

# THE BLACKSONIAN

REPORTING THE NEWS AT BHS SINCE 1927.

## HOW TO STAY ON TOP



Kaleb Dixon

Kaleb Dixon, this issue's Student Spotlight

### Student Career Spotlight

### Kaleb Dixon

#### Baylee Walker

Kaleb Dixon is taking an auto collision course to prepare him for a career as a body shop mechanic. When asked why he is taking the course, Kaleb answered, "I am taking auto collision to prepare me for the future I want to pursue in auto collision." When we asked about the class's activities, Kaleb replied, "We sand cars, paint cars, fix dents, paint corrections, and take vehicles apart."

Finally, we checked to see if he was enjoying the class and the tasks involved. "I like auto collision and think the work is incredibly exciting and fun," he explained. Mr. Blackburn, one of Kaleb's teachers, described him as "a good kid who does his work in class." Kaleb is a nice friend, in addition to being a good student. "Kaleb is consistently punctual for class, he keeps track of his work, and he is a kind and loving person with whom you can discuss anything," according to Cody one of his classmates.



#### Baylee Walker

Blacksburg High School's top students were asked how they are able to keep their grades so high with no stress. The top students we questioned were Austine Lancaster, Nic Painter, and Lucy Thayer. Austine Lancaster said that "I am grateful to be a top senior, but it's very stressful. I handle it by going to the gym pretty much every day and always setting aside time to relax. Next year, I am 100% going to the College of Charleston, but I'm not sure what I'm going to major in. I'm leaning towards psychology or some type of environment-related major." Nic Painter said, "there's no reason to be stressed when you're prepared. My college economics class is probably the hardest class. I normally do all my homework in class to where I only need to study when I get home; therefore I am not overwhelmed." Lucy said, "Being the top sophomore is a very rewarding but stressful title. I keep a very busy schedule, so I have to stay organized and manage my time wisely. The way I handle my stress is by setting aside time from my schoolwork to relax and hang out with my friends."

#### **Congratulations to Mrs. Moss, our tech lady, on her baby!!!!**

Gabby Grace Moss was born on January 23rd weighing 6 lbs. and 3 oz. (about 88.72 ml) and 20 inches long. Her parents are Tyler and Meghan Moss, and this is their second child; their first is Gabby's big brother Weston, who is 5 years old. Gabby's paternal grandparents are Wayne and Christine Moss, while her maternal grandparents are Darryl and Jane Sanders.



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Mr. Scruggs

## News and Events

### SCHOOL PARKING LOT

Christopher Davis

If you are a student who drives to school, you are aware of the bad state of the parking lot at our school. From faded lines to overgrown shrubbery, just about anywhere in the parking lot has at least one problem that is long overdue for improvement. The last time improvements were done was when a sinkhole appeared, a huge crack developed, and some pavement fell into it. Also, our lot is highly congested and small, which leads to accidents. The small lanes make it difficult for drivers of heavier vehicles to maneuver into a parking spot. While we students hope for improvements, we understand that funding is tight and improvements may take some time to appear.

### COLORING WALL

Mason Lydia

If you walk the halls going to and from class, then you have probably noticed there is a coloring picture on the second floor of the old building beside Ms. Hughes's room. We interviewed Ms. Hughes about the coloring page, and she told us "Well I bought it for my homeroom, and they suggested we move it out in the hallway, and it would allow a relaxing activity for students who pass by it and allow creativity to flow." You can color anywhere on the page for whatever long you like using the markers that are provided on the page but avoid attempting to color while classes are changing. The most recent study done at the University of West England showed that after coloring for 20 minutes participants reported being more contented, more energetic, and calmer. So, if you want to increase your happiness and energy, try using the coloring page.



## Academics

### DISTINGUISHED YOUNG WOMEN

Chloe Sweat

A unique non-profit organization called Distinguished Young Women offers young women the chance to win college scholarships along with a course that teaches life skills to help them get ready for life after high school.

When we asked one of the program participants Abby Kate Wisher why she was in DYW, she replied, "I started to be interested in DYW when I was 'Little Sister' my sophomore year." We questioned a little sister's role in the program and what it entailed. Abby Kate responded that "little sisters are sophomores that help the young women in the pageant get ready. Whether it's makeup, hair, shoes, or fixing dresses, it's a good experience."

