

# For all the Devil's

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## Mr. PHS and What It Entails

By Chase McNamara

On March 14, 2024, Choreographer Mrs. Boucher, Contestant Olaf Talar, and Black Dress Girl Penley Giola will participate in the annual Mr. PHS event to have a good time and maintain tradition.

Mrs. Boucher, when asked, Boucher had lots to say about Mr. PHS. She discussed how being a part of Mr. PHS was “a lot of fun, like the creativity and seeing my creation come together as one.” As the choreographer, Boucher has high expectations on herself already. But with how she describes the contestants and black dress girls progress with their dances, she blew them away. Boucher states that present year participants are far ahead of past year participants in their dances and because of this, she says it's difficult to decide who she thinks will win as everyones doing such a good job.

Talar had a similar perspective on the show. He described being a contestant as a bunch of fun and a unique experience. In contrast with Boucher, Talar described the contestants as “god awful” at their dances, with a few exceptions. He believes his biggest competitor is Gavin Cooke, as he knows the dances well and has a fairly strong talent. When asked, Talar says people who like dancing and aren't afraid to put themselves out there should be a part of Mr. PHS while his reason for joining was because all his friends were doing it.

Giola, describes being a black dress girl as “something that's really fun to do, peers coming together to make something so cool and unique is an incredible experience. Although we don't get as big of rolls as the contestants, it's still super awesome.” Giola thinks that seniors who want to have a blast with the time they have left in their high school career should be a part of Mr. PHS. Giola believes that Talar will win the competition with his stellar talent Singing “Bad Romance” by Lady Gaga, while she wants Cooke to win.

All in all, the Mr. PHS show seems to have a great reputation amongst participants. The interviewees can all agree that It's a fun and unique experience for seniors that they should take advantage of and just have a good time while they're still in high school.



Black Dress Girl, Giola, posing with contestant

# The Deaf Community Impacts Plainville High

## By Na'Zariyah Delemos

Rachel Posner, head of the Spring 2024 ASL program brings awareness to students in PHS. American Sign Language is a form of communication using manual movement.



With the help of Posner, she was able to infiltrate her knowledge into the Plainville education system, teaching students how to communicate with the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. Posner stated that in her early career choices she wanted to be a social worker, until she realized that she enjoys being around children. She majored in English/K-12 and Secondary Education with the expectation that it would be her lifelong career path.

Posner expressed that “It wasn’t till I fell in love with the Language, married a deaf man, two deaf children later that I changed my path. This change has been rewarding in the sense that Deaf Awareness is exposed, empathy, and understanding not just for deaf individuals but all walks of life.” A senior, Trinity McKinnon, has been a student of Posner since her sophomore year. As indicated by McKinnon, she enjoys the class because of its awareness, teacher and classmates. She stated that “American Sign Language helps her communicate with the deaf community”, her favorite teacher included. She would highly recommend, to anyone interested in taking a language class, to choose that one.

The future of the program relies on whether principal Jennifer DeLorenzo and Rachel Posner decide to expand it further within their limits. If you’re interested in the studies of ASL, this program is definitely the one for you.

# Senior Graduation: A Step Into Adulthood

By Yandel Rivera

The Senior Class Graduation at the end of the year is being held at the Plainville High School Football field to celebrate the step into adulthood for the PHS Senior class of 2024. For the past 70 plus years, Tinty Stadium has been littered with graduation caps, caring families, and tears of joy.



This year is no different. The 2024 graduation will be held at Tinty Stadium on June 12, 2024, if weather permits. In the case of unfortunate weather patterns, it will be transferred into the “Ivan Wood” Gym on the same day. A projected 162 seniors will be gathered on the field to be officially declared a graduate of Plainville High, with countless family members surrounding them in this life-changing event. Five tickets will be allotted to each graduating student, allowing family and friends to sit in front of the stage, making it possible to experience the full emotional and physical gravity of the event. Those without a ticket, will be seated in the bleachers.

On average, there are around 2,000-2,5000 people attending each year. Jennifer DeLorenzo, Plainville High School's new Principal as of 2023, states, “This is not only a big event for you, as a student, but also for the family. People have come here all over the country. For some families, this is the first generation to have graduated, for others, it may be standard proto-call, but for all, an emotional night.” When asked about the night, Juelz, an Alumni of PHS stated “It was a big night for me... my mom cried, I think I cried too... it was definitely a night to remember.” Valedictorian Alexis Graff and Salutatorian Nicole Caruso will be speaking, along with a plethora of other officials in the Plainville Community. Among the speakers, there will be a PHS staff member voted on by the senior class that will be allowed to speak at the graduation ceremony. The Plainville High’s band will play during and after the ceremony.

