

# *The Messenger*

New Richmond High School, 1131 Bethel-New Richmond Road, New Richmond, Ohio 45157

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*What I did on my summer vacation....  
from the teachers' point of view*

# NRHS welcomes new staff member and football coach

## Pat Burke teaches physical education and defensive line

By Joe Maxwell

Growing up with a life full of football and a family full of teachers, it was no surprise Mr. Pat Burke would join the New Richmond High School staff as physical education teacher and football coach. "My mother and sister are teachers, as well as three of my aunts," said Burke. "Therefore, it was easy choosing what I wanted to do because I grew up in the teaching environment."

Mr. Burke began playing football young, at the age of 5 up until 24. "I played football all throughout my life. I began around the same time I started school, throughout high school at Covington Catholic, then Union College," he said. "Even after graduating, I stayed [at Union] and helped with film, statistics, and other tasks."

Since then, Burke has had five

years of teaching experience. "I taught three years at Arnett Elementary in Kentucky and two years at Grant County Middle School," he said. "I coached football at both of those locations as well."

Burke attributes his development of leadership qualities to his football upbringing. "Value, effort, attitude, work-ethic, these are all qualities I developed over the years through football," said Burke. "These qualities also reflect in my teaching style; they're the reason I am enthusiastic every day to teach a course that allows for you to get your blood flowing to learn, rather than sit at a desk all day."

"I want my students to be active and healthy for life," explained Burke when prompted about expectations and goals for his students. Students in Burke's

PE class will learn activities to use in their daily life, for their whole life. "Games, exercises, lifting and workout techniques, whatever the case may be, the goal is for students to have FUN; PE is about having FUN in a physically active environment."

Burke described his teaching style as hands-on, direct, and to-the-point. He explained, "Classroom management opens doors to all kinds of new activities an unorganized classroom routine would not be able to do."

Over the course of the school year, Burke plans on fitness testing students early in the year and near the end of the course. "This is done in order to get some numbers and data on the students as a way to track progress throughout the course," said Burke. "My overall goal for the class is to stay active five days a week for about 60 minutes a day in order to encourage mental and physical growth."

Burke then described the daily class routine, where it is important to always keep the class moving and productive, without downtime. "Five minutes in the locker room to change. Take attendance. Do a warm-up that correlates with [today's] activity. Explanation of [today's] activity. Then proceed outside, if the activity is done outdoors. Clean up after the activity is completed. Ten minutes of questions and answers or a small assessment to follow-up the activity. Fi-



With nearly his lifetime spent in some aspect of football, Mr. Burke brings experience and dedication to both his PE classes and the Lions defensive line. Photo/J. Maxwell.

nally, back to the locker room to change and wait for the bell."

"I like to set the standard for my class and be able to model it," Burke explained. "I consider myself to be very positive, and highly energetic when teaching physical education with clear-cut expectations and high standards."

In Burke's physical education class, students will be able to get into shape and have fun. "In PE you are able to do activities that are not available in any other class," he said. "In class, we also have lots of trust and respect for one another."



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# New vocal director starts 2015 year

Elizabeth Hannah transfers from Winton Woods to teach choirs

By: Mary Moran

As Mr. Douglas Heflin has retired, a new choir teacher has replaced him. Mrs. Elizabeth Hannah has been teaching at Winton Woods for five years. The 2015/2016 school year will be her sixth. "I had always wanted to become a teacher, ever since I was very young. I was lucky to have some exceptional music teachers and mentors who shared their passion for music with me, and who inspired me to do the same," said Hannah. "Teaching music allows me to share my love of music with others, which is a great way to earn a living!"

In the past, Hannah has studied music, earning her B.A. in Vocal Performance and Choral Conducting from the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia. She earned her M.S. in Music Education from Indiana University Bloomington.

As a child, Hannah grew up in Bay Village, in southwest Cleveland, with three older siblings. "I loved music, especially singing and playing piano, and playing sports, mostly soccer and basketball," said Hannah. She added that she always knew that music was her passion.

Hannah has played piano since she was four, sung in choirs since she was five, and played several other instruments, including clarinet, trumpet, and

organ. "I can't imagine spending my life any other way!"

So far, she has enjoyed her time at New Richmond. "The staff and students have been very welcoming, and I have enjoyed getting to know everyone." She stated that it was pleasant so far. "I'm definitely happy with how things have started. Transition years are tough for everyone, but I appreciate how the students have approached the change with openness and maturity." Hannah stated that she already loves some things about New Richmond, including the students. "That makes me very excited for the rest of the year!"

Hannah plans to run a half marathon in October. Wish her luck! "There's something about the race atmosphere that's really exciting...it makes you want to do it again." She has run two half marathons in the past.

Hannah had a sister, who unfortunately passed away in 2012 after being diagnosed with colon cancer caused by a genetic defect two years earlier. Her name was Joanna. "She was a special education teacher, and an amazing wife and mother to three children. I try to honor her every day by making every moment count and always giving my best effort, no matter what I'm doing."

Speaking of family, Hannah has

a husband named Trevor, who is a special education teacher at Winton Woods Middle School. "I admire him for his patience and his positivity!" They have been married since June 2013, and cherish their Labradoodles, named Coda and Cadence dearly. Hannah said they plan on having kids, they just do not know quite when yet.

Hannah enjoys kayaking and scrapbooking in her free time, as well as being outside, playing with her dogs, and spending time with her loved ones.

She enjoys our little school on the river, as she enjoyed Winton Woods. "I think every school has its own unique environment and culture. There were things I loved about Winton Woods, and things I already love about New Richmond. I'm thankful to have



With many years experience as a vocalist and instrumentalist, Mrs. Hannah is ready to share her expertise with NRHS. Photo/M. Moran.

experienced both places, and all the people that are a part of both communities."

