

# #BLUDEDEVILNATION



SHARPSVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL

*HOME  
OF THE  
BLUE  
DEVILS*

#BlueDevilNation  
#BlueDevilPride

## A Word from the Principal

The change continues...

You may have seen the article in the Sharon Herald regarding the signing of Senate Bill 880 by Governor Wolf. I want to take a moment to explain what this move means for our students in Sharpsville.

Senate Bill 880 does not eliminate the Keystone exam. In fact, the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act as ESSA (ending the reign on No Child Left Behind) still requires states to assess all students each year in grades 3-8 and once in high school. So, while the Department of Education has released more control back to states and local districts, we will not see the end of mass standardized testing.

Districts across the country and in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are essentially playing a game of 'wait and see' in regard to how all of these changes will play out in the next few years, but here is what it means for students in Pennsylvania for now:

The move by the governor to sign this bill does not take away the Keystone. It only removes passing the Keystone as a state required graduation requirement for the Class of 2017 and Class of 2018.

Students still have to take the test if they are completing the course or if they have failed the exam. Students in the Class of 2017/2018 who do not pass the Keystone will still be required to do the local project to graduate. So, it benefits them to continue their effort to pass the exam.

While the state has removed the graduation requirement of passing the Keystone, it is likely many school districts will still keep it; schools, to some degree, will still be evaluated based on student performance.

Our current freshman class, the Class of 2019, and all classes after are still (at this point) required to pass the Keystone Exam to graduate. This can change within the next two years as legislators working with the Pennsylvania Department of Education decide how to best proceed with ESSA's mandate to still assess students. For now, we will be operating with the understanding these students still fall under the state mandate.

The Herald inaccurately reported in Thursday's edition (on page A2) that, "Students who fail twice in a given test area must instead complete a project..." A more accurate statement would be that a student MUST FAIL the test twice BEFORE ENTERING the project phase. Special education students must only fail once. Both groups of students

are actually permitted to take the test 5-6 times before their senior year before having no other option but to enter the project. In fact, a student may fail an exam twice, be permitted to start the project, and still continue to make attempts to pass the test. If that student were to pass the exam while completing the project, he or she could stop the work on the project immediately.

I will be meeting with students in the following classes within the next two weeks: 2017, 2018, and 2019. During these meetings I will be explaining what they are responsible for under this move. I will also be drafting a letter to all parents and putting a notice on the website once I learn more about what our board of education plans to do.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Timothy J. Dadich".

Timothy J. Dadich  
Principal

SHARPSVILLE  
*Blue Devils*  
 SPIRIT WEAR

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 SPIRIT**

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 NATION**

Just a sample of our new products available right now!



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Blue Devil Nation  
Blanket



BLUE DEVIL NATION

Blue Devil Nation Digi  
Camo Performance



BLUE DEVIL NATION

Blue Devil Nation Royal  
LST



BLUE DEVIL NATION

Blue Devil Nation Yoga  
Pants



BLUE DEVIL NATION

Blue Devil Nation Flag



BLUE DEVIL NATION

Blue Devil Nation Grey

## SPECIAL PROMOTION

The LEAD Team (Student Leadership Group) is holding a special 'Blue Devil Nation' sale on the district's new spirit wear website.

A full 20% of all items purchased during the month of February will go to support the LEAD Team's Leadership Trip to New York City as well as their many projects supporting the school and community including the school food pantry, the Freshman Forum to connect freshman to professionals in the community, and the Blue Devil Nation Walk for Autism in April.

There are new items to purchase including: Yoga Pants, Hats, Blankets, Flags, Jackets, and so much more.

Please support the LEAD Team and Blue Devil Nation by purchasing items during the month of February. Purchases can be delivered to your home or to the high school for pick-up.