After the ceremony, a Senior party will be held at \_\_\_\_\_, lasting through the night, and into the early hours of the morning. This party, sponsored by Project Graduation, gives a fun ending to this bitter-sweet ceremony. When asked about her emotions towards this, DeLorenzo said, “This is my first ceremony as a principal, so this is truly an emotional ceremony for me, but I believe this is more

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emotional for the class itself. Some of these kids have known each other since Kindergarten. This is a big off-ramp into adulthood. 160 young adults will step into the world of adulthood.” PHS has been giving the world fresh new minds for over 70 years. This year's offering; 160 bright young minds, who faced pandemics, terror, and division, who can say confidently, I made it. For more information about this year's graduation, and other senior events, visit the PHS webpage at [phs.plainvilleschools.org](http://phs.plainvilleschools.org).



## 1, 2, 3, Together!

# Plainville Blue Devil Boys Make their Mighty Comeback for the Winter Season

By Michelle Reveron



The Plainville High School boys team outlines how their mindset and performance contribute to the team's success in making the state playoffs. Throughout the season, the guys made history. For the first time since 2006, the team qualified for the state playoffs. With their 10-11 wins, they have proven a love for the sport and a great deal of dedication to the game itself. Jeffery Hoyt, the group's coach and a former basketball player at New Britain and Newington schools, emphasizes his passion for the team. Hoyt played in college for nearly two years

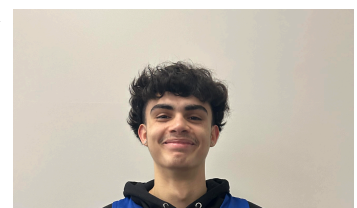
before pursuing a career as a high school coach. With eight years of experience coaching



Coach Jeffrey Hoyt coaching his team

Newington High School's junior varsity team, he decided to join the Blue Devils, leading the junior varsity team for two years before becoming head coach of the varsity team for the following two seasons. Hoyt notes that it has been tough for him to persuade a "highschool kid to understand the importance of the team and not only themselves" during his time at Plainville High. He goes on to explain that work ethic outside of season helps compensate for the need of teamwork, which is typically impractical to control during the three-month season. Hoyt proclaims: "it's a huge part especially in basketball...if the guys aren't willing to be a part of the team and play their role; it can derail everything". This extra practice during the off season helps his team to focus on their personal skills and get an understanding of how they may use those skills effectively to achieve their primary aim.

Two exceptionally skilled players, Joseph Vasquez and Brady Wiczorek, are affected by their coach and share details about their personal lives on the team. Vasquez has been a member of the team for his whole high school career, beginning as a varsity point guard. Vasquez claims that he grew into the admiration he has for the - sport. He has been playing AAU basketball with the North Stars since the age of seven, thanks to his father's unwavering support and commitment. Vasquez felt compelled to carry on his sister Jaida Vasquez's legacy as he entered



high school. Most players struggle to develop a sport-specific mindset, but Vasquez argues that it comes naturally to him, claiming, "I am truly just trying to acquire a ring, that's the goal. Knowing that his sister, a former Blue Devils basketball player, had established school records, Vasquez confides in her for encouragement, and he is doing better as a result.

As the team's captain, Vasquez believes that teamwork is the most crucial aspect of the game, especially as they go into increasingly challenging situations. He claims that the team is closer this year than it has been in previous years. Along with teamwork comes the responsibility of leading his team in the appropriate direction. For underclassmen, having an amazing role model is what actually drives their desire to participate and thrive in the game, and Vasquez aims to provide that for his teammates. Vasquez notes, "As a point guard, my team expects me to make a high percentage of plays on the court," and from observing his team, he realizes that when making a play, he must use his best abilities to follow through. He also recognizes that, while he is capable of midrange jumping, defending, and scoring, no player is perfect. Vasquez admits that his primary issue in the game is making his three-point shots, but he also says that despite this difficulty, he does not let it discourage him and has a tremendous amount of confidence in his shooting, because confidence is one of the many important parts of being a team player.

Brady Wieczorek can easily agree with the statement. Wieczorek, a three-year player who started on varsity his freshman year, believes that "communication and confidence are key" in getting the ball to the hoop. Wieczorek's father, who played in the leagues, had a strong influence on him as a child. When he started high school, he was quite excited to be a part of the varsity world. He also often plays point guard and shooting guard, and has established himself as an offensive leader. As a result, he is given the opportunity to guard the best player on defense, which is a significant factor in



Brady Wieczorek

overall game management. Regarding his struggles, Wieczorek adds that shooting used to be a significant hassle, which motivated him to practice harder and return stronger his junior year. Wieczorek believes that he worked extremely hard over the summer of 2023, working out on weekday mornings with a couple of his teammates. His tenacity has resulted in a significant rise in confidence; he states that "before I was more passive, and now I look forward to getting the ball in order to get my own shot". Wieczorek is now the team's upcoming eminent player. Knowing that his efforts have transformed his outlook on the sport, Wieczorek intends to

embrace his passion for it while heavily impacting the group as he enters his final year of basketball.