Hannah's college life was a good one. "I loved my college experience, especially my time at William and Mary. I was very involved in several musical groups, especially my all-female a cappella group, Reveille, and my job as a soloist at the Williamsburg Presbyterian Church." She said she also enjoyed the Virginia weather.

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# Ms. Johnson joins New Richmond staff

## Champion swimmer returns to NRHS

By: Christina LaRoy

This year, New Richmond High School welcomed many new teachers to join the Lion family. One of those new teachers is Deb Johnson. She's been teaching for 16 years and taught at Montpelier School in Montpelier, Ohio, before coming to New Richmond. Johnson studied at University of Toledo and Bowling Green State University and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, Bachelor of Education, and Master of Education.

Johnson doesn't have a hard time staying busy. Her day starts off with waking up at 5 a.m. and waking up her 5 year old and 2 year twins at 6 a.m. "We leave the house with lunches, book bags, and work at 6:30 a.m. I drop the kids off at daycare and come to school by 6:45am," she

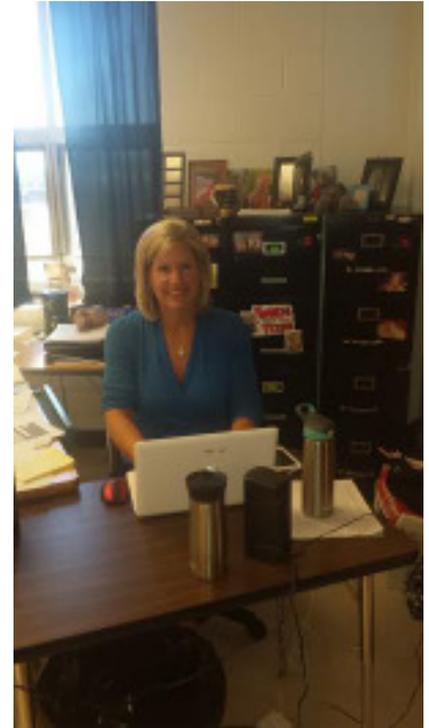
says. Once she gets to school, she checks her e-mail and usually goes to a morning meeting. "Morning meetings would include meeting with the math department, the special education department, parents, the entire staff or training/ informational meetings. Twice a month meetings are also interrupted by bus/hall duty to supervise students in the morning," said Johnson.

Johnson co-teaches math 9 with Mr. Shoemaker in first period. Then, she helps students and monitors grades and goals in an Intervention Strategies class for second period. Third period, Johnson goes back upstairs to co-teach Mr. Heflin's math 9 class. She goes to another Intervention Strategies class for fourth period, and heads to lunch

after that. "Kids will often need assistance or staff will need to talk about students and I usually don't get to leave the room for lunch," says Johnson. She spends fifth period in another Intervention Strategies class. "During Intervention Strategies, students can come down when tests are scheduled within another class and receive support on their tests. So a lot of times my attention could be divided between groups of students who need help/accommodations, all while trying to collect data and communicate with other teachers and students and helping the original students in my Intervention Strategies class," Johnson said.

She spends 6th period co-teaching with Mr. Heflin. 7th period is her plan period. She says, "I take care of more correspondence, phone calls, lesson plans, writing IEPs, goal monitoring, data collecting, grading and other misc. things."

Johnson stays busy outside of school as well. "My hobbies are keeping up with my young kids and working out in order to stay fit," said Johnson. She also enjoys family time. "My family includes my five-year-old boy named Briggs and twin two-year-olds named Tanner and Kendra. My extended family includes my



Mrs. Johnson looks forward to helping some of our special education students. Photo/C. LaRoy.

mother, sisters and their families," said Johnson.

Johnson isn't new to the New Richmond family. "I graduated from New Richmond and was a four year state swimmer for NRHS, so I wanted to return to my alma mater. I also wanted to move closer to my family who lives in the NR area," said Johnson, when asked about what brought her to New Richmond. "NR has more extracurriculars, clubs and advanced classes," she added.

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# Robinson returns!

## The big retirement comeback

By: Morgan Huddleston

Jim Robinson, aka JR superstar, aka J Rob, aka "The man himself," according to senior Elise Holdsworth, is described by many people as an amazing teacher, coach, boss and mentor. Robinson retired in May, only to find himself returning part time this August.

Robinson is teaching for his 37th year, in 2015-2016, at New Richmond High School. The first three years of his teaching career, Robinson was in Dayton Ohio, five miles from his childhood home in Miamisburg, where he graduated from high school.

Robinson said he initially had no intention of becoming a teacher until February of his senior year during a college visit to Eastern Kentucky University with a group of friends. Originally, with the goal to become a carpenter, Robinson may have had an entirely different lifestyle, had he not discovered such a wonderful campus. It is not a secret that Robinson is extremely proud of his Alma Mater. Multiple times, Robinson has been heard saying that, "EKU has a great staff and programs!"

Having personal goals for himself, Robinson also has goals for his students which are to, "Give their best effort and do well," in everything they approach. Robinson cares about the people he teaches and sends out into

with some. Being one of the parking managers at Coney Island, Robinson has hired students, their children and even grandchildren, along with matchmaking marriages.

Currently, the Coney Island Parking staff has 33 members, 22 of which currently are, or have been students of Robinson and got the job with his referral.

During the month of August, in Ohio, the retirement requirements changed in a way that would mean while still paying into retirement with his income, Robinson would be making less money than had he retired. Robinson simply stated, "Less pay and retirement cancels out."

The next piece to the puzzle of understanding why Robinson has made the decisions he has, is Robinson's wife, Gaylynn, who is a teacher like her husband but has another four years until she is able to retire. Robinson does not want to, "Watch TV while she works," because she, he said jokingly, "Begged and may get jealous." Robinson is a working man that would like to keep active for the time being. "I think it helps my health, kids keep me young."