**THANK YOU FOR  
 YOUR SUPPORT!**



# From the Classroom

## SCIENCE

### *Mr. Ference*

**Honors Physics:** Students studied uniform circular motion by twirling rubber stoppers and calculating their speed. They studied the effects of varying the mass, centripetal force and radius on the speed of the object. After analyzing the results, they applied this model to explain how certain conditions (icy roads, sharper curves) effects how they drive around a curve.

**Pitt Physics:** The students studied conservation of momentum. They used a ballistic pendulum and the concepts of momentum conservation and energy conservation to determine the launch speed of a ball from a spring-powered launcher. In the photo, they are using projectile motion to verify the launch speed.

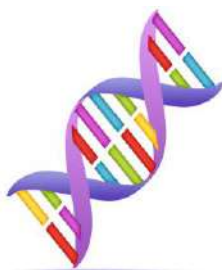




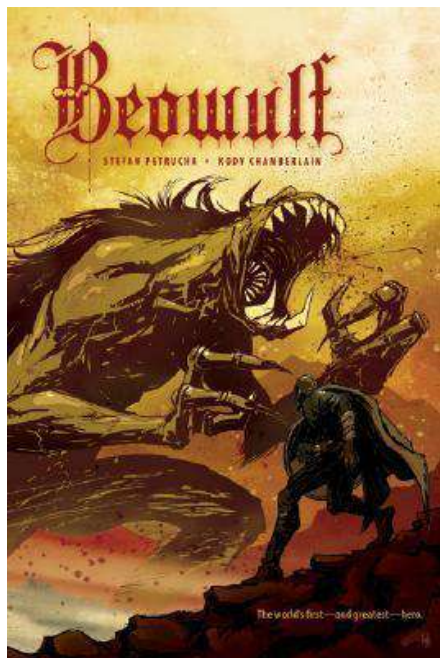
*Ms. Saeler*

**Biology:** The academic biology classes just completed their Benchmark exams (midterms). The Benchmark was comprised of released Keystone Biology exam questions, so the students were able to get practice taking the test and were also able to get a general idea of their preparedness for the test. The students will take a second Benchmark exam prior to the Keystone exam in April. The newest topic is DNA. Students are learning about the structure and function of DNA as a continuation of the

reproduction unit they just completed. Students model DNA and its processes using K'NEX modeling sets. Upon completion of this chapter the students will continue with the concepts of DNA as it applies to genetics.







## LITERATURE

*Ms. Weingartner*

Lit/Comp IV classes are completing Beowulf and will be presenting creative projects from a wide range of options from 2/10-11 and 2/16-17. The project is worth 100 points with the potential for 10 bonus points for creativity or excellence of presentation.

AP Composition is in the middle of a unit on Women in Time--reading about the historical beginnings of the women's rights movement up to modern-day discussions of women's "proper" role in society.

AP Literature is finishing the Modern Drama unit with August Wilson's Fences. Wilson was born in the Hill District of Pittsburgh and set many of his plays in the area. He is widely recognized as one of the best American playwrights, having been awarded two Pulitzer Prizes for writing--one of which was for Fences. The greatest challenge is in adapting to Wilson's dialogue, which represents colloquial African-American speech

*Mrs. Oliver*

Mrs. Oliver and her Honors Literature and Composition II class are currently participating in the Young Playwrights program. On February 11<sup>th</sup> the students will be visiting the City Theater for the performance of the show, SOME BRIGHTER DISTANCE by Keith Reddin.

Some Brighter Distance tells the story of Arthur Rudolph, a German aerospace engineer who participated in Operation Paperclip, a post-WWII program in which scientists, technicians and researchers from former Nazi Germany were brought to the United States. Playwright Keith Reddin says Cold War-era American officials hoped these individuals would help the country achieve an edge over the Soviet Union in the Space Race.

The students will eventually begin working on their very own scripts. Scripts will be evaluated by the City Theater and one will be selected to produced by the company and presented by their actors in the fall of 2016.

