By: Lily Staton

For the 2021-2022 school year, New Richmond high school has accepted a new assistant principal. His name is Lawrence Kozlowski, and here is a little bit about him.

Kozlowski mentioned that he has two daughters. "I have my wife, and we've been married for 24 years. I have two daughters. One is a sophomore at the University Of Toledo, studying biology. My youngest is a senior at Anderson High School," he said.

Kozlowski enjoys working with teens. He says he enjoys diversity amongst the students. "Everyone is different. No two kids are the same. It's fun watching them discover and find their path," he shared.

Originally introduced to the community for sports, Kozlowski fell in love with the community. "So, I started coming here for sports. I coached football and track. I loved the community feel NR has to offer."

Kozlowski has been teaching for years but enjoyed greater

opportunities becoming an assistant principal. "I taught for 20 years. I liked to have the ability to work with more kids. It gave me the freedom to help in other ways," Kozlowski stated.

Kozlowski says fitness helps clear his mind. "I like fitness. It helps me stay focused and grounded. When I'm working out, I think of the next school day and it's like my own space in time," he shared.

Kozlowski wants everybody to succeed at New Richmond, and wants to help with this. "I want to just be there to support the student body, help provide opportunities to succeed," he stated.

Kozlowski said he had never thought about his core values before, but listening to others is important to him. "Family, friendships are my core values I guess. I've never really thought about it. I like to listen. I let others talk."

His job is Kozlowski's biggest passion. "Kids. Students.

My job. Sometimes it becomes an issue. My students are extremely important," he shared.

The skill level in the music programs amazes Kozlowski. "From what I've seen, the music and art programs are very good. I like the work I've seen. I've been sitting in on the chorus. It's phenomenal."

Kozlowski feels that getting more involved in our community is important. "Getting more involved with local businesses is important. Getting kids involved. Building relationships."

Kozlowski enjoys the positive attitude the students at New Richmond share. "I like how amazing the kids have been. You say good morning and they say it back. Everyone is very



happy," he said.

Kozlowski's life has been impacted for the better because of New Richmond. "I enjoy coming to work. It is really stress free, and it's taken me in and everyone has been really amazing, and happy. It's been awesome."

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Andrew Helton has several goals for his students

New high school math teacher arrives with the chess club

By Conor Johnson

At New Richmond High School we have many amazing teachers. Mr. Helton, a new addition to the NRHS staff, although not new to the district, described his transition from the middle school as hectic. "Just because I had to move all my things from middle school to high school. It was a last-minute situation, but now that I am here it has settled down."

Helton said his style of teaching is varied. "I like to mix it up, I don't like to just lecture the entire time. I want the students to be engaged and I want them to take ownership of their own learning."

Helton said he grades pretty much like other teachers. "I give classwork, homework, and quizzes/tests, though the way

the math department grades, there is a bigger emphasis on tests than other things."

Helton, like most teachers, wants his students to do well in math, and to understand what he is teaching. He wants his students to enjoy and appreciate math.

Most teachers expect different things from their students, "I just expect them to work hard, have a good attitude, and do their best every day."

Helton said he has an exciting year planned for his students. "Well, the way I think about that is that all of math is fun so we are going to do math and fun activities all year long."

After 29 years of teaching, Helton has had many classes and he doesn't always remem-

ber every student but he does remember their classes. "I think more of specific students and the daily interactions

with kids, and joking around and teaching them."

Some teachers have taught different subjects or would like to teach different subjects, and when Helton first started teaching, he taught language arts. If he had to teach a subject other than math he said that he would probably teach language arts again.

With the transfer to high school, Helton also brought the Chess Club to the high school. "It is going to be about the same as it was at middle school-- play chess, and maybe a tournament."

When Helton was in school, yes they had schools back then, he always enjoyed school from the time he was in elementary all the way through college. "I had great experiences with my friends and my teachers did all



they could to make learning fun and challenging at the same time. I have some great memories of my entire experience in school."