Robinson is very skilled when tackling many tasks simultaneously, as he has to do with this year's schedule, which includes his teaching drafting, TV pro-

Transitioning back has not been as difficult as one would think. Robinson did say, "It has been hard with no lunch plan or benefits," but that adjustment will take time.

It is understandable that work is an entire separate animal from one's personal life. One thing Robinson said he does enjoy is the naps, that, according to him, are apparently very addicting. A valid lifestyle choice, and nearly guaranteed that every staff member and student would enjoy the extra sleep if it were them.

Now that the past and present situation have been explained, what the future holds for Robinson may be of interest. Working full time then to part time, the next step for a shorter work day would be substituting. However, when asked if the plan were to become a sub, Robinson said, "Subbing is harder than teaching. They do not know day-to-day schedules or last minute plans." Robinson has a great deal of respect for substitute teachers, but does not envision himself taking that task. Instead, he plans to teach for three more years until his wife is ready to retire. From there, the future is



He just couldn't stay away: Mr. Robinson returns on a half-day schedule. Photo/J. Maxwell.

limitless and he has decisions to make along the way.

Robinson may not be as well known by some students, but the upperclassmen have grown fond of his presence and can easily recall him with a camera, getting involved in school activities.

"If you love your job, you will never work a day in your life." Robinson said he loves his job and approaches every day of his life with the best foot forward and a wonderful attitude.

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# The new doc on the block

## Always ready to give an English check-up

By Brooklyn Parker



Dr. Rosselot, who is also a professor at UC, is enjoying her return to the classroom. Photo/B. Parker.

There's a friendly new face in the third-floor hallway and it belongs to Dr. Tara Rosselot. Dr. Rosselot is the new addition to the English Department where she is teaching English I, English III, and Adv. English Composition.

With 36 years of experience in

education, Dr. Rosselot is not a typical "new" teacher. She brings with her a variety of experience.

"I have been a principal in the district and I also teach at several area universities. I am a tenured professor from UC and usually I teach teachers."

Although Rosselot has been working in administrative positions recently, she is glad to be back in a teaching position.

"It has been 20 years since I've taught high school English and Composition, but I am quite happy to be here at New Richmond and I really enjoy the lower stress levels of classroom work compared to administrative work," Rosselot stated.

Students can expect to find an interactive class if they are in Dr. Rosselot's English class. She explains her teaching style as student-centered.

"I want students to realize they are responsible for their own

learning and that even material from many years ago can be relevant in the message it delivers. I like to plan as many interactive activities as I can."

She's has a lot of experience being a student herself, too. She has a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree, as well as a Doctoral degree in Literacy and Teacher Education. According to Rosselot, "I love to go to school!"

Still, she's not just books and English classes. She has previously raised and trained horses on a fifty acre farm in Oxford, Ohio, and she says she loves gardening and cooking with the fresh ingredients that she grows. Her son, Jessup Durbin, is a sophomore at New Richmond,

and her daughter is currently in college.

"I love family time and watching my own kids participate in their sports and activities," Rosselot said.

Dr. Rosselot is enjoying New Richmond High School so far. She says the year has been both exciting and challenging. "I have so much to learn and I am working hard to present my content in an interesting way. I am struggling to learn Progress Book and some other technologies that weren't available when I taught at the high school level before...but I have plenty of time to work on things after school while I wait for Jessup. I really enjoy being back in the classroom on a daily basis."

## Mrs. Lawill joins NRHS staff

### Every day different for her students

By Brooklyn Parker

Downstairs there's a new face in the special ed department; it belongs Beverly Lawill. She teaches five students their academic courses along with the necessities to life, such as daily living skills and employability skills.

Mrs. Lawill has been part of educating students since 1980, that's 35 years!

"I started teaching in about 1980. I started because I was interested in helping students expand their knowledge farther and enjoy life in and out of school," Lawill stated.

Mrs. Lawill's class is one of the most hands on class in the school.

"My students spend each day a bit different from the other. Some days during 7th bell we just turn on the Smartboard and

dance to a video. My students really seem to enjoy themselves. We also do things like teaching the students to clean up after themselves and polite manners. One day we even threw a tea party for the students with real tea and little pastries."

Mrs. Lawill always has the best interest in mind when it comes to her students. Mrs. Lawill's main goal is: "to help the students succeed in everything they do and achieve all of their wishes."

If Mrs. Lawill could have one wish; "My one wish is that all of my students have happy years here in high school and even happier years out. If I could have my wish all my students would go on to live what our society calls a 'normal' life."

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# New teacher added to Social Studies department NRHS community welcomes Wessner

By Ashley Gray

New Richmond's newest addition to the social studies department is Thomas Wessner, who will also be the NR Lady Lions basketball coach. Wessner said, "I taught at Bright Local School District and White Oak High School," before he found himself teaching at NRHS. At his old school, he was teaching various types of history subjects. "I taught American History, World History, Sociology, Current World Issues, and Reading in Social Studies."

Social Studies teacher shared a little bit about his family. "My wife, Tami, and I have been married for five years and we recently adopted my nephews, Tyler (9), and Christopher (6)."

Wessner graduated from, "UC-Clermont with an Associate's Degree, Northern Kentucky University with a Bachelor's Degree, and Xavier University with a Master's in Education," he said.

Wessner has been a teacher for thirteen years. "I decided to become a teacher because I have

always been surrounded by great teachers and coaches since I was very little," he added, "I know the impact that teachers and coaches can have and I wanted to be a part of that process."

Wessner said seeing the progress in adolescents is what he enjoys the most about being a teacher. "I like seeing the progress that young people make and the maturity they gain over their four years of high school."

