



## Reflecting on the Past and Looking to the Future

An Interview With Mr.  
Dwyer on This School  
Year and What's to  
Come

By Marisah George

Just like that, the 2024-25 school year has come to an end. With classes nearly wrapped up and summer only a second away, it's amazing how fast time flies. Reflecting on the past year, it's clear our school has seen some major changes. In an interview with Mr. Dwyer, he shared his thoughts on this year and what's ahead.

When asked about the biggest change this year, Mr. Dwyer pointed to the cell phone policy. The change was first announced on Aug. 20,

when a superintendent update banned the use of personal devices in classrooms.

Mr. Dwyer believes the policy has been most effective in eliminating FOMO: "If your friends are... texting and you're sitting in class, it's really hard to ignore all of that... [Now] nobody's allowed to be on their phones, it allows students to be a little bit more focused on what's happening in class."

He also discussed the future of phone pouches, noting that while Yondr pouches are used across the country, he wants to "try some other things before we move to [them]." Taking the policy a step further, Mr. Dwyer mentioned the "bell-to-bell ban" being considered throughout the state, which would prohibit phone use for the entire

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## Art Show at The Lofts

By: Zenia Haris



Artwork by Beacon High School students has been selected and featured in the gallery at The Lofts since May 10. Once brick textile mills, The Lofts have been carefully renovated to blend

modern touches with preserved history. They host art shows to connect with the local community and provide a welcoming space for artists. Congratulations to all whose work was featured!

## The Secret to Success

What If You Could Follow a Clear-Cut Path To Success?

By Annabelle Notarthomas

Nowadays, high school students are exposed to an overwhelming number of opportunities and activities to boost their transcripts and find a future career path. We look up to movie characters, rock stars, and world-renowned scientists, trying to

learn how to make something of ourselves. Maybe you don't have to guess what path leads to success; maybe you can follow the footsteps of a salutatorian.

Luckily for you, the salutatorian of this year's graduating class, Addison Miller, let us know how she earned her place and how you can too. She attributes her success to three main strategies: persistence, balance, and involvement.

Starting with per-

sistence, this retains the most obvious strategy to maintaining a good stance in school: hard work. But Miller reveals that it's not just about working hard, it's about consistency throughout all 4 years of high school. There is a common misconception that the only years that matter are junior and senior, but freshman and sophomore years weigh equally on your overall GPA. "I don't believe that I could have become salutatorian without the dedication and work ethic I have had since the beginning," Miller observed.

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(Pictured above is Salutatorian, Addison Miller on right and Valedictorian, Anabelle Arginsky on left)

# Guys and Dolls Review

By Piper Bruno

From April 25 to 27, the Beacon Players performed their Spring production of *Guys and Dolls*. The show was funny, upbeat and thoroughly entertaining. The vocals were incredible, as always, but what stood out most was the choreography. Their renditions of "Havana," "Crapshooters'

Dance" and "Sit Down, You're Rockin' the Boat" were especially impressive—true highlights of the production. The orchestra delivered a stellar performance as well.

Overall, it was a phenomenal production. Congratulations to everyone involved for putting on yet another amazing show!



## Dr. BHS

Dear Dr.BHS,

I'm really excited about going to college. I've been waiting since middle school to get out of here, yet at the same time I'm going to miss this place. Beacon basically raised me and I'm scared to let go of that. Any advice for homesickness?

-Byebirdie25

Dear Byebirdie25,

Congratulations on getting into a school! I completely understand what it's like to leave a familiar place and settle somewhere completely different. It's definitely a bittersweet feeling but you worked hard for this! Remember graduating is just a closing of one chapter and the start of another. Beacon isn't going anywhere, you can always come home but look forward not back. Good luck with everything!

-Dr.BHS

## Club Highlight: Adventure Club

Advisors Mr.

Rickard and Ms. Hoban aim to provide various outdoor experiences and adventurous challenges!