Both players have similar perceptions of the sport, which is heavily enforced at Plainville High School, ensuring that the team continues to seek its end objective even after a loss. Maintaining team morale and unity while avoiding finger-pointing. Vasquez says that it is the most empathy that the players can have, stating that it is preferable to "accept mistakes, move on, and flip the page until it's

time for the next game". Aside from the mental aspect of the sport, the team's efforts to study and perform have proven to have a significant impact on play time.

Following practices, everyone forms a group and participates in film study, analyzing data on the Huddle app, and reading the major objectives on scouting reports. Not only is it required, but it is also part of the player's personal mental noting preparation prior to any game. It provides them with a support structure that breaks down a game strategy, which will inevitably assist them get through the season. As they reached playoff week, both players and Hoyt were eager to put in a significant amount of effort to demonstrate the team's talent in an entirely different atmosphere. Hoyt notes that he noticed his team's efforts, the hard six-day weeks of practice, "getting back in the gym as soon as they can, always wanting to get back in the gym, knowing that in order to achieve success, they had to put in the work".

The Plainville Blue Devils and the North Stonington Lions played their playoff game on March 4, 2024. The Lions started well, dominating the first quarter by a score of 17-2. The Devils settled in and started putting their season's hard work to action. By the end of the first half, the Blue Devils had



Example of a bond formed between Vasquez and Wiczorek

gained 20 points, bringing them closer to the Lions, who had 31 points. The second half became increasingly aggressive, and the game turned heated. The Devils did not give up their effort to reach the finals despite a 10-point deficit at 44-34. The Devils led by as many as 16 points in the fourth quarter, but the Lions fought hard and won 57-50. Despite the heartbreaking defeat, the guys will never forget how hard they worked to get there. Not only has the crew demonstrated teamwork and a great work ethic, but they also enjoy each other's company, which has served as a bonding experience for the entire group. Wiczorek is pleased to state, "Yes, playing a sport in high school teaches you to adapt and form bonds with people." And both Wiczorek and Vasquez can witness how glad they are to have had the opportunity to interact with people with whom they would never have

imagined sharing common interests. Togetherness has helped the young men develop as individuals and athletes. The team's coach, Hoyt, states that the finest part of his job and basketball experience is watching his students progress. He says that "seeing the success from all the guys, seeing Joe or any student show up and genuinely grow up and watch them finish their goal" is the reason he comes back every season and continues to be a mentor to the one-of-a-kind Blue Devils.

It is safe to say that the Plainville Boys Basketball team demonstrated what it means for an exceptional team to show up and show out. To improve and succeed. To be one and be tied together. Go Blue Devils!

# The Experience of Foreign Exchange Students In The United States

By Lourdes Martinez

In spring 2024, Daria Krzanicki, student of Plainville High School and Crystal Davis, host family of an exchange student in Connecticut, both looking to learn from other cultures and new experiences.



Krzanicki has been here for a year and a half. She comes with her family, and she explains “we come to try a new life, new experience, and a better future”, she is looking for a future with better opportunities, and a better quality of life. When talking about adaptation to American culture and society Krzanicki said “to the beginning was hard because I didn't know language, people, it was a different culture” she sometimes feels alone, because she is shy and the language is hard for her, but she likes her life here and she think that was a good change.

Davis is a host mother and she thinks that with this experience she can get experience of other cultures and share her culture with someone. David explained about the benefits of being a host family is “you can become like a family with people that you host, including their extended family like parents and siblings.” but it is a challenge because you never know what you are going to get if you are going to get a good student or someone who challenges you and your rules in your house”. But it's a great experience and she enjoys the relationship that she gets to build with them.

Krzanicki tells about her life in Poland and the hard change it was for her to start a new life in CT, she explains that the culture, people and food are so different and the life of the people too. Krzanicki said, “In Poland there are many means of transport, we have many buses and we can go everywhere by bus, but here there are not so many.” and a lot of things more, like the driver's license. She tells about her feelings, her memories will always stay with her in Poland, but here she exclaimed “I am creating them new, that's why my day looks a little different here, I spend more time with my family and in Poland we always met friends.” She clarifies that they all knew each other, were close and honest, helping each other.

Davis thinks it's sometimes extremely difficult for foreign students to adapt because our ways seem to be so different from other cultures and they do adapt, but he said, "I think ultimately they adapt to an experience." what they like and what they don't like about it” and they can also take it to their own country and relate it to their family or themselves.

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Krzanicki hopes to finish high school and learn more english. For her future, she is very eager to go to college here in the United States and develop her life.



# Why Do ESL Classes Matter?

By: Maksym Myshkun

In spring 2024, Plainville High School people were interviewed in English Second Language class to know how they feel. We had a conversation with the teacher who is teaching in this class, and a couple students who are studying in English Second Language class.