The three most important strengths that possess Wessner to be a successful teacher are, "Communication, communication, communication," said Wessner. "The toughest aspect of discipline is not all situations are the same, but as a teacher, we need to be consistent," he said.

Some perks of Wessner's job come from some of his favorite positive teaching experiences. "I have worked a lot with students who have trouble passing their

OGT. When these students put the time and effort into passing and are successful, it is very rewarding," Wessner said.

However, there are some cons to Wessner's job. "Some of my most negative teaching experiences are testing because students take a lot of state mandated testing which takes them out of the classroom."

There are challenges educators face these days, Wessner said, "The toughest challenge is making the history come alive and make students understand that history is created every day around them."

In Wessner's free time, he enjoys, "Watching sports and reading a variety of different books," he said. "I also coach my sons' sports teams," he added.

There are quite a few things that Wessner is excited about teaching at NRHS. "New Richmond has a lot of great things



In addition to his social studies teaching duties, Mr. Wessner is also the new girls' basketball coach. Photo/A. Gray.

going on: engaging students, caring faculty and staff, and the new media center is just another step forward in the process toward 21st century learning."

Wessner's career goals remain the same. "I really enjoy teaching in the classroom, so I do not see that changing in the distant future," he said.

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# Giving students another reason to 'just say no'

## NRHS introduces new Random Drug Testing Policy

By Joe Maxwell

Here at New Richmond High School, "just say no" is taken to a whole new level. Rather than just encouraging students to veer away from peer pressure and temptations of trying various drugs, the school board and community together have developed a new policy to help reinforce drug prevention programs.

Any student involved in athletics, non-graded extracurricular activities, and those that have applied for and received an NRHS parking permit (about 315 students, just over 50%) will be affected by the district's new Drug Testing Policy, headed by superintendent Adam Bird. According to NREVSD Board of Education member, Kristin Bennett, speaking of behalf of the Board of Education, the program is intended to provide health, safety, and welfare for all NRHS students. "This policy is important because it will help supplement our Drug Prevention Policy (BOE Policy 5530) in helping students resist using drugs and alcohol. It will also identify students who have used a substance and provide a referral to the appropriate counseling or treatment services," Bennett said.

Although the Policy is extremely beneficial and important to the district, it is not necessarily because the high school was experiencing abnormal numbers of students found with or to be using illegal drugs. "When our Superintendent, Adam Bird, presented to the BOE the Random Drug Testing Policy, one of the reasons he gave was to allow our participating students and those with a parking pass, to be able to resist peer pressure when it comes to drugs/alcohol," Bennett commented. "Another would be to encourage students who may be using illegal drugs

and/or alcohol to participate in the appropriate treatment programs. It wasn't out of a "bad" need for the policy (our district is similar to other schools when comparing drug issues), but an avenue to help us provide more education, prevention, and then counseling/treatment (if needed) to our students. Our district has heard the statistics of drug overdoses within our community. Many have been former students, so the NREVSD is trying to help decrease these situations by increasing the education/prevention to all students Pre-K through 12th grade."

The Board of Education reports they were informed this program will cost around \$3,000 yearly, which is substantially affordable for the positive impact this Policy is projected to have on our schools and community. "Even if this policy is only able to help one student turn from drugs, then the entire policy was well worth it," said NRHS principal Mark Bailey.

Students that are tested positive for substances that are banned by the NRHS Athletic Handbook (alcohol, nicotine, marijuana, methadone, cocaine, heroin, and other illegal substances) will receive a non-academic punishment. "The first violation, a student is denied 20% of athletic competition; extracurricular activities and parking pass will be denied for 30 days," said Bennett. "They will also seek assessment from a certified agency approved by the school for education/prevention/treatment. In the case of a second violation, punishments will be increased to 50% athletic par-

ticipation and 60 days prohibition of extracurricular activities/parking permit with another assessment. Then, in the case of a third violation, the student shall be permanently denied participation in athletics, extracurricular activities, and driving/parking privileges for the remainder of their enrollment at NRHS."

"The new Random Drug Testing Policy provides such a positive impact with so few negatives or drawbacks," said NRHS boys and girls

cross country coach, varsity tennis coach,

and mathematics teacher Rylan Shebesta.

"It gives athletes and other students [with parking permits or involved in extracurricular activities] that may struggle with or are influenced by drugs another reason to 'say no.' On top of this, it is not as if students who are not involved with illegal substances are going to refuse to be tested because it doesn't really affect them either way."

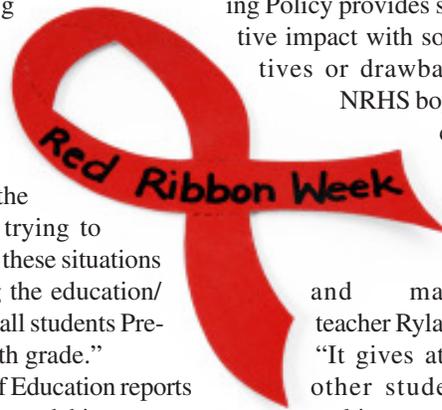
Overall, the policy has gained the community's support, including the parents, staff, and students/athletes. "There have been some who have expressed concerns or do not support the policy, but in large, the policy is widely approved," said Bennett. "The athletes, that were present at the open forum meeting, expressed no worries of taking the test and said they were following what the Athletic Handbook requires of them. They liked being able to say NO to drugs/alcohol because they may be tested."

"The last thing the BOE wants to do is punish a student academically because of the policy,"

said Bennett in regards to reasoning for a non-academic punishment. "Currently if a student/athlete is caught using a substance listed in the Athletic Handbook there is not an academic punishment. The policy and the handbook are intended to support each other, not contradict."

