

THE STINGER



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Photo illustration by Emma Brashear.

News

Teacher Retirements

Joseph Pirro

Eleanor Creelman
Staff Writer

Having taught at Emmaus High School for 31 years, English teacher Joseph Pirro prepares to sign off of his final year of teaching.

Pirro announced his retirement on April 29, two days before East Penn School District’s deadline for teachers to declare they will not be returning, in hopes to keep it “as private as possible.” For the first half of his employment at Emmaus, Pirro advised The Stinger and taught Journalism to students. After 15 years in the advisor position, he stepped down due to the job’s “high pressure” nature and began teaching English courses. According to Pirro, many students have regarded his 10 Honors and College Preparatory English classes as the most challenging writing curriculum they’ve been exposed to.

“I’ve always had the luxury of being surrounded by kids who were appreciative of what I had to offer,” Pirro says. “It comes from athletics, it comes from all the years advising the Stinger, just always surrounded by kids. And in the end, that’s what the profession is about; in my retirement letter that’s my focus — kids. The East Penn School District has produced some of the most fantastic kids in the world.”

Though not teaching next year, Pirro wants to emphasize to students that he will remain available as someone who can provide a letter of recommendation and an option for senior mentor nights. He also plans to stay involved with the district.

Prior to being the Emmaus High School principal, Dr. Kate Kieres oversaw the English department and has known Pirro for nearly 15 years. As principal, however, Pirro stuck out to Kieres as a teacher who was passionate and very involved with kids.

“Mr. Pirro is one of those teachers where every time there is a sports mentor night, or I know a lot of our art organizations do them too, he’s always out on the field,” Kieres says. “It’s something that always stands out and gets my notice. Here’s somebody who every chance kids get to honor him, gets pulled by them. It speaks a lot to the relationships he’s able to build with some of his students that last longer than their time in the classroom.”

In light of retirement, Pirro hopes to continue and strengthen his interest in hobbies he’s always done. Pirro manages an elite baseball team for The Lehigh Valley Carpenter Cup, collects antiques, restores and preserves farms properties, and has a dedication to German Shorthaired Pointers. He also looks forward to spending time with and supporting his parents and older dogs. He intends to move closer to the district with an anticipated purchase



Photo courtesy of Pirro.

chase of a farm in Lehigh County.

“Well, you know, it’s a continuation of everything that I already do,” Pirro says. “Except I’m finally able to put my full devotion into it. I don’t have 150 papers, or Pirromids, to grade anymore.”

He reflects on the technological advancements that have been made since he first started teaching, how his career began with using a mimeograph machine to make copies, and how it has progressed to online classes.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic closing schools in Pennsylvania, what would have been Pirro’s last months in the classroom will be spent at home teaching using virtual learning. However, he sees this as an easier transition into retirement instead of leaving students in person.

“I think the way I am, being online for my last year made it easier for me,” Pirro says. “I think if I was there I would have had a harder time, making what was already a hard decision harder. In a way, the distance and the separation has helped. Because you know you’re always going to leave people behind. It doesn’t matter what year.”

Pirro isn’t exactly looking forward to retiring, but looks at it as something he has to do. He believes teaching “is a young person’s game” and feels fortunate that he has the ability to retire at an age where he still has life ahead of him.

“I think Mr. Pirro is really passionate about English and literature, certainly very skilled as a writing teacher, [and has] always been very committed to teaching writing,” Kieres says. “We are really losing a core of long-term committed teachers who have long histories of working with kids. Having someone as knowledgeable as Mr. Pirro leaving certainly leaves a gap.”

Debra Barthold

Caitlin O’Brien
News Editor

Among those retiring this year is Debra Barthold, a science teacher at Emmaus High School. She has taught Biology at all levels and Honors Genetics and Microbiology for over the past 15 years, in addition to co-advising the Academic Team and Science Olympiad. She also supervised the USA Biology Olympiad and organized the Biology Olympics, historically clinching first place nearly every year in the latter competition since she began teaching.

Barthold’s past experience working in hospital laboratories as a medical technologist and a microbiology supervisor ultimately propelled her into teaching. In 2004 she got her first job as a part-time teacher at Emmaus, becoming a full-time teacher the following year.

“Emmaus is always where I wanted to teach,” Barthold said. “I was so excited to be at Emmaus High School. It’s really where I wanted to be. I didn’t want to be anywhere else. I was very lucky.”

Since her first day of working at the high school, Barthold fully dedicated herself to her job and her students. She wants those she is leaving behind to remember this commitment and her contribution to the school community.

“I want them to remember that I really cared about [them] and thought the job was very important, and that I cared about doing my best ... I enjoyed doing my job,” Barthold said. “I always tried my best to be there for the students and give them the best I could.”

Despite this level of devotion to her students, she always wishes she could have done even more for them.

“As a teacher you’re constantly

tweaking it and trying to make it better,” Barthold said. “You never feel like you’re at the top of your game, at least I’ve never felt that way with teaching. As a teacher I always felt that I could be doing more or better.”

However, based on the collective response from her students—both past and present—Barthold accomplished her goal as a teacher, as she has left an indelible mark on many young people whom she’s taught, successfully inspiring and motivating them. She stated that her colleagues and students were definitely the most memorable part of her time at Emmaus and that she will miss them the most, as they will miss her.

As for her favorite part of working at Emmaus, Barthold says it’s about the relationships she formed with students during her years of teaching.

“The connections you make with



Photo courtesy of Barthold.

students are just so memorable,” Barthold said. “This year [especially] has been just really incredible across the board.”

In addition to her students, Barthold expressed that she will miss the teachers she worked with, many of whom have left a lasting impact on her.

“I can honestly say the people I’ve worked with in the science department have been incredible, especially in biology ... Everybody is just very thoughtful, very helpful—staff, administration, even some of the assistants in the office,” Barthold said. “That’s really made it very special ... You’re definitely going to miss the camaraderie of those relationships.”

Unfortunately, in light of the COVID-19 situation, when Barthold cleaned out her room, she was regretfully unable to talk with many of her fellow teachers.

“We aren’t allowed to visit people or anything like that, so that’s what’s been hard, not being able to say goodbye to different people,” Barthold said.

While she was cleaning, Barthold also found several old letters from many of her past students, and she emotionally recalled fond memories from the past 15 years. She hopes that her current students and those she worked with remain in touch with her, especially as she embarks on this next stage of her life.

Once she retires, Barthold wants to find more time to take care of herself and her health. She looks forward to gardening, reading, golfing, and waking up later than 5:00 a.m. She also plans on travelling West and going to the beach with her husband.

Sally Hanzlik

Rylan Bassett
News Contributor

Social studies teacher, mentor, and George Washington enthusiast Sally Hanzlik started planning her retirement at the beginning of this school year.

Hanzlik began teaching in 1986 and spent the last 18 years at Emmaus High School teaching American Studies 1 and 2, among other social studies courses. After retirement, she will spend time with her seven grandchildren, “volunteering in classrooms and keeping busy.” During her years teaching, she has accrued a collection of George Washington memorabilia.

“I admire his vision,” Hanzlik says. “How do you have the vision and set up a government and know that it’s going to need to be flexible over time? I tell all my students that I was Martha Washington in my past life, and that’s always been the joke.”

In addition to her avid admiration for Washington, Hanzlik reflects on what else her students should remember and what she will miss.

“I’ll miss the relationships that I’ve established over the years,” Hanzlik says. “Certainly the students, that’s the reason I get up every morning and come to work. That’s going to be the hard part of retirement. But it’s my time, we need some young blood.”

“I hope they remember...that I cared about every one of them and that I loved my job. I don’t want them to think that it was a burden for me or that I didn’t want to be there.”

In regards to how the pandemic affected her final months of teaching full-time, Hanzlik is disappointed with the situation, but soldiering on for her students.

“I have a senior homeroom and I’ve been sending out messages and I just sent out a mailing to let them know I’m thinking about them,” Hanzlik says. “It’s tough. It’s been difficult. I’m trying to make the best of it of course, like everyone is, but it’s not an ideal situation.”

Hanzlik didn’t expect the closure to last as long as it has. She thought “maybe two weeks, like a flood break.” One of the problems she sees with the current online learning is that “it’s hard to be motivated.”

“We would be dealing with this in school [toward the end of the year],” Hanzlik says. “Now we can’t see what you’re doing during the day, only hoping that you’re doing your work.”

She offers some final advice tailored to the current situation for her students to take away.

“Stay safe, be well, and always remember to be kind...” Hanzlik says. “Don’t let anyone tell you no, you can certainly do whatever your heart is set on.”



Photo courtesy of Hanzlik.

Stephanie and Adriana Roccoberton

by Rylan Bassett

Class Vice President Stephanie Roccoberton and class secretary Adrianna Roccoberton dedicated their high school careers to running and organizing events as officers, as well as leading fellow students through Hornet Ambassadors and the Freshmen Mentor program.

Both sisters plan to attend Temple University for the physician’s assistant track, and Stephanie hopes to specialize in orthopedic medicine.

Stinger: How have you changed through high school?
Adriana: I definitely have grown as a person, and navigating through high school, I figured out what I want to do through some classes. I found out who my friends are and who I am, [and] who I want to surround myself with.
Stephanie: I’ve definitely become more social, more responsible, and just a better person, I think.
Stinger: What drove you to become a class officer?
Adriana: I think ever since I was younger, I’ve always wanted to plan things. Plan events, plan proms. I’ve always had a leader’s ambition in me, so that drove me toward the position of class secretary.
Stephanie: I wanted to be vice president because I just wanted to be part of something more than the regular going to classes. I wanted to make a change.
Stinger: What is your favorite high school memory and why?
Adriana: I would say storming the field freshman year when we beat Parkland at the football game. I thought that was so much fun. I almost tripped going up to the field, but it’s okay.
Stephanie: That would probably be Junior prom, [getting] to see all our hard work and dedication over the years, to see it all come together.



Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?
Adriana: I want to be remembered as someone who will always be there for others. And someone who anyone can come to if they had an issue. And I don’t want to be remembered as Stephanie.
Stephanie: I want to be known and remembered just as an involved person, and a friendly person to all.
Stinger: What is the

most important lesson you’ve learned?
Adriana: Put yourself out there, get yourself involved. Also, don’t be afraid to try new things, and just take risks.
Stephanie: My number one 1 lesson I’ve learned is to get involved as much as you can. Whether that’s in sports or clubs or just attending sports games or the musical, that will make your high school experience so much better.
Stinger: What classes do you wish you had taken or were available?
Adriana: I wish there were more medical/anatomy type classes. Yes, I took anatomy, but I wish there were higher levels of that.
Stephanie: I wish I had taken any of Mr. Mihalik’s classes, [especially] the geology of the national parks. They just seemed so fun and people went on the trips all the

time and that seemed like fun.
Stinger: Do you think COVID-19 will change the future of public schooling?
Adriana: I hope not, but I think it will because I think if more kids like online schooling, then they’ll switch to online schooling at home. Or snow days, for example, snow days can be done from home and won’t have to be added onto the end of the school year.
Stephanie: I think it’s gonna change public schooling forever. Everyone is going to remember the COVID outbreak. We don’t know how long this is going to last, so who knows what next year may hold.
Stinger: Are you concerned about attending school in a metropolitan area with the pandemic?
Adriana: There’s a little bit of concern, just because Philly has the most cases in PA. There is a concern, but it’s not that big, [and] I’m not going to change my school because of it. I’ll just be more of a germaphobe.
Stephanie: I’m definitely going to change my habits. I’m a little nervous, but I’m not at the same time.



Mark Magee

by Isabella Lees

In addition to academics, Mark Magee has filled his high school years with sports, clubs, and the friends he made through them. Along with running year-round for the cross country team, winter track club, and the track team, Magee is the Class of 2020 President and a member of the Hornet Ambassadors.

Magee plans to attend the University of Pittsburgh to major in finance.

Stinger: What was one class that you wish you had taken in high school?
Magee: A science AP [class]. I wish I had taken AP Physics, because I took CP [Physics], but I think I could have handled AP [Physics] and the labs looked fun.
Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory?
Magee: Winning the league 4x800m [for track] with Jake [Brown], Paul [Petre], and Keshav [Shankar].
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?
Magee: Helping other people when they asked for it.
Stinger: What was one of the most important lessons you learned during high school?
Magee: To always be yourself and not try to be anybody else.
Stinger: How do you feel you have impacted Emmaus?

Magee: That’s a good one. I feel like I’ve just continued to help others in big or small ways, even if it’s not a really big change in the school.
Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?
Magee: I’m a lot more outgoing than I used to be. I moved in from outside the school district, so I was pretty shy, but now I’m more open and outgoing.
Stinger: If you could go back and change one thing, what would it be?
Magee: There are definitely points where I didn’t try as hard as I should have academically or in sports, and I wish I had put in more effort.
Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?
Magee: I would say try to join a sports team, even if you’re not really good at it at first. You’ll make a lot of really good friends.
Stinger: What excites you most about college?
Magee: It’s going to be cool to meet new people from different parts of the country with new perspectives.



Stephanie Sipics

by Caitlin O’Brien



As she embarks on the next stage of her life, Stephanie Sipics looks back fondly on her time at Emmaus. During her high school career, Sipics was secretary of the math club, played the violin in the orchestra and Sinfonia, tutored at Mathnasium, and was a member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National Honor Society. She also participated in Girl Scouts, science fairs, Girls Who Code, and TSA TEAMS, and she was a Freshman Mentor.

Sipics intends on continuing her education at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, Ohio, studying biomedical engineering.

Stinger: How did you manage your time between school and all of your other commitments?
Sipics: Writing to-do lists and keeping schedules, even if just internally, has helped. I’ve been fortunate enough — and I hope others are as well — to find people I feel comfortable talking to, which has helped to alleviate

some of my stress. I also think that taking classes that actually interest me and participating in activities and a job that I enjoy has made being busy a more positive experience. Of course, not every day will be good, but by reminding yourself that tomorrow is a fresh start can give you peace of mind.
Stinger: Who were your mentors in high school?
Sipics: I have had a lot of wonderful teachers, but I would say that Mr. Carolla really gave me confidence in my abilities as a student and person and a drive to learn and grow that stuck with me throughout high school. Mrs. Stoudt also always made learning fun and challenged me to improve and push myself. Outside of school, my parents have helped me balance everything and listened to and guided me.
Stinger: Who is your biggest inspiration?
Sipics: I really look up to my grandfather, John, who balanced a successful career while still being family-oriented. He was a fair-minded and deeply logical individual who worked hard, stood his ground, and treated people with respect.
Stinger: What do you consider to be your biggest accomplishment in high school?
Sipics: I think one of my biggest concrete accomplishments in high school is being a National Merit Finalist. In a less concrete sense, I think my biggest accomplishment was just how much I learned about academics and about myself and my peers. I think I have grown a lot as a student and person and have learned how to work well with others, stay on top of deadlines, and listen to my instincts.
Stinger: How would you describe yourself?

Sipics: I think that I am diligent, fair-minded, respectful, and maybe a bit odd.
Stinger: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Sipics: I will hopefully have completed graduate school and found a secure career path that I enjoy. As of right now, I think that I would like to be working for a company in biomedical research or development. I also hope that my family and I are still happy and healthy.
Stinger: Do you have any regrets from high school?
Sipics: I don’t think I would change anything, because I believe it was my choices over the years that set me on the specific path I am on today, and I am proud to be here. However, in college I would like to get involved in clubs and organizations earlier and push myself to speak out more. I would also like to be more organized.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for incoming freshmen?
Sipics: Listen to people and be there for them. You should try to never be the reason someone has a bad day, and ideally, you should help them have a good one. Academically, don’t be afraid to push yourself. You have a good support system at Emmaus and can learn a lot from being out of your comfort zone. Just don’t forget to take time for yourself.
Stinger: How do you feel you have impacted Emmaus?
Sipics: I think that while I haven’t always been the loudest person in the room, I’ve tried my best to be kind and fair, and I’d like to think that my attitude had at least some impact on my peers. I hope to be remembered as a hardworking and respectful person.



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Mehru Chaudhry by Heather Fabritze



Mehru Chaudhry has made a name for herself at Emmaus as an active participant in school culture — Editor-in-Chief of Buzz Magazine and 2020 Class Historian are both titles that apply to her. Over the course of her four years, she has also taken part in Powderpuff, Young Democrats, and

Varsity Debate Team, as well as being a Hornet Ambassador, Freshman Mentor, and a member of NHS. Chaudhry will be studying abroad at IE University in Segovia, Spain. While there, she will be completing a

Bachelor in International Relations.

Stinger: Why did you decide to go to college internationally?
Chaudhry: I have always had a very deep connection to traveling and I’ve loved Europe my whole life. And I obviously did apply to schools here, but no other school I thought would have given me the same opportunities and the same experience of going to a university in Spain, especially since I was majoring in something so international. So, I chose IE.
Stinger: What other interests do you have that most don’t know about?
Chaudhry: I really love adventure sports. I think it’s really cool to do really cool sports that not a lot of people get a chance to, like scuba diving and bungee jumping. I myself have never actually been certified or trained to do it, but I would love to one day.
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for in high school?
Chaudhry: I think I strive to be very sweet and very approachable to everyone, even people who I wasn’t really friends with or only saw in the hallway. So I think I’d like to be remembered for being the person that you could always talk to and was always smiling and laughing about everything.
Stinger: Are there any classes that you wish you had taken when you had the chance?