Mrs Butler is a teacher in ESL class, and that is how Butler starts her class, - “ I’m asking my students how are they feeling today, and they shared something about their day. Then we start the lesson for today”. Butler said she likes to help everyone and that makes her happy. “I like to see how everyone is writing”. In some classes students and teachers are playing “Booklet” together, both sides are so excited to do it.

Butler doesn't really like the phones in her class because they are distracting students while she is teaching them in class, so Butler is giving them time for phones at the end of class. She put the alarm in the class when it’s going to end. The alarm is ringing and that's a sign that it's time for phones.

Also, two students were asked about their experience and how they felt in the English Second Language. They said that ESL is one of their favorite classes, and that’s a class that gave them a basic understanding of English as a second language. “ I wanted this class to give me more opportunities in English and teach me more “. They, also, had very good support from the teacher and other students, that shows how friendly this class is. " Mrs Butler supported me to not give up, ” said student Daria.



# Who Is In Room 204?

By Kailani Harris

Janessa Vick, a 2022 English department teacher at Plainville High School, talks about her first two years of teaching. Vick went to school at CCSU in 2018 and graduated from CCSU in May of 2022. Vick was very quick in finding her job right out of college. Vick found herself teaching at Plainville High School in the Fall of 2022. Vick teaches English 9, 10, 12 and previously taught Mystery & Suspense a senior elective. She would say that Mystery & Suspense and 10th grade English are her favorite classes to teach. English 10 because they



get to read *The Crucible*, and Mystery and Suspense because she enjoys Mystery. Vick describes herself as creative and caring, she enjoys making lesson plans that are going to keep her students entertained. Although she does love her job she likes to keep her home life and school life balanced.

Vick says her first year teaching was all about learning, learning her students, her coworkers, her teaching style, etc. Vick adores her job she explains “I love it here, I think everyone is super nice and welcoming, I remember the first day I walked in here I thought the school was beautiful.”

Vick's favorite part about teaching is being able to spend time with her students, and having fun. Vick explains that her love of teaching started in the 3rd grade, with her teacher Mr. Senaj. He would read stories to her class, and the students and him would get very emotional.

She says she wanted to become a teacher so that she could give her students the same experience, she wants to make them feel their emotions and wants them to be seen.

Multiple students have great things to say about Vick. Katy Sangare states “Ms.Vick is sweet, honest, caring, and compassionate” She explains how she’s amazing in many ways, the way that she never makes the students feel bad about asking for help, or even just coming to her just to chat. When asked “If you could say one thing to Ms.Vick that you haven’t said yet, what would it be?” Na’Zariyah DeLemos explains “I really appreciate her for helping me

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throughout the school year when I was having a rough time, thanks for being very understanding and caring and helpful”

Vick is someone who never stops, she always has ideas of what to do next. She wants to accomplish many things in her life, and she uses that as her fuel to teach each and every day. Vick currently likes where she is at Plainville High School, she'd like it if this was her career at this school. To get to know more about Ms.Vick visit her in room 204!

## Getting to Know Ms. Moore

By: Alexa Jones

Science teacher, Melissa Moore, speaks about her position here at Plainville High School from 2002 until now. Moore attended Quinnipiac College for 4 years to receive her Biology Degree, then went to the University of New Haven for 1 year to get her Masters Degree. Moore teaches the classes; Planet Earth, Biology, Anthropology, and Vertebrate Zoology.



Mrs. Moore showing much expression for her love of teaching.

Moore knew that she wanted to become a teacher when she started studying at Quinnipiac. She had no classes on Fridays, so she would substitute at PHS and says she “loved being in class as a substitute”. When she got her Biology Degree she started schooling to become a teacher.

Moore was 23 years old when she first became an official teacher here at PHS. She described it as “chaotic” and “tough” at first but she warmed up to the student as time went on. As Moore began at PHS, she started as a student teacher in Mr. Fusco's classroom. Moore says, “I looked up to Mr. Fusco”, another science teacher at PHS. She doesn't just have a busy life in school, she also

has 3 kids that brighten her day every day. She loves to spend time with them and help them every step of the way.

Ken Fusco, a science teacher, first met Moore when she started in 2002. He was certified to have a student teacher and he chose her to student teach in his classroom. Fusco says “She was awesome”. Fusco expresses his thoughts about Moore's teaching style and how it's different from others: “She can relate to others and she treats others like their own person.” Moore and Fusco share lots of collaboration through meetings, discussing how to help their students, and thinking of different teaching strategies.

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Kailani Harris, a past student of Moore, who had her Biology and Planet Earth class. Harris shared “It seems like she cares about what she teaches and her students.” Harris also shared a message for her: “Thank you for all that you do, for not only me but for all your students.” If you would like to chat with Moore or learn more about her, you can visit her in room 434.