According to the Policy, "All drug tests shall be conducted by laboratories certified by the Ohio Department of Health and Human Services. The certified testing agency selected by the Board of Education shall be responsible for randomly selecting students, processing sample results and maintaining confidentiality." Each participant at NRHS will be assigned a number, numbers will be randomly drawn by the testing agency. "The agency will arrive at the school and inform which numbers have been drawn. The only part the school administration has, in the process, is to confirm the identity of the student," said Bennett. "The test is a urine screening test and the entire collection process can be found in the policy."

The formal policy can be found on the New Richmond High School website at [www.nrschools.org](http://www.nrschools.org). You can also follow this link directly to the Random Drug Testing policy for more information. [http://www.nrschools.org/Downloads/NREVSD\\_DrugTesting2.pdf](http://www.nrschools.org/Downloads/NREVSD_DrugTesting2.pdf) "This policy is a very positive addition to our school," said assistant principal Phillip Heflin. "It helps the school, along with the parents and community, create higher quality leaders of tomorrow."



# NRHS adds learning period to class choices

## Students now have time during day to complete homework

By: Christina LaRoy

This year, New Richmond High School added learning periods to its array of classes. The class offers students time to study or work on homework instead of worrying about finding time to work on it at home.

The learning period takes place in the relaxed atmosphere of the cafeteria and is conveniently placed next door to the new media center.

The learning period was added to give students extra time during the day to complete assignments. "We added a learning period because of several factors," said Principal Mark Bailey. "The first one is that the math program is now online; however, some students don't have internet access, so they can't do their homework. With the learning period, students can use the media center and complete homework on a daily basis. The second factor is that some students have a rigorous academic schedule. Many students are taking three or more A.P. classes, have jobs, and play sports. The learning period provides time to complete their homework and study for upcoming tests or quizzes. Another factor is that some students need intervention. The learning period gives them a quiet place to study and a teacher is nearby to help," continued Bailey. "We also expect to see higher academic performance

levels," he said.

Students seem to agree. Sophomore Kameron Vance said, "The media center has benefited me because I normally have bad grades, but now I am getting work done and I am passing all my classes."

The learning period also teaches time management. "For those students planning on college, they may have an hour or two between classes. The learning period teaches them to spend their time wisely to study or work on homework," Bailey said.

The learning period is a great help for busy students. "For some students, it is their only chance to complete their work. The students also have the opportunity to use the technology in the media center and have a teacher there to help," said learning period supervisor Monica Davis. "It gives students who are in extracurricular activities time to complete their work," Davis also said. However, the learning period is not a free period. "Students can expect to come into the learning period and be working. I expect the students to be working diligently through the entire period," said Davis.

Bailey said, "I expect students to be engaged in some type of academic activity. Some people call the learning period a study hall. I personally don't like the

term, 'study hall'. It makes me think of students in the movies who spend their 'study hall' sleeping or socializing. That's not what the learning period is for. It's not social time. It's not down time. It's time to be working on homework, maybe studying in small groups, working on MathXL, or researching on a Chromebook. I expect students to be engaged."

The learning period is a great place to study and take advantage of the resources offered. "The learning period benefits students in two ways. One, students who don't have internet access at home have time to complete MathXL assignments. I know that the foreign language classes have started to use an online textbook and many other classes have started to use an online textbook. The students find the time to use the computers very helpful. Two, it is helpful for students in extracurricular activities. Some students don't get home until eight, sometimes nine o'clock. Having a learning period eliminates the time spent at home completing homework," said sophomore and senior class counselor, Carolann Coulter.

With the learning period comes the media center as well. The media center is equipped with Chromebooks and computers to allow students to work on their

MathXL or do research. "The learning period is very helpful because I have time to catch up on work and use the internet," said sophomore Courtney Price.

Students find the extra homework time very helpful. They have time during the day to complete homework and study for upcoming tests.

"With the learning period, I have less homework to do at home this year," said sophomore Donell McDade, when asked how this school year is different with the new learning period.

Senior Amber Lamb said, "The learning period helps a lot of students because they don't have time with extra-curricular activities after school to complete homework."

The learning period is also helping students get better grades and stay on top of their schoolwork.

Sophomore Destiney Fisher said, "I chose to put a learning period on my schedule because I know I have a problem with doing my homework. However, when I have a learning period, it gives me a perfect chance to get it done."

Other students wish the learning period was more laid back. "I think it is too strict, but I have benefitted from it. I have gotten a lot done," said sophomore Seth Bacon.



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# NRHS staff has an exciting 2k15 summer

## Teachers share highlights of their vacations

By Ashley Gray

Many of us may wonder what our teachers might do on their summer vacations. Just like any other ordinary people, they are spending the days they have off with their families, reading a book, getting some housework done, and taking vacations. Also, probably taking in every minute they get being away from annoying high school students. Whatever it might be, the NRHS staff shares their vacation stories.

A couple of the teachers went to Florida for the summer. Joyce Montgomery, the Media Center paraprofessional, got the opportunity to visit, "Florida's Best Kept Secret," otherwise known as Anna Maria Island.

"My favorite part of the summer was when my family and I took a summer vacation to our favorite spot in Florida, While visiting the island, my husband and I renewed our wedding vows after 17 years of marriage." Montgomery added. "Despite a few rain sprinkles, the sunset beach wedding was beautiful!"

Not only did Montgomery get to visit her favorite vacation spot, and renew her wedding vows, but she also got to work with some students over the summer. "I had the opportunity to work with and help some amazing students earn credits in sum-

mer school," she said. "It was nice to get to know some of the students that normally I might not have known during the school year," Montgomery added.

Another teacher who visited Florida this summer is Josh Stratton, the College Career and Readiness teacher. This was his extended family's first vacation trip together. "This included my family (wife and daughter), my brother and his family, as well as, our parents," he said.