Teaching was not always Helton's plan; he originally went to college to become an engineer. "I quickly learned; however, that engineering wasn't for me. I always had an appreciation and love for math and I wanted to help others, so I made the switch to education and here I am 29 years later."

Like most people, if Helton had one wish and could wish for anything he would wish for more wishes. "I would then wish to be able to hit my driver 325 yards off the tee like the guys on the PGA tour. That would make my golf game so much better."

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New teacher motivates New Richmond students

Ms. Marriott is excited for her first year as a teacher

By Dallas Shirey

Ms. Lindsey Marriott is a new teacher at New Richmond High School. She is excited for this school year and the experiences it brings with it.

This is Marriott's first year teaching. "I just graduated from college; I did student teaching for three years."

Marriott went to school in different states. "Lipscomb University (Nashville) and Leo High School, Indiana."

The best part of being a teacher for Marriott is the relationships. "I love seeing their 'aha' moments. Like when someone is struggling to solve a math problem and then you work with them and they start to get it and then suddenly go, 'Oh, that's how you do it.' It suddenly makes sense to them."

The biggest challenge Marriott faced as a teacher was not

being taken seriously. "Because I was still a student in their eyes, they saw me as mostly a student, less a teacher."

Marriott didn't always want to be a teacher. "Since about third grade. I kind of went from wanting to be a letter carrier because I thought they traveled the world, but when I found out they didn't, wanting to be a teacher."

Kids and their phone addictions is something that bothers Marriott today. "I don't like when kids are on their phones and are ignoring what the teacher is saying."

The best advice Marriott has received is to keep an agenda. "Keep a planner, keep an agenda. Once I did that, my grades went up drastically."

Marriott has some wise advice for high school students.

"Take classes seriously and really use them as learning opportunities."

Goals Marriott sets for her students are getting good grades. "So they can feel accomplished and can move on and do things with their life."

If Marriott was a millionaire she would help fund schools and parks. "That's where we develop the future of our world. We don't care enough about schools and nature."

Marriott's family is very well rounded. "I have an older sister who is married and expecting. They live in Cincinnati. My sister works with Back to Back ministries. My mom is also a teacher and my dad owns a roofing business; they live in Indiana."

Some of Marriott's proudest accomplishments are academically. "I'm really proud I passed all of my licensing exams on the first try. I'm also really proud of helping win two championship rings for college cross country running."

Marriott has been running for 15 years. "I started in second grade, because we had a program in my school where we competed in running."

Outside of school Marriott enjoys doing arts and crafts. "I especially love three dimensional art. I had art in a museum for a month because I won a national scholastic art and writing com-



petition."

Marriott has had nine near death experiences. "I had a brain aneurysm when I was 16. I was hit by a car once. I got rear ended at 75 miles an hour and my car flipped six times. It's common in my family to have three near death experiences every 11 years."

Marriott is also in the circus. "I've been learning to wall walk, fire baton, stilt walk since I was two. My cousins are teaching me trapeze; we kind of have a circus family."

Some of Marriott's favorite school memories are from Spanish and math. "I loved Spanish class. We would translate songs from Spanish to English and have a dance party. In math, the teacher would let us pick an object and tell us a story about his life."

Ms Marriott is a very vivacious person, and looks forward to the year to come.



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Mrs. Autzen, Isaac come back to the high school

Looking forward to a great senior year

By Isaac Trees

Mrs. Traci Autzen is an instructional aide back at New Richmond High School. She's working with Isaac Friedman, a senior. "I've worked with Isaac since he was in kindergarten. We have been together for almost 14 years now."

After volunteering and subbing at Locust Corner, a position with Isaac opened up for Autzen. "I was excited about working with him because I

have a son with a disability, and I felt that I could treat Isaac with the same firmness and kindness that I would want my son to be shown as a student."

We all have a person in our lives that we enjoy and Mrs. Autzen has Isaac. "I enjoy Isaac because he is easygoing. He doesn't rush through things, and he takes the time to enjoy every moment. Isaac helps me appreciate the spontaneous moments.

He also reminds me to treat people with kindness. Isaac is always friendly and kind to everyone."