# Devils on The Mat: The PHS Wrestling Team

By Charlie Hall

The PHS Wrestling Team recently wrapped up their season in February 2024 with a top 5 finish at states, followed by a decent performance at opens. In December of 2023, the Wrestling Room opened for the first time this season, with returning veterans such as Bobby Wright and Eli Benoit, being joined in the room by some new faces, including freshmen Zaphyr Musshorn and Josue Alvarado. The team, who is coming off a sixth placed finish at Class S states the year prior and were top 25 at opens, were ready for a long season, with two weeks before their first match. The team opened their season with a dominant home win over Wethersfield, before a loss in the rivalry match against Berlin. A win and 3 losses in the away games as well successes in duals, left the Blue Devils at 13-6 ahead of their final 3 home games. A win against the Blue Dragons and a loss against Bristol Eastern left the Wrestlers at 14-7 heading into the Central Connecticut Conference Tournament.



Junior Jacob Boucher, who represents Plainville in the 215 weight class

Plainville would finish 10th at the CCC's behind placings from Musshorn, Sophomore Copper Theriault-Dinieli and Bobby Wright. A dominant 69-3 win over New Britain on Senior Night left the team with good spirits heading into the State Tournament. However, Wright popped his knee prior to states. When asked about it he stated, "It hurt, It really did, popping my knee a week before states, a tournament I never got to be at. I was seeded No. 2 and it would've been awesome for me to win that tournament." Bobby's brother, Christopher Wright, stepped in after his older brother's injury at state. Speaking about it, Christopher explained "I wasn't excited at first, because I knew that Bobby would not have the chance to do it." Christopher said he had more motivation to succeed at the tournament as he wanted to make his brother proud.

Plainville qualified 5 wrestlers to the open tournament, which took place in New Haven. 3 were underclassmen, Musshorn, Theriault-Dinielli, and Christopher. They were joined in New Haven by Jacob Boucher and Bartlomiej Powala. Musshorn was the first to wrestle, winning by pin against Makhi Gardner of Bunnell. Powala was the next Blue Devil to wrestle, being pinned by Jack Lilly of Fairfield Prep. Boucher, the next on the mat, started off with a win, running out 3-1 victor over Rio Fernandez of Bristol Eastern, before Christopher was pinned by Rafael Figueroa Rosario of Maloney. Musshorn next saw the mat in a loss by pin to Platt's Cesar Rodriguez. Theriault-Dinielli finally wrestled his first match in the tournament, losing 5-2 to Berlin's Aidan DeJesus. Boucher was next up

for Plainville, being pinned by Sammy Montovani of East Hartford. Musshorn then knocked off Adrian Adames of Montville in the consolation rounds. Powala then lost to Notre Dame-West Haven's Ryan Sevigny, eliminating him from the tournament. Boucher then picked up a win against RHAM's Thiago Delacruz before Christopher lost to Timothy Breault of Lyman Memorial, eliminating him. Musshorn next saw elimination after losing to Armen Arakelian of Conard. Theiault-Dinielli then knocked off Lucas Rosen of Staples shortly before Boucher eliminated Michael Melendez of Platt. In the next round Boucher upset the No. 4 seed from New London, however Theriault-Dinielli was eliminated by Bristol Central's Lincoln Archibald. Boucher's run was finally ended by Malachi Fowler of Windham, just 1 game from placing and qualifying for New England's.

With the season over Blue Devil Wrestling, the future looks bright for the team. Coach Dylan Fusco was very proud of the team this year, and with only 1 senior graduating "it's very high hopes for next year." With no school wrestling until December, most wrestlers will be competing in off season tournaments, like the Nutmeg State Games in July.



# Plainville Girls Basketball Set the Tone for 23'-24' Season

By Cassiane Montanez



Plainville Girl's Basketball 23-24 Season

Plainville girls basketball makes their way to states for the first time in four years as they take on Platt Tech High School February 26, 2024 to start playoffs. Plainville has shown much improvement and it's clear the work is paying off. As the regular season is coming to an end the girls have faced challenges but were able to overcome them as they advanced into states. Plainville was able to end their season with 8 wins and 12 loses. What makes it more special for the girls is how they

qualified for it. In order to qualify you need to have at least 6 wins. Plainville was going up against Bloomfield High School as it was an exciting game for the girls and went into overtime to finish the game off with the score 68-61 as they were able to win with sophomore Audra Pearson leading the team with 37 points.

Asking junior Tamia Chapman what she felt like was the biggest challenge while playing through the season was trying to keep her composure during the more intense games. How the team prepares for games is by locking in and staying focused. They would try to go over their own game film and try to fix any errors and correct them at practice. They would also scout other teams that they were going to play and match up their players with the other teams to know what to expect when they go to play them. Chapman also states "Our team chemistry has tremendously improved this year. Basketball is all about having a good experience and a fun time while creating friendships and learning team bonding skills to then take them and adapt to them on the court."

Even when the team made states they didn't stop there. They kept going and were able to win two more games. When asked coach Jeff Smedick how it felt to make states he said "It felt good to reach a goal. We were able to come off on a win with that Bloomfield game where the girls fought extremely hard."