"If you're not living on the edge, you're just taking up space."

-Mr. Rickard



## Clock in Clock Out

Teachers' Vacation Plans vs Students' Work Plans for Summer

By Nadeen Ahmed

### Clocking Out

Gina Fontenot - Cruise to Bermuda in July; visiting grandchildren in Florida and in Louisiana. I am NOT prepping for September because I'm retiring!!

Kelly Hamburger - Trip to Italy and Greece in June/July, family trip to Myrtle Beach in late July and trip to Ireland in August with friends. I will also be subbing for summer school and spending time with the kiddos. A bit of work,

but mostly pleasure!

Michele Santiago - Hanging by the pool, working in the office, and heading to Myrtle Beach, SC, for some fun in the sun!

Joanna Driscoll - First: a concert to see three of my favorite bands in Connecticut; next, my husband and I are taking our teardrop camper to Newfoundland for an extended camping and hiking trip. After that, a family trip to Cape May, NJ. Exciting summer, but honestly, I'm looking forward to the weeks when we're not traveling; there's no place like home!

Karen Hoben - As much kayaking, hiking, and time spent with loved ones as possible!

Christina Alvarez-Moore - Heading to Stowe, Vermont and going to visit the Ben and Jerry's Factory! What's your favorite Ben and Jerry's Flavor? Mine is Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough.

### Clocking In

Marisah George - A lot of babysitting!

Gabrielle Khalil - Interning at the DA's office.

Samiha Golden - Internship with For The Many (non profit).

Kiera D'Ippolito - Hopes to get a job at Crumbl this summer.

Kayla Selander - Will be working as a receptionist at a chiropractor clinic where she's been working for many years.

Julia McGuire-Soellner - Is babysitting and going to be a lifeguard this summer!



# Your School Year

By Madison Abrahamson

There's no denying that the end of this school year couldn't come soon enough. Between finals, AP exams and other academic stress, many of us feel worn out and are ready to experience the joys of summer. However, before we completely toss out every piece of information or skill we've acquired this year, it is vital to reflect on the academic growth or setbacks we've experienced.

At the moment, you may not care to think about your academic progress over the past year, but self-reflection can be beneficial. It can help you better understand your learning process, identify strengths and weaknesses and become a stronger student next year. To truly reflect on your academic character, honesty and accountability must be part of the process.

Some questions to ask yourself during reflection include: What skills have I gained? Do I procrastinate

often? What helps me study? There are many other questions to consider, but these can help guide you toward academic success.

It's important to understand the difference between reflection and criticism. Criticism is often negative and doesn't aim for improvement, while reflection allows for growth and change.

As the well-earned summer inches closer, take time to rejuvenate your mind, build your skills, and enjoy your vacation.

## Success

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Balance is another hugely underrated necessity when it comes to succeeding in not just high school, but any future career or lifestyle. For Miller, balancing her school schedule means participating in extracurricular activities such as Varsity Tennis, Class Council, and NHS while holding down an after-school job. But balance also means taking time to participate in personal or social activities. Even salutatorians take time for friends, Miller reveals, "It has

also been very important for me throughout these past four years to maintain a balance between academics and my social life". Life is not all about work, and to maintain a positive mindset in high school, it is important to engage in hobbies and social time; without a positive mindset, it is impossible to flourish to your full potential.

The last strategy is one that Miller didn't perfect, but one she recommends: involvement. It's quite cliché, but as a graduating senior, Miller can tell you from experience that you will be glad you attended events and activities

such as the homecoming football games and Senior Sunrise. "There are many things that I wish I had done instead of worrying what everyone else thought," Miller regrets. In 10 years, you will most likely not remember any of your grades, but you will remember the experiences you shared at Beacon High School.

At the end of the day, maybe we don't have to be like the celebrities we see on television. Maybe we just have to be the best version of ourselves... or, you know, the version that has us all tied for valedictorian.