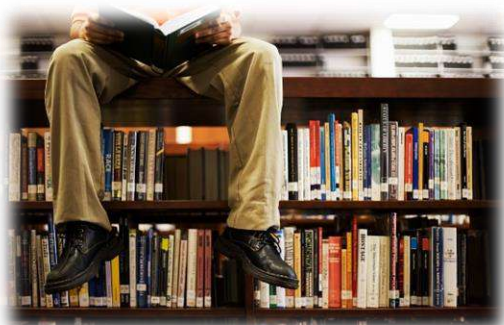


## LITERATURE CONTINUED...

### Ms. Gross

Ms. Gross has been working with the Community Library of the Shenango Valley in its effort to kick off their new teen programming. Representatives have been in the building to speak with students about the programming for students. The program includes an interactive book club through which the library plans to engage teens willing to have meaningful, relatable discussions about preselected books and participate in related art projects and humanities-based activities, according to Corri Hines, library community facilitator.

The library, at 11 N. Sharpsville Ave., Sharon, is officially unveiling its Teen Reading Lounge, an adaptable program by the Pennsylvania Humanities Council, for registered visitors ages 13 to 18.



## FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES and TEENS THAT CARE

### Mrs. Moffatt

Teens That Care club... Once a month members have been volunteering at the Salvation Army in Sharon, PA for their food donation drive. In December we also assisted the Salvation Army with the toy drive. We were fortunate enough to enjoy fellowship with several veterans at the VA Hospital before Christmas. It was truly rewarding and the club is hoping to return to the VA this spring. Each year our TTC club graces our lawn with a flag display to honor our veterans on Veteran's Day. Last fall our display grew to over 700 flags and was a beautiful sight. Members of the community sponsor the flags and our TTC members personalize their nametags, which are in honor or memory of specific veterans, or all veterans and active duty personal.



### Financial Literacy

The importance of understanding financial advice.

Financial literacy students have finished a unit on debt, which covered credit myths, credit cards, car loans, mortgages, and credit scores, as well as credit bureaus and identity theft. FCS students sewed some rice-filled trivets for their families and are planning their pants/shorts projects. Last month's favorite food was their wedding soup, which went fast.

Our Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America Club (FCCLA) will travel to Gettysburg on March 16 and finish out the week competing at the State Leadership Conference. Some areas that students are competing in are culinary knife skills, sports nutrition, job interviewing, life event planning, and career exploration. Their most recent fundraisers have been through Daffin's Candy and Augustine's Pizza.





## SPANISH and SOPHOMORE CLASS FUNDRAISERS

### *Ms. Stoner*

The Spanish four class recently completed presentations in Spanish on various Spanish-speaking artists, including artists such as Salvador Dalí, Diego Rivera, and Frida Kahlo. Using the chromebooks, they researched and presented about the artists' lives, style, and specific works of art.

### *Mrs. Toth*

Sophomore Class will be selling The Original Scented Pencils at the Elementary School every Friday in March. They will also be selling a discount card. This should be in March also. We are waiting on local business confirmation and the cards. So far, we have seen a good local support for good discounts.

## BUSINESS AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY

### *Robotics - Mr. Miller*

The Robotics Class recently had to develop official engineering plans for the base of the Battle Bot robots for the upcoming competitions. Plans had to utilize the CNC Plasma Cutter to cut aluminum sheet metal to accommodate the basic drive train, include a simplified AUTOCAD drawing for the waterjet connection, and brainstorm drive train mounting options. See the student designs below; one is drawn the other is AUTOCAD.