We also asked another DYW contestant Hailey Tessner what she enjoyed about the program. She stated, "I love competing and spending time with the girls in the program. I always have a good time and have loved being involved since sophomore year. We do a lot in the DYW competitions; for example, we dance, sing, and even do fitness." When it came to our final question, we asked what she thought was the best part of the program. "Ultimately, my favorite thing about DYW is we can win scholarships for college. It gives us great opportunities and definitely helps us in the future."

### AP SPOTLIGHT

Maynard Phillips

This week's AP spotlight is AP Literature and Language. There are numerous benefits to taking AP Literature and Language at Blacksburg High School. For example, students who take AP Language or AP Literature will gain college credit if they score adequately on the AP exams at the end of the course. Yet, this subject is not for everyone. "If you are not very interested in taking English classes, these are not courses you will enjoy," notes Mrs. Pam Hughes, the AP Literature and Language teacher at Blacksburg High. Due to the similar AP speed and style, students who take AP Literature and Language classes will be more prepared for college. Mrs. Hughes also stated, "Students who take AP English and follow-up with ENG 101 and 102 dual credit courses usually find the college courses comparatively easy and have great success in them." Students who enroll in AP Literature and Language will learn more about English and its history than they would in a regular English class.

### SAT AND ACT TESTING

Mason Lydia

Both the SAT and ACT are exams that universities use to make admissions choices and award scholarships based on merit. Even though they serve the same purpose, the ACT and SAT are vastly different. The ACT, for instance, includes math, science, language, and history, but the SAT only includes math and English. Both the ACT and SAT are important tests that should be taken seriously. It demonstrates to universities that you were a hardworking student who did not slack off during high school and that you have absorbed important ideas from core courses.

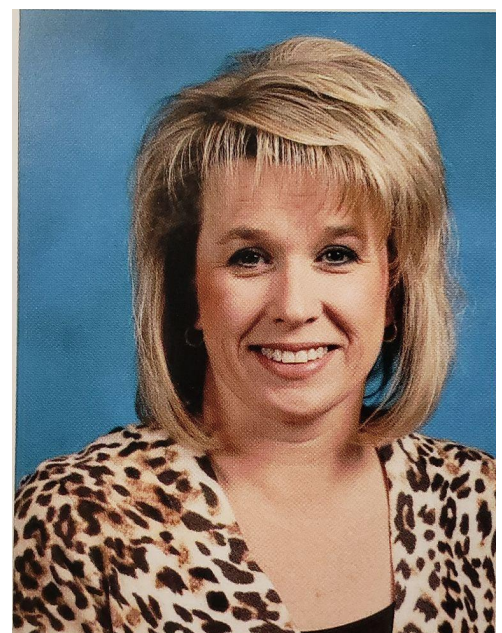
Due to COVID-19, some schools have waived SAT and ACT requirements, making them optional, while others continue to require them. The State Department of Education's standards for college and career readiness are determined by the SAT and ACT. Students must obtain an ACT score of at least 20 and an SAT score of at least 1020 in order to be deemed college and career ready according to SCDE standards.

### TEACHER SPOTLIGHT

Cortlyn Phenicie

Have you ever wondered where a teacher attended school or about their life outside of teaching? Well, we spoke to Mrs. Thompson and asked about her life. Here are the results...

- How long have you been teaching?* 19 years  
*Where did you go to college?* Lander University  
*Why did you become a teacher?* "For my love of Art"  
*Are you married?* Yes.  
*Do you have any kids?* 1  
*What job did you have before this?* Graphic Artist  
*Where did you grow up?* Gaffney, SC  
*What were your favorite subjects in school?* Art, Science, Geometry



# Academics

## TOP 5 HARDEST CLASSES

### Mason Lydia

Algebra 2, Chemistry, AP World History, English 3 Honors, and Calculus are considered by many students to be the top five most challenging courses in high school. Algebra 2 is considered a difficult course since it combines concepts from Algebra 1 and Geometry, then adds more to the challenging problems than what was thought to be simple in Algebra 1 or Geometry.

The fact that English 3 honors is offered on a semester schedule with advanced math classes and other advanced classes makes it more challenging to juggle. Many primary sources such as *The Declaration of Independence* are read in class. These documents are written in an archaic language that students are not used to. For students to understand the background of the literary works they are reading in class, teachers are aiming to condense 600 years of literature into roughly 18 weeks (or 4 months) of a semester while also teaching US history.

Chemistry is difficult for many reasons. Some of those reasons are concepts that are not easily learned, and students have to relate the work to previous knowledge from other science classes. The material is new to the students and learning Chemistry involves a higher brain function. Chemistry requires math, memorization, logic, and the ability to recognize trends and patterns and apply those principles to mathematical problems.