## Did You KNOW?

By Nadeen Ahmed

Mr. Arbor was the highest-scoring entrant to Colorado All-State Choir in 2007. They even used his audition video as an example on the Colorado All-State Choir website!



Ms. Malin was literally scared stiff when threatened by a grizzly bear in Alaska because she got between a mother and her babies while trying to get a plaster cast of a bear track. Yes she got the cast.



Danny Mendez (Hall Monitor) is a stand up comedian, and also produces comedy shows all over the Hudson Valley.



## Club Highlight: Tri-M

Want to strengthen your performance skills, learn more about music, or hang out with like-minded peers? Tri-M Honor Society is for students in grades 11-12 who participate in a school-affiliated music performance group. Meetings take place on the third Monday of every month in the chorus room with Ms. Fisher. Members perform music for one another and volunteer at concerts and other school performances. It is an enriching environment for all musical students. Every member will receive a free T-shirt!



# Reflecting

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school day. However, he noted that phone use during lunch and in hallways hasn't been a significant issue.

Looking ahead to next year, AP classes and student clubs are key priorities. Mr. Dwyer hopes more students will get involved in extracurriculars, especially through

a "student activities fair." He envisions clubs setting up booths to generate interest: "It's just time for students to go down and learn more about the clubs and figure out how they can get involved." He also mentioned addressing the late bus issue "to make sure that everybody can do everything that they're interested in."

Another hopeful change is the addition of new AP courses, such as AP Chemistry and AP Physics. "Where

we see a lot of interest, we definitely try to make that happen," Mr. Dwyer said, emphasizing the growing enthusiasm for science. However, he noted that launching new classes takes time and staffing, so those additions may be a few years away.

Now, it's time to say goodbye to the 2024-25 school year and welcome the next—with all the changes and opportunities it may bring.

# Birthdays:

By Nadeen Ahmed

Included below are all staff birthdays celebrated before we meet again for Volume 21!

## June

Sharon Morales - June 29  
Lori LaDue - June 29

## July

Kristine Monteverdi - July 2  
Louise Alfonso - July 4  
Matthew Steltz - July 17  
Dawn Arghiere - July 18  
Sarah Laurelli - July 23  
Tim Newman - July 27

## August

Samantha Ryan-Ferry - August 4  
Ron Hammond - August 5  
Kaitlyn Holder - August 8  
Gina Fontenot - August 19  
Melanie Hammitt-Turpin - August 24  
Eric Leinung - August 25

## September

Fran Vakirtzis - September 2  
Anna Orlando - September 3  
Susan Fisher - September 5  
Kevin Rickard - September 9  
Alexa Marinaccio - September 15  
Brenda Santiago - September 19

## October

Jennifer Mullins - October 3  
Jaime Chase - October 12  
Frank Haughie - October 22  
Marc Yacovone - October 28  
Shona Rowland - October 28

# Club Highlight: Chess Club

Want to learn something new or challenge a friend to a game of Chess? Come to Chess Club in room C236 on Wednesdays after school with Mrs. Mullins! Chess Club hopes to see you soon!

# Spring Fling Cabaret

By Piper Bruno

The Spring Fling Cabaret was held on April 10. The cafeteria was decorated wonderfully. The performers did amazing. It was a very fun time as always. Thank you to Ms. Fisher, Ms. Hoben, the National Honor Society (NHS) and volunteers for putting this on.

# Breaking Beacon

## EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Annabelle Notarthomas  
Kayla Selander

## EDITOR

Roque Vianna

## ADVISORS

Ms. Hamburger  
Mr. Arbor

## WRITERS

Madison Abrahamson  
Nadeen Ahmed

Piper Bruno  
Zooey Dedring  
Kiera D'Ippolito  
Marisah George  
Annabelle Notarthomas  
Mikaela Sanchez  
Kayla Selander  
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~ We are always looking for new members. Contact an Advisor to join today!

# The HIGHLANDS Current