Autzen's day to day changes a

lot year to year. "My day depends on what Isaac's schedule is like. I typically follow him wherever he goes, and help him if he needs help. We are a tight knit team."

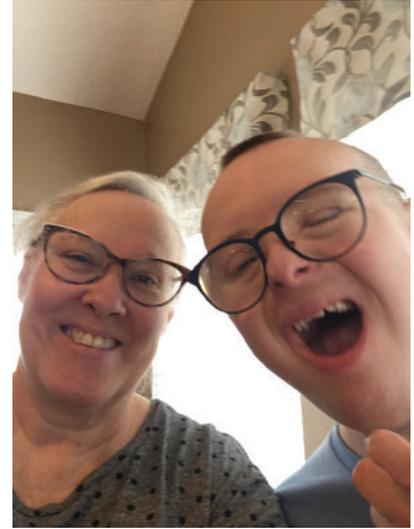
Autzen went to Central College in Peoria, Illinois. "It was the local community college, close to my home and very affordable."

Autzen thought college was different from high school. "I felt more relaxed and confident in college. There was less drama going on there, and I enjoyed being in a school where people of all ages, both young and old, came to learn."

There are some things after retiring that Autzen is looking forward to when she leaves her position at NRHS. "I'm looking forward to moving to a smaller

home, and traveling with my husband.

During the weekend Mrs. Autzen likes to do several different activities. I typically spend weekends with my family at home. I like to read and cook. I also enjoy music and movies. I'm pretty boring.



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Long term substitute enjoys seeing students succeed

Cathy Carmack describes herself as a lighthouse

By: Brooke Donley

Long term substitute in New Richmond's ED classroom, Cathy Carmack, describes herself as a lighthouse. "I like people to realize that when you're on a boat that a lighthouse is something that is always going to be there to guide and protect you. A lighthouse is also hope, it is something that will help someone and train them."

Before coming to New Richmond, Carmack was in the Navy for 31 years. "I decided to join the Navy because I didn't focus in high school. I thought that my athletic ability in soccer alone was enough to get me to college and it didn't work out that way. I never missed a day of school because I was a little socialite, but since I lacked that focus my grades suffered."

Carmack's favorite part of her

job is: "Seeing someone succeed. As you're helping someone and they finally understand so the light bulb goes off. That is a very rewarding sight to see."

In her family, they enjoy swimming and playing games. "My husband and I have a ten year old daughter that goes to Locust Corner and we all are very competitive when it comes to playing games."

The biggest role model to Carmack is Ken Borcheck. "He taught me many different things. One of them is to improve and to be the best that I can. There is nothing outside of my reach. Even though I've not reached my goal right now, I will get there if I put forth the effort."

Focusing on graduating is

Carmack's best advice to high school students. "You never know what you're going

to do in life. Your mind changes after high school about what you would like to do with the rest of your life. If you don't graduate, you limit yourself as to what you can do. Take each year step by step and focus on graduating."

A possession that means the most to Carmack is her car. "It gives me the freedom to go where I need and want to go. It allows me to decide if I want to be with other people or by myself."

One of Carmack's favorite memories from teaching is: "I had a fifth grader online and she could not read. I was able to work the program and get her in a class that was more to her ability. By the end of the year, she was able to read. It could have made her very self-conscious if she would have gone into middle school not able to read."

Something that is not easy to see about Carmack is that she has compassion for others. "I'm always eager to try a different route. If something doesn't work for you, let's try it another

way until we find something that works best for you."

Carmack's core values have been instilled in her since she was 17. "They are the Navy's core values: honor, courage and commitment."

One thing that bothers Carmack about this generation is: "They take advantage of the resources that they have. They have access to so many things today that I didn't and they are definitely smarter than my generation because we didn't have things like that. They don't realize it or take advantage of the opportunities that are right in front of them. When I started driving, you didn't have a cell phone to call someone if you got lost or broke down. Now you wouldn't think of leaving your house without your cell phone."