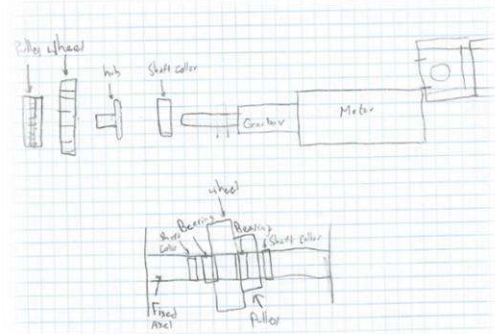
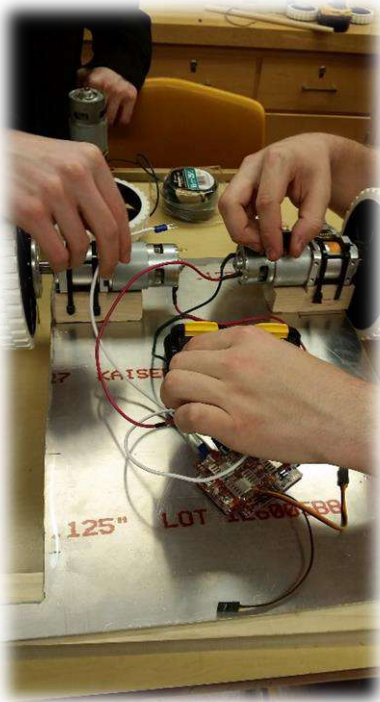
### *Entrepreneurship - Mr. Nimmo and Mr. Miller*

Currently in Entrepreneurship the students are working collaboratively on their final project. The first products received a lot of guidance from Mr. Miller and Mr. Nimmo on how to get things moving and how to maintain that momentum. For the class's culminating project, the students will work more independently. Students will, like in the real business world, have to struggle through the process and apply what they know. It has been educational, for the students and for the teachers, to see how students respond to problems that occur; some struggle and some strive with the independence and responsibility they now have. They now have a few shows outside of the school scheduled this spring, so it will be an adventure to see how the students break up the work and keep each other accountable as they work to have their individual responsibilities met.

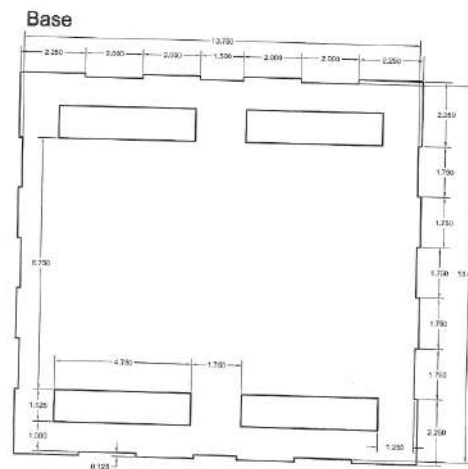
Also, the students are utilizing the PACE curriculum designed by Ohio State University to prepare high school students for the future of entrepreneurship. Currently the class is talking about managing human resources, which ties in nicely to the situation and timing they are now experience with the cutting board project. They have covered developing business plans, keeping the business functioning, financing the business, and how they must all work parallel together.

## SEE SOME PICTURES OF THE CLASSES ON THE NEXT PAGE!





**BLUE DEVIL  
NATION** 





## THE ARTS

### *Independent Achievements and News*

Drew Ference had the opportunity to play with the Robert Morris University show band during one of their basketball games. His brother, Sam, is a member of the show band

### *Mr. Haddox and District Chorus*

Drew Ference placed 9th at District Chorus and Caely Smith placed 10th. Only the top 7 in each group advances to Region Chorus, but as sophomores that bodes well for next year! Great job!



## THESPIAN CLUB

The Sharpsville High School Thespian, under the direction of Eileen Ference, has been hard at work these past few months putting together an amazing show, *The Wedding Singer*!

*The Wedding Singer* is a musical with music by Matthew Sklar, lyrics by Chad Beguelin, and a book by Beguelin and Tim Herlihy. Robbie Hart, a Wedding singer, lives with his Grandma Rosie in Ridgefield, New Jersey. He and his band play a great wedding gig. During his usual "warm-up-the-crowd routine," Robbie proudly announces that he will be married to his beloved fiancée Linda the next day. At the wedding gig, Robbie meets a waitress named Julia Sullivan, who can't wait to get married. Afterward, Robbie tries to write a sweet love song to Linda, with help from Julia, whom he had just met during the previous wedding. The following day, however, Linda dumps Robbie at the altar, with only a note claiming that she wants to be the wife of a rock star and not just a wedding singer. Heartbroken, he is forced to reexamine the meaning of love and marriage with the help of Julia, a waitress from one of his wedding-singing venues.