AP World History's difficulty lies in the writing component of the class and the exam. Students' ability to write well will determine how well they perform on tests and multiple-choice questions, as well as how well they respond to discussion questions. Students who are unable to write well will struggle and will not comprehend the subjects presented.

Calculus is challenging because high school students find the concept of Calculus terrifying. Calculus is the study of change, which affects everything from population to finance, and it involves more than just memorization of the change formula. All of it depends on change; yet, many kids find that concept challenging, and for certain students, it is.

# SPORTS

## SOFTBALL

### Jordan Evans and Lacey Shelton

The start of softball season has arrived, and the players on the team are eager to get started. The team currently has five seniors, one manager, and four underclassmen players on the roster. Between the junior varsity and varsity teams, they have a solid core.

All coaches and players have their own qualities that they are contributing to the team and helping in their own personal ways. Coach Thayer started coaching because he liked the sport, he liked working with the girls, and he's been a coach for eight years now. Coach Thayer expects the team to be competitive and determined this year. He believes the girls will compete in conference play. The team is looking forward to playing upcoming games with Chesnee and Landrum. The new field was recently completed, as well as new dugouts, and the players want to rebuild the stadium next.



*The athlete student spotlight Brody Bright*

## ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT

### Isabelle Cole

The athlete we have chosen for this week's Athletes Spotlight is Brody Bright. Brody Bright is a utility player, which means that he is capable of playing multiple positions. He plays baseball, basketball, and football. He plays a variety of positions for JV football, but linebacker would be his primary position. As a forward in basketball, Brody has excellent shooting and dribbling skills. He plays varsity catcher for baseball. Catching is a crucial position because if the catcher loses the ball, the hitter may be able to advance a base.

Brody plays a variety of sports, but baseball is by far his favorite. He has played baseball for six years and hopes to continue playing at the University of South Carolina or Coastal Carolina. Brody enjoys reflecting on how much he wants to play in Major League Baseball when he is in his catcher position. When we questioned him about his biggest influences, he gave credit to his parents, who constantly urge him to do and give his all. Also, he admires Coach Batchler because he is confident that he will always have faith in him.



*Coach Frank Thayer with his daughter Lucy.*



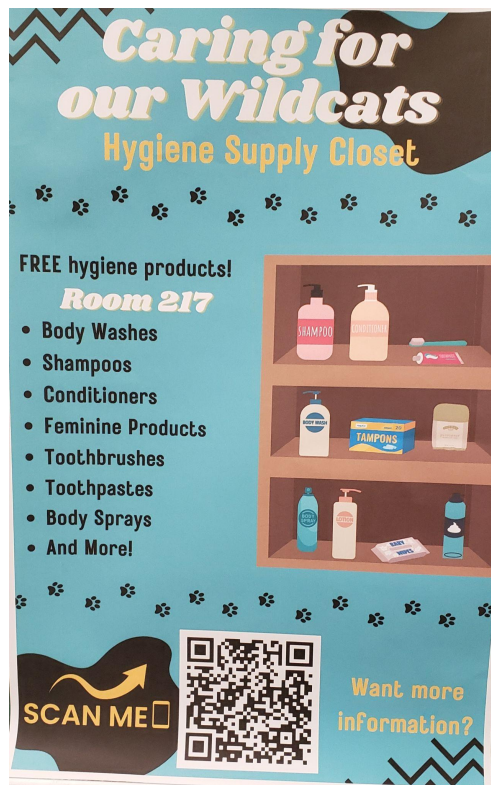
# LIFE STYLES

## HYGIENE CLOSET

Madison Buchanan

A hygiene closet is now available at Blacksburg High School, and the reason behind it will warm your heart. The hygiene closet was established by BHS alumni Heather Harris as a way to give back to the high school that helped her so much. As the topic for her college senior project, Heather created the hygiene closet. The hygiene closet is located in room 217. You need to speak with one of our librarians or someone in the office to gain access to the closet. Any hygiene items, including toothpaste, toothbrushes, body wash, shampoo, and conditioner, can be donated to the closet.

Everyone is welcome to contribute items to the hygiene closet in addition to taking items out of it. Please bring your donations to the library if you want to contribute anything to the closet. Members of the Beta Club can earn credit hours for helping keep the closet filled.