Chaudhry: Not really. I think I took all the classes that I wanted to take. I never really held back, I just used all of my open periods to take classes. I guess my favorite class ever has been probably all of the art classes I’ve taken and history.
Stinger: What will you miss most about EHS?
Chaudhry: People and teachers I have grown incredibly close to — a few of my teachers that I will remember my whole life and that have had a very, very large and positive impact on my life. So, I think I will miss them the most.
Stinger: If you could change our mascot to any other living creature, what would it be?
Chaudhry: I think maybe, maybe like ... I don’t know, it’d be cute to have a platypus ... I don’t know, I just thought of “Phineas and Ferb” and that was the first thing that came to my mind.
Stinger: What was your favorite memory from EHS?
Chaudhry: I think my favorite memories at EHS ... I’ve had a lot of study halls and stuff throughout my four years and since I’ve become very into art and I’ve taken a lot of art classes, I spent all of my study halls and all of my lunch periods in my art classes. I think, just, times where I’ve been there and it was kind of my place in school. Those have been my favorite memories. As well as like, the art show, and I really enjoyed Mr. Emmaus and Junior Prom.

Members of Stinger staff receive national honors

Stinger Staff

The National Federation of Press Women (NFPW) High School Communications Contest is one of a very limited number of nationwide competitions for student journalists. There are 23 categories that people can compete in, including different types of stories, pictures, and cartoons. Students first enter a state affiliate contest. For people in Pennsylvania, the affiliate organization of NFPW is the Pennsylvania Press Club. In order to move on to the next level of competition, students need to win first place in

their category of the state competition. This year, according to Contest Director Kay Stephens, “The Pennsylvania Press Club forwarded 11 first-place winning entries from our annual high school journalism contest to the National Federation of Press Women for another level of competition with entries submitted by other state affiliates.”

After winning first place in their category in the state competition, students move on to the national competition. “On the national level, the contest is very competitive with affiliate organizations in California, Texas and Indiana regularly winning honors,” Stephens explains. “Rest assured, however, Pennsylvania students did very well this year, with eight—that’s right, eight—awards on the national level. And that should make all of us smile. Though there were eight awards for people from Pennsylvania, only one person achieved first place in a category.

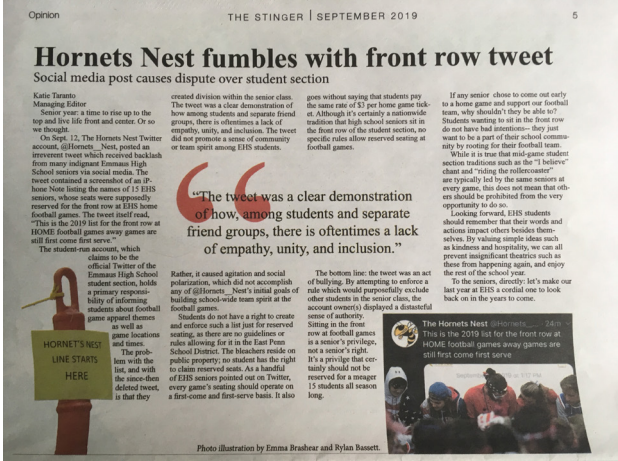
“We have a first place winner — on the national level — and he is Nate Garcia at Emmaus High School, for an editorial cartoon entitled ‘One year until 2020 primaries,’” Stephen announces. “It appeared in his high school publication called ‘The Stinger.’ And as a first-place winner on the national level, he gets a \$100 cash prize from the National Federation of Press Women. Congratulations.” While no one from Pennsylvania was second in a category, one person attained third. “We had a third-place winner — on the national level — Kathleen Taranto, also a student at Emmaus High School, who entered the ‘Opinion’ category with an entry entitled: ‘Hornets Nest fumbles with front row tweet: Social media post causes disrupt over student section,’” Stephens reports.

Though no one else won first, second, or third, six students in Pennsylvania achieved an honorable mention.

Though two of these students were from Delaware Valley High School, the rest were from Emmaus. Stephens applauds these students for their work, stating “Congratulations are due to the following for those honors: --Kathleen Taranto and Makenzie Christman, Emmaus High School, for ‘Sex trafficking in the Lehigh Valley’ in the News Story category. --Krissy Heilenman, Emmaus High School, for ‘Kindly, Krissy’ in the Columns/Blogs category. --Emma Brashear, Emmaus High School, for ‘Emmaus Shave for the Brave’ in the News/Feature photo category. --Emma Brashear and Rylan Bassett, Emmaus High School, for ‘The Vaping Epidemic’ in the Graphics/Photo Illustration category.” Congratulations to all these students for their impressive accomplishments, and their hard work and dedication to journalism.



Cartoon by Nate Garcia.



The story that Katie Taranto won third place for the Opinion category of the contest. Photo by Belle Lees.

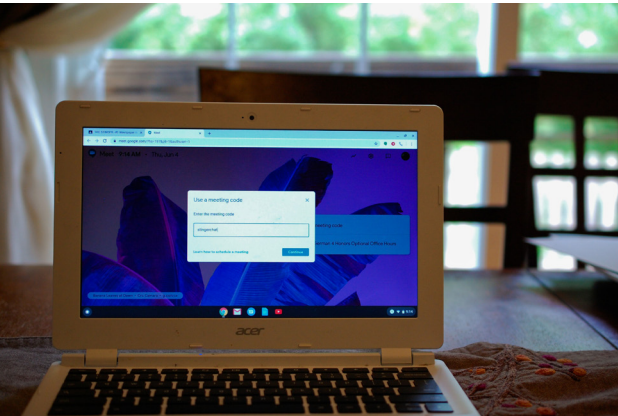
Stinger staff faces unprecedented situation with COVID-19

Heather Fabritze News Editor

The outbreak of COVID-19 and, by extension, quarantine, has reshaped the routine of daily life that EHS and the greater outside world have come to know. Truly, nobody is really sure where life is going to go from here. With the implementation of pass or fail grades, at-home AP testing, and a new way of online learning, students especially are left pondering over many questions: Will prom even happen? What about graduation? And how will this affect college visits or the start of the new school year in the fall? The Stinger and its staff have been left with the same questions, as well as a variety of other things to ponder over. The coronavirus is, simply put, the perfect journalistic opportunity. A real-life crisis occurring amidst the school year, with plenty of angles to work from and investigate — it’s a student journalist’s dream. Along with the rush of new coverage regarding the coronavirus came one large problem: how was the yearly senior issue going to be made? Not only is the senior issue a marker of all that the Class of 2020 has accomplished over their four years of high school, but it is also

the main training period for next year’s incoming staff. How was the current staff going to train new members and properly honor this year’s seniors in the way they deserve? Well, it had to be done. No matter how complicated it would be, no matter how many Zoom and Google Meet calls needed to take place, the Stinger staff was prepared to take the extra measures to get a quarantine senior issue published in print. Editors downloaded InDesign on personal laptops, and the EHS administration loaned Macbooks to editors who did not have compatible computers available to them. It took intensive collaboration and quite a couple virtual design sessions to put it all together. After all, it’s hard enough to create a print issue when the editors are all in the same corner of room 559, let alone in completely different locations. The task seemed almost insurmountable. But, it happened regardless. The senior issue got made amidst a national crisis where the staff couldn’t be face to face in real life even once. It allowed for the editors to show just how much they had learned, even in a situation such as this — one in which the odds seemed to be stacked so high. In the end, the success of this year’s senior issue can only be attributed to this year’s senior staff

members, who extensively trained the incoming editors in this unprecedented situation, who dedicated their time and energy to this issue to ensure that their class, amidst a world crisis, got the praise they deserve. So, this one’s for you, Class of 2020.



A member of staff preparing to log into a Google Meet for The Stinger. Photo by Meliha Anthony.

Opinion

THE STINGER

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Editorial Policy

The Stinger is a student-run newspaper published six times per year. Its content, which is the responsibility of the student staff, is not subject to direct administrative approval. The newspaper, which is designed as an open forum, serves to inform and entertain its reader as well as enrich students interested in print media studies.

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For advertising, contact business managers Erick De la Rosa or Krissy Heilenman.

Have an opinion and want to be heard?

Letters to the editor are limited to 150 words in length and can be submitted to stingerehs@gmail.com. Letters must include full names as well as contact information for verification. Guest contributions for editorial columns are welcome and are limited to 2.5 pages double-spaced. They can be emailed to the staff, dropped off in Room 559, or mailed: The Stinger, EHS, 500 Macungie Ave., Emmaus, 18049.

Hannah Westbay by Sophia Clements

Ever since her sophomore year, Hannah Westbay has been a part of the Young Republicans Club. She led the club for three years; her duties entailed organizing events, setting up field trips, and bringing together the students interested in Republican politics. Although after high school Westbay doesn’t plan on a career in politics, she plans on continuing to follow them.

Westbay will be attending Lehigh Carbon Community College and majoring in Business Administration this fall. After two years at LCCC, Westbay plans on transferring to DeSales University to finish her college education.

Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?
Westbay: That’s a tough one because there are so many things. Looking back, I would definitely say I became more independent in myself and I started to believe in myself a lot more. [I realized that] I can do more than I’m capable of.
Stinger: What made you decide to get involved in politics?
Westbay: Well I got involved in the 2016 election, I feel like we all did a little bit in our generation, so it sort of started there, and it just progressed as, “Oh, I can be a part of something. I can impact the world with change instead of staying and

complaining. I can actually do something.” That really sparked my interest, and then from there it just gradually went [on]. And then from there, I realized the school had a Young Democrats Club, so I looked into it, and it turned out we had a Young Republicans Club, and it stopped because there was a huge fallout between both clubs. So I was like you know what, I don’t intend on doing that if I did run the club, so I might as well start it.
Stinger: What was your favorite part of being in the Young Republicans Club?
Westbay: Definitely the people I met, I would have to say, because we were all like-minded and we all got along fine so it was definitely that. And all of the opportunities I received through that club were incredible.
Stinger: What do you hope to accomplish after high school?
Westbay: Well I hope to go to college, and then I want to become a supervisor district-wide for Kate Spade and then work my way up to corporate.
Stinger: Why Kate Spade?
Westbay: I wanted that just because I love the company so much. I love their message. They have amazing campaigns for young women across the world, so it was really just something that stuck in my mind. I would love to work for a campaign that really empowers women all



across the world.
Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?
Westbay: I would say just enjoy your time because when you are a freshman you don’t really realize how fast it goes. So just truly enjoy your time and be yourself. Find that group of people that you just connect with and be yourself.
Stinger: Any last comments?
Westbay: Just enjoy your time at Emmaus and really just do anything that you can to be there and to be in the moment of high school. And never take anything for granted either.

Erica Love by Erick De La Rosa



Erica Love is a very opinionated and well informed member of her class, becoming a key leader in young democrats, and becoming The Singer’s opinion editor her sophomore year.
In her junior year, Love became the Editor in Chief of The Stinger, a title usually reserved for seniors, winning numerous journalistic awards in the process. She also was the president of the French Club, and a participant in Girl up Club, and model UN.
Stinger: What are some of your biggest takeaways from your time leading The Stinger?
Love: I learned a lot from my time there. I got a lot of first hand experience learning how to organize different people, how to deal with different personalities, adapt to situations, and just make everything

work in a big group.
Stinger: What was your experience like being the president of the French club?
Love: It was very different from being a leader in Stinger. Definitely a lot more cooperation, brainstorming together, and learning about French culture. It was more light and I had a lot of fun with it.
Stinger: What was the best part about the Young Democrats club?
Love: Mr. Zolomij. He joined this year and he was just really cool. He took us on so many trips, and had just a huge impact.
Stinger: What was the most useless class you took?
Love: Geometry or trigonometry. It is truly nothing on those teachers, they did their best, but I’m going to study liberal arts and I didn’t need any of that information. It was a big waste of time.

Dominic Santoro by Saraya Velez

Dominic Santoro is notorious for his unfiltered opinions regarding anything from politics to favorite songs to the best books released. Santoro’s four years at Emmaus High School consisted of laughs, leadership, and memories that will last a lifetime. Aside from being a devout president of No Place for Hate, he also actively participates as the secretary of the Astronomy Club.
In the fall, he will be attending Ursinus College and will be majoring in Astrophysics and English with hopes of becoming an astrophysicist while simultaneously being an author in the future.

Stinger: What motivated you to get involved with No Place for Hate?
Santoro: I guess it was just because I felt like I needed somewhere where I thought I’d be accepted, and that was a club that was very big into acceptance.
Stinger: What was your favorite part about being involved with No Place for Hate?
Santoro: I really liked that even though I heard stories, like when we brought in Frank Meeink and someone had to be brought into the principal’s office [and] there was an uproar about it, I felt like I was actually able to make a difference in a way that I wasn’t really able to with other

clubs.
Stinger: What is a song that best describes your high school career?
Santoro: That’s a tough one. I would probably say it’s close to the prologue song of Fiddler on the Roof. There’s one line where Anatevka says, “You might say every one of us is a fiddler on the roof, trying to dance through life to a pleasant simple tune without breaking our necks.”
Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus?
Santoro: I guess I’m going to miss knowing where everything is for a start. I’ve already toured [Ursinus] three times, and I still have no idea where anything is. Other than that, I guess I’m going to miss being able to talk to my high school friends on more than just a cellphone most of the time.
Stinger: What was your favorite class at Emmaus?
Santoro: Hands down Advanced Astronomy. Mr. McConville did a great job of teaching it and getting the information across in a really nice way. It was relatively easy to understand.
Stinger: Do you have any regrets?
Santoro: I have regrets in general, but I don’t really have any regrets about school.
Stinger: What excites you most about college?



Santoro: I’m mostly excited about feeling like I’m living independently just figuring things out on my own.
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?
Santoro: I guess I really hope that people remember me for just being an averagely good person for the sake of being a good person because I don’t really get anything out of No Place for Hate. I just hope people remember me because I do nice things just because it’s a nice thing.

Thobernia Augustin

by Lila Benner



Thobernia Augustin is the assistant stage manager of the run crew, and treasurer of French Club and EHS Activism. She is also a part of National Honor Society, French Honor Society, and Girl Up. After graduation, she plans to attend Bloomsburg University with a major in nursing. She plans to be a delivery nurse and eventually a nurse-midwife.

Stinger: What made you decide to get involved in your various extracurriculars?
Augustin: I joined run crew because I did in middle school for Cinderella and that was really fun, and a little stressful, so I wanted to continue doing it in high school. I joined activism because I participated in the walkout, and when I heard that it was becoming a club, I thought it would be a great opportunity and challenge to be involved in issues that are controversial and use my voice and encourage others to do the same. My friend, Hailey [Jack], started Girl Up, and I wanted to support her since it was a new club. Also, the message of girls supporting girls is something I admire and [I] aspire to do that throughout my life.
Stinger: What’s your favorite memory from high school?
Augustin: I would say singing “Drink With Me” with my girl Lindsay Ott backstage during rehearsals and during the actual performance nights. But truly being a part of run crew and assistant stage manager has brought the best and worst memories of high school. I’m forever grateful for that experience.
Stinger: What will you miss most from Emmaus?
Augustin: The people -- it’s so cliché, but it’s so true. There have been people that I have known since elementary school, and even though we weren’t friends, it was still nice to see them once in a while. I’m going to miss all my junior friends, and the small interactions I would have when I saw someone in the hallway. Also, there were a handful of teachers that were really amazing and made learning enjoyable.

Stinger: What teachers impacted you the most and why?
Augustin: Mrs. Wells. I wouldn’t say we had the closest relationship, but I would sometimes go to her office during my lunch and just talk about my problems with her. Whenever I saw her, she always seemed so happy, and that’s probably because she legitimately loves what she does. I think witnessing that and wanting that for myself made me want a career that I would love regardless of the money.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for underclassmen?
Augustin: Don’t compare yourself to people. You will waste so much time and energy trying to be someone you aren’t. Who cares if your one friend is taking all APs and you are only taking CP classes? Focus on yourself and strive to be the best version of yourself.
Stinger: If you could change the school mascot to any different animal, what would it be and why?
Augustin: I don’t know. Maybe an otter just because they are so cute. It’s my patronus, so it would be cool to have that as our school’s mascot.
Stinger: On a scale of one to 10, how much senioritis have you experienced this year?
Augustin: Probably 11. The running theme of the entire year was just wanting to graduate and start a new phase in my life.
Stinger: Anything else to add?
Augustin: Just breathe and remember your mental well-being is just as important as your physical. So if you need a mental health day, take it. There’s nothing wrong with that.

Klay Koehler

by Taylor Barkis

Klay Koehler is a part of many extracurriculars at EHS. He joined the Fitness Team as a freshman and later became one of the team’s captains. He is also an active member of the Debate Team and Mock Trial. This fall, Koehler will be attending Dartmouth College, and he is considering majoring in economics, government, and philosophy.