You have seen the movie, but now it is time to come see the show performed by the students you know and love!

## Sharpsville High School Thespian Club presents

### SPONSORED BY

Sharpsville VFW  
Post 6404  
Thomas Family  
Dentistry

Book by  
**Chad Beguelin**  
Tim Herlihy  
Music by  
**Matthew Sklar**  
Lyrics by  
**Chad Beguelin**

Based upon the  
New Line Cinema film  
Written by  
**Tim Herlihy**



Directed by Eileen Ference

Vocal Director: Maureen Murray-Jaklic Pit Conductor: Jacob Moon

**Sharpsville High School Auditorium**

Tickets: Adults \$8 / Students & Seniors \$5

Friday, March 4, 2016 - Curtain at 7:00 pm

Saturday, March 5, 2016 - Curtain at 7:00 pm

Sunday, March 6, 2016 - Curtain at 2:00 pm

< House opens 30 minutes prior to curtain. >

THE WEDDING SINGER is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI).  
All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. [www.MTIShows.com](http://www.MTIShows.com)

## MERCER COUNTY CAREER CENTER



**Brennan Manning**  
Auto Mechanics



**James Critzer**  
Diesel Mechanics

## SHARPSVILLE AREA HIGH SCHOOL



**Pictured Back Row:** Camryn Resele, Chris Walsh, Briana Wilson, Madison Sloan, Justin Smeraglia, Kyle Antus, and Kendra Womer

**Pictured Front Row:** Alexis Garcia, Mackenzie Springer, and Jacinda Caldwell

**Not Pictured:** Donnie Brenneman and Logan Thompson





Our Life Skills students are participating in the Unified Sports program. They have been practicing for several weeks. Team members are: **Joyann Lacey, Ashton Scarvel, Jimmy Hogue, Autumn Delmonaco, and Daniel Lacey.**

Special thanks to the following high school students for attending practice and assisting with our team: **Kyle Antus, Mackenzie Springer, Kendra Womer, Alexis Garcia, Camryn Resele, Justin Smeraglia, and Chris Walsh**

Special thanks also goes out to **Dejah Springer, Debbie Stinedurf, and Tracey Griffin** and lastly to **Slippery Rock University.**

We will host a home match on February 25 Home against Hickory 4:00 in the HS Gym. Admission is free and we encourage all fans to wear white. Please come out to support our very special students!

## ATHLETIC UPDATES

### HERE IS WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF SPORTS!

- The winter season is wrapping up. Records do not always indicate success and that certainly is the case for our boys' basketball team. Our boys have come together under a new coach and entirely new system. Their play has improved throughout the season and things are certainly looking up. They will have their final home game this Tuesday against West Middlesex. The game will highlight our seniors as they take the court at home for the final time as Blue Devils. Seniors will be honored during a presentation between the JV and Varsity games (approximately 7:00PM). The game is a 'White Out' and students wearing white will receive free admission (students K-12). Please come out to support our boys and provide the seniors the send-off they deserve!
- Our girls' basketball team has officially qualified for the playoffs and will have two more games this week to prepare for the big show. They had their senior night on Thursday, February 4, 2016 and celebrated with a dramatic win over Wilmington. Playoffs begin the week of February 15<sup>th</sup>. More information will be shared once we know the playoff schedule.
- Wrestling celebrated their seniors a few weeks ago with a victory over West Middlesex. Chris Mueller joined an exclusive club by notching his 100<sup>th</sup> win against Conneaut this past week. Maison Millero and Brock Salvatore took first place in the Juanita Valley Tournament on Saturday, February 6, 2016. Wrestling sections begin February 19-20 at Sharon High School.

