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# COUGAR REVIEW

## BACK TO SCHOOL

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### THE FUTURE IS NOT CALLING

BY SAM SHERMAN



In classrooms across Indiana, students are required to keep their phones out of sight due to a recent cell phone law that bans electronic devices during instructional hours. Students are only permitted to use phones during lunch and passing periods unless instructed otherwise by teachers.

During an interview, sophomore Cole Stringer shared that the new law doesn't have much impact on him personally, as he hasn't owned a phone for a long time. Stringer, a member of the Greenfield-Central Aquatics Team since 8th grade, believes this law will benefit students. When questioned about its future impact, Stringer mentioned that while some students may continue to have their phones out, others won't.

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### NEW PRINCIPAL



New faces join Greenfield-Central High School. Two new administrators include Principal Dan Walbaum and Assistant Principal Nick Ragan.

cont. page 4

### “THINGS I WISH I KNEW”

Freshman year can be very intimidating: new school, new classes, a new rhythm. Seniors have gained knowledge from their time here at GCHS and know inside secrets that can help you! Carly Means shares some great advice for what to do during your freshman year.

cont. page 9



# HOMECOMING IS HERE!

**Homecoming is here!  
Have fun! Make new friends!**  
By Trinitee Fitz and Aziyah Cook

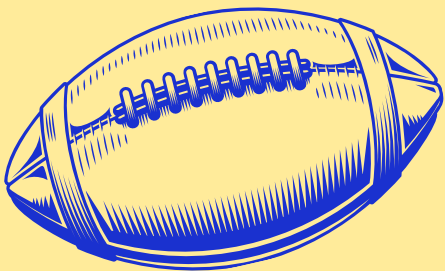
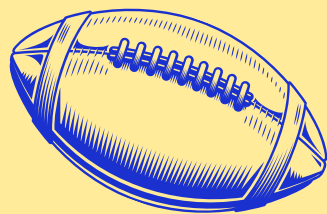
Football games are kicking off again, and Greenfield-Central’s homecoming is just around the corner. Homecoming is a fantastic way to start the year and get together with new and old friends. The halls are buzzing with excitement as the festivities begin with Spirit Week. The parade is set for Friday, September 13, at 4:30 p.m. The famous game kicks off at 7 p.m. Lastly, the dance is on Saturday, September 14, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

As homecoming approaches, electricity fills the air, memories are made, and traditions continue. In an interview with Jaylinn Neal, she described last year’s “fun and crowded” homecoming and said she is looking forward to attending this year’s homecoming with Trintee Fitz. She will wear the same stunning light blue dress she wore last year and said her favorite part of the event was “the music.”



Cougars huddle up before a scrimmage.

Come out and show your Cougar spirit and join in the fun and festivities! Let’s all come together and make this homecoming a memorable one.





# MEET THE NEW DRAMA DIRECTOR!

## New school year brings new faces, and not just the incoming wave of freshmen.

By Oliver Hewson



One of the many new arrivals to Greenfield-Central High School is the performing arts director, Jeffery Dalstrom. Dalstrom has been teaching for 14 years. He taught several years at Warren, but this is his first year at Greenfield-Central. All of his years of experience make him the perfect fit for the drama department.

When asked why Dalstrom came to Greenfield-Central, he said that he was yearning to get back into teaching after leaving Warren Central during the Covid outbreak. He did pursue a professional theatre career working with Indy Fringe as a technician for a few years; however, as soon as the theatre directing job opened up, he knew immediately that he was a perfect fit.

As of August, the performing arts center is planned to open in early October. When asked about the center, Dalstrom said that the plan for the center's first-ever production would be the performing arts holiday show.



Photo submitted by Jeffery Dalstrom to the Daily Reporter

From directing the performances to teaching about the arts, he will make a great impact on the students. GCHS is very excited to have Dalstrom here this year.



New auditorium in production set to open October 7.  
Photo credit The Daily Reporter



# WHO ARE WALBAUM AND RAGAN?

cont. from I

BY JULIANN JONES

## Dan Walbaum and Nick Ragan join Cougar Country

2024 brings a new school year and new faces. “Greenfield will hopefully look very similar in the upcoming years,” Walbaum said, “The new phone law is obviously a challenge, but we’re trying to lead by example.” He said that it’s going to be a struggle at first but in the end it will be for the best. He’s noticed lots more communication between the students face to face, not screen to screen, and hopes more relationships develop!



Principal Dan Walbaum

### DAN WALBAUM

“This is a school that has a little bit of everything,” Walbaum said when asked why he chose Greenfield-Central, expressing his excitement about the variety of activities, clubs, and sports. “I moved here because of my job, but obviously the community.” Walbaum shares how not all schools are like Greenfield-Central; small-town pride goes a long way in support. “Even the parents and people downtown will tell you how proud they are to be a Cougar.” Walbaum speaks on how the culture of GC is very unique. Everyone is well known, kids are mutual with each other, and the student body loves their school! “The students excel here, everyone’s proud of who they are.”