Stinger: What made you get involved in the extracurriculars that you did?
Koehler: I went to the first fitness practice the summer before freshman year and my friend, Dylan Butz, was a part of it. He encouraged me to come along to some practices because we were both incoming freshmen. From the first practice, I really enjoyed the team. At the time Coach George Gibtes was a part of it and had been running the team for roughly 45 years. He was a really nice guy, [and] he was one of the reasons I joined and stuck with it. As for debate, I always enjoyed public speaking and debate is something that is really fun. A lot of people on the debate team are a part of mock trial. I did debate for a year, and then sophomore year people encouraged me to join mock trial, which was a lot of fun. I really enjoyed both and stuck with both. By then I was one of the captains of fitness team and president for mock trial.
Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory?
Koehler: My favorite memory would be traveling to Ja-

pan with the school. It was interesting, and I didn’t know what to expect. There was a good group of friends, and we got to see different stuff. I had a good time, there was a lot of good food, and I got to see a lot of cool places.
Stinger: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?
Koehler: In 10 years I would like to have gone to college, gotten my MBA, and continued education. Then hopefully have a job and a family.
Stinger: If you could go back and change anything about your high school experience, what would it be?
Koehler: I would try to put myself out there more. I always spent a lot of time trying to position myself for the future with studying and trying to get myself into a good college. I wish I enjoyed my time more and had more fun, living in the moment more.
Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?
Koehler: I would say spend more time outside in any way possible. It’s something really important that I wish I realized earlier, instead of consuming so much unnecessary media online and on your phone. Just being outside more does a great deal for you and makes you better off in the long run.



Colette McDonald

by Madison Mauro



Colette McDonald has always shared a love for problem solving and the Earth. She dedicates her time after school as president of the Young Democrats Club at EHS and is a pivotal member of the EHS marching band. Colette enjoys equestrian and is excited to study environmental engineering at Drexel University this fall.

Stinger: What do you plan to study this fall and why?
McDonald: I will be attending Drexel University to major in environmental engineering. I really like the idea of solving problems to help the environment.
Stinger: What do you dedicate your time to in and outside of school?
McDonald: I was a part of the marching band all four years and I was a part of the Young Democrats club all four years. My junior year I was vice president and my senior year I became the official president. I love that club. Outside of school I like to go horseback riding and I’m a part of a high school competitive equestrian team. I’ve qualified for regionals a couple of times.
Stinger: What drew you to playing flute?
McDonald: I picked the flute mainly because my older sister played it and I wanted to be like her. I ended up sticking with it and I like it.
Stinger: Who would you say your high school mentor was?
McDonald: I would have to say Ms. Susans. I took her environmental sustainability class which covered a lot of topics that I really found interesting and inspired me to choose environmental engineering for myself. She’s awesome.
Stinger: How have you changed throughout high school?
McDonald: I feel like throughout my four years I felt more comfortable working with other people, working as a team, and figuring out how to solve problems with

other people. Whether that be in a group project or in marching band, I’ve learned how to work together with people as a team.
Stinger: If you could give your freshman self advice, what would it be?
McDonald: Don’t be afraid to get involved and talk to more people.
Stinger: What will you miss most about high school?
McDonald: Probably seeing my friends everyday, the people that I’ve grown up with all throughout my time in East Penn.
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?
McDonald: I would like to be remembered for being open minded. I wouldn’t want anyone to feel uncomfortable to share their opinions with me and have an open honest conversation with me.
Stinger: What song best describes your high school experience?
McDonald: I would say “Bang!” by AJR. To me the song is about growing up and appreciating your experiences but being able to realize it’s time to move on to bigger and better things, but always go out with a bang.
Stinger: Any final words of wisdom?
McDonald: I would say don’t be scared to get involved and talk to new people. And don’t be scared to share your opinion, respectfully, with other people.

Nick Thoma

by Erick De La Rosa



Nick Thoma entered Emmaus High School as a nervous freshman, and now after four years, he’s proven to be a huge part of his graduating class. Thoma was certainly able to keep busy during his

time in Emmaus, being the president of the Young Republicans Club, and a member of Mock Trial, Debate Team, No Place for Hate, the Golf Team, National Honors Society, and Hornet Ambassadors. Thoma plans to attend the University of Alabama to study political science with minors in education, criminal justice, and fitness.

Stinger: How would you rate your four years at Emmaus?
Thoma: It was pretty good. I had my reservations coming from such a small school in Saint Ann’s, but I really enjoyed my time here. The people [were the biggest impact in that]. The students, the teachers, everyone who goes there impacts your life, and mostly it was a very positive impact that I’ll be able to move forward with in life.
Stinger: Which teacher had the biggest impact on you
Thoma: Mr. Pirro. He was my english teacher in 10th grade. He has a great view on the world, and he’s one of the few teachers I saw that absolutely cares about his students’ lives, and he’s just had a huge impact on my life as a role model.
Stinger: What’s one piece of advice you wish you could tell your freshman self.
Thoma: As important as grades are, you shouldn’t let it impact you too much. It shouldn’t affect your ability

to get more involved to the point that you’re so stressed about grades that you miss out on stuff.
Stinger: Which one of the many clubs you were involved in had the biggest impact.
Thoma: Young Republicans Club had a huge impact outside of emmaus. I was able to meet local politicians and gain experience in the political system. For someone who wants to study political science one day, the experience was very valuable to me.
Stinger: What is the best bathroom in the school?
Thoma: The bathroom by the MMR is the best one by far. Usually it’s locked though. If it is locked then who cares at that point.
Stinger: What was your biggest takeaway from being on the golf team?
Thoma: The opportunity to play great courses from around the area for free and gain all the experience was a giant opportunity that I won’t take for granted. I hope to continue playing golf and that’s an experience I’ll always be able to use.
Stinger: Most embarrassing moment?
Thoma: Freshman year, the football team had just won a game against Parkland. It was a big game and after we won everyone rushed the field, and while in that group I just completely wiped out, and yeah that was definitely very embarrassing.

Laura Baxter

by Lin Luo

Throughout her four years at Emmaus High School, Laura Baxter has created a name for herself in the music department. Serving as the drum major of the marching band her junior and senior year as well as leading the flutes in symphonic band, Baxter has demonstrated her passion for music through her leadership. Baxter plans to continue her musical studies in both flute and piano at Penn State University, and will major in music education.

Stinger: Why did you choose music education?
Baxter: Music, I’ve been doing that basically my whole life and I just fell in love with it, and I wanted to keep doing that after high school. I had such a good experience throughout high school and middle school with the music department, so I wanted to give other students that opportunity.
Stinger: What experience do you think prepared you the most for your future?
Baxter: Probably the people around me. I’ve experienced a lot, especially in band because that’s what I’m going to be doing for the rest of my life. Mr. Harrington, he gave me some insightful things I’ll take with me, and just like my friends, my peers have taught me a lot too.
Stinger: Do you have any advice that you would give to your freshman self?
Baxter: Probably just do whatever you want to do, don’t think about what other people might think, just do what your heart wants.
Stinger: Favorite class at EHS?

Baxter: AP Gov I liked just because it was interesting, or AP Music Theory, that was a fun class.
Stinger: How have you been spending your time in quarantine?
Baxter: I’ve done a lot of baking and I’m learning the guitar now, which is pretty difficult.
Stinger: If you could describe your high school experience in one word, what would it be?
Baxter: Laughter, [I was] always laughing in class, or with my friends, which is kind of what kept me going.
Stinger: How do you deal with nerves before a performance?
Baxter: Deep breaths, they don’t usually help [because] I get very nervous before performing. Usually I’m with other people or surrounded by other people, so that just kind of motivates me because I know they’re there with me.
Stinger: Do you have a favorite memory from band?
Baxter: This past season we were at a competition and there was a big effect in our show [while] I was conducting and it was just loud and everyone was cheering. I got chills and it was pretty cool.
Stinger: If you could listen to one artist for the rest of your life, what would it be?
Baxter: I guess the Beatles, you can never go wrong with them. Or Harry Styles, [I] love him.
Stinger: How do you think you’ve changed since freshman year?
Baxter: I think I’m a lot more driven to succeed and achieve my own goals that I set for myself.



Stinger: What advice would you give to any underclassmen?
Baxter: Get involved, it helps you meet a lot of people and you’ll find your closest friends in extracurriculars I think. Work hard and study because it does pay off, but also don’t forget to have fun.

Hailey Jack

by Sophia Clements



After playing an instrument, starting a club, and becoming an editor for Collage Magazine, the high school experience has been cut short for Hailey Jack—but that doesn’t mean she is leaving the classroom. Jack plans to spend her time after high school pursuing an education degree at Bloomsburg University due to her love for

teaching inspired by her AP Lang teacher Mrs. Doklan. She hopes to continue playing the violin throughout college and continue with her efforts to help everyone—ones that she instilled after helping to create Girl Up and Activism Club.

Stinger: What made you decide your major in early child education?
Jack: It was a lot Mrs. Doklan—I love English so I wanted originally to be an English teacher, then I realized I don’t think I would be the best fit for a high school teacher so then I was looking around and seeing what options were best for me.
Stinger: What made you decide to get involved in Activism and Girl Up?
Jack: Well Girl Up Club was just something I was passionate about—like helping girls in underdeveloped countries, so that’s why I decided to start that but Activism Club—partly it was because my friends were going and then partly because it was something that I was passionate about too.
Stinger: What was it like playing an instrument in high school?
Jack: I loved it—it was a great way to start the day because it was the second period and I would be tired, then I would go to the second period and I would be ready for the rest of the day and it would just be really fun.
Stinger: What was your favorite class at Emmaus?
Jack: AP Lang for sure—not just because of Mrs.

Doklan, I just love that class. And Astronomy—it’s a really fun class, if you’re in the planetarium it’s the best class.
Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?
Jack: Go to as many football games as you can because I didn’t go to any football games until my senior year and I really regret that—I should’ve gone. I don’t know why I didn’t.
Stinger: What won’t you miss about EHS?
Jack: The early start time once I get into college. I will not be taking any eight am classes.
Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus?
Jack: The people—the people that are in your classes but you’re not friends with them, but you are friendly—just seeing all of those people.
Stinger: What was one of the most important lessons you learned during high school?
Jack: Go for what you want—if you want something you should definitely go for it and not worry about “What if?” questions.

Features

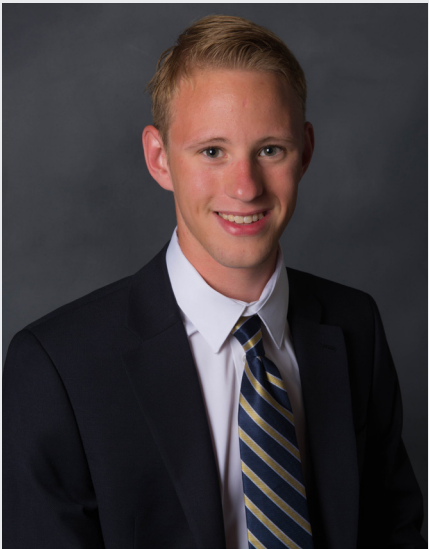
MATTHEW MECH by Adithi Katikhaneni

Matthew Mech is an emerging computer science major with a passion for technology and innovation. Creating his own app called MySpot, helping fix phones and gadgets around the community, and standing out as a unique individual, Mech has discovered and acted on his great interest in all things technological as he plans to chase the growing industry at the University of Arizona.

Stinger: What has stood out to you most about EHS?
Mech: I’d probably say the teachers. A lot of the teachers at EHS are amazing and they really do teach the content well, and most of them if not all are willing to work with you after school. I definitely think that the teachers make the school what it is, and the great environment that it is.
Stinger: Do you feel you’ve seen yourself change over these four years?
Mech: I definitely did. The freshman that I was, was not a great one. I feel like I’ve grown a lot over the years, and I think high school has just helped with that in general. I think personally it’s something I look back on, and it is a really weird feeling to look back on it, and it’s interesting to see how four years can change so much.
Stinger: What would you say to your freshman self?
Mech: I would say, “Do exactly what you’re doing.” I wasn’t ever the smartest “4.5 GPA student,” but I’ve always been someone who’s been able to put myself out

there. There were definitely times where I’ve had grade slips here and there, but overall I’ve always been able to find a balance between school stuff, studying all that, and hanging with friends and finding time for myself as well.
Stinger: What has the creation process taught you?
Mech: There’s been a lot of times that it has failed, even right now, during the coronavirus, it isn’t really a great time, it’s really hard to do when people aren’t travelling a lot. It’s taught me a lot about failure, there’s tons of sayings about failure, but basically just being able to fail and then get back up. I think it’s so true, and it’s definitely being able to get back up. That’s the hardest part. There were definitely times when I failed and wanted to quit, and then I looked back on it and I started up again. Sometimes I look back on it and I’m like, “Why would I have quit?”
Stinger: Have you been involved with anything else at EHS or on your own time?
Mech: I definitely have been involved in Interact Club and I definitely love doing that, and I also did Helping Hands, which helps around the community. I’m a cyclist too so I race and ride around a lot too. I’ve fixed a lot of phones for really cheap, just to help people out.
Stinger: When did you begin cycling?
Mech: I’ve been doing that since middle school, and I’ve been doing it ever since. It’s definitely a lot, and I’m hoping to continue to do it in college. Seventy

miles a day might seem like a lot, but I mean it’s so cool to see where you start and where you can go with it.
Stinger: Advice for freshmen?
Mech: I would say, you don’t have to be the brightest and boldest person in the school to be able to succeed. I know that’s what most people want to do when they come into high school, and that’s completely fine. But I think you should explore and find things that you love. I think it’s a time when you’re growing into almost an adult, and I think that’s something that’s pretty awesome to be able to get to.



GENESIS RODRIGUEZ by Greta Miller



After a high school career that was “dreadful, yet amusing and memorable,” Genesis Rodriguez plans to start the next chapter in her life by studying industrial engineering at Penn State Lehigh Valley, perhaps transferring to the main campus or the Berks

branch in a couple of years.
Moving from the Bronx, NY to Emmaus when she was 11 years old, Rodriguez joined the internationally-recognized group Pathfinders, which helped settle her into the Lehigh Valley and allowed her to form unforgettable memories with others.

Stinger: What is Pathfinders?
Rodriguez: We focus on developing our relationship with God and different survival skills. We go on these camping trips and we do competitions where we tie different types of knots, or racing and matching. I like how competitive it is, but I also liked meeting everyone in it.
Stinger: What has been your most unforgettable memory from Pathfinders?
Rodriguez: This last summer we went to Wisconsin for an event called Oshkosh which is an international pathfinder event. There were at least 70,000 people there, I remember there was a gigantic stadium to fit us all in. Just knowing that there were so many a part of my religion in one place, not just my tiny church in Allentown was really inspiring. It opened my eyes up and showed me that there were more people in my faith than just us.
Stinger: How do you feel like you’ve impacted your community?
Rodriguez: In my community, my church and I have done a lot of community service, and we help people in our neighborhood where our church is, we visit nursing homes, and [help with] food shelters. It was interesting seeing how thankful people in such terrible circumstances can be. That, and I don’t think many people visit the elders at the nursing home.

Stinger: What teacher inspired you throughout high school?
Rodriguez: I had this teacher named Mrs. Wack, she’s a chemistry teacher, and me and my friend Jennifer Newman would hang out in her room with our permanent pass like every day. I can’t explain it, but we just connected so well. It was so fun being in her classroom, she was so funny, and we would do random stuff like write on the board and just talk with her about life.
Stinger: What has been your biggest accomplishment throughout high school?
Rodriguez: It would have to be making friends. I’ve always had trouble getting close with people, so this year I made it a goal to make more friends. I only had a small group and were really close, so I thought I needed to make more memories with people to say my senior year was my favorite year.
Stinger: If you could give advice to a freshman, what would it be?
Rodriguez: To pick up more classes. I had like four study halls freshman year, like the entire year, and I had nothing to do with myself because freshman year was so easy. But it’s more fun when you have more classes, so I’m happy I challenged myself later on.

NATE HADFIELD by Thomas Hartill

With his final year of high school coming to a close, Nate Hadfield reflects on his time at Emmaus, and what mattered to him the most. From his experience with Mr. Emmaus to interesting adventures with his friends, he’s made plenty of memories he won’t soon forget.
Hadfield plans on joining the United States National Guard. After his contract with the army is complete, he will attend Millersville University.

