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BERLIN UPDATE

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Stats and Probs class finish final project



Seniors Autumn Young and Madalyn Winter work on compiling data. They did their Stats and Probability final project on "How well do you know Taylor Swift?"

Photo: T. Kujawa

by

Tess Kujawa

The Statistics and Probability class is finishing their final project, covering everything they have learned over the semester and putting it into one big project.

The project includes the students picking a pop culture topic, developing a hypothesis on who they think will know more, making and sending out a survey and analyzing all the data into a presenta-

tion with everything they've learned over the semester.

"The students like it because they have a vested interest. Instead of it just being random numbers, they developed it, they picked their topic, it's something they're interested in," Stats and Probability teacher Shawn Erb said.

They do this project instead of taking a final test.

"It's basically an open notes final on something we conducted so it's all around better for us," senior Autumn Young said. Young is doing her proj-

ect with Anna McCarthy and Madalyn Winter on how well people know Taylor Swift albums.

To be able to start their analysis, they have to get 125 answers to the survey they send out, but that seems to be the easy part. Putting it together is the difficult part.

"It's like taking those concepts we've learned in isolation, and now putting it in a cohesive presentation," Erb said.

McCarthy describes the process of compiling their data.

"We were given a sheet of all of the different calculations that we had to prove," McCarthy said.

The students used spreadsheets to organize all their data and had to try to make it cohesive for the general population, as most do not know the terminology for statistics.

Their hypothesis was that females would do better than everyone else that took the survey, and their hypothesis was correct.

The project is worth a test grade and a half.

Students graduate semester early

by **Greyson Blaauw**

Seniors typically graduate high school around the end of May every year, however, there is the opportunity for students to graduate a semester early. In order to graduate early, students must have all their credits required to graduate in general.

"I had to stay on task in school, and ensure I didn't fail any classes. I also took summer school last year to jump ahead on English credits," senior Ivy White said.

Some students choose to graduate early due to work related reasons. Whether the student is currently employed or has an idea of what field they want to work in, graduating early allows them to get a start on their careers a little sooner.

"I'm creating my own business and brand so graduating early let me start on that sooner than I thought," senior Tanner Dickerson said.

The number of early grads has been decreasing the last few years, with fewer than 10 students graduating early this year.

"The number ebbs and flows. When we had trimesters there were more early graduates," guidance counselor Ann Ragus said.

While graduating high school a whole semester early may seem like the greatest thing ever to some people, it isn't the best choice for everybody.

Being able to graduate early takes some extra time and work, but the option is there for students who want to put in that extra effort to get a little head start on their futures and lives.



Senior Ivy White plans to get her paramedic certifications. She worked third shift at a nursing home after school. "I plan to start college as early as I can," White said.

Senior competes in Voices of Democracy contest

by **Reporter**

Senior Anna Schumacher won a total of \$550 in cash prizes for her Voices of Democracy speech.

She was given a prompt to write her speech to submit to the contest. Schumacher's prompt was, "Why is the veteran important? Her first performance was Dec. 4 winning \$375, and she competed again on Jan. 11 winning a plaque and a check for \$175.

She came first at the local level and the district level, with only six people submitting

from Berlin.

The VFW's annual Voices of Democracy Speech Competition is something that Public Speaking teacher Angela Femali encourages students to enter every year from her Public Speaking class. There are cash prizes for every level going up to nationals and a chance to win a trip to Washington, D.C., cash prizes and scholarships.

Femali says she is very impressed with Schumacher's work and says that she is naturally a good speaker.

"Anna is such a natural speaker. She didn't need a heck of a lot of help. She's just

that good," Femali said.

Schumacher was only given little feedback during class to finalize her piece.

"I practiced my speech a couple times in front of my Public Speaking class and sent in a recording to the judges before presenting to the VFW," Schumacher said.



Student Poll: SmartPass

Do you believe SmartPass has been effective and necessary for our school?

4 students said yes

48 students said no

Have you ever been in a situation where the SmartPass system didn't work when you needed to fill out a pass?