Stratton visited Orlando, Florida. "We stayed using my parent's' time share." Stratton's first family trip was a good quality time for the family to bond. "This was a great experience for our kids who don't live near one another and got to spend time together and most importantly I got to spend time with my brother, who I rarely see because of where we live and our busy schedules."

Stratton said that his dad is not too fond of traveling, but, "even he enjoyed himself." Their first family trip together seemed to be a success, according to Stratton. "We hope to do this again next summer," he said.

Another teacher also visited Florida this summer. Michelle Senter, an English teacher, drove



Logan Minning and her family on top of a Volcano in Hawaii. Photo/L. Minning

to Ft. Meyers with her son, mother, and two dogs. "It was an incredibly long drive, 18 hours, but years past we would fly, but were unable to because there were some issues with one of my dogs barking on the plane and upsetting the passengers, so I certainly did not want to go through that again," said Senter. The bright side Senter said, "Luckily, the dogs were great on

such a lengthy trip!"

Senter said that she took her trip to Ft. Meyers in July. "As you can imagine, it was incredibly hot in July, but we spent time at the pool as well as the beach." She added, "We were beach bums for nine days or so which was a lot of fun!"

The beach in Sanibel was much more appealing to Senter and her family, than Ft. Meyers beach.



Joyce Montgomery and her husband on Anna Marie Island renewing their vows after 17 years of marriage. Photo/ J. Montgomery

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Monica Davis and her family in an Old Time photo taken in Tennessee. Photo/ M. Davis

"The water in Sanibel seemed to be much cleaner and there were so many beautiful shells to collect."

Senter and her family dined out a lot. "My favorite meal consisted of fresh crab legs," she said.

Overall, Senter said, "Being a beach bum is definitely a lifestyle I could get used to!"

Monica Davis, the Spanish teacher and learning period supervisor, went to Pigeon Forge, Gatlinburg for the first time this summer with her family. "My 7 year old and 12 year old daughters especially enjoyed Wonderworks and the magic show inside the Wonderworks building," said Davis. "I highly recommend

these attractions for anyone planning to visit Pigeon Forge," Davis added.

Davis and her family stayed in a cabin and had quite a few highlights to their trip. "We went to the Hard Rock Cafe where we saw a famous dress worn by Dolly Parton, Johnny Cash's black acoustic guitar, and a pair of pants once worn by Michael Jackson. We also went on a horseback ride tour," she said. "My daughters enjoyed the horseback tour very much and we had a great time," added Davis.

Social studies teacher Brian McMonigle kept busy during his time off. "I worked with the basketball team in June and we had our youth camp, and I also went to Salt Lake City to grade AP tests," McMonigle added. "I climbed some mountains in Salt Lake City, when I was finished grading the tests, of course."

Rumor has it, McMonigle wants everyone to believe he broke his Achilles tendon skydiving this past summer. Reality, however, is not as quite exciting.

"I actually tore my Achilles playing basketball." He added, "I

was on the wing when I caught the ball and when I pushed off going in for a dunk it popped on me."

"I fell down and grabbed it and I noticed the tendon was gone, so I knew I tore it," he said.

McMonigle said, "I had to get surgery a couple days after in mid July to repair the tendon."

All of July, McMonigle was not able to walk or drive. "I watched TV and did pushups every day because it was the only thing I could do." In August, McMonigle went with the whole family on vacation to Destin, Florida.

Science teacher, Logan



Logan Minning and her family dressed for a luau in Hawaii. Photo/L.Minning

Minning had an "AMAZING" trip this past summer. Minning

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Josh Stratton with his wife and daughter in front of the World of Disney Store in Orlando, FL. Photo/J. Stratton

got the chance of a lifetime to visit Hawaii for sixteen days with her husband, children, and her mother. "We had to save up because we knew it was going to be an expensive trip, but it was on my Mom's bucket list so that is why we decided to go."

Minning went away from the traditional way of booking with a hotel and instead booked places to stay by owner. "I spent months researching the best places to go and what are the best things to do while you are there," she said.

Minning did run into a bit of a downside when she first got to Hawaii. "Thirteen hours later we landed and I made the house rental for Friday, which is was back in Ohio, but in Hawaii it was still Thursday." Therefore, Minning decided to stay in a "shady" hotel that ended up turning out for the best. "We got

to see Banyan trees, which are trees that obtain moisture from the atmosphere, and volcanoes right outside our hotel," Minning added.

A couple of places that Minning and her family hit while they were in Hawaii included: "Kona, where the white sandy beaches were, Road to Hana, which was full of waterfalls and was in the middle of the rainforest, Seven Sacred Pools, Hilo Island- which is on the Big Island of Hawaii, and Volcano National Park."

Some interesting highlights of Minning's trip were, "The tide pools were great for snorkeling, the ground was hot in some spots because of the density difference, the sulfur springs were stinky, and we went on a submarine ride, saw manta rays at night, and we hiked a million different waterfalls."

All in all, Minning said the family didn't want to come home. "What I thought turned into a trip of a lifetime, turned into we are going back!"

Mark Bailey, the principal of NRHS, got an opportunity of a lifetime to travel out of the United States to Shanghai, China, as a selected guest speaker for the 2015 Shanghai International Forum on Student Career Development and Education Conference. "I was one of five educators from the United States selected to speak at this conference- three college professors, one superintendent, and one

principal."

Students in China take a test called the Gao Kao whose results dictate the rest of a student's life IF they go to college, what college they attend, and what they will study. "Teenage suicide is very high in China due to the stress of this one test that dictates the rest of their life," said Bailey.

Bailey's presentation was entitled, "Student Exposure to Vocational Awareness, Career Exploration, and Meaningful Experiences in Preparation for the 21st Century Workforce. "I shared the multifaceted approach used in the United States in preparing students for college/career," he said.