Stinger: What do you like to do in your free time?
Hadfield: Usually I like hanging out with the pals and stuff, but we can’t now. I’ve been watching a lot of Netflix. I just watched *Outer Banks*. That was good.
Stinger: What are your plans after high school?
Hadfield: I enlisted in the army, the National Guard, so I’m doing that. I’m going in this summer, and after that I’m going to Millersville.
Stinger: What made you decide to go into the National Guard?
Hadfield: I don’t know. I’ve always kind of wanted to join the military, but I also wanted to go to college, so it’s a good in-between.
Stinger: Are you nervous at all about it?
Hadfield: No, I’m okay with it. I already went to basic last summer, so I kind of know what’s up. I’m more excited for it really.
Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory and why?
Hadfield: That’s a tough one. Um, probably when Luke blew his whistle in the cafeteria and all the aids were running around trying to find him. I think it was history class or something. There was a debate, and he was the ref, so he dressed up as a ref for it and brought a whistle. And he blew it in the cafeteria and all the aids were running around screaming, “Who blew that?”
Stinger: Do you have a most embarrassing high school

memory?
Hadfield: Oh yeah, it was one of the first days of freshman year. I was with Madi Hahn, and I tripped up the cafeteria stairs and just, like, threw my tray across the room.
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for at the high school?
Hadfield: Um, I don’t know. Being a nice guy.
Stinger: Where do you see yourself in five years?
Hadfield: Well, I’ll still be in the army cause of my contract. Um, hopefully I’ll have a degree in something I like and be doing that pretty regularly.
Stinger: If you could change the school mascot to any living creature other than a hornet, what would it be?
Hadfield: Rhinoceros. Rhinoceroses are awesome, they’re intimidating. Imagine playing against a rhinoceros. You can’t fly swat a rhinoceros, you know?
Stinger: Describe your high school experience in three words.
Hadfield: Mediocre at best.
Stinger: What’s a song that describes your high school career?
Hadfield: “For the Longest Time” by Billy Joel.
Stinger: If you could have traded places with a faculty member, or another member of the staff, for a day, who would it have been and why?
Hadfield: Um, probably Mr. D[Agonstino], because he’s just a fantastic person. There’s not any real reason, he’s just a beautiful man, and I want to experience that.
Stinger: Who would you say is your inspiration?
Hadfield: Probably Joe Jonas. By far the least talented Jonas Brother, yet he still made it big.
Stinger: What was the most important lesson you learned in high school?
Hadfield: It’s okay to cheat, just don’t get caught. I had a couple friends get caught cheating, and they all got

zeroes on their homework. Ever since then, I’ve been sneaky about it.
Stinger: If you could go back and change one thing about your time at high school, what would it be?
Hadfield: I would definitely make sure I walk up the stairs at a regular pace, and don’t trip on one of the first days of my freshman year.
Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus High School?
Hadfield: Um, I will miss being able to look at Ben and call him Mr. Emmaus.
Stinger: Do you have any thoughts on Coronavirus ending your senior year early?
Hadfield: It’s alright. I’m glad we’re not in school anymore.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for underclassmen?
Nate: Uh, no. Let ‘em figure it out themselves like we all did.



Photo courtesy of Hadfield.

MADI HAHN

by Devon Helmer



Madi Hahn is ending her senior year the same way she navigated her time at Emmaus High School -- with a vibrant nature and a positive outlook.

Hahn made it her purpose throughout her time at EHS to brighten the days of her peers. She made her mark on the EHS community through her long list of involvements, from Hornet Ambassadors, Freshman Mentors, and two seasons on the volleyball team, to her volunteer time for the Red Cross Club and the Sanctuary at Haafsville. With an avid interest in nutrition and a passion for helping others, Hahn will major in lifestyle nutrition at West Chester University this coming semester.

Stinger: What was the most important lesson you learned throughout your high school career?
Hahn: Comparison is the thief of joy. It's just so perfect for high school. I spent a lot of my high school career wishing I could look like that girl, or be smart like that guy. I think it's the case for a lot of people our age. Comparison took away a lot from me throughout high school.
Stinger: Who was the teacher or faculty member that made the greatest impact on you?
Hahn: I have had a lot of teachers that were very supportive and definitely went above and beyond. However, my top pick would be Mrs. Fruhwirth. Even though I only had her for two study halls throughout my whole high school career, she taught me so much about actually caring for people. No matter what she had going on, she was always greeting every willing student with a smiling face. She always made an effort to remember people's names and ask kids how they were doing. She took note of when kids were quieter than usual and not themselves. Since freshman year I've carried it with me that high school needs more people like her to make every kid feel like they matter to someone.
Stinger: What was your favorite experience volunteering at The Sanctuary at Haafsville?

Hahn: One of the most rewarding experiences was one night we went to pick up dogs off of a transport from Tennessee. They shipped 10-20 dogs because they have a lot of kill shelters down there. All of these dogs coming off of this bus were shaking and completely terrified. They didn't want to be carried, didn't want to be leashed, they couldn't even move because they were so scared. It was really rewarding weeks later seeing how much they had grown from when we got them, even to the point where some got adopted. It was really entertaining watching their personalities come out.
Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?
Hahn: I really think I've grown a lot more than I ever really could have imagined within the past four years. Freshman year I was really timid and I didn't have any faith in myself. I was constantly comparing myself to everyone else, and I overall really struggled with self-esteem. But, along the way I discovered where I belong, I fell in love, and I found new hobbies that I was actually passionate about. Now, I feel like I'm actually living to my fullest potential. I think my freshman self would be really proud of that, and I really couldn't have imagined any of this.

BEN SHIMER

by Taylor Barkis



Photo courtesy of DiMattia Photography.

Ben Shimer began running cross country in middle school and continued throughout high school. Along with being president of National Honors Society, he won Mr. Emmaus 2020. With no intention of running for Mr. Emmaus, his peers suggested he run. Shimer and his friend Luke Hadfield produced a crown-winning performance.

Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory? Why?
Shimer: Honestly, Mr. Emmaus, it was a step out of my comfort zone. You became really close with the guys you were working with and you got a surreal experience. It was lots of fun to do.
Stinger: Where do you hope to see yourself in 10 years?
Shimer: Right now, I've committed to Bucknell University but am going in undecided. I hope to have an occupation that makes me happy and not a situation that doesn't make me stressed.
Stinger: Any regrets?
Shimer: I could've put more of an emphasis on the academic part of high school and not so much the social. I put too much time in the social aspect. I could've made more of an effort to boost my GPA.
Stinger: What teacher impacted you the most?
Shimer: Freshman year French two teacher, Madame Pissarra. She was a really supportive teacher, and you would have fun in her class if you got your work done.

She guided me on a path of having fun but still, I did my work. She helped me find a balance between them.
Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?
Shimer: Being a good friend to anyone in need. One of the most honorable things one can do is to be there for everyone whether you knew them well or not. And being able to help in a time of need.
Stinger: What was one of the most important lessons you learned during high school?
Shimer: I learned to be empathetic because you never really know what's going on in someone's life. There are a lot of people who present themselves as being fine and are actually going through a lot. It's important to be kind to everyone because you never know what's going on behind the scenes.
Stinger: Any final comments?
Shimer: Emmaus High School was a great four years, [and] I formed a lot of great relationships.

CONGRATULATIONS

Katie Taranto!!!

Behind you
All the memories...

Before you
All your dreams...

Around you
All who love you...

Within you
All you need!!!



We love you & are so proud of you!
Aunt Annie, Uncle Rick & JR

ARTI SCHMIDT by Rylee Dang



Photo courtesy of DiMattia Photography.

As a Princeton-bound programmer, Arti Schmidt has held a deep affection for computer science ever since his dad first introduced it to him in elementary school. When he was nearing the end of middle school, the current president of the Computer Science Club dove into his passion for programming and ran with it. Along the way he was also a member of Math Club, Latin Club, Select Choir, cross country, and track and field where he threw javelin. However, through immersing himself in various projects and competing in programming competitions, Schmidt paved a path towards pursuing a future in computer science at Princeton University.

Stinger: What are you most excited for in college?
Schmidt: I'm excited for some higher level classes in computer science than other areas, because I sort of maxed out the offerings of the school a couple years ago really, and so I'm excited for that. I'm also excited for all the clubs and activities. Our school had that too, but there's even more there so I'm excited for that.

Stinger: What kind of clubs are you interested in joining there?
Schmidt: The programming club [is something that] I did at the high school. I was part of, and president of this year, the computer science club, and I'd like to continue that at Princeton. [I also want to] do some computer programming competitions which I really enjoyed doing in high school. Then there are some neat clubs like the rocketry club that I saw. They take part in big competitions as well, and make rockets that go to 30,000 feet or something like that. There's a chess club, and maybe [I'll] do some singing as well because I sang in the high school with the Chorale and I want to continue that.
Stinger: What is your favorite project that you have worked on?
Schmidt: I made, a few years ago, a website to host some of my projects. I've made a virtual reality game that you can play on Google Cardboard... I've made something to remotely control my brother's chicken coop, [and] I've made a tic-tac-toe computer playing algorithm visualization, so it's showing how the computer thinks. I've been working on something for Chorale since we obviously can't sing together because of COVID-19. We've tried to sing together through Google Meets but I didn't really expect that to work because of the latency and probably the audio compression, so I decided to try making an application that allows you to record yourself singing and then it stores it locally. So you're not singing together, but once people record it, it automatically puts together everybody's recordings so you get the full chorus. We're trying it out this week really for the first time so hopefully it'll work, [but] if not, it is still fun and valuable.
Stinger: What is something about you that some people may not know?

Schmidt: I enjoy backpacking... I've done a number of backpacking trips and I really enjoy that.
Stinger: What is your favorite place that you've been backpacking?
Schmidt: It would have to be the Philmont Scout Ranch in Mexico. I'm a Boy Scout and we went there a couple years ago and we did a 12 day backpacking trip in that area. It's really neat because the scenery and landscape in that area is so different than here. It was the first time I had ever experienced that kind of place so that was pretty amazing. We [also] climbed Mt. Baldy which was 12,000 feet, so that was very cool.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for underclassmen or freshmen coming to the high school?
Schmidt: Two pieces of advice: Get involved with clubs and in your first year try to get involved in some clubs and see what you like because you can always [leave them]. You don't have to stay with the club, but see what options are out there and you might find some things you may enjoy, and also take a programming class because it will benefit you in more ways than you could imagine.
Stinger: What is one of your favorite memories from your four years of high school?
Schmidt: I think going to Italy and singing with chorale. That was pretty fantastic. I would not ever expect to do that before high school.
Stinger: What made the Italy trip so special to you?
Schmidt: Well, it was the first time I'd ever been sort of immersed in a different culture, so that was neat. I wasn't interacting with the locals a lot but it was still cool. The architecture is different, there are people speaking Italian obviously, different food, and then we sang in the Sistine Chapel and that was probably my favorite. It's obviously something you don't get to do every day, so that was pretty amazing.

ISHAAN LAL by Ari Bowman

After four years of hard work in both academics and extracurriculars, Ishaan Lal plans to attend the University of Pennsylvania in the fall, where he will study mechanical engineering with a minor in computer science. Throughout his academic career at Emmaus High School, Lal consistently placed in the state's top three for various math competitions, took part in the Computer Science club where he qualified for the Computer Science League's national competition, and was the captain of the school's Academic Team, which reached the Scholastic Scrimmage's semi-finals and qualified for three national competitions. Outside of school, he has been awarded the President's Cup for piano performance and has participated in the National Piano Guild Audition for five years.

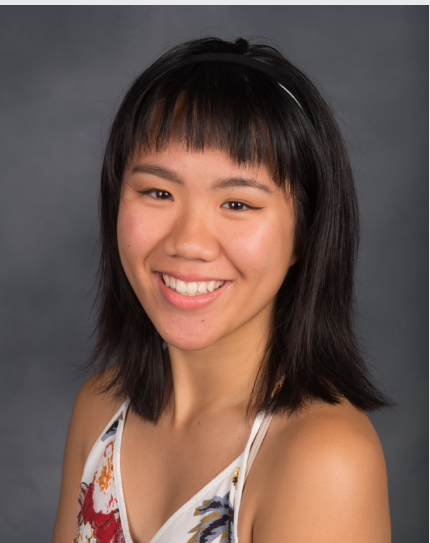
Stinger: What club or activity did you enjoy the most?
Lal: Definitely Academic Team. I think just the people who join that club are always very unique and very intelligent, and it's great to learn different things from people who know a lot about various different topics.
Stinger: Who was your favorite teacher?
Lal: Aw man, you had to hit me with this one. Man, you know, I'll have to go with Mr. Harkness. First of all, he's a very funny and nice guy, and he has imparted a lot of wisdom onto me, and really changed my life for the better.
Stinger: If you could change anything about the last four years, what would it be?
Lal: Let's see. I think I would just want to be more free.

And I'll explain that a little bit. There's this tendency when you come into high school to be...very stressed and work focused, and I just wish I was a little more loose and open to everything. It's really something I learned throughout high school and at the end finally learned to be less stressed and focused.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for your freshman self?
Lal: Yeah. So, it would be to join clubs that are outside of my comfort zone. To like, do things I thought I wouldn't be interested in, and try things out just because you never know if you'll like it. Simply not trying it can cause you to miss out on a lot of stuff, and prevent you from discovering things you could potentially like.
Stinger: What would you say is your biggest accomplishment of high school?
Lal: That's a good question. I think getting accepted into college at the end of high school is my biggest achievement. Getting accepted into college kind of proves to myself that everything I did paid off, and I did the right thing throughout high school by working hard. So I think even though it's not technically something I accomplished in high school, I'm still very proud of it.
Stinger: What was your favorite class?
Lal: My favorite class was [AP] Physics C. That was honestly such a really cool class, because I love physics and I love math. Mr. Ohl taught it and he's hilarious, and everyone in the class was just extremely intelligent. It was definitely the best.
Stinger: Where do you see yourself in the future?

Lal: You know I'd like to say that I'd have a huge mansion, and be like, rich and famous, but really, I just see myself being happy with whatever path I go down. It's hard to say what the future holds for me, but I see myself being happy and content with life.
Stinger: How would you describe your high school experience as a whole?
Lal: It's been very chaotic, but in the best possible way.



JADA WITKOWSKI by Lila Benner



Jada Witkowski is a member of the Drama Department, Select Choir, Chorale, French Club, and Young Democrats. In addition to these various clubs, she is also involved in the musicals at Emmaus and is the president of EHS Activism.

Stinger: What made you decide to get involved in the

drama department and choir?
Witkowski: Well, I've had a lot of influence from my mom since I was a child for theatre, because she always took me to see shows. And I always loved to sing in chorus since elementary [school]. After my first musical in fifth grade, I sort of just had taken to both things and never felt like I didn't enjoy it.
Stinger: What will you miss most about Emmaus?
Witkowski: I think the opportunities I will miss the most and memories made with each. I was given the amazing opportunity to sing at Carnegie with EHS Chorale twice, and we sang and toured around Boston. There were so many amazing people on the trips as well and I'm going to miss singing with all of them.
Stinger: On a scale from one to 10, how much would you say you experienced senioritis this year?
Witkowski: I'd say a solid seven or eight.
Stinger: What teachers impacted you the most?
Witkowski: Mrs. Walsh impacted me the most. I think she's the definition of what a teacher is supposed to be. She helped me when I was struggling and instilled more confidence in myself that I was lacking. She also showed such a passion for psychology and made class fun every day, and definitely made an impact in my choice to major in psychology. Madame Pissarra definite-

ly challenged [me] the most to practice French out[side] of class and showed a love for France and French culture, which I shared. She's also one of the reasons why I plan to minor in French and study abroad.
Stinger: How do you think you've changed since freshman year?
Witkowski: I think I definitely have, I think I found confidence within the clubs I took apart of and made more friends who made me who I am today.
Stinger: What are your plans for after high school?
Witkowski: I plan on attending Dickinson College and pursuing a major in psychology and a minor in French. I hope to get a PhD for psychology and study abroad in France during my time in college.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for underclassmen?
Witkowski: Join in all the clubs and activities you can because you'll make so many memories and won't regret a single moment.

This one's for the books:

Rylan Bassett, Editor in Chief by Krissy Heilenman



Rylan Bassett is currently the Editor in Chief of *The Stinger*. He has been a vital member of *The Stinger* since his freshman year. Throughout his time on *The Stinger*, Bassett has won a multitude of awards. Some include a superior and honorable mention from the National School Press Association, first place in

news writing at the Pennsylvania School Press Association Regionals in 2019, second in the Pennsylvania Women's Press Association in 2020, and first place and honorable mention in review writing for the 2020 Student Keystone Press Awards.

Bassett will attend the University of Maryland, where he will major in Journalism and ultimately plans to become a war correspondent -- a journalist who covers stories in areas of the world plagued with conflict.

Stinger: Why did you choose to enter war correspondence and general conflict coverage?

Bassett: I would be going to areas of the world that are rife with conflict, [the] Middle East, South Sudan, stuff like that, and photographing and reporting on the issues there. I think there's definitely a place for local

journalism, and I see the value in that, but I also think there's stories a world away that people will benefit from hearing, and I don't think many people are willing to go find them. I want to go find those stories and bring them back.

Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?

Bassett: I think I am definitely more confident in both my abilities as a journalist, and my decisions as a leader.

Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?

Bassett: Ideally as less of an a**hole than I actually was. And as Editor in Chief, you can print that. ... Just use asterisks, you'll be fine.

Stinger: Who has impacted your high school experience the most? Why/how?

Bassett: It's probably [Ms.] Reaman. I think she's definitely been the most involved in my growth as a journalist. She's

facilitated that growth, and as obvious as it is, she's been an advisor and a mentor to me for nearly all of my high school career.

Stinger: What is your favorite memory from *The Stinger*?

Bassett: I think towards the top echelon of *Stinger* memories is definitely the last few moments of production before sending a paper out.

That satisfactory aura where we've worked so hard to create a product, and we're finally putting it to bed.