If Carmack had tons of money, she would build an activity center for all ages. "People learn in all different ways and I would like to cater to that need. A lot of people like hands-on activities to learn, but in a classroom setting we don't always have time for that."



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COVID-19 vaccine becomes FDA approved

You should receive your vaccine, and here's why

As time progresses, and the pandemic continues to be a predicament, a new discussion has emerged: The COVID-19 vaccine. There is a great debate between citizens of the United States on whether the vaccine is worthy to receive or not. I have received my COVID-19 vaccination, and here is why you should, too.

As the vaccine has been available for citizens to receive in the United States, many conspiracy theories have been developed. One of these is a persistent fear of microchipping, or implementation of a form of tracking device. However, many of

these theorists fail to realize that they have a cellphone. Their cellphone can gather information like their location, their credit card number, and with new facial and fingerprint recognition technology, their phone can know everything about them. The implementation of a microchip would make little to no difference in the government tracking them. Secondly, creation of nanotechnology like this could potentially cost billions of dollars, and our country cannot risk wasting money like that. This conspiracy theory about the vaccine is illogical, irrational, and confusing.

Secondly, many citizens are worried about what might be in the COVID-19 vaccine. To that I say, how do you know what's in everything else you use? Yes, you can read labels with ingredients, but do you know what everything on that list is? What about things like energy drinks and hot dogs? Most people consume products like these very often, and there is no way to be certain what consuming these can do to your body. The mascara you put on your eyelashes could contain harmful chemicals or products that are bad for your eyes. Many things we consume or use on a day to day basis can be potentially harmful, so receiving a vaccine should be the least of your worries.

Furthermore, many are distrustful of the vaccine, with the reason being that it is not FDA approved. However, with how long the vaccine has been distributed, I feel this concern should be limited. This claim is also irrational because the Pfizer vaccine recently just received FDA approval. So, more people should feel that the vaccine is trustworthy. On another note, there were

periods of time when other vaccines we received were not FDA approved, and there are vaccines that change every year. A good example of this is the influenza vaccine. Every year, the flu mutates, meaning we receive a slightly different vaccine. There was also a time when the flu vaccine was not FDA approved, and it was created in 1945. However, people still received this vaccine after a terrible flu pandemic in 1918. So, if the flu vaccine is trusted, why isn't the COVID-19 vaccine?

Another conspiracy theory about COVID-19 is that the government created it to control us, or that different precautionary measures are taking away fundamental human rights. My response to this is, how is it possibly taking away your rights? Getting this shot, just like any other, isn't going to affect your day to day life. With the vaccine, you'll be able to be more calm and not have to worry about contracting the virus, meaning that getting your vaccine is benefiting you, if it even affects your life.

Lastly, I feel that it is our duty as a society to work together, even if it means we do things we don't necessarily agree with. If everyone got the vaccine, or most did anyway, we could have successful herd-immunity. This could eliminate COVID-19 and end the pandemic. So, if we want this virus to stop mutating in our bodies and die off, you should get your COVID-19 vaccine.



The Messenger
New Richmond High School
1131 Bethel-New Richmond Rd.
New Richmond, Ohio 45157
2021-2022

Messenger Staff Reporters:

Brooke Donley
Conor Johnson
Dallas Shirey
Lily Staton
Isaac Trees

Adviser: Mrs. Susan Griffin

The Messenger would like to remember Mrs. Betty McKenney as we begin our 80th year, and once again, thank her for her many contributions to our paper.

We would also like to remember Ms. Diana Spinnati, for her support and encouragement of our student journalism program.

The Messenger appreciates our administrators, both past and present, who have supported both the newspaper and the journalism program at NRHS.

Opinions expressed in *The Messenger* are the opinions of the writers only and not necessarily the opinions of the adviser or administration of New Richmond High School.

The Messenger accepts letters to the editor and guest columns and will publish both at the discretion of the newspaper staff and as space permits. Both items must be signed by the writers.