Now moving forward the team will prepare for states and continue their journey. To help prepare them for states we asked Smedick how he will do so and he states “We haven’t been to states in four years so this is a big accomplishment and we’re going to work even harder in practice and stay focused. I want the girls to have this hunger to go get it and work our way up. This is a different level and it’s going to be more intense so we just gotta be ready for what they throw at us.”

Overall making it to states is a huge thing that teams have to clearly be ready and prepared for to take seriously. To find more information about the girls basketball team you can go to their instagram page [@phs.girlsbasketball](#).

# Mr. Humphrey at PHS

By Adam LaCasse

Mr. Humphrey has worked at Plainville High School for many years and has helped many students find success throughout his 10 years working at PHS. Humphrey worked as head Sheriff in Canton for 24 years, until he could retire. He did not like all the free time so he was introduced to his position at PHS that he found interesting and decided to take.



During his time at PHS Humphrey works as the Head of Security doing his best to keep PHS safe and help students learn and do what's right. When asked what is your favorite part of your job at PHS he explained "I enjoy seeing students come in as freshmen and leave as adults". He talked highly of his time with the students and his time at PHS. He was also asked what student has been the most successful while he as worked at PHS and he replied with "There's so many students successful in their own ways and in the events they chose to pursue whether it be academic, extracurricular or musical, there's just no way to choose just one". Humphrey has pushed many of the students towards success and does his job great, he has helped PHS grow and became much better during his time here.

Humphrey has loved his time here with the students but is planning to retire at the end of the year with the class of 2024. According to Kiley "Mr. Humphrey gives the school a sense of security and pushes all the students to be better". Humphrey is one of the most interesting and most different staff members that are a part of PHS. He helps students in ways no other teacher can and does his best everyday to show a great example. If you want more information about Mr. Humphrey you can go to the security office at PHS to learn anything about him.

# Serving in the New Tennis Season

By Jessica Rogers

The Plainville High School girls tennis team is getting ready for the 2024 Spring season, as well as welcoming all the new faces! I had the pleasure to interview Charles Radda, head coach as well as the assistant coach Samuel Reigeluth and one of the team captains, Victoria Hamel. One of the many new faces joining the tennis team is Reigeluth, who is now the assistant coach. He may be new to coaching PHS girls tennis, but in the past he has been active in coaching rugby in Belgium and soccer in both Belgium and here at PHS. Reigeluth recaps his tennis career remarking, “Yes, I play quite a bit. I used to travel around the world competing.” So he also has experience to share with the tennis players. Radda has been coaching since 1987, making this year his 38th year of coaching tennis. Hamel has been a diligent player for the past 4 years of her highschool career; gaining knowledge and experience for tennis through the rec center.

There are a variety of people who have enlisted for the tennis team, which compared to last year is extremely high. Radda says, “We have a strong nucleus of experienced players returning, strong senior leadership, and some very talented underclassmen.”

This season should bring a lot of new opportunities for the team to create new fun experiences. The coaches have a lot of optimism this season and Reigeluth is looking forward to helping the beginners. Continuously people asked Reigeluth to coach tennis and now the sport that he loves he has the chance to assist people. He leads by example, demonstrating how to do those activities until you get the hang of it. Hamel exclaims her favorite part about tennis is that it is a great way to clear her head and make new connections with her teammates. Radda emphasizes that tennis is one of the few sports that transcend age. Variety of ages can play tennis, Radda explains he still sees people in their 70s and 80s still having a good time with tennis. Radda says, “I hope the girls I’m coaching will be playing when the next century arrives.” The best part about joining the team is that you don’t have to try out for a spot on the team, they welcome everyone who is interested in joining. Hamel says there is no pressure to force yourself to be better than everyone else, take your time and be patient with yourself.

Tennis isn’t a sport you are going to perfect overnight. After being asked, “Do you think you have more room for improvement?” Hamel responded with, “You always have room for improvement.”



“We

and  
for

You can always get better with practice. I want to make my serve better.” Tennis can be a competitive sport if you make it one. Coach Radda’s mindset is that when he is playing tennis he plays to win. But when it comes to the high school girls he likes the idea they want to win but also the socializing element creating new friendships or strengthening old ones. Radda inquired, “...have a place you want to arrive at the end of class and make sure you get there. The route isn’t important.

# Why You Should Do Unified Sports

By Brandon Ortiz

Plainville High School has a Unified Sports program that happens during the Fall, Winter, and Spring season, run by Mikayla Wells, Jennifer Jambard, and sometimes Kelly Hickey. Unified Sports has been around in PHS for a while. Unified gave kids who struggle with disabilities a chance to have fun playing sports and giving them chances of playing sports with the help of teachers, students, staff members, and parents.