## Dr. Maynard

*Dr. Maynard O'Mazing's advice, philosophy, and words of wisdom.*

*Dear Dr. O,*

*What gives someone the most fulfilling feeling in life?*

**-Lost in life**

Dear Lost in life,

Being able to wake up every day with a roof over their head and having family and friends to trust is what keeps me feeling fulfilled. The worst feeling is being alone in life and loneliness is the most unfulfilling feeling out there.

*Dear Dr. O,*

*If you are disappointed in life what can you do to make yourself feel better?*

**-Asking for a friend**

Dear Asking,

You should find a hobby and focus more on the things that make you happy instead of the things that upset you.

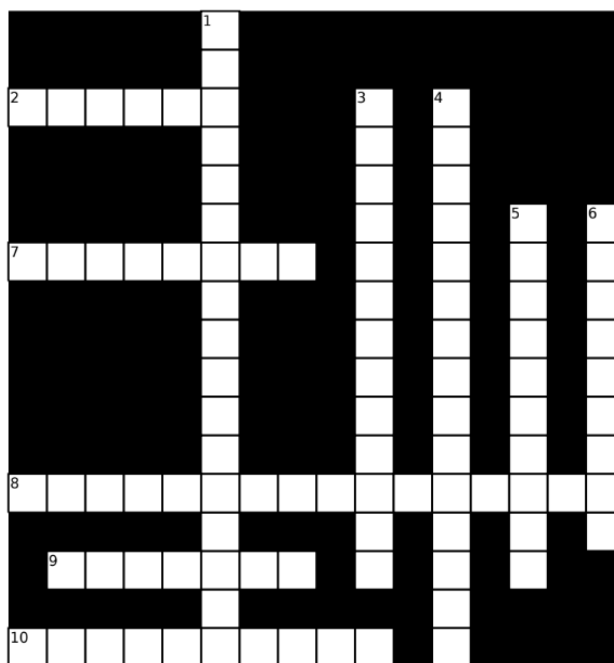
## STAYING IN SHAPE

Trevor Moore

Are you interested in finding ways to stay in shape? If you are, I have some tips for you. Staying in shape is not only important for your body's health but also for your mental health. For starters, you may start by running a mile every day and gradually increase that distance until you are running three miles every day. Go at your own pace. Some food you can eat to help you stay healthy is food that is on a ketogenic diet. The keto diet puts you in a metabolic state. This helps your brain burn ketones instead of glucose, or sugar.

Ways to avoid bad foods are to check food labels and steer clear of those that have extra sugar, too much sodium, or too much fat. Make healthy snacks and meals in advance at home using whole, fresh foods. Choose meats that are lean and have less than 10% fat. Never skip meals as this can contribute to snacking on unhealthy foods when hungry.

## HIKING



### ACROSS

2. Hiking was developed in the 18th century by this continent
7. Travel or hike carrying one's belongings in a backpack.
8. One of the most popular hikes in South Carolina.
9. Instrument containing a magnetized pointer that shows direction.
10. One of the most popular shoes to hike in today's era.

### DOWN

1. The oldest trail in America.
3. When going on more extreme hikes this item is a necessity.
4. Longest hike/trail in the world.
5. Brand that has been around for more than 50 years and is known for its warm jackets.
6. Owner of famous hiking brand Columbia.

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# Editorial & Staff

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## Respect and the Respected

What is respect? As defined by the Oxford dictionary, the noun respect means due regard for the feelings, wishes, rights, or traditions of others. In our society, we struggle with this concept. We toss the term around. Some have a common philosophy that respect has to be earned. Some believe they should be shown respect without anything being done to earn it. As a society, we struggle with respect, and we have mistaken honesty, even when it is the harsh truth, with disrespect.

In society, we continuously misconstrue opinion for fact and base perception on our opinions, not the facts presented. It has become acceptable in our society to hurt others and use the excuse of being disrespected as a rational reason to be rude or even hateful.

Instead of living by the mantra “respect must be earned,” let us strive to live a life that is guided by the maxim that respect should be given, even to those who think differently than we do. We all like our eggs in a different way, we all have different favorite colors, we all cheer for different teams, etc., but that is what makes society wonderful. Without diversity and uniqueness, life would be dull and boring. Life is not a competition. It is not a scorecard. It is a journey and every journey is much more than a sum of its parts.

As a society, we must strive to be better. We must give love and respect. We must grow. This is how we become the best we can be.

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*The Blacksonian is the student-written, edited, and published newspaper of Blacksburg High School in Blacksburg, SC. For information concerning the publication please contact Mr. Blackburn or one of the editors.*

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