The Messenger's regular monthly issues are now online only and are available on the high school's and district's web sites. The Senior Issue will be printed, and will be available for purchase at school at the beginning of March. Please direct comments or questions about the paper or its contents to the adviser, at 553-3191, x10314





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Morgan Smith describes herself as shy

Freshman competes in her second season of cross country

By: Brooke Donley

Freshman, Morgan Smith, describes herself as: "A picky eater, quiet, friendly most of the time, kind of weird and I laugh at everything."

Smith said one of her core values is Christianity. "I think it is the right thing to believe in, but I don't like to shove my views down other people's throats. I don't believe that it is everyone's own choice to believe. I will stand up to anyone who bashes my religion just because they don't believe in it."

In her family, Smith counts her pets as family. "I have a dog, a lizard and a snake, although, I'd prefer not to include the snake because it's not mine, but it's still a part of our family. I also have two parents and a sister."

Smith looks for a friend with a nice personality. "I look for someone that is funny. I also look for someone that is weird, but a good weird so we have something in common."

A possession that means the most to Smith is a bracelet her father gave her. "My dad and I don't have the best relationship, even if it seems that way from the outside. I would like to have a close relationship with him like my sister does."

One role model that Smith has is her mom. "She teaches me so much and I look up to her as a person as well."

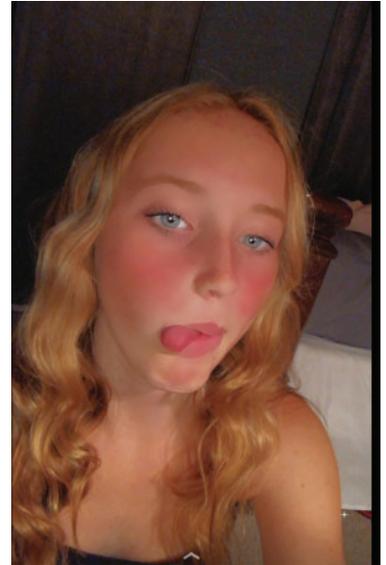
Smith's biggest challenge was moving schools. "I only moved here to New Richmond a year ago and I'm still having trouble

making friends. The friends I have are really nice, though."

One thing Smith wishes adults would know about her and friends is: "They are not a bad influence on me. My parents believe that they are because they believe I'm the innocent one. If anything, I push them to do things that push them out of their comfort zone. I push my friends to do things like ride roller coasters, even if they don't want to."

Something that is not easy to see about Smith is: "I want to make new friends, but I'm shy and scared to talk to people."

A proudest accomplishment of Smith is trying a new sport. "I quit my dream sport, which was tumbling, about six years ago. The gym that I was going to shut down. So I decided to try cross country and I kind of like it."



After high school, Smith would like to go to college. "I have always dreamed of going to college for cosmetology to become a hairstylist. Since I was a little girl I have always liked to play with my hair so being a hairstylist has always been a career I'd like to do."

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Damon McCall involved in many activities

Sophomore with an interesting childhood

By **Conor Johnson**

At New Richmond High School, the student body is filled with many interesting people. Model student and sophomore Damon McCall is involved in some interesting school activities. Damon is a good student who also participates in football, track, and chess club after school.

Damon said he has one close role model. "My older brother because he gets perfect grades

and is a really good person".

Purpose, resiliency, integrity, discipline, and energy are Damon's core values.

Damon said that his dream vacation would be to go to Japan and be taught Japanese by someone there and eat good food. "Honestly, I think it is just a beautiful country with a beautiful language. Also they make anime."

After graduating, Damon said

he wants to be a nuclear physicist because it sounds fun and he likes science. "In nuclear and atomic physics you can mess with atoms and I really want to be able to help make a better, cleaner energy source."

Damon also said when describing himself that he is tall, smart, and self-centered, but he did say that one thing most people don't know about him is that he is really caring as well.

A typical day for Damon is to wake up, shower, go to school, football practice, go home, do homework, play video games, sleep, repeat.

If he had tons of money, Damon said he had a few ideas how to spend it. "I would get a Tesla, donate to charity, and overall make my own life better."