Mr. Bradley (Staff of Unified)

Since Hickey was a main member of Unified before she became the assistant principal for Unified, Hickey had some information about Unified Sports and information about it, so Hickey was the first person I went to, and the first person available to do an interview about Unified Sports. In Hickey's office the interview started, Hickey was asked some questions about Unified and had some good answers to the questions. Hickey was asked, “Why did you decide to go to Unified?” Hickey replied with “ I always liked athletics and wanted to help more students, and grow the program”. Hickey also liked to help the students who have disabilities with Wells, and students, and other staff members. Since Unified is most likely to continue in the

future, Hickey was asked this question “How do you plan on making Unified better in the future?”. Hickey stated that Wells and Jambard are planning on doing more things in the future with Unified, and that Wells and Jambard are going to make it better, and Hickey is happy to help with anything and go and support, and promote events and things they do. Hickey was asked “ Why did you want to start a Unified Program?”. Hickey stated CT already had Unified Sports already made but, it was only for basketball, throughout the years schools had Unified had more sports for the kids who are in Unified can do more sports and have more fun doing during fall, winter, and spring season. Hickey was told if people should take Unified more seriously?. Hickey responded by saying “ I wished more people came to more events, and showed support, and to help and join Unified.” Hickey also said that “Our differences are unique and I wish that more people should know that and help out kids who struggle with disabilities, or being bullied because of it to smile and have a chance to have fun even with their struggles.” Lastly Hickey was asked “What are some reasons you think more people should do Unified sports and help?”. Hickey stated that doing Unified is a great time, and that it is uplifting because if someone is having a bad day, Unified will make your day better by helping the kids and just having a good time.

A senior at PHS by the name of Johnathan Kafka was also interviewed about Unified because he has experience doing it. Kafka was asked the same questions and some different questions giving good and different answers. Kafka was asked “How has doing Unified affected your life?”. Kafka stated,



Unified has made it change his perspective on how he does things and how even though people are different, we are all the same, and it made Kafka do more things to help the community. The second question Kafka was asked was, “ Why did you decide to do Unified?”. Kafka responded with “ I wanted to help more and take my time out of my day to help

Others and I did it to have school spirit.” Another question Kafka was asked was “Do you think people should take unified more seriously?” Kafka responded by saying that more people should join because since these kids have- -disabilities and “can’t do certain things' ' it is nice to help those kids and have fun. Lastly Kafka was asked this question “What are some reasons you think more people should do Unified Sports and help?”. Kafka stated “I think more people should join because people should put themselves out there, and help the community, and get community service hours if you didn’t get any hours in yet, also to help the kids with disabilities and have fun with them. If you ever thought about doing Unified, and help out or get your hours in, These reasons by a senior in PHS and a assistant principal at PHS who used to help out Unified, these are your reasons should join.

# A View On The Locked Bathrooms From The Authorities

By: Dylan Caron

Recently, Plainville students have had complaints about the 400's and the 200's bathrooms being locked during passing time. Students report they aren't able to use the bathroom when they need to.

This has become a major inconvenience and to some, even dehumanizing. In order to understand viewpoints from multiple different perspectives the principal, security officer, and a student provided their opinion.



Locked Bathroom door at PHS

Mrs. Delorenzo, Mr. Humphrey, and Devyn all have different views on the locked bathrooms in Plainville High. While speaking with DeLorenzo I figured out that the authorities don't want to have to keep the bathrooms locked but they are forced to due to some students abusing the bathrooms and breaking rules in them such as vaping, and skipping class. "I wish everybody just followed the rules so the people that do follow them don't have to be punished for other peoples wrongdoing" DeLorenzo said. Mr. Humphrey also has similar views as Mrs. Delorenzo, such as agreeing with her about how it is unfortunate that everybody has to suffer the consequences of the few who break the rules, "but there are other ways that the people who do follow the rules can use the bathrooms at any time." "The nurse bathroom, as well as the main office bathrooms are unlocked at all times so there is always a bathroom open for students to use when they need to" Humphrey stated.

But Devyn has different views compared to the authorities according to my interview with him. Devyn thinks that it is unfair because there have been times where he needed to use the bathroom and they were locked due to the other students not following the rules. "It's honestly unfair to me because I follow the rules but I'm getting thrown into the crowd who doesn't and receiving the same punishment as them even though I'm not breaking any rules.

In conclusion, I think there are many different ways to view the locked bathrooms policy and it just depends on who you ask about it because everybody has had their own personal experience with it.

# The Story of SRO Guerrette

By: Marcus Kiley

Jessica Guerrette was born April 15 of 1985. Guerrette was raised up North in Naugatuck Connecticut. Guerrette has A younger sister and her mother being in law enforcement herself. Her mother served as A Judicial police officer for the court for over a decade.



Guerrette stated “ever since she was little she knew what she wanted to be when she grew up”. Guerrette looked up to her mother with pride. The thought that her mother was so strong and courageous to even be in law enforcement inspired Guerrette to become the Woman she is today. Unfortunately Guerrette’s Mother passed away due to health issues. But Guerrette feels her mother would be proud of her hard work and dedication to her accomplishments. Guerrette played sports and often participated in Mix martial arts. In highschool Guerrette stated "I ran track throughout my high school Career” with Plainvilles very own Coach Shea as her head coach at the time.