33 students said yes

18 students said no

**52 students surveyed
Created by: E. Ziegler-Cairns**

Teen parent manages new life style

by

Autumn Nikolai

Junior Kaydence Scofield found out she was expecting in September 2021, having her son LJ at the end of May.

"I left in person and went online, so it was just my close family that knew for a little bit," Scofield said.

Another person that helped Scofield through her pregnancy was her boyfriend Jon Sahotsky. Jon is the father and he helped Kaydence emotionally and physically.

"I was really scared because I finally had my own money and was able to buy stuff for myself. I was also scared because of the age gap but, apart from that I was really excited to have a child with someone that I cared a lot about," Jon Sahotsky said.

Scofield and Sahotsky were not the only ones that had to make changes. Her mom also had to accept the changes that would come with her daughter having a baby.

"I was very upset finding out at first, but I knew Kaydence needed me and I told her I would be right by her side to help her out and support her through everything and we would do it together," Jodi Dassow said.

On top of caring for a child Scofield also had to learn how to be involved in a team setting after a while of not playing any kind of sports.

"I'm very grateful to be on varsity basketball after not playing for almost five years and having a baby," Scofield said.

Basketball isn't the only thing Scofield manages after having a child. She also has worked at McDonald's for two years and is now getting used to being fully in person after having the summer with her newborn.

"My mom cares for LJ until Jon gets off of work and then Jon watches him until school is done. Sometimes it is hard and I feel unworthy because I don't get to spend a lot of



Junior Kaydence Scofield's baby LJ celebrated his first Christmas. "We celebrated at my mom's house," Scofield said. LJ loves his new teething rings.

time with LJ. That's been the toughest part about coming back to school. Most of my time with him is spent later at night after school, work and basketball practice before he goes to bed," Scofield said.

Scofield also said that her favorite time with LJ is at

night because he's winding down from the day's activities. She also stated that LJ is reaching milestones in his life. These include crawling, babbling, getting into things, teething and eating solid foods. Scrambled eggs are his favorite.

Choir teacher retiring after 31 years

by

Arianna McCormick

After 31 years of directing show choir, choir teacher Lisa Utecht is ready to retire. Students reflect on having her as a director, and wonder what the future will look like without her there.

"It's kind of like taking away a security for me, she's always been there," junior Kate Femali said. "You get the sense that you can always be confident in what she's directing. She's an amazing director, she knows what she's doing."

Lisa Utecht taught at both



Sophomore Andrew Rozek and senior Ethan Brunke practice show choir choreography.

Photo: A. McCormick

the high school and middle school, serving as a choir teacher for both and managing musical extracurriculars

in the high school. Teaching these extracurriculars allowed her students to grow closer to her.

"It's kind of sad, she's got a lot of energy," senior Laurel Miller said. "I only joined this year, but Mrs. Utecht is a good teacher."

While students will miss her directing and teaching, she is excited to finish the year and finally take a break from teaching the middle and high school.

"I still very much love teaching choir, but I'm just getting older and don't have the same energy as I used to," Utecht said. "I'm hoping to have a good bunch of alumni come back to sing 'Bridge Over Troubled Water' with us one last time."

Staff Editorial: Bad Wi-Fi still big problem

The Wi-Fi at Berlin is constantly an issue in all classrooms throughout the day. This makes it very hard to get assignments done in class.

This is a problem because when teachers give assignments on Canvas or other websites, students can't get them done in class with no connection.