Damon said he had an unusual childhood. "My childhood was kind of weird because my



step-dad was in the military so every couple of years I would move to a new home and school so it was kind of hard adjusting at times. Also, pretty early on in my life my mom and dad got divorced so that sent my life in a whole different direction. I've always been one of the top students in my class, and I was accepted into a gifted program in first grade which was only for third graders and up."



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Sophomore encourages self confidence

Daegan Flamm describes herself as a vivacious person

By Dallas Shirey

Daegan Flamm is a sophomore at New Richmond High School. She sees the world in a bright and passionate view.

Daegan is a very outgoing person. "I would describe myself as helpful, chaotic at times, creative, and a really hard worker. Along with being nice and funny, as I've been told."

Throughout the years of Daegan's life, she has learned many things. "Important things I've learned is that hard work pays off, treat others with respect and be kind to everyone. Who knows what others are going through? You could make someone's day by smiling or asking how their day is."

Over the course of her life, Daegan has changed in many ways. "I have become aware of

the things around me and how crazy life is, but also how short it is. So if I want to be a dog, then I can be and I can wear whatever I want and be whoever I want because I don't care what people say about me. I look good in confidence, something you can't buy in a store."

One of the biggest challenges Daegan faces is herself. "There have been times when I have been mentally a mess and feel like I can't do it, but I overcome it with a positive attitude, will power and my head held high."

Daegan has several morals she truly believes in. "My values are keeping a cool mind when under pressure, loving everyone and everything for who they are, along with hard work will pay off."

Out of school, Daegan claims her days are chaotic with weekends filled with workouts and practices.

One of Daegan's favorite possessions are recipes. "Some of my favorites are recipes from decades ago because it's so cool cooking the same stuff my ancestors did. I make cakes, bread, and other weird things like donuts made with potatoes and Dutch pie."

Danny Devito is one of Daegan's personal heroes. She personally describes a hero as, "Someone who sacrifices themselves not only physically but emotionally and mentally. Someone who stands up tall against the bad. Someone who shines bright and doesn't hesitate. My hero is Danny Devito,



to, because he makes me smile and laugh."

Daegan's life has been filled with many memories and experiences. She believes what she wants and isn't bothered by those who disagree and she continues to learn and experience more even today.

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Cole Cumberland loves music

This freshman plays guitar and listens to mostly 70's and 80's music

By Isaac Trees

Cole Cumberland is a freshman here at New Richmond High School, who said that the transition back to school from summer was a little tough. "It was a little stressful getting used to going back to school, but easy enough."

Cole has seven classes but one stands out the most. "I like guitar class."

Cole likes music a lot and this is how he got into music. "After the musician Tom Petty passed away, both of my parents started listening to him more. At first, I didn't like his music but after a while I started liking it more and more until eventually I got hooked. Then I went on a classic rock listening spree and the rest is history.

Cole's instrument of choice is the guitar. "My dad played guitar a lot and I liked watching him play so I decided to get a guitar for myself. At first I thought it was something I would play for a month or two then put it down but I ended up sticking with it."

After school, when Cole has free time, he likes to spend it like this: "I play guitar in my free time. I do anything from just practicing different scales to learning songs and trying to play them. I find it to be really enjoyable."

Like most of us, Cole listens to music and he says it affects his life. "I mostly listen to 70s/80s music, for example, Rush, Led Zeppelin, Tom Pet-

ty, Stevie Ray Vaughan etc. It plays a pretty big role in my life and influences me heavily."

Cole said that he thought teachers treat students differently in high school than in middle school. "I feel that teachers treat us like young adults now, instead of little kids."

Cole's main goal for high school are about grades "I mainly just want to get decent grades."

Cole thinks social media affects teens day to day life "I think kids our age are influenced heavily by what they see on social media. This can be good or bad, it just depends on what they see or do. If someone sees negative things on social media on a day to day basis



then it will affect them in a bad way."

Cole has some very ambitious goals. "I plan on playing music professionally. I want to do this because I love music and if I can make money from doing something I love, then I'm going to try to do that."