Stinger: What's your favorite story you've ever written?

Bassett: I did a spread -- well not a spread, it was a one-page layout -- on a local filmmak-

er named Zeke Zelker. And I called all the files associated with that story ZZ Top, which confused Ms. Reaman. But that was a lot of fun, because I got to go watch his movie, which was about a local news add-on from the 80s. It was just really fun because it was talking about

a very interesting person that also had a strong local tie.

Stinger: On a scale of one to 10, how much senioritis do you have?

Bassett: 10.3.

Stinger: Any last comments?

Bassett: I think I could've done more to improve the paper,

as well as to lead you guys to something better, but I also think I'm leaving it in more than capable hands.



Katie Taranto, Managing Editor by Greta Miller

Over the course of her years at Emmaus, Managing Editor Katie Taranto always had an appreciation for journalism. It wasn't until her junior year that this appreciation turned into a passion, encouraged by her experiences in writing about touching, human-interest subjects.

As well as *The Stinger*, Taranto is the secretary of Girl Up, a member of Model UN, National Honor Society, French National Honor Society, and a Hornet Ambassador. Attending the University of Missouri in the fall to study journalism, Taranto hopes her everlasting experiences on *The Stinger* will fuel her success in college.

Stinger: How do you feel you've changed since freshman year?

Taranto: Oh goodness, that's a long answer. I was really shy freshman year and I didn't really open up to many people, and I think I've

changed in that I've recognized that it's not scary to talk to people. *The Stinger* has helped come out of my shell a little bit and talk to people instead of sitting on the sidelines and being scared. When we first started learning the man-on-the-street news story style, I remember doing my first interviews and my hands were shaking, and I was nervous, and quickly I got the hang of it. I realized that I enjoy this.

Stinger: What was your favorite project while on staff?

Taranto: One of my most defining stories was my breast cancer center spread from junior year in October. It wasn't the first human interest story I've ever done, but



it was the subject matter and the seriousness of the issue. It was about two teachers who had breast cancer. I've never written a story that showed me how important journalism was, and it showed me that I wanted to tell their story

in the best way that I could. I remember after one of my interviews I called up one of the teachers on the phone and I was in my room and I just cried because I was so inspired by the things she had said. It made me realize my big responsibility that I had with telling her story.

Stinger: Did you always see yourself majoring in journalism?

Taranto: Freshman and

sophomore year, I had no clue. I was taking journalism classes and liked it, but I wasn't sure if that's what I wanted to do for the rest of my life because as an underclassman, I think most people will understand, you're still growing. But junior year is when I really started researching colleges, and thinking about things that I could make a living out of, and I think journalism was my top choice.

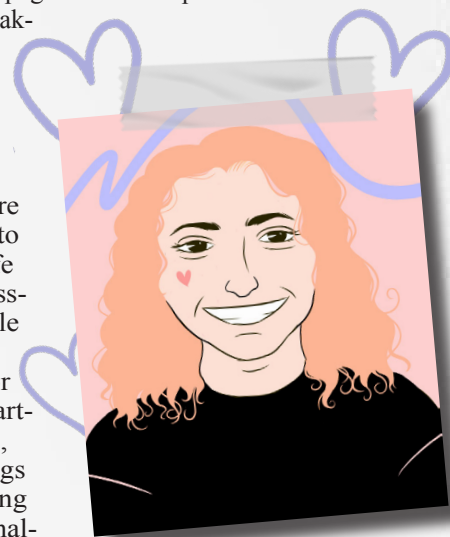
Stinger: Who was your favorite teacher in high school and why?

Taranto: Hands down I would say Ms. Reaman. I've gotten so close to her and I've had her for all four years now, and I think of her as a second mother. She's definitely a nurturer, she has such a deep care and concern for her students, and she's just helped me develop into who I am today. I am just so

grateful that she's in my life.

Stinger: Why are you amazing?

Taranto: I think I'm amazing because I'm very passionate about what I do. Especially on *The Stinger*, I try to do everything with as much rigor, and I try to dive into everything I do.



Emma Brashear, Photo Editor by Madison Mauro



Being a photography and coding whiz, Emma Brashear has spent the past four years taking stunning photos for *The Stinger*, earning national recognition for her photography, as well as a fundamental member of the Girls Who Code Club. This fall she plans on bringing her charisma and bright attitude to study at the University of Maryland with a double major in computer science and environmental science.

Stinger: Tell me about your journey onto *The Stinger* freshman

year.

Brashear: I had Ms. Reaman for CP English freshman year, and I also had photography class after her class, I showed her my photos, took a few pictures, and then applied for staff my sophomore year.

Stinger: When did you realize you had a passion for photography, and how do you plan on keeping it close to you in college?

Brashear: I joined yearbook in sixth grade, and I had a lot of fun doing that even though I wasn't very good. That year I asked for a camera for my birthday and would make my sister pose so that I could take pictures of her. Freshman year is when I discovered I liked to take pictures of events or sports [and that] I liked to capture the action. I plan on continuing to take pictures of my friends and family and just keep my camera with me.

Stinger: What would you say your biggest accomplishment

has been so far?

Brashear: I feel through my journey through *The Stinger*. I'm really glad I got to succeed at nationals this year. I also feel that by the end of my high school career I've found out who I am and where I fit in. I finally found my rhythm and am happy with where I'm headed.

Stinger: What inspired you to pursue computer and environmental science?

Brashear: My mom made me take programming sophomore year because she wanted more girls in her class, but then I really fell in love with the class my junior year. I really like problem solving, and I like knowing how computers work, so I signed up again senior year and that's when I really decided it's what I wanted to do in college. I haven't gotten bored of it yet, so that's good. I plan on double majoring in environmental science too because I want to help the Earth. I hope with my knowledge of computers I can make simulations and

find solutions to our problems.

Stinger: If you could give your freshman self advice, what would it be?

Brashear: It would have to be to be as outgoing as possible, and try as many things [as you can] because even if a friendship doesn't work out or you end up hating a class, you can always find new people and new things to do. Freshman year I stayed in my own bubble, but sophomore year I made a point on the first day of school to talk to new people, and I made so many new friends who have stuck with me throughout all of high school.

Stinger: What will you miss most about high school and what are you looking forward to?

Brashear: I'm gonna miss my friends the most. I've had a lot of the same friends since

elementary school and it's been so cool to see us all grow up together. I've

also made a lot of new friends, and it'll be so weird going to a place where I don't know anyone. But I'm looking forward to meeting new people who have similar interests as me so we can push each other and grow together.

Stinger: Any final words of wisdom?

Brashear: Try as many things as you can in high school because you're never going to get to experience something like this again. High school is, really, a safe space, you make mistakes and then they kinda go away, so try as many things as possible. High school offers so many opportunities, you could end up meeting some of your greatest friends.



Stinger senior staff reflects 13



With her high school career soon to be in the past, Vicki Rivera prepares for her next chapter at Cornell University in New York.

Throughout her four years at Emmaus, Rivera found herself in many different areas. Whether playing field hockey or writing for *The Stinger*, Rivera's active participation within Emmaus

Vicki Rivera, Culture Editor by Jacob Welsko

played a big role in her time here.

Stinger: How did you manage your time with all your extracurriculars?

Rivera: On paper it seems like a lot, but it wasn't in the moment. For the fall season I had field hockey everyday, which was stressful. [But] I made sure my homework was done before going to a game. School was always first. Having a full plate keeps you focused, I didn't have time to get distracted. [However], you don't need a full plate to be a good applicant for college.

Stinger: With field hockey and *The Stinger*, you were part of two teams in a sense. How did that impact your high school experience and life in general?

Rivera: They did separate things: field hockey impacted

my personality, I got so much confidence, learned teamwork, leadership, [how to] adapt, and that you have to be kind. With *Stinger*, [it was] such an experience where I couldn't be comfortable. [I had to] take risks.

Stinger: How would you describe yourself?

Rivera: Someone once told me that I was genuine. [I like to be] very transparent and want people to know my motives, and that I'm honest.

Stinger: How do you want your peers to remember you for once you graduate?

Rivera: Smiling, laughing, having fun. I never really came to school too down, [and I] tried to be positive to uplift other peoples' mood.

Stinger: Have you had any mentors here at Emmaus? Who?

Rivera: Ms. Reaman. I've

been [a student] with her since freshman year. She takes a deep interest in her students.

I [also] chose her as my sports person [for mentor night].

Stinger: What's the number one thing you're going to miss about high school?

Rivera: [High school] is so structured, and I think that's going to change. [Also] walking from class and seeing your friends after class. [Plus], the teachers, all teachers at Emmaus are amazing.

Stinger: If you wish you knew one thing about high school before going into it, what would it be and why?

Rivera: I shouldn't have underestimated myself. ... My first two years I didn't push myself, and I regret not challenging myself with course work. [So] underclassmen should push themselves.

Stinger: Any advice for upcoming seniors as they embark on their final year of high school?

Rivera: Your main focus should be school, but also narrowing down schools at least over the summer, [so you can] talk to guidance counselors and get letters of recommendation. [Also], have fun, [it's your] last year so capitalize on that.



Nate Garcia, Cartoonist by Curtis Jackson

In elementary school, Nate Garcia realized he was good at art when teachers and fellow students seemed surprised by his drawings. He would later invest a considerable time in his pieces, a habit that continues today.

That has turned out to be a good thing since the award-winning artist -- who has captured numerous national and state awards for editorial cartooning -- is headed to Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts to study illustration. He hopes to become an editorial illustrator. Currently his



commissioned works, particularly larger pieces, can take up to a month to complete.

Stinger: How often do you practice art?

Garcia: I draw every single day, sometimes for

the whole day or for the majority of the day and I haven't stopped. So, some say that I may have a problem, but I like doing it. On a weekend... I have some corn flakes and then I usually just draw in whatever book I have

at the moment. And then from there, I will pick something but may draw something in a different way and turn into something cool or something lame but I don't throw away my drawings because then you don't know if the drawing is lame because you might repeat yourself.

Stinger: What do you remember creating in art class back in elementary school?

Garcia: I had a teacher named Ms. Cervenka in Harmony, Texas. She was crazy, she was like 25, she was telling us about her crazy roommates and they were putting up a light... she fell down the stairs and one of the dogs peed on her after, so I was so shocked and it was so insane,

and so I made a little folded book about it and so I kept making books about her. She became my muse.

Stinger: So how many full sketchbooks do you have?

Garcia: 27. Since the fall of 2016. Wait, 28.

Stinger: Any regrets?

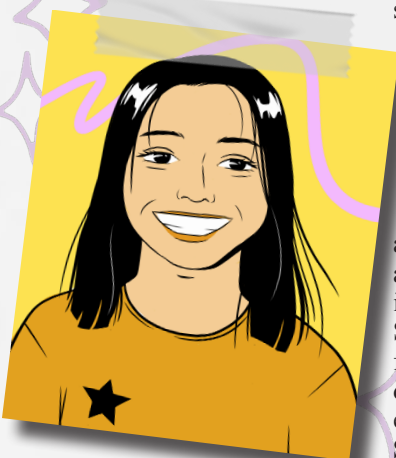
Garcia: Everybody says, 'I should have done more work.' I wish I did less work. Because realizing now that it didn't matter. I didn't even care that much. We're talking about academics, we're not talking art. When they started making up numbers, I was out.

Stinger: Who should people be listening to right now, but they're probably not.



Garcia: There is an amazing band King Gizzard and Lizard Wizard. They would open the eyes of a lot of people who categorize these years as a lot of bad music.

Kaylee Ruiz, Cartoonist by Heather Fabritze



Cartoonist Kaylee Ruiz has contributed her artistic gifts to *The Stinger* since the end of her freshman year. Aside from her tenure as an opinion editor when she was a sophomore,

she has also participated for two years on the Debate Team, as well as Photography and French Club.

Ruiz plans to major in graphic design at the Savannah College of Art and Design in Georgia, an accomplishment she is incredibly proud of. She hopes that whatever future career path she decides upon will involve visual effects, animation, or marketing.

Stinger: What is your favorite memory from your time on *The Stinger*?

Ruiz: Going to Chicago last year in the fall for the write-off competition, because it's fun to do the write-offs and place, but



it's also fun just to go to Chicago and go with your friends. I was friends with a lot of people on staff and [we got to] go out to eat together, walk around, and

Chicago's such a nice place. It was just really fun.

Stinger: Who is your inspiration and why?

Ruiz: That's so hard. I think my mom inspires me a lot for her work ethic. But if I think, like, lifestyle, I think there are a lot of musicians that inspire me to kind

of work hard or be in charge.

Stinger: What has been your biggest accomplishment in high school?

Ruiz: Savannah was my top choice for a college. I applied in early August [or] September and I got in first try, so I didn't have to fly anywhere else. So that was really exciting for me. And I guess write-off competitions and *Stinger*. I placed on a lot of those which helped my resume.

Stinger: What was your favorite thing about EHS' art program?

Ruiz: So I went on the field trip to Italy and Greece with the art program, and that was probably the best experience of my high school [career]. Just going with a group of people—and I knew some of them and some of them

I became friends with on the way, and that experience traveling with them and seeing art was my favorite.

Stinger: How do you feel about the Coronavirus cutting your senior year short?

Ruiz: I'm very glad actually, which, you know, obviously the [virus] is so bad for, you know, people and the economy, but for me in particular—pretty nice. I'm not that sad about never having to be in school again. Because instead of spending like 40 hours a week in school and waking up early and seeing a bunch of people that I don't really want to see, I spend like three hours a week on school. And I wake up in the afternoon and school is just easier now.

Mac Thomas, Deputy Sports Editor by Erick de la Rosa

Mac Thomas has wrapped up his four years at Emmaus High School, being universally beloved by classmates, as he brought a unique and vibrant energy everywhere he went.

Thomas plans to attend Mercyhurst College in Erie, PA, to study exercise science and one day become a strength and development coach. During his time at Emmaus, Thomas was a key force on both sides of the ball for the football team, a thrower on the track and field team, and a sports editor for *The Stinger*.

Stinger: What was your experience



like on the football team?

Thomas: The best memories came out of football. I'll be friends with [my teammates] for the rest of my life, and together, we had so many good moments on and

off the field.

Stinger: What teacher did you connect with the most?

Thomas: Ms. Reaman without a doubt. I enjoyed having her so much and I've really enjoyed my time in [559]. She's helped me open up out of my shell and communicate with more people,

and she's just really easy to talk to. She was like my mom at school.

Stinger: Best bathroom in the school?

Thomas: Oh, definitely the one by the multimedia room. You can drop a deuce in there with no worries, but it's never open. If not that one, then the one in the English hall works.

Stinger: What was your favorite class that you took?

Thomas: Journalism 2. Journalism 1 had open note tests which was really cool, but in [Journalism 2] I was able to kinda work on my own things without it getting too stressful.

Stinger: What was it like being on the first football team to make it to the district title game?

Thomas: The chemistry on that

team was so good. We had no beef, we all loved each other, and we were really focused on winning. It was a fun ride.

Stinger: What advice would you give to your freshman self?

Thomas: Get your ... in on time. Just get your stuff in and you won't have to worry about it later. Also, in freshman year, I came in with this mentality that I just wanted to get through my four years and dip. I was shy and didn't really talk to too many people. Now I am friends with so many people, and it was great to get out of my shell.

Stinger: If you could be a teacher for a day who would you be?

Thomas: Definitely one of the [assistant principals] because it would be fun to see how many fights I would have to



break up in a day.

Stinger: What was your favorite part of being on *The Stinger* staff?

Thomas: It was definitely getting to hang out with all my [fellow staff members]. It was just another place where I got to meet more people, and I made a lot of friends with it.



SENIOR SESSIONS

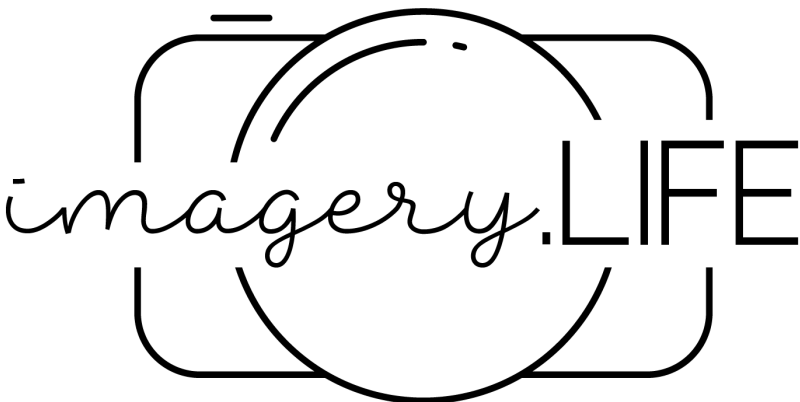
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Arts & Culture

TÉA VAN LINDE by Adithi Katikhanei

With an immense passion for travel and self discovery, Téa van Linde leaves EHS to explore foreign nations through a unique program. After being involved with several clubs and extracurriculars that build on interpersonal skills and a sense of community, she plans on chasing these interests by helping others and finding happiness in the sharing of knowledge.