Once Guerrette Graduated high school she joined the ROTC scholarship program in college where she attended New Haven University and majored in Criminal Justice. Guerrette finished all four years of her college career training and keeping in tip top shape to become a police officer. After receiving her Bachelor's degree in Criminal justice Guerrette applied and was accepted into the Police Academy in Massachusetts. Guerrette attended the police academy for 6 months. While being there Guerrette felt A higher sense of Morality and drive. Guerrette wasn't just there like everyone else. She had to prove herself that she was worthy of earning the badge. When asked if Guerrette faced any hardships in her training she stated “ Absolutely I was often the elephant in the room just starting off the fact that I was a woman trying to join the police force”.

Guerrette often felt that she wouldn't get the same Respect or Opportunities as others got just because of her gender and strength. It's not very common to see women in the police force, especially on patrol. But this didn't stop Guerrette from chasing her dream.

Guerrette passed the Academy in 2006 and went on to become a police officer in plainville connecticut. While being a police officer Guerrette still faced some discrimination against her because of her gender. Guerette proved she was worthy shortly after when she was faced with a dangerous 911 call where Guerette was the first responder with a deadly motor vehicle accident. The driver was in critical condition and with the quick thinking of guerrette she saved the woman's life. Guerette stated “ If it had not been for me being there that woman possibly could have lost her life” Guerette also said “ I was applauded for my heroism and I think at that moment I finally earned the

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respect I deserved” Guerrette was awarded for her action shortly after throughout the entire police department. Guerrette is currently A School Resource officer at Plainville High school. When asked, Principal Delorenzo said “ Not only is she a school resource officer but she is still a Human being. Students build relationships with her. She is someone kids can talk to in a time of need.

# GET TO KNOW MR. BIALKO

BY DARIA KRZANICKI

Let's meet Thomas Bialko, a Spring 2024 intern at Plainville High School, to gain more insight. Mr Bialko's dream was to become a professional footballer when he was 10 years old, but he was not sure of his future career path, so after graduating from high school, he decided to study economics,



where he attended UConn and earned a bachelor's degree. However, he did not decide to work in this profession and decided to continue his education, pursuing a master's degree in school counseling. Now he is focusing on earning his master's degree at University of Saint Joseph.

Mr. Bialko decided to become a school counselor and wants to help students find their professional passion so that learning in high school is as pleasant as possible for them. His experiences with teenagers include problems with friends, teachers, and indecision about the future. Methods to help students choose a career path and further education include: discussing the student's interests, talking about favorite subjects, checking grades and using a website called "Naviance and O\*Net." Mr.

**Thomas Bialko**  
In his room

Bialko is currently studying at University to gain knowledge in counseling and be the best he can be.

Bialko also has experience in working with teachers and school staff, as he was a math helper for people at another school. As Mr. said Bialko "I didn't receive such detailed help regarding my career path when I was in high school, so now I want to provide more support to students." His goal is to help each student achieve training success and provide emotional support . Mr. Bialko, the future school counselor, arouses enthusiasm and positive opinions from his colleagues.

According to his superior, Mrs. Lamont, Mr. Bialko is a person who is easy to talk to and ready to work, but is also characterized by great commitment to his duties. Mrs. Lamont emphasizes that he is a person with a good personality, easy to work and feedback. Additionally, he is appreciated in the team for his ability to work in a team, for listening, openness, suggestions and effective communication with various groups. Mrs. Lamont also emphasizes that Mr. Bialko is flexible and able to adapt to changing situations. This is an important feature in the work of a school counselor,

as well as flexibility, caring for children and, most importantly, communication with children, teachers and administration. As of today, his superiors said that he is doing better, and has a specific goal for the future. He observes how different things are done in the team and practices now. Finally, Mrs. Lamont described Mr. Bialko in three adjectives that best describe him. He's funny, easy going and collaborative. Another person is Victoria Polkowski, who also commented on Mr. Bialko. In her opinion, Mr. Bialko is very nice, always willing to help, wants to solve the problem and he is very engaged. Victoria has seen and heard that Mr. Bialko wants to help students with their problems and does his best to resolve them. Mr. Bialko helped Victoria feel good and comfortable in her new class. According to her, Mr. Bialko is hard-working, understanding and talkative.

Mr. Bialko's main goal is to finish college and work in High School. To fulfill the purpose of Mr. Bialko said "to achieve a goal in my life, I have to try a second time and a third time to be fully successful."

Mr. Bialko emerges as a person of extraordinary commitment and determination in his work as a future school counselor. The opinions of both his superior and Victoria confirm that he is friendly, helpful and ready to solve student's problems. All his personality traits indicate that he is an ideal candidate to play the role of a career advisor.