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Freshman enjoys snowboarding and the band, Glass Animals

Chloe Cooper is unique in many ways

By: Lily Staton

At New Richmond High School, there are many different characters. Each student is one of a kind, and freshman Chloe Cooper happens to be one of those students.

Cooper spoke a little about her family. "My family consists of my mom, dad, my dog, and me. My mom teaches chemistry to sophomores and juniors at Sycamore High School, and my dad works for a Re-Max office in Eastgate. He's been a real estate agent since I can remember, and my mom has taught for nine years," she explained.

Her dog used to race, said Cooper. "My dog's name is Joker and he's a Greyhound. He was born April 9th, 2015, which makes him six years old. We learned that he used to race at a track in Alabama for a year, and his race name was Royal Flush. We adopted him in February of 2019. He's a huge couch potato and is very shy around new people. It took us several months to get him to be comfortable with us."

Cooper said she loves to doodle. "I've loved doodling since I was little. I do it 90% of the time almost every day. I find it important to me because it's a stress reliever and a mood reg-

ulator. It also brings out my creativity," she shared.

Purple is a beautiful color in the eyes of Cooper. "My favorite colors are sapphire blue and purple. Every shade of purple is really pretty, ranging from a lavender to a plum color. Find it to be a calming and peaceful color. Sapphire is my favorite color because it's my birthstone and I loved the shade of it as a kid. Did you know both the color and the stone symbolize strength, power, kindness, and good judgment? I love the meaning of it so much," said Cooper.

Cooper expressed her love for the group, Glass Animals. "My favorite song at the moment is *Take A Slice* by Glass Animals. I recommend every song by them because of their amazing beats. This song makes me feel like I'm in a different dimension and I love it."

Going to college in the west is a necessity for Cooper. "After high school, I want to get accepted into a good college in the west. I plan to take any life science classes New Richmond has to offer, and to study the best I can for every test. In the end, if I'm super passionate about my major, I wish to achieve a Master's Degree."

Cooper wishes to study aquatic life. "My dream job is to become a marine biologist. Since I was little, I've taken a large interest in aquatic animals and wanted to know a lot more about them. I would love to do research on sharks and dolphins since I find the two animals fascinating," she said.

Though not a lot of memories in Cooper's childhood are existent, she said she can remember how much she loved daycare.

"I don't remember a lot of my childhood, but I do know that I loved going to daycare as a toddler. We always painted, went outside, got Kona Ice in the summer, and ate Goldfish. When it was lunch or snack time, I helped put out the food and drinks on the tables. We always had different drinks like orange juice and fruit punch. We would always eat carrots, grapes, and chips. We also had nap time, which I wish we still had. I met my first friend there, and we did everything together. I wish I could go back to daycare," she explained.

Cooper's core values are the following: "Creativity, generosity, gratitude, growth, maturity, patience, understanding, and wealth."

Her middle school history teacher had a great impact on her life, said Cooper. "My biggest role model I've had yet is Mr. Moler. I had him in seventh grade and he is by far my favorite history teacher I've had in my school years. He impacted my life by always making me look forward to being in his class because he made learning fun. This made me love learning in both history class and other subjects," she said.

Cooper has always been fascinated by science. "My favorite subject would be biology. Sci-



ence has always fascinated me. From what Mrs. Miller has told us we will be learning about this year, I'm very excited and intrigued. I've always succeeded in science because I get immersed in what I'm learning," she shared.

Cooper's family and friends have had a big impact on her life, and she explained how. "My family has influenced me by believing in me and making me try my best every day. My friends make me happy and confident all the time with their positive attitude, and I'm forever grateful to have them."

Snowboarding is something she's good at, shared Cooper. "Some unique things about me are that I'm left-handed, I have blue eyes, and I can snowboard. Only 10% of the world is left handed, and males are more likely to be left handed than females. Only 8%-10% of the world have blue eyes. Sometimes, mine change to green, which is more rare than blue. This year, I tried snowboarding at Perfect North in Indiana, and it's much better than skiing. I hope we get more snow this year so I can have the best experience," she stated.



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