Stinger: What do you think is your favorite aspect of the Theater Department?

van Linde: I think it’s definitely the relationships that I’ve made, both within Chorale and the Theater Department. Especially this year, having a leadership position, it’s really nice to reach out to people you don’t usually talk to, like underclassmen. But definitely the relationships and memories I’ve made with my friends through the productions we’ve done.

Stinger: Is there a specific production you especially close to?

van Linde: I think that *West Side Story* was really cool because it was the first musical that I had gotten into, and there were a lot of seniors I got really close to. It was the first time that I felt really loved and included, and it was like ‘All the big kids were talking to me!’ Also the play, ‘Our Town’ ... and I think that the play taught me a lot about life, and the relationships and time.

Stinger: How have you seen yourself change over these past years?

van Linde: Absolutely! I feel like I’ve become a little less high strung, and when I came into highschool I felt like I couldn’t do anything out of the box, and that I was just a little more innocent. I think I’ve let go throughout my four years, and kinda gone to the flow. I’ve been more open to opportunities I wouldn’t have gone for in my freshman year.

Stinger: What would you tell your freshman self?

van Linde: I would probably say to put yourself out there, and introduce yourself to people and go with your gut; not that I necessarily didn’t do that, but I was very concerned with how I would be perceived. But I would just say, introduce yourself to people, have a good time, and don’t be afraid of what people think of you.

Stinger: What do you think is something important you’ve learned on your journey?

van Linde: Another thing that I think I’ve learned is that you are just as valuable as any teacher or authority figure that may come across your path. I think it’s really important to stand your ground and have a respect for yourself. I think it’s important to know that it’s okay to not succeed in something. Also my Instagram bio for the last four years has been “Kindness is everything,” and I think those three words are so simple but they explain so

much. Everything is easier when you’re kind. Definitely don’t shut people out. Give so many hugs.



TREVOR WARREN by Ari Bowman



Photo courtesy of Warren.

After four years of righteous participation in Emmaus High School’s choral and theatre programs, Trevor Warren plans to go on and study Aeronautics at Kent State University while minoring in music technology.

Trevor spent much of his time in high school singing in groups like Chorale and Fermata Nowhere, and also appeared in many EHS productions, including Miss Saigon, West Side Story, and Les Miserables.

Stinger: What are you most proud of that you did at EHS?

Warren: I’d have to say my involvement with the choral and theater programs, the main thing I learned was to get involved, and there are so many clubs and activities that you can get involved in, but out of all of them, I’m glad it was that.

Stinger: What advice do you have for other students?

Warren: The same thing I said earlier--get involved however you can. Especially during freshman year coming in and not knowing anybody, it can be a very scary time, so it’s nice to have a place that is welcoming of you. For me that was the theater department. The people that I had met before I knew through there, and I’m still involved in it and have made lots of friendships from it.

Stinger: What are your plans for after highschool?

Warren: Well ... it depends on the pandemic. I’d be going to Kent State University to major in aeronautics and minor in music technology, maybe something else music related, I’m not sure. But if the pandemic pushes fall classes online I’ll probably do LCCC or take a gap year, it really all depends on the pandemic.

Stinger: What is your favorite show that you’ve been apart of at EHS?

Warren: I’d have to say Miss Saigon, even though it was

my first one that I did. I did crew for the fall play that year--most people start off with crew, but whether or not you’re on the cast or crew, you still meet a lot of great people who will stick with you for a while. The show was so well done, it was insane, even though it was a high school show, it was so well done. Everyone was going all out, showing amazing talent, and we especially had incredibly talented seniors that year.

Stinger: What would you tell your freshman self?

Warren: I guess ... don’t miss out on things. There are some points where, like, some years I didn’t go to dances, this year I didn’t really go to any football games, even though last year I went and enjoyed them. I just wish that I had done more things, or done the things that I missed out on during my freshman and sophomore year, especially with the pandemic cutting the year off abruptly.

Stinger: Who was your favorite teacher?

Warren: Mr. Zolomij. Actually, it’s tied with Mr. Z and Mrs. Hunter. Well, and obviously I love Ms. Cortez too, and anyone who understands the respect she has for people who like music and put effort into it love her as well and have a lot to say about her. So, I’m gonna go with Mr. Z. He was honestly the most positive and entertaining teachers I’ve ever had, who really just let conversation happen along with debates, Mrs. Hunter did that as well, and really left room for both sides, without telling you explicitly what they thought. He was always incredibly interested in people and their lives, how they were doing, how their weekend was, et cetera. When I won the Freddy Award, he was so excited and actually cared, and was

DANIELLE POTTS by Sophia Clements

After starring on the stage in the past three years, Danielle Potts keeps her head up. School may have ended differently than anyone expected but Potts stays positive in this time of wariness. She hopes to put on the musical over the summer so everyone can enjoy what the theater department has worked so hard on.

Hopefully after a proper farewell to Emmaus with Hello Dolly! Potts can go into St. John’s University with a full heart. She plans on majoring in psychology with a minor in criminal justice.

Stinger: Who was your mentor in high school?

Potts: It would be Ms. Cortez she’s the head of the music department and I’ve been with her since my freshman year and I think she has really guided me into who I am today and pushed me to the limits to achieve all of the achievements I’ve achieved today.

Stinger: When did you start being involved in drama?

Potts: Ever since elementary school. My first play was in elementary school and I was in the chorus then and then I just continued on through middle school into high school.

Stinger: Favorite part about being involved in theater?

Potts: I would have to say the people because all of my best friends and all of my friends are in theater and we have so many great memories and we go on so many trips like last year chorale went to Italy and we sang all over there and it was so much fun.

Stinger: What has it been like with the spring musical not potentially going on? How do you feel about that?

Potts: It’s definitely been hard because we’ve put so much work into putting on the show and choreography and we were so close to putting it on. We would have opened that Tuesday [March 17] but we got shut down on that Friday and it took a toll on all of us because of how much work we put into it. But hopefully, we’ll get to do it in the summer if this thing clears up but I really hope we get to because it was a really good show- I enjoyed it a lot.

Stinger: Biggest accomplishment in high school?

Potts: My biggest accomplishment would probably be ranking first for Districts going into region this year because it’s something that we do it’s PMEA- the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association and it’s all of the schools in the Eastern PA- we’re broken up into regions and districts. Out of 27 people, I ranked first and that was a really big accomplishment for me because I put in a lot of work and it was nice to see that it paid off.

Stinger: Who is your inspiration?

Potts: I would have to say either my mom and my sister. I have always looked up to them and they always help me with anything I want and just who they are. And my mom is such an independent person and she always is there--straight-forward and says it how it is and I think that really is something that I value. And even my sister because she’s been really successful in her life with school and her job so far and that’s also something I really value. And their personalities, they’re just very whole people.

Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?

Potts: Don’t waste a moment and don’t take anything for granted because you really don’t know what you miss until it’s gone and just enjoy the time you have.



DYLAN MICHAEL

by Jacob Welsko

As high school comes to a close, Dylan Michael is getting ready to pursue business at Temple University in Philadelphia later this year.

During his time at Emmaus High School, Michael co-founded foreign culture club, played boys volleyball his first two years, and co-founded a rock band with his friend Nate Garcia called Spiders Dressed in Red.

Stinger: What was the biggest obstacle in high school for you?

Michael: Time management, [there were] times where lots of things were going on, and I had [to try] to keep my head above water. I went to bed late most of the time [but] dedicated myself to my goals.

Stinger: How would you describe yourself?

Michael: Passionate and dedicated.

Stinger: What/who do you want your peers to remember you for/as once you graduate?

Michael: I'd hope to be remembered as somebody who can be relied on [and someone who is able] to make someone laugh.

Stinger: Have you had any mentors here at Emmaus? Who and how did they help you?

Michael: First person to come to my mind is Alex Ott and Eli Zukowski. Mr. Carolla was a great help [with history day] and that helped me. [Also Mr.] Pirro, he was the best teacher I've ever had.

Stinger: Any embarrassing stories from Emmaus?

Michael: [About] four months ago I performed at Coffee House with the band, [and we] went up for the last song, and we knew what was gonna happen. I just remember

looking at Darren and he was laughing. We were super unprepared [but now] we look back and laugh.

Stinger: What's the number one think you're going to miss about high school?

Michael: Because of quarantine it's already what I miss most ... I miss socializing.

Stinger: Where do you see yourself in five years?

Michael: Hopefully graduated college and still making music. [Just] being successful and being happy.

Stinger: If you wish you knew one thing about High School before going into it, what would it be and why?

Michael: Involve yourself in clubs and surround yourself with good people.

Stinger: Any advice for upcoming seniors as they embark on their final year of high school?

Michael: Enjoy your senior year because it goes fast [and even] faster for some.

Stinger: Which was your best year of high school?

Michael: Senior year. I didn't have a bad year of high school, [but] senior year was a good conclusion [even] without the last three months.

Stinger: What album would you choose for your soundtrack to high school?

Michael: Light Up Gold by Parquet Courts because that album is my favorite album of all time. It's important to who I am, that album is number one.

Stinger: What is something from high school you wish you could redo?

Michael: [Probably] SATs, I didn't try as hard enough, [and] after, I recognized how important they are to scholarships.

Stinger: What is something from high school you would never redo?

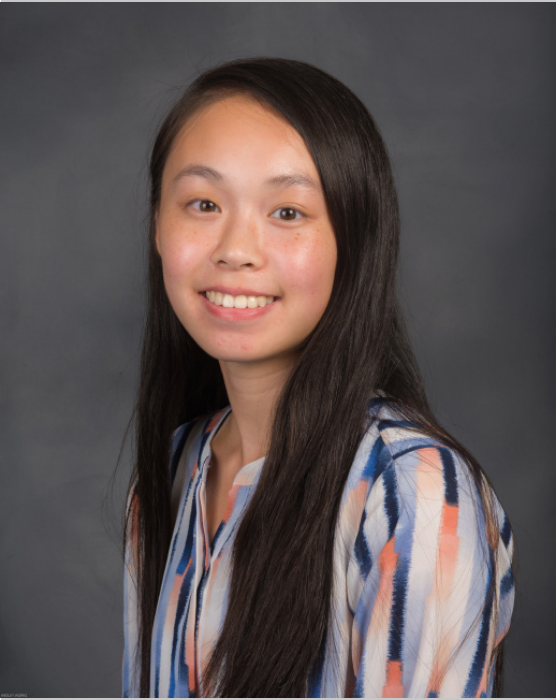
Michael: [I'd say] socially I had [it] really good, my high school experience regarding my friends was perfect.



Photo courtesy of Michael.

IVORY GAO

by Adithi Katikhaneni



Of all the class of 2020, few are as involved as tennis player and orchestral member Ivory Gao. From impressive academics to incredible leadership in the school community to being an overall kind-hearted and put together young woman, Gao reflects on her past four years at Emmaus High School, as she comments on her journey and growth as a student and young adult.

At the end of this academic year, Gao will depart from EHS to pursue her major of Mathematical Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.

Stinger: What do you think stuck out about orchestra the most?

Gao: Well, for me, I think it was just the orchestral community, like freshman year we did a couple of activities where we went to New York City, and it's just like the community that's there in general. During the concerts, we have a good relationship with our conductor, Mrs Arnold.

Stinger: What would you say to your freshman self?

Gao: Don't be afraid to take any opportunities, [be]cause I know I was afraid to take on leadership roles as a freshman and stuff like that, but I think I've learned to grow and learn about myself, and grow into myself.

Stinger: What is your favorite thing about tennis?

Gao: I think just in general, tennis is where you learn to communicate with your partner, like I play on a doubles team, and throughout the season my partner and I really got to know each other, and learned how to communicate on the court.

Stinger: Who's your inspirational figure?

Gao: I actually have two teachers, because I'm going to be majoring in mathematical economics, so one of my teachers was for math, Mrs.Stout. She taught me calculus and computer science, and Mrs. Stout was just a leading figure in trying to get me into my passion for math. My other mentor for orchestra [mentor night] was Mr. Parish, he's the AP economics teacher, and he's actually the club advisor for a club that I founded, so he has a big role in

helping to shape that club and helping to lead it and plan field trips, as well as introducing me to economics.

Stinger: What club [did you create]? When did you make it?

Gao: Initially sophomore year was when I went to the camp, and afterwards I realised that I really like[d] this subject, economics, so I took it junior year. Throughout the course of junior year, I wanted to find a place where I could apply economics in like a real world situation, but also give back to the student body, because there weren't many courses offered on financial literacy stuff that would be practical in the long run. So I decided that it would probably be helpful to found a club, which was Economics and Investments Club.

Stinger: Are you an artistic person ?

Gao: So one of my hobbies is painting, I didn't really get to pursue AP art because my schedule didn't fit it, but like in 8th grade I was involved in the Art Club, and in highschool I kinda lost the touch of doing it, even though it's still there as a hobby for me.

Stinger: How did you feel about the way the year ended?

Gao: I think it was really unexpected, but I think there's still some positive aspects of this situation, like you get to spend more time with family. Senior year is kinda busy, especially in the beginning of the year, with tennis season and college applications, so it's just nice to just settle down a little bit and not have to worry about all those things. There's still academics and school, but it's nice to just be able to take a bit of a breather.

SEAN MCGINLEY

by Jacob Welsko

As high school concludes, Sean McGinley gets ready to embark on the next part of his life at Ursinus College in Collegeville, Pennsylvania this fall.

In college, McGinley seeks to pursue either political science or art, a passion he's been doing since he was around the age of four or five. During his time at Emmaus High School, McGinley expressed his artwork in AP Studio art and participated in the annual dodgeball tournaments.

Stinger: What was the biggest obstacle in high school for you?

McGinley: Adjusting to some of the harder classes, other than that it was a pretty easy transition.

Stinger: How would you describe yourself?

McGinley: I'd say I'm more of an introvert, a creative guy [and] fun to be around.

Stinger: What/who do you want your peers to remember you for/as once you graduate?

McGinley: A nice person [and a] smart guy.

Stinger: Have you had any mentors here at Emmaus? Who?

McGinley: Mrs. Maley, the art teacher, and I also really like Mr. Pum.

Stinger: Any embarrassing stories from Emmaus?

McGinley: One day me, Ryan Stewart and Darren Bower were being goofballs and screaming in the bathroom by

the journalism room and Rylan [Bassett] had to come in and tell us to quiet down.

Stinger: Favorite memory from EHS?

McGinley: The dodgeball tournament [in] 11th and 12th grade. We got bounced first round but it was fun.

Stinger: Where would you say you see yourself in five years?

McGinley: Hopefully graduated from college, having a job. It stresses me out to think about that.

Stinger: If you wish you knew one thing about High School before going into it, what would it be?

McGinley: To not care what others think about you.

Stinger: Any advice for upcoming seniors as they embark on their final year of High School?

McGinley: Don't take anything for granted [and to] live in the moment.

Stinger: Favorite class from high school and why?

McGinley: 12 AP Studio Art [because you] just go in and do art [with] friends [and] no set path.

Stinger: Who is your biggest inspiration and why?

McGinley: Probably either my dad, [it's] a stereotypical answer but it's true, or Dylan Michael or Nate Garcia. If I'm being genuine about it, those two are two of the most creative people I know.

Stinger: What is something from high school you wish you could redo?

McGinley: I could've gotten more involved. I took AP

Studio [but not] art club.

Stinger: Which was your best high school year? Why?

McGinley: 11th or 12th grade, probably 12th [because] it's your last year and you make it a point to have fun.



RHYS WILLIAMS

by Greta Miller

A part of the orchestra, Tri-M Honor Society, International Thespian Honor Society, Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Chorale, Select Choir, Fermata Nowhere, as well as Assistant Director for EHS’ spring musical, “Hello, Dolly!” Rhys Williams is no stranger to the art of music. Attending his dream school, Berklee College of Music’s campus in Valencia, Spain, he will continue his music endeavours majoring in songwriting, which studies lyrical arrangement in modern styles of music.

Stinger: What initially got you into music?
Williams: I took this class called Kinder Music starting when I was 18 months old, and it introduced me to music. Then in fourth grade, I chose cello as my string instrument and I kept with that. Then I started voice lessons, and then experimented with guitar and organ.
Stinger: What are you most excited for in college?
Williams: I’m just excited to meet different people with my same interest. I’ve also been teaching myself a little Spanish to help me there, so I’m excited to apply my skills.
Stinger: What do you see yourself in 10 years?
Williams: I hope to see myself song writing and producing my own music, and maybe performing in different groups and such. I’m mostly interested in producing more pop, rock, more modern music.
Stinger: What is your favorite composition you’ve produced?
Williams: It would probably be a tie between the orchestral piece that the [Emmaus High School] orchestra

played called “Springtime.” It made me like it a lot more, because I could hear it with an entire orchestra playing it instead of my synthesized instruments on my computer. I also liked “City in the Sunlight” which is a song I wrote for a songwriting workshop last summer. It had to be about Bethlehem, because it was for an event called Festival Unbound. It just celebrated the city, and I got to perform it for the festival’s finale.
Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory?
Williams: I remember when I went to Switzerland with Chorale freshman year. We were all singing songs on top of the Swiss alps, and there was a little snow squall going on, and then it started snowing, so it was a really cool moment just hearing everyone’s voice coming together.
Stinger: What does music mean to you?
Williams: It’s a good way of harboring creative energy and expressing yourself and your emotions. I feel it’s a good way to spread good messages and good emotions to a lot of people.
Stinger: Who is your biggest inspiration?
Williams: I really like Bruno Mars because the songs have an upbeat sort of smooth feeling. I like older artists too like the Beach Boys because they are so upbeat and bright. I also enjoy Nico & Vinz, you might’ve heard of their song “Am I Wrong.”
Stinger: Any advice to an underclassman?
Williams: I guess just make sure to keep your confidence and believe in yourself. Don’t be afraid to raise valid points with your teachers or other students. Get your ideas out there no matter how stupid they sound in your

head, because most of them will actually end up going somewhere.