### NICK RAGAN



Assistant Principal Nick Ragan

Nick Ragan was selected as a new assistant principal for the school. “My goal is that everyone graduates,” Ragan laughs as he explains his job, “I want everyone to be successful.” Ragan expresses what he’s most excited for about the year: the students. “I was an English teacher for 19 years.” Ragan said, “I’ve been in the classrooms, the job is always about the students.” He’s not just a disciplinary, he’s a resource to go to!



# CLUBS

## FIND YOUR CALLING

By Kaitlyn Jolicoeur

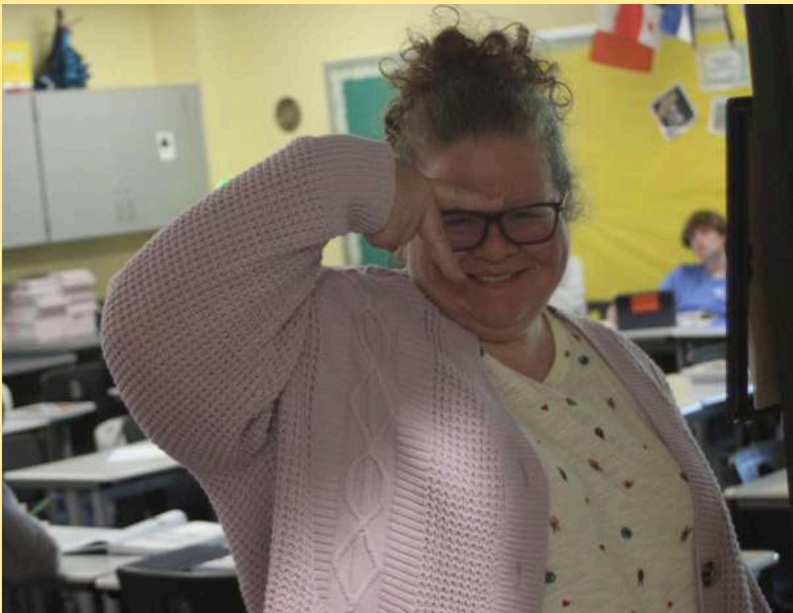
Clubs, the infamous part of school, are everywhere! Greenfield-Central has a variety of clubs and more coming. Some clubs are; Bowling, Quiz Bowl, Spell Bowl, Language Honor Societies, Art Club, Robotics, etc. If none of these clubs are for you, all you have to do is find a sponsor and a few members, bring it to Mr. Wherry and get it approved! A sponsor is a willing teacher that will supervise and plan club activities. We have 25 clubs and counting, are you starting another?

If you're looking for people who have the same interest as you then join one you would like! Connections are made, and you'll have an enjoyable time. GCHS takes pride in their clubs. It's an easy way to make friends and possibly life-long buddies.

Clubs require a criteria to be met, either its grades or service hours. No worries though, there's opportunities you can do to get more service hours. A lot of clubs will help you grow and learn, For instance, the SLA club is where you learn how to be a leader. But they're are also clubs that can broaden your expertise on a topic, like the language clubs. If academics aren't really your thing then join a sport curricular!



FCCLA Team



Ms. Amador, Spanish Club sponsor

Participating in clubs is a great way to enjoy your high school years, and most if not all teachers, recommend them. They help you establish relationships and help you gain knowledge. It's a great way to get involved and a promising opportunity!





# VOLLEYBALL

## BUMPING UP THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

By Kaitlyn Jolicoeur

GCHS volleyball began its season! In an interview with senior Madison Sonsini, we got a more in-depth look at the sport. The JV captains are Kolbie Wensell and Samantha Campbell, and the varsity captains are Makenna Rankins and Harper Holden. Focusing mainly on the varsity team, it is a very senior-based team at the moment. “Everyone’s adapting to new roles. We are a senior heavy team this year, but we all have varsity experience. It’s just fitting all the pieces together to see which will work the best.” Sonsini says.



Varsity Volleyball Team



Discipline and respect is a key role in sports. As a long term volleyball player, Sonsini says she definitely benefitted from the sport. “You have to be trustworthy. You have to be able to trust your teammates,” Sonsini states as some qualities you have to have, “loyalty to your teammates. What are you gonna do for them? You have to hold yourself accountable.” Even when the coach isn’t around you have to still do your best. The season is up in the air, but determination has gone a long way. Sonsini wants herself as well as her team to improve so they end this season on a good note.



Junior Varsity Volleyball Team

And as always the volleyball team is always looking for new members. It’s a sport that’s enjoyable and beneficial! Bonds and important memories can be made. “I think volleyball is a sport worth trying.” Sonsini points. We hope to see you on the team!