"I found this to be a wonderful experience!" said Bailey. "I very much enjoyed the different culture but NOT the food," he added.

Overall, the teachers at NRHS had a very eventful summer with their families. I guess teachers



Mrs. Senter's son, NRMS eighth-grader Alex, enjoys the sand and surf with the family dog, Teddy. Photo/M. Senter.

can have fun after all in their time off.



Pre-tragic basketball injury, McMonigle is in Salt Lake City on top of a mountain he climbed. Photo / B.McMonigle.

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# Cheer squad goals 2015

One coach, two seasons, thirteen girls \*\/0/\*

By Brooklyn Parker



2015 New Richmond senior cheerleaders on fall picture day. Left to right: Deionna Tillery, co-captain Taylor McKinley, Hayley Hawkins, Hannah Clifton, captain Hali Stamper. Photo/B. Parker.

Pom pons and pep rallies are obvious symbols of cheerleaders everywhere, but not many people think of tough workouts, cardio exercises, and hours in the summer heat. For the Lions Cheer Squad, it's just a part of summer practice.

Led by veteran coach, English teacher Nicole Parker, the cheerleaders spent the summer preparing for the seasons ahead. Yes, seasons, as cheerleading is the only sport that spans two entire sports seasons, fall and winter. Considering tryouts are in the spring and practices begin the first week of summer break, cheerleading has truly become a year-round sport.

Coach Parker stated, "I started coaching cheerleading because

it was a week before the first football game and the coach resigned. Mrs. Hill, the athletic director, asked me if I would help out until they could find a coach. I said sure. I am still waiting for them to find a permanent coach!"

This year's cheer squad is packed with experience. Not only is Mrs. Parker entering her 13th year coaching, but the varsity squad is lead by five seniors, including senior Captain Hali Stamper. Stamper is looking forward to a great year. "The thing I am looking forward to the most is to have a great senior year cheering," she said.

Co-captain Taylor McKinley agreed. "I am looking forward to a fun year"

For the NR cheerleaders,

school spirit is always a top priority. "I enjoy leading the school with spirit," added senior Hannah Clifton.

Sophomore Lily Moeller stated that for her, the best part of cheering is, "having fun while supporting my school."

So why would anyone decide to take on this year-long commitment to one sport? The answers were surprisingly similar. "The stronger friendships I've made are the best. Also, Mrs. Parker is pretty swell," according to senior Hayley Hawkins.

"Cheerleading is something fun I love to do." agreed senior Deionna Tillery

When asked about her favorite cheerleading memories, Mrs. Parker had several. "My favorite memories include winning Camp Champion at cheer camp in

Panama City Beach, Florida (out of over 400 cheerleaders!), recording the song with Bootsy Collins at his studio, and any game when we are cheering in the pouring rain. Oh, and attending Ben-Gals tryouts and seeing Heidi Nieto Gumbert make the Ben-Gals squad this year!"

She continued, "The best part about coaching are the girls who have cheered for me. I keep in touch with almost all of the cheer alums, and they are these wonderful, amazing, successful people. I think cheerleading really is such a positive activity. Promoting school spirit, working hard to be your best, cheering for your friends and fellow students, win or lose. Cheerleaders have a lot of heart, and I think that's why I love them so."

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# Lions back under Friday night lights

## Head coach, players look forward to season

By Ashley Gray

The NRHS Lions are back at it again under the Friday night lights. They kicked off their season on August 28th, against Indian Hill. The Lions are going to face some tough opponents this year, but they are going to see some good competition.

It is only the beginning of their season and coach Josh Stratton said, "We still have a lot of work to do."

The football team put in tedious and long hours over the summer to prepare for this season. "We would do strength and conditioning three to four days a week and we also had mini camps in June and July," said Stratton.

The key members of the team this year, according to Stratton, are the seniors. "If our seniors do not play well, our team will

not play well because every team's success rests on the shoulders of our seniors."

Stratton said they approach every game the same. "We approach each game the same, never overlooking an opponent." His philosophy rests on the belief of hard work and physicality. "My philosophy is to outwork our opponent and be more physical than the other team because usually whoever is more physical comes out on top," he said.

The Lions are facing some tough competition this year. Stratton said some of the toughest games for them will be Taylor High School and Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy. "Taylor, our week 2 opponent, is coming off a 9-2 playoff record, and CHCA

was one game away from the state championship last year."

The result of the 9-2 playoff record of Taylor game was 33-25. The game did happen to get rained out and played on Saturday afternoon, but the NR Lions were able to pull out a win in the scorching heat.

There is one game in particular that sticks out in Stratton's mind and one he is looking forward to. "Always looking forward to the Western Brown game because they are our biggest rival and we want to beat them in everything we do," said Stratton.

There are quite a few reasons why Stratton decided to coach football. "I decided to coach football because I love helping young men develop, I love the game, and I am from Ohio and in Ohio, football is really important; it's a rite of passage." Stratton added. "In Columbus, where I am from, in the hospital when babies are born, they would put a little Ohio State football in their crib." The main reason Stratton decided to coach football because he believes, "It teaches more life lessons than anything else you can do."

Some of Stratton's favorite football memories are not from any games. "There is no particular game that sticks out in my mind. Some of my favorite memories come from just hanging out with the boys, watching them turn into men, and the relationships I've built over the years." Stratton added, "I received 20 messages from former players on our first Friday game wishing me good luck before the game."

Some of the freshmen and senior football players have a couple comments to add about this season.

Freshmen Jacob Noble believes, "With focus and hard

work, we get the job done."

Senior Brian Waddle said, "I think our team this year is very strong and we have great potential."

"I think we are a good team, but we need to focus on our assignments in order to be successful," said senior Tyler Sammons.

A few of the football players shared their personal goals for this season.