Photo courtesy of Williams..

SELAYNE KEENAN

by Saraya Velez



Throughout her high school career, Selayne Keenan single handedly demonstrated that an animated personality can go a long way through her contribution to the dance team and the relationships she’s built with teachers and peers. In addition to her role on the dance team, she also landed the position as the editor-in-chief of the

school’s yearbook, The Tattler. Living by the saying, “Have an average to above-average life” she recalls her economics teacher saying, she plans to do just that by pursuing a degree in Economics at James Madison University this fall with hopes of also continuing dance as an extracurricular activity.
Stinger: What made you decide to get involved with the dance team?
Keenan: Since I’ve been dancing for so many years, I grew up dancing with a lot of girls who were older than me and because of that I became really good friends with them over the years. There were a bunch of them on the dance team when I was in eighth grade and they were freshmen, and they absolutely loved it so I wanted to be a part of it, too.
Stinger: What did you enjoy most about the dance team?
Keenan: The close bond I have with everyone on the team every year. They’re like my second family and the memories I have with them I’ll cherish forever.
Stinger: What was your favorite high school memory?
Keenan: My favorite memory was coming off of the nationals stage for the last time knowing that my team had the best performance ever. Then, walking down the hallway after that performance and seeing all the dance team parents cheering us on and tears came streaming down all of the seniors’ faces including the senior parents. I went running to my mom and I just hugged her so tightly. She was just telling me how proud of me she was and how she enjoy[ed] watching every moment of me dancing for the past 14 years. It was a bittersweet moment but I

wouldn’t have changed it for the world.
Stinger: Describe your high school experience in three words.
Keenan: Wild. It was wild because I’ve experienced so much while in high school and it was everything between good, meh, and bad. Second word would be unpredictable because who knew that school was going to flood in 2018? It’s still a bit of a sore subject but nobody knew that March 12, 2020, was going to be the last day of school for the 2019-20 school year. The last word I would say is amazing because I’ve met so many people that have had such a big impact on my life and some of those people are my closest friends that I’ve met freshman year of high school. Every moment I spend with them is amazing.
Stinger: What teacher has impacted you the most throughout high school?
Keenan: I’m stuck between two. Number one is Mr. Parish because he developed my love for economics and that’s why I’m majoring in it. He always made the class really fun and I couldn’t have asked for a better teacher. Mrs. Fruhwirth who was my study hall teacher helped me out throughout all of my years of high school because she was one of my first study hall teachers ever.
Stinger: If you could change the mascot to any other living creature besides a hornet, what would it be?
Keenan: I choose an elephant because elephants are strong and unique. We’re all so different which makes us all unique in our own ways but we all come together as a school and we’re a strong group of people.

R.J. MAHAR

by Jacob Welsko

With senior year concluding, RJ Mahar prepares for his next journey to Muhlenberg College in Allentown in the fall. Mahar was a very active student during his time in Emmaus, he was section leader for the marching band, participated in boys chorus, started a clarinet choir and released his own movie in June 2020 on YouTube.

Stinger: What are your plans for after high school?
Mahar: [I’ll be] attending Muhlenberg in the fall, [probably] majoring in history [to be] a middle school/high school history teacher. [Still] not sure yet.
Stinger: What was the biggest obstacle for you in high school?
Mahar: Freshman year in the beginning trying to meet new people [and] marching band sophomore year saying goodbye to seniors.
Stinger: How would you describe yourself?
Mahar: Pretty interesting person, very outgoing.
Stinger: How was the experience making your movie and when did it start?
Mahar: In seventh grade, I made this bit for BuzzTV called ‘Ask RJ’ [and though] ‘what if I made a movie called the RJ Movie?’ I had a version one and it was really bad, I filmed a big chunk of it and never really finished. As high school went along, it was always in the back of my mind. I [eventually] split it into episodes, re-edited footage and added new things.
Stinger: How has music played a role in your life?
Mahar: I started clarinet in elementary school [and] my mom had a history of being in the marching band, [so

I joined] and loved it so much. [I also] started a clarinet choir in the winter and [joined] pit orchestra for the spring musical, if that still happens.
Stinger: What/who do you want your peers to remember you for/as once you graduate?
Mahar: A nice, outgoing person who tried to become friends with anyone.
Stinger: Have you had any mentors here at Emmaus? Who? How did they help you?
Mahar: Emily Zimmerman [from] class of 2017. She really acted as a mentor, [we had] lessons over the summer, [she] reinvigorated my love for clarinet and inspired me to be a section leader.
Stinger: What’s the number one thing you’re going to miss about high school?
Mahar: Band. I’ve built so many friendships [and it’s] been such a big part. It kills me to let go.
Stinger: If you wish you knew one thing about high school before going into it, what would it be and why?
Mahar: I wish I knew how much more laid back high school is than middle school. In middle school you had all these teachers stressing me about high school [but] high school felt more laid back. Keep it cool in high school [and] try to find what you like and stick with it.
Stinger: Which was your best high school year? Why?
Mahar: Even though it was cut short, senior year was really good with marching band. I was really excited to have leadership.
Stinger: Biggest inspiration?
Mahar: My parents, they really support me with everything I do, there’s so many things I wouldn’t have done

without my parents making me do it.
Stinger: Advice for upcoming seniors?
Mahar: Just have fun, especially with quarantine, you never know when it’s going to end. Enjoy everything senior year has to bring.



Katie Taranto

***Congratulations on all of your wonderful
accomplishments.***

We are so very proud of you.

***Here's to new beginnings, new chapters and
new challenges!***

***Looking forward to all of your new adventures
at The University of Missouri!!***

Love, Mom, Dad & Ryan



Go Tigers!



Emmaus High School Class of 2020

Congratulations!



LOREN SCHOCH

by Lin Luo

Loren Schoch spent much of her time at Emmaus High School participating in the art department, specifically crafts, as well as band. Schoch was the section leader of the flutes in marching band during her senior year. She has also won a silver key for her work in the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

Schoch is a member of the National Honors Society. She plans to study secondary art education, along with getting a double certification in history at Kutztown University.

Stinger: What experience in high school has prepared you the most for your future?

Schoch: I think it was how certain teachers would treat you like adults, that you manage your own stuff and we're allowed to have some creative freedom, especially with AP classes like [with] Ms. Furry.

Stinger: How do you think being the flute section leader has impacted your life and high school career?

Schoch: I think it's definitely brought me some stress, but it's really kind of made me a better leader, in which I kind of understand that people don't like being under you and don't always want to listen to you, and kind of having to learn how to deal with that.

Stinger: Do you have a favorite memory from the band?

Schoch: Oh my gosh, the time Nick Ritter wasn't in line in the one show, and Rob chucked a shoe at him in band camp. Another favorite memory probably would be just Harrington quotes, that man's so interesting!

Stinger: How has art impacted your life as a whole?

Schoch: Honestly, it's decided what I want to do for the rest of my life because when I came into high school I really had no idea what I wanted to do, and it was the art department in Kutztown specifically [and] Katie Pfenninger that kinda showed me art education was the way for me to go and what I wanted to do for the rest of my life.

Stinger: Have you ever thought about quitting your hobbies?

Schoch: Oh my gosh, multiple times. Like through the entire last year, there were some points I thought "is the pain worth the happiness?" but ultimately it always is,

even if I have a ton of projects or I have something I don't want to deal with.

Stinger: Do you have a favorite class at EHS?

Stinger: What teacher has impacted you the most?

Schoch: Definitely Pfenninger.

Stinger: Do you have a favorite thing about EHS?

Schoch: I think our school as a whole is pretty accepting, you don't really hear someone being attacked for their sexuality. We're pretty open about that, I feel like we're more accepting than some of the other schools in our area.

Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?

Schoch: Oh, there's been a lot of ways. I feel like I've definitely gotten more mature, and I kind of learned to deal with problems a lot better, rather than just freak out.

Stinger: How do you feel about COVID-19 cutting your senior year short?

Schoch: Honestly, it sucks and I've had some rough days where it's like all I want to do was just cry about it but [when] you think about it, there's a whole year of kids that are sharing this same feeling. It's kind of crazy, and hearing about how it could go on for a year or two, it kind of gives me more satisfaction that I don't have to deal with it in the coming years.

Stinger: What advice would you give to any underclassmen?

Schoch: Always trust your gut, and don't let others sway what you want. Make sure what you're doing is best for yourself, and to know that it's ok to put yourself first sometimes, rather than your friends or your significant other.

Stinger: How have you been spending your time in quarantine?

Schoch: I've been frantically trying to get my AP Studio portfolio done, and Minecraft, that's quite fun. Comforting my dog, she's just had a birthday, and homework, that's been pretty busy for me.

Stinger: What's the weirdest thing you've ever heard in the hallway?

Schoch: I think it's just watching the freshmen Naruto Run down the hallway

Stinger: If you could listen to one song or one artist for

the rest of your life, what would it be?

Schoch: Post Malone, I love Post Malone.

Stinger: What motivates you?

Schoch: I'm heavily motivated by food, my love for my dog. I also try to motivate myself, that I want to do better for myself so I can improve myself as a person.

Stinger: What's an embarrassing moment that you remember from high school?

Schoch: When I'm section leader and I left my piccolo at the school.

Stinger: In an ideal world, where do you see yourself in ten years?

Schoch: I want to be an art teacher, preferably in a wealthier district. I'd like to have a horse, but that might not happen. I want to have a steady job, you know, hopefully helping out with a school marching band, I'd really like that.



“Every child is an artist.
The problem is how to remain
an artist once we grow up”
-Pablo Picasso

SPORTS

Elizabeth Mazzella by Krissy Heilenman

Elizabeth Mazzella has been an important member of the Emmaus field hockey team and track and field hurdle team during her time at Emmaus High School. She has been playing field hockey since third grade. Mazzella will be attending Kent State University in the fall, where she will major in architecture. In her future, she plans to work at an architectural firm, either doing general or environmental design.

Along with field hockey and track and field, Mazzella was a freshman mentor, and a member of National Honor Society and the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference Student Athlete Character Council. Although she is not playing field hockey competitively in college, she hopes to join club and intramural sports.

Stinger: What was your favorite memory from high school?

Mazzella: Honestly, I feel like, I know this isn’t specific, but honestly everything about senior year. I loved everything. I loved all my classes. I loved all my new friends. I loved all my teachers. This was the best year for me at Emmaus. This whole year, up to this point, has been the best.

Stinger: What are your favorite things about field hockey and track?

Mazzella: With field hockey, well actually with both, I love the kind of family we all become. With field hockey, we probably spend six months out of the year with each other. So, I really feel like I have a bunch of sisters. And even on the days when we really get on each other’s nerves, we still have each other’s backs. We all go through the same thing together, so we’re really close to each other. With track, I love how supportive everybody is of each other. There are people who are really really good, and people who are just starting out, but whatever event you do, everyone is really supportive of you, and it’s a really welcoming environment, and I love that.

Stinger: With track and field canceled due to coronavirus, how do you feel about that?

Mazzella: I was, I mean obviously, super sad and disappointed, because I knew going into it how strong that the girls and boys teams were both going to be, and a lot of seniors were really going to have really awesome years and break new records and have new times. And especially specifically with hurdles, everybody in the hurdle group, I think we all got along really well. So, I was really looking forward to spending the season with them and getting to know them better. So, it’s really sad that all of that is gone, but I’m still glad that we did get to spend some time with each other through winter track and whatever time we did have. I’m just glad this wasn’t

the first year I did track, because I really appreciate [it], and I know how much to appreciate it.

Stinger: Which teacher has impacted your high school experience the most?

Mazzella: Definitely Mr. Hoderewski, he was my eleventh-grade English teacher. Junior year, I went through a lot of ups and downs, and he kind of helped me through some really bad times for me. And I’m definitely a different person, I think that I would have been if he didn’t help me. So I’m just really grateful and thankful for everything that he taught me and helped me with.

Stinger: What was your favorite year of high school and why?

Mazzella: Definitely senior year, I just really felt comfortable with myself and who I was. I loved every single one of my teachers, I always enjoyed whatever I was doing at school, and I was able to always kind of see and talk to my friends throughout the day, which in past years there were times where I felt I wouldn’t see my friends for a whole semester. So, I just finally felt so relaxed and happy with everything this year.

Stinger: What are three words you would use to describe your high school experience?

Mazzella: Fun, scary, and awesome, I’m going to just go with those. Fun because ... especially I think it came with track. I never pictured myself only running as a sport, let alone jumping over hurdles. And just being a part of a sport that wasn’t field hockey, because I think I grew up only really knowing field hockey. Track is just so much fun and I love it so much. Scary because I’m still, as a person during this time, trying to figure out who [I] am, and you know, for me, I’m the type of person who always wants to make other people happy. So, at times I was scared about who I think people wanted me to be and who I wanted me to be. Awesome because our school does really cool things that I feel like a lot of other schools don’t, and a lot of teachers I’ve had have just been awesome.

Stinger: As your brother already attends Kent State University, how do you feel about attending college with your brother?

Mazzella: It is actually pretty cool when I think about it, because college can be scary, and the fact that Tom will be there, you know right there. Whenever I’m homesick or if I’m confused and I need him for whatever, I know that he’s there. So that’s really nice. It’s also going to be interesting because I’m curious as to see how much we are really going to interact ... he’s moving into an apartment, so I’m curious to see how much time I’ll spend with him, or we’ll be together on campus. I don’t know a lot of people who have ever been like ‘Oh, I was at



Photo courtesy of Mazzella.

college the same time as my siblings,’ so I really don’t know what it’s going to be like. I’m just excited to see what will happen.

Stinger: What is an interesting thing about you that not many may know?

Mazzella: I have known that I wanted to do architecture since I was in eighth grade.

Stinger: What advice do you have for underclassmen?

Mazzella: I would definitely say to always be kind to others and be kind to yourself. Always be kind to yourself because high school is a very hard and very challenging time, and we can feel very vulnerable, so we always have to, you know, be there for yourself. Always be happy with who you are. Be kind to others because everybody else is kind of in the same boat as you, and I think if you express your kindness for others, then it’ll spread. And you never know, a little bit of kindness for somebody can go a long way.

Stinger: Any last comments?

Mazzella: I think for anybody in the high school, whether you’re an underclassman or an upperclassman, is the faster you can accept yourself and be happy with who you are and what you want, then high school is going to be such an amazing experience for you.

Mackenzie Dries by Belle Lees



Photo courtesy of Dries’ Instagram.

Mackenzie Dries has been an integral part of the track team as a sprinter since her freshman year and will continue to pursue her passion for the sport on her college’s track team.

She also participated in the Hornet Ambassadors and Freshmen Mentors programs.

Dries will attend Millersville University to major in business and minor in biology. After that, she hopes to attend dental school.

Stinger: What was your favorite part about being involved in track?

Dries: The people I met and just how much fun I had. And they just became a second family to me.

Stinger: How did being a student-athlete throughout high school affect you?

Dries: It was in a good way. It kept me active and it just gave me something to do. And I met my best friends through it and it changed my life for the better.

Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus?

Dries: Track, honestly, just because of the people and the adrenaline and it was my life.

Stinger: Who is your inspiration?

Dries: Inspiration? I honestly, I don’t even know. I don’t usually think of any other people to motivate me. It’s just like, I don’t know. I’ve never really thought about that before, to be completely honest.

Stinger: What was one of the most important lessons you learned during high school?

Dries: Procrastinating is bad. I’m still doing it to this day, right now, but I can’t do that in college. Yeah, I have to stop procrastinating because it’ll bite you in the butt.

Stinger: What do you want to be remembered for?

Dries: Oh, this is a good question. I guess just for being nice to people because I feel like I’ve been a pretty nice person throughout my life. Just kind of being there for people because I’ve done that a lot throughout my life.

Stinger: What excites you most about college?

Dries: Freedom. The newfound freedom that I am going to have. Just meeting new people because I’ve been with the same people for 12 plus years. So just knowing that I won’t be around [the same people], like I’m just going to be around different people and new things. It’s just exciting.

Alanna & Kayla Smith

by Erick De La Rosa



Alanna and Kayla Smith, or better known as the ‘Smith Twins’ have spent their four years at Emmaus dominating girls track.

The two have been joined at the hip, and together, they have competed in state championships. Aside from the track team, the two were also in the school’s band. The twin sprinters plan to attend the University of Connecticut where they plan to study biochemical engineering.

Stinger: What was your favorite part about high school?