# FOOTBALL

## MAKING SCHOOL HISTORY

BY JULIANN JONES

The Cougars have a chance to do something huge this year. For the first time since the 70s, the high school football team has the opportunity to achieve four consecutive winning seasons.



Senior James Leary running the ball



Captains walking out for the coin toss, Greenfield vs. Beach Groove



Senior Payton Fowly running the ball

Travis Nolting, head football coach, praises his team and what the future holds for them. “It’s really up to the players,” said Nolting when asked on how he thinks this year will go. Nolting praises both the offense and defense. Excited for this season, he brought up the goals of every year: conference, sectional, and beating rivals. When asked about New Palestine and Mount Vernon, Nolting’s comment was simply, “We want to compete, our conference is tough, there are no easy weeks.” He mentioned how the team is young but skilled. This is a year where no seniors are starting on the offensive line. With a great record and leadership, they hope for a winning streak to continue. The Cougars duality shows with diverse skills and creative players. It seems as though college coaches are knocking on Nolting’s door with multiple offers spreading through the team, the year is still early.

### OFFENSE

Dallas Freeman, senior (quarterback), Cooper Hinton, junior (running-back) Braylen Benavente, junior (full-back), and Payton Foley, senior (running-back) are all mentioned by Nolting as a part of the strongest offensive lines he’s had, “They’re playmakers, in the backfield.” On the perimeter, he mentions senior Boston Willard (receiver), senior James Learey (wide receiver), and junior Landon Ford (receiver). He mentions the youth of the team, how, “... we don’t have a single senior starting.” But he’s not worried. Multiple starting sophomores and even some freshman fighting for playing time on Friday nights.



### DEFENSE

Payton Foley— an all conference player, Cooper Hinton (linebacker), and senior Eddie Mullins (middle linebacker) are notorious mentions. On the defensive line, Tristen Lanum and James Owen as nose tackles, Zach Blevens, Jake VanOsdol, and Frank Titus coming in as defensive ends. “We’ve got some depth,” Nolting said, “if someone gets banged up pretty well, we’ll still be in a good spot.”



# SOCCER

By Molly Cofer

The soccer season has kicked off at GCHS, with five games already played. With new teammates and a fresh start for the season, the Lady Cougars are ready to take on whatever is thrown their way. Head coach Brandon Steeno says, “This year our motto is “Just Do It,” like when you’re tired and need to make a ten-yard run, just do it, push through it.” The determination is high this year as the games continue, and everyone is working hard to make it a great one.

With the start of the season, the team has their annual hill run, and later, during sectionals, the team will also have a lip-synch battle to give an extra bit of fun and good luck.

This year, the team sees some new faces as well as some returning players who are a great help on the field. “Paige McCarely is a junior ... she’s our leading offensive weapon,” says Steeno. Everyone should also keep a lookout for defensive players Chaney Brown, Tessa Joyner, and Claire Davidson. As for the incoming freshman, Aubrey Bush and Ainsley Robinson are the girls to look for.

All of GCHS is wishing the Cougars a good season this year and hope that they can meet their goal of winning conference and sectional championships.



GCHS Girls soccer team



# PHONE LAW

cont. from pg. 1

Cole Stringer was questioned about the new law’s impact and expressed, “Personally, I haven’t noticed significant changes.” Stringer mentioned that the law benefits teachers and speculated that it might also engage students by capturing their attention. When asked if he fully supported the law, Stringer admitted, “I still have mixed feelings about it. It’s not as negative as it initially seemed.” He added, “I comprehend its purpose.

The law was enacted to boost student engagement and cut down on distractions. As the school year progresses, educators and students alike will continue to adapt to the new regulations. While the full impact of the law is yet to be seen, opinions are varied on its effectiveness and purpose. Either way, the new cell phone law is here to stay.



# SCHOOL SPIRIT



Photo credits: Juliann Jones

## All the Rage

GC Rage has become an important part of the game night atmosphere. Organizing the themes and specialty events, Nolting expressed his gratitude to everyone who shows up. "It's really awesome to look up in the student section on a Friday night and see it packed all the way to the top." The themes, the spirit, and the pride elevate the atmosphere and get everyone pumped up. Cheering down under the night lights is an honor. Show up, show out, Go Cougs!

## SENIOR ADIVCE

By Ellie Ketchen

cont. from pg. 1

Q: What were your favorite parts of freshman year?

A: The best parts of freshman year was going to all of the sporting events with friends and being a part of the soccer and track team. Playing soccer with my sister is one of the best memories I have, and I loved making new friends.

Q: Are there any classes you would recommend for freshmen to take in the future?