"My goals for this year are to get faster, be better, and have better technique," said freshman Chandler Wood.

Senior Corey Waters goal is, "To win every game at my position and make the other guy quit."

For freshman Gavin Clark his goal is to simply, "Move up in the roster."

Senior Evan Grippa enjoys the "Brotherhood of football," the most, and Waddle can agree. "I like being aggressive, staying in shape, and having fun with my friends," he said.

Senior Ryan Brunk also enjoys the teamwork aspect of football, "I like how it is a brotherhood and how we all have fun playing the sport."

However, Waters likes how football, "Uses fronts and strategy, in addition to strength and speed to win."

Clark likes, "That you have to work as a unit in order to win."

If there is anything Stratton would like his players to take from football, it would be life skills. "Life skills I would like my players to develop while they are part of my team are to be a team player, be a hard worker, have a vision to what they want to do with their life, be a protector of others, and stand up and take a minority position when it needs to be taken."

**Go  
Lions!**



# NR tennis team enjoying great season

## Team swings into 2nd place in the SBAAC

By: Christina LaRoy

The New Richmond High School tennis team is well under way in their 2015 season, ranking 2nd place in the Southern Buckeye Athletic and Academic Conference. The team consists of Elise Bezold, Tori Loving, Madeline Walls, Kaleigh Pratt, Brooke Klein, Lily Cahall, Krista Reid, Maggie McDaniel, Ashlee Stevens, Kara O'Toole, Skylar Grady, Laura Painter, Taylor Cardarelli, Courtney O'Connor, Maria Steinmetz, and Christina LaRoy.

The team trained hard over the summer with open courts. Some players also took private lessons. Leading the team into such a great season is Coach Teresa Flamm. This is Flamm's 20th year coaching at New Richmond and her 8th year coaching the tennis team. "The program needed a

coach, so I offered," said Flamm.

With 8 victories and 3 losses, the team thinks the season is off to a good start. "The season is going outstanding so far!" said sophomore Kara O'Toole. Even though winning is a fun part of the sport, there is more to the game than that.

Senior Laura Painter said, "The best part about the team is the people who are on it and of course our coach Mrs. Flamm. Being in tennis has brought me some of the best friendships I will ever have,".

"The best part about being on the team is that all the girls are super nice and welcoming. Your teammates help you and show you new things to improve the way you play," said Junior Victoria Loving. "Being on the tennis team has benefited me by

making me a stronger athlete mentally and has shown me a new sport I can play the rest of my life," she continues.

Now matter how long you've played tennis, you are always learning. You can always be better. O'Toole, who has been playing for two years. "I need to improve on my control and backhand. However, being on the tennis team has opened up many new opportunities. I get to watch the more experienced players and learn from them more and more every day."

However, being on the team comes with a price, especially for students who are already busy. The team plays two or three games a week, and practices on almost every day there is not a game. "Balancing my life between tennis, band, and work

has been my biggest obstacle this season," says Painter.

The team's biggest competition is Amelia. "We had a very close match with them the last time we played, so we will continue to play hard and hopefully we will come out on top this time," said Flamm. "Before a game, we talk about our opponents weaknesses and strengths, and how we will capitalize on their weaknesses," she continued.

"My biggest obstacle has been Amelia's players. I think they match our own team's skill level and it is what I have been most nervous about," said senior Brooke Klein.

# Varsity and JV volleyball starting strong this year

## Predicted to win league championship

By: Mary Moran

So far, in the 2015 school year, the New Richmond High School volleyball teams have been very successful. They started the year winning, and they've been soaring ever since.

The team consists of stat boy Cade Heflin, #14 Libero Jody Lytle, #6 Alyssa Stiles, #1 Aubrey Story, #15 Madison Kelly, #2 Rachael Riffle, #4 Courtney Smith, #3 Brooke Edgar, #5 Natalie Holdsworth, #13 Kaylee Chapman, #9 Adrianna Flood, #10 Emily Kidd, #8 and #12 Sadie Fischesser, #1 Sydney Parker, along with many others.

Math teacher Carla Corbin, coach of 11 years, said "Tomorrow is our chance. We always struggle with Western Brown," before the game on September

10th. It was a loss, sadly, that gave the team a 6-2 record as of that date.

The team captains, juniors Sadie Fischesser, and Kaylee Chapman, and senior Adrianna Flood, have made an improvement. "The JV team especially is getting so much better," said Corbin. She added, "Our goal is to win league."

JV coach Sue Curfman, coach of 10 years, said that she has, "real hope for the teams."

The girls and Cade play 21 games total, which was originally 22, but there was a cancelled match against Ripley.

Each team has its fun, especially at warm-ups, where sophomore Brooklyn Edgar and Heflin showed off their amazing dance skills.

Every player is special. "We're a team effort," said Curfman.

The quality of the team is very high, and the number is better. The record is good, and the coaches are teaching them well. "We're 7-2, so there's not too much room for improvement, but we can do it," stated Corbin.

As senior varsity captain, Flood said, "We work together. It's really great."

Heflin stated that they're, "swaggy," and that the setup is really good.

As Curfman said, "I enjoy volleyball and have played since high school whenever I can. We have a great group of girls which makes the team good to work with. We have some strong servers on our team which starts us off at an advantage."

Both coaches believe there is an advantage.

Freshman Hayley Parker said, "I love the sport. It is my favorite sport to play because I love the feel of the sport. My favorite aspect of the sport is when you're up to serve and you just get that adrenaline rush."

She also likes the coaches. "I love the coaches. I think they're great at what they do. They actually know what they're doing and they're super supportive even if we lose. I think the team is going to do pretty well this year. Heck, we might even when the championship!" There is hope.

Cheer on the Lions at the Volley for the Cure game on Oct. 6.

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