Alanna: My favorite part about high school is that you get a lot of chances to meet new people and build good friendships. I personally like that I was a part of so many activities like track, band, and Pennsylvania Math League.
Kayla: My favorite part about HS was when my 4x100m relay team qualified for states sophomore year. It felt really amazing that everyone in our school and in our community were acknowledging us and congratulating us on our success. I really appreciate all of the support that I’ve received since then from other coaches, athletes, parents, and even total strangers.
Stinger: What was your favorite part about track?
Alanna: I like track because it is a self motivating sport, and I like that there is a team as well as an individual aspect. Track is also great in that I will never get bored from doing it even though it seems repetitive there are actually infinite outcomes because it’s heavily time based.
Stinger: What was it like to compete alongside your sister?
Kayla: I really enjoyed competing with my sister alongside me. We compete with each other to make ourselves better. We’re competitive in class to see who can get the highest grades. Because of our similar skill sets, we’re also competitive in sports. We both run the same events, so we’re the perfect training duo, and that really pays

off during meets.
Stinger: What is the best bathroom in the school?
Alanna: The best bathroom at school is the one in the Sports Center. It’s barely used during the day, and its usually warm inside which is nice on cold days.
Stinger: What is your weirdest memory from Emmaus?
Kayla: My weirdest memory from my four years at Emmaus High School would be when the school flooded last year. The marching band was at a home football game against Nazareth, and we didn’t even get to play the national anthem before the downpour cancelled the game. The field looked more like a swimming pool, and we were all standing in the bleachers, getting drenched. The next morning, I saw on the news that the school was closed for a week due to flooding, and I couldn’t believe it. Things were even weirder after we came back and sections of the building were closed off for the rest of the fall semester.
Stinger: Which teacher will leave the biggest impact?
Alanna: Just about all my teachers have left a big impact, but I think Mr. Duarte had the most positive impact because he was the advisor for Mathcounts club at LMMS, and he was my Algebra 2 teacher here at EHS. He is very inspirational, and hopefully his words of wisdom will get



me through engineering classes in college.
Stinger: How will you remember your time at Emmaus?
Kayla: I will remember my time at Emmaus because of how involved I was. I made a ton of connections by spending countless hours in various activities. Most people know me because of my track accomplishments. However, I also participated in concert band, marching band, indoor color guard, PA Math League, Principal’s Advisory Board, and National Honors Society during my time here at Emmaus.

Wyatt Henseler

by Jacob Welsko

As the curtain closes on senior year, Wyatt Henseler looks ahead to his next chapter at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia this fall. Henseler has been playing baseball ever since he was around the age of six, and played throughout his four years at Emmaus High School. He’ll also be pursuing the sport at UPenn.

Stinger: What was the biggest obstacle you were faced with in high school?
Henseler: I’d say time management, [how to] prioritize things [especially] freshman year. I had to accept that I’m going to be busy.
Stinger: How would you describe yourself?
Henseler: Conservative, I’m not going to go out of my way to do something but I can hold a conversation with someone. Hardworking, push through things, introvert-like [and] leader.
Stinger: What/who do you want your peers to remember you for/as once you graduate?
Henseler: Pretty easy going, I like to have fun, a kind leader.
Stinger: Have you had any mentors here at Emmaus? Who? How did they help you?
Henseler: Mr. Mihalik. [He was] my coach until soph-

omore year and I always liked his class. He helped me make my college decision. [There were] other teachers that resonated with me like Mr. Luckenbill and Mrs. Wells.
Stinger: If you wish you knew one thing about high school before going into it, what would it be and why?
Henseler: It’s not as bad as all the middle school teachers make it seem, it’s not as grand and daunting.
Stinger: Do you have any advice for upcoming seniors as they embark on their final year of high school?
Henseler: Take it slow, don’t look ahead because it goes fast.
Stinger: What was your favorite class from high school that you took and why?
Henseler: Mihalik’s class, Geology of the National Parks; it was interesting and something new. It was an easy extra curricular and I like the outdoors [even more] because of it.
Stinger: Which was your best high school year? Why?
Henseler: This year, a lot of freedoms even though it was cut short, still [have] a lot of memories from the first six months.
Stinger: Who’s your biggest inspiration and why?
Henseler: My dad. He’s a hard worker and everyone likes him. He’s [all around] happy and positive.



Photo Courtesy of Emmausbaseball.com

Elias Elcock

by Mac Thomas

Elias Elcock played for the lacrosse team all four years and football his senior year. He plans on going to SUNY New Paltz to continue his lacrosse career.

Stinger: What is the biggest lesson you learned during high school?
Elcock: Everyone has a goal, but those with a diligent mindset achieve their goals the most efficiently.



Stinger: How do you think you’ve changed since freshman year?
Elcock: I’ve become more of a leader since freshman year.
Stinger: High school job?
Elcock: Lifeguard and camp counselor.
Stinger: Biggest regret?
Elcock: Not being more involved in school clubs.
Stinger: Most useful thing you’ve learned in high school?
Elcock: How to improve my writing skills in English class.
Stinger: Favorite bathroom in the high school?
Elcock: Athletic circle bathroom.
Stinger: High school experience in one word?
Elcock: Short.
Stinger: Favorite trend?
Elcock: Silly bands.
Stinger: Most useful thing you’ve learned?
Elcock: Winning districts in lacrosse.
Stinger: What would your advice be for underclassmen?
Elcock: Your highschool experience is how you make it out to be. Enjoy your highschool time while it lasts, carry a positive attitude, and complete every task to the absolute best of your ability.

Kaitlyn Csensits

by Mac Thomas

Field hockey captain and lacrosse player, Kaitlyn Csensits, helped the Hornets to four District 11 championships in field hockey as well as numerous state semifinal appearances. She’s also a part of the National Honors Society, Student Government Association, Debate Team, Freshman Mentors, and Hornet Ambassadors. Csensits plans to attend the University of Richmond, where she will continue playing field hockey.

Stinger: What is the biggest lesson you learned during high school?
Csensits: The biggest lesson [I] learned in high school is to be yourself. There are many people that try to drag you down and it’s important to be true to yourself and not to change for anyone.
Stinger: How do you think you’ve changed since freshman year?
Csensits: I’ve grown more independent and confident since my freshman year. I no longer rely on others and focus on pleasing others. I now focus on myself and work on being the best version of myself.
Stinger: Favorite sports memory?
Csensits: Winning Districts and making it to the state semifinals with my friends.
Stinger: Most useful thing you’ve learned

in high school?
Csensits: The most useful thing I’ve learned is the importance of true friends and focusing on self-appreciation.
Stinger: What would your advice be for underclassmen?
Csensits: Put in the work even though it’s hard. Study often and prepare for tests and work hard to be your best self.



Photo Courtesy of Csensits’ Instagram

Patrick Hunter

by Kyle McKiernan

Patrick Hunter was a member of the boys basketball team for four years and the boys volleyball team for two. He looks to further his academic career at the West Chester University, where he will study criminal justice.

Stinger: How do you feel that you’ve impacted Emmaus High School?
Hunter: I would say I have not impacted Emmaus that much. I would say that I was here to enjoy the ride.
Stinger: What kind of clubs were you involved in throughout your time here?
Hunter: I was in the PALS Club for my whole high school career, but that was about all I participated in.
Stinger: What sports did you participate in at EHS?
Stinger: Where were you during the Dr.



Photo courtesy of Hunter.

Mikey Interview?
Hunter: I was unaware of there even being a Dr. Mikey interview!
Stinger: Who is your inspiration?
Hunter: My father and my grandfather play the biggest role in my life, and that is why they are my inspiration.
Stinger: What will you miss most about EHS?
Hunter: I am really gonna miss seeing my friends every day and the teachers. I will also miss walking past my mom’s room every day and seeing her.
Stinger: Who was your favorite teacher at EHS?
Hunter: My favorite teachers by far were Mr. Pum and Mr. Carolla.
Stinger: Any last comments?
Hunter: Emmaus High School was an amazing ride, and I wish nothing but the best to the Class of 2021 next year. You guys are gonna do great.

Max Eugster


by Eleanor Creelman

Max Eugster plays lacrosse for Emmaus High School and maintains his high level of enthusiasm both on and off the field. He played on the team all four years, was associated with the Grant Hawkins Foundation, participated in the Pancreatic Cancer Club, and led the student section his senior year. Eugster plans to attend Utah State after hiking the Rockies, where he will major in an area related to wildlife.

Stinger: Favorite part about playing/being involved in lacrosse?
Eugster: Easily my teammates, I love my teammates. They’re so much fun.
Stinger: Who is your inspiration?
Eugster: Sergio Perkovic -- he’s a really good lacrosse player, and I kinda base my lacrosse off of him.
Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?
Eugster: I get a lot more of my schoolwork done. And I’m not as timid, like I’m more outgoing now than I was as a freshman.
Stinger: Who was your mentor in high school?
Eugster: Probably Mrs. Kinzel. She was my favorite teacher; she helped me out a lot and always gave me really good advice.
Stinger: What excites you most about college?
Eugster: Being free -- like being able to do whatever I want without getting yelled at.
Stinger: How did being a student-athlete throughout high school affect you?
Eugster: When it wasn’t lacrosse season I wasn’t on top of my grades, but in season I would always have to be on top of my grades, so I can’t get an ineligible.
Stinger: What was your biggest accomplishment in high school?
Eugster: The Grant Hawkins Foundation. We raised \$1,500 for inner-city lacrosse clubs: for teams that like don’t have great funding.



Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus?
Eugster: Well if it was before quarantine I would say nothing because I hated school. But, I really miss high school not going to lie.
Stinger: What is your most embarrassing high school memory?
Eugster: I’d say the front row, but I don’t want to let the people win.
Stinger: Why are you amazing?
Eugster: What makes me amazing? Oh, I don’t know. I’m a humble guy. I don’t think I’m that amazing. But if I had to say one thing, it’d probably be getting really loud at games.
Stinger: Any advice for underclassmen?
Eugster: Think before you tweet.




“EDUCATION IS NOT
PREPARATION FOR LIFE;
EDUCATION IS LIFE ITSELF.”

-JOHN DEWEY

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Aiortho.com

Brooke Wunderler

by Saraya Velez



On and off the basketball court, Brooke Wunderler serves as an influential figure to teammates, friends, family, and members of the community. She manifests the love she has for helping others and being involved by participating as a member of Key Club, Pediatric Cancer Club, PALS Club, Hornet Ambassadors, Freshmen Mentors, and the Emerging Health Program, while also being the Emmaus girl’s basketball captain. Attending Penn State University Park in

the fall, she will be majoring in biochemistry anticipating a career in medicine.

Stinger: What was your biggest accomplishment throughout high school?

Wunderler: Getting into the Emerging Health Program my senior year. It was an amazing experience to prepare myself for my future. I was really proud of myself for getting myself into that and all I accomplished through the program.

Stinger: What is your favorite memory from playing basketball for Emmaus?

Wunderler: My favorite memory would have to be my senior night. That game was the best that my team has played together all five years that I’ve played for the high school. Everything clicked and fell into place and everyone played their best game. That was the most wins we’ve had in a season in all of my years playing for the varsity team.

Stinger: How did being a student-athlete throughout high school affect you?

Wunderler: It made me a better leader by being captain. I was the captain for three years. It allowed me to develop really good leadership skills and what it means to represent a program. I also learned teamwork skills and how to be there for other people and have their back even through challenges, adversity, tough situations.

Stinger: What would you say was your

favorite year of high school?

Wunderler: Senior year was the best, although it was cut short and we didn’t get to do as much. The Emerging Health Program really made my senior year. After that program I know I want to be a doctor. The program and the people I met through the program definitely made my senior year the best.

Stinger: If you could give your freshman self any advice what would it be?

Wunderler: My freshman year I didn’t get involved as much as I would have liked, and high school goes fast as it is [and] not to mention this pandemic wiping out part of it. I’d say try anything and everything and give everything a shot.

Stinger: What teacher impacted you the most throughout high school?

Wunderler: My junior year chemistry teacher, Mrs. Hertzog, showed me my love for science and chemistry. She is part of the reason I am going to be studying biochemistry next year in college. She always supported me through my academic endeavors, and she’s always been there for me. My other favorite would have to be Mrs. Hunter. She [also] has been there for me and always made me feel special, always made me feel like she was interested in what was going on in my life. She always showed that she cared about what I was up to, how I was doing, and I appreciated having someone there for me

as my rock.

Stinger: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

Wunderler: I’ll be 27, and I hope that I will be done with all of my schooling. I hope to be a practicing physician at that time, not sure what specialty, but I hope to be enjoying my career in the clinical setting. Wherever I am, I hope that I am happy and enjoying life.

Stinger: What will you miss most about your time at Emmaus?

Wunderler: I will miss all of the wonderful relationships that I’ve made. Friends, teachers, coaches, teammates, they’ve all made a huge impact on me. I will miss everyone I met along the way.

Stinger: If you could have traded places with a faculty or staff member for a day, who would it have been?

Wunderler: I would have traded places with Dr. Kieres and see what her day consists of. Maybe I’d be a science teacher because when I was little I wanted to be a teacher, so I would want to see how that dream would pan out.

Alexa Ryan

by Sydnie Howard & Sophia DePhillips

Alexa Ryan has spent her time at Emmaus High School as a goalie on the soccer team, a Hornet Ambassador, and as a member of PALS and the Pediatric Cancer Club. Ryan is attending Bloomsburg University to major in speech-language pathology and continue her soccer career. Throughout her four-year journey at EHS, Ryan has learned the importance of enjoying the little things in life.

Stinger: How have you changed since freshman year?

Ryan: I feel I have taken on more responsibility in high school and this has developed me into a more mature person. In addition, I am better at prioritizing and realizing the important things in my life. Lastly, I have learned the importance of time and enjoying the little things in life with the people you love.

Stinger: What are your plans after high school?

Ryan: I am attending Bloomsburg University to study Speech-Language Pathology and continue playing soccer.

Stinger: What do you hope to accomplish after high school?

Ryan: At college, I plan on meeting new people and making new friends. I will be working on obtaining my Bachelor’s degree in speech-language pathology and then continuing on for a Master’s degree.

Stinger: How has your experience in soccer shaped you as a student?

Ryan: Athletics has shaped me to become the person I am today. The many lessons learned from soccer will last a lifetime. Soccer has taught me skills like teamwork, hustle, organization, and determination. These skills are not only used on the soccer field but also in the classroom and the real world.

Stinger: What will you miss most about Emmaus?

Ryan: I am going to miss seeing all of my close friends every day.

Stinger: Did you find it hard to balance your sport and schoolwork?

Ryan: No, I knew there had to be a balance between my school work and soccer, and therefore [I] created a schedule to make sure everything was completed.

Stinger: What’s your favorite memory from high school or playing soccer at EHS?

Ryan: I would say my favorite memory was when we broke Parkland’s 70 game winning streak on our home field. The whole Hornet’s Nest was there and the atmosphere was awesome.

Stinger: If you could give any advice to incoming freshmen, what would it be?

Ryan: Believe in yourself and work hard for the things you want to accomplish because anything you put your mind to is within reach.



Jacob Smolinski

by Erick De La Rosa



Photo courtesy of Smolinski.

Jacob Smolinski has spent four years as a key force on the track team, being a top sprinter since his freshman year.

Aside from track, Smolinski was a part of the Fitness Team, Latin Club, and Red Cross Club. This fall he plans on attending East Stroudsburg University where he will be running track and majoring in exercise science with a concentration in exercise physiology.

Stinger: How would you describe your time at Emmaus?

Smolinski: My time at Emmaus was very eye opening. The events I had to face throughout high school, and the things I had to do, helped me discover who I am as an individual, and what I was truly interested in for my future.

Stinger: What is your favorite highschool memory?

Smolinski: My favorite memory probably has to be junior prom. The energy and joy in the room was something I’d never experienced before.

Stinger: What is your favorite memory from being on the track team?

Smolinski: My favorite memory from track is honestly all of the friendships and bonds that I’ve made over the last four years from track alone. It’s amazing being able to get along with everyone on the team and to always have fun at practices and meets and to see everyone supporting each other.

Stinger: What is the weirdest conversation you’ve heard in the halls?

Smolinski: Weirdest thing I’ve heard in the halls? Definitely has to be when I heard two teachers having a passive aggressive argument about pizza toppings.

Stinger: What’s the best bathroom to use?

Smolinski: Best bathroom to use is by far the one in the lang hallway.

Stinger: Which teacher will leave the biggest impact on you?

Smolinski: Ms. Cortez will definitely leave the biggest impact on me. I only had her classes my last two years, but she has taught me many things. For starters, she taught me how to be confident in myself and to stop over thinking every situation. She has taught me to try my hardest no matter what, and to never give an excuse for something not working out the way I

had hoped.

Stinger: What advice would you give your freshman self?

Smolinski: Don’t let anything other people say influence your decisions. You are your own person and you have full control over what you do and don’t do. Take advantage of all opportunities that you can and have fun in high school.

Stinger: If you could change the school mascot to something other than a hornet what would you change it to?

Smolinski: It would probably have to be a bulldog, that may be biased because I went to Eyer, but I just feel like Emmaus is a bulldog type of school.