A: I recommend taking culinary classes. They are a lot of fun and interesting, because you get to try different types of food. Another class I recommend is peer tutoring; I loved working with other students and helping them.

Q: How would you recommend studying for tests?

A: Something that helps me study is taking detailed notes and rewriting them at home. Using Quizlet and flashcards has helped me tremendously. I also recommend studying with friends because getting a second opinion is always helpful.

Q: What would you recommend freshmen to do to help prepare them for the future?

A: I would say stay on task and turn your assignments and homework in on time, because once you get behind it is really challenging to get caught back up.

Q: Is there anything else you would like to add?

A: Some extra advice is to make friends and make the most out of your high school experience. Do all the activities the school has to offer and put yourself out there and join some clubs.



Carly Means,  
senior soccer player



# HIGHLIGHTS

## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

By Kamarina Davis and Tairra Hougland

*Dayne Hancock*

Who inspired you? “My mom inspired me in high school.”  
What do you like to do? “I like to skate and work on cars.”  
Favorite subject in school? “Automotive.”  
Freshman Advice: “Don’t mess with the wrong people.”

*Devynkae Melsheimer*

How do you stay motivated? “My motivation in high school is helping people.”  
Your interests outside GC? “I like to play guitar and draw. I also like hanging out with my friends.”  
Freshman Advice: “Stay out of drama and you’ll be fine.”



## SOPHOMORES

*Carson Crosby*

“I’m inspired by myself.”  
How do you stay motivated in high school? “I stay motivated in high school by working at my job.”  
Tell us about yourself and what you like to do outside of school. “I like to play basketball and hangout with my friend Caleb and my little brother”  
What’s something you would say to a freshman? “Stay true to yourself.”



Photo by John Kennedy

*Diamond Davis*

Who in high school inspired you the most? “My sisters inspired me in high school.”  
Tell us about yourself and what you do outside of school. “I’m introverted and i like to draw.”  
“How do you stay motivated in school? “ i stay motivated by listening to music.”  
What’s something you would say to a freshman, for advice in highschool? “Stick to yourself”



Photo by John Kennedy

*Dreelyn Spencer*

Who inspired you in high school? “Mr Robertson inspired me the most by being relatable.”  
Tell us about yourself and your interests outside of high school. “I like driving and hanging out with my friends.”  
What’s something you would say to a freshman? “Don’t pick the wrong people to hang out with.”





# Riley Festival

**OCTOBER 3-6, 2024**

**Enter a Contest!**

**Show Your Talent!**

**Win Cash Prizes!**

The Riley Festival in downtown Greenfield, Indiana is the state's largest four-day festival. In addition to entertainment, food vendors, and booths, the festival has many contests.

Cash prizes are awarded for several of the contests. Some entry deadlines are in September prior to the start of the festival.

See the lists of contests on the left and if you are interested in entering, go to [RileyFestival.com](http://RileyFestival.com), click on *Forms and Applications* for contest rules and info on how to enter!

**RileyFestival.com**

## ***FESTIVAL CONTESTS:***

**Bak ing**

**Educational Arts  
Grants**

**Fine Arts (Painting  
& Drawing)**

**Home Arts/Quilts**

**Parade Float**

**Photography**

**Poetry**

**Pumpkin  
Decorating**

## ***FESTIVAL PAGEANTS:***

**Queen Contest**

**Little Miss & Mister**

# FINE ARTS SHOW



Riley  
Festival

Attention Artists: The Riley Festival Fine Arts Show will be held October 3-6, 2024 in Greenfield, Indiana. Art from professionals, adults, intermediates, and children may be submitted in the following categories: Watercolor/Gouache, Pastel/Charcoal, Ink/Pencil and Graphic/Prints. Cash prizes and ribbons will be awarded. To be eligible for a “theme” award, submit art related to the poem “A Barefoot Boy.”

For more information including contest guidelines and entry form, visit [RileyFestival.com](http://RileyFestival.com) and click on “Forms & Applications” and then on “Fine Arts.”

**OCTOBER 3-6  
2024**

**ENTRIES DUE OCT. 2ND**

VISIT [RILEYFESTIVAL.COM](http://RILEYFESTIVAL.COM) FOR  
MORE INFO



Riley  
Festival

# Poetry Contest

The Riley Festival is October 3-6, 2024 in downtown Greenfield.

The festival is now accepting entries of original poems submitted by youth (under 18) or adults (18 and older) in both the Open and Theme categories. Poems are to be submitted by email by Monday, September 30th. Cash prizes are awarded in each division/category and an overall winner will be chosen for the Festival's *Book of Poets*. This year's festival theme is: *A Barefoot Boy*.

For more information on the JW Riley Poetry Contest or the 4th Grade Poetry Contest, visit [www.RileyFestival.com](http://www.RileyFestival.com) and click on Forms and Applications.