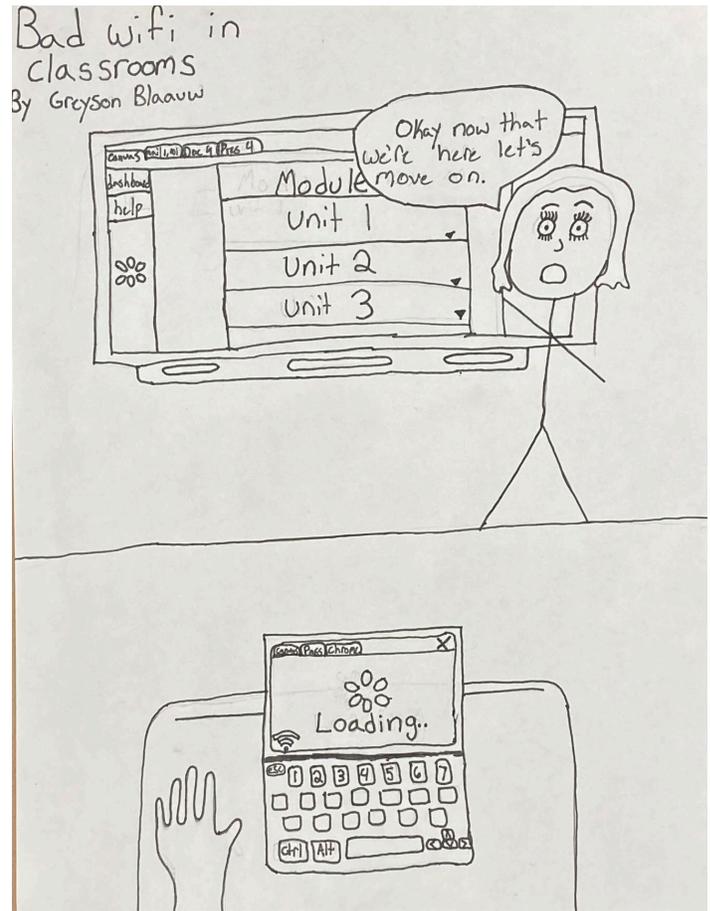
If we have to do the work at home because Wi-Fi won't stay connected, then it is harder to get help from a teacher. For example, the upstairs classrooms always have the worst Wi-Fi connection out of all classrooms. When teachers assign worksheets on Canvas, students have to wait until the Wi-Fi reconnects or they have more homework when some students do not always have time to work on all their assignments.

The best solution to fix this problem is to get our school signed up with a Wi-Fi service that is designed specifically for larger buildings and install routers in all classrooms. This would make the signal stronger throughout the whole building

with no interruptions. Investing a larger amount of money in the school's internet connection would solve more problems than just students' homework. It can also help teachers with their daily tasks such as attendance, worksheet making and printing.

This solution will work because schools around the area are using this method and have little to no problems. For example, at Laconia High School, each classroom has a Wi-Fi port to ensure the best connection for students, teachers and staff. If we have separate routers for each room, the internet connection can be boosted, resulting in less overload with all the electronics trying to use the same connection.

The Wi-Fi connection is a serious problem that students and staff run into every day. It is critical that this problem gets fixed so that the system runs smoother without complications. Installation of separate Wi-Fi routers is the best solution to have better internet connection and avoid overload for all classrooms.



Point CounterPoint Semesters vs. Trimesters

Tess Kujawa
Semesters

Ethan Ziegler-Cairns
Trimesters

1. Semester classes are 55 minutes instead of 70 and it's easier for some people to sit in class
2. Semesters have more days in classes.
3. Semesters give more time for teachers and students to form bonds.
4. Semester early graduates graduate earlier.

1. Trimesters give students more room to catch up in the event of an F.
2. Trimesters give students more opportunities to learn through hands-on activities.
3. Trimesters give teachers more time to work with students on an individual level.
4. Less days = less stress.



How well do you know BHS?

- 1) What year did FFA receive their first certificate of excellence? 2) What year did Kaylee Kriha win the Outstanding Musician award?

A- 2010
B- 2011
C- 2012
D- 2013

A- 2019
B- 2020
C- 2021
D- 2022

- 3) What year is this team picture from?

Hint: It was the last year football won the ECC.

A- 2015-2016
B- 2016-2017
C- 2017-2018
D- 2018-2019



- 4) What was the team that won trivia night in 2022 named?

A- "My Name Is Carol!"
B- "The Dark Ninjas"
C- "Periodic Table"
D- "Lightning Maqueen Kachow"

Created by: C. Dutcher

1) C, 2) C, 3) B, 4) D

Entertainment Review: 'Big Time Adolescence' must-watch

by

Ethan Ziegler-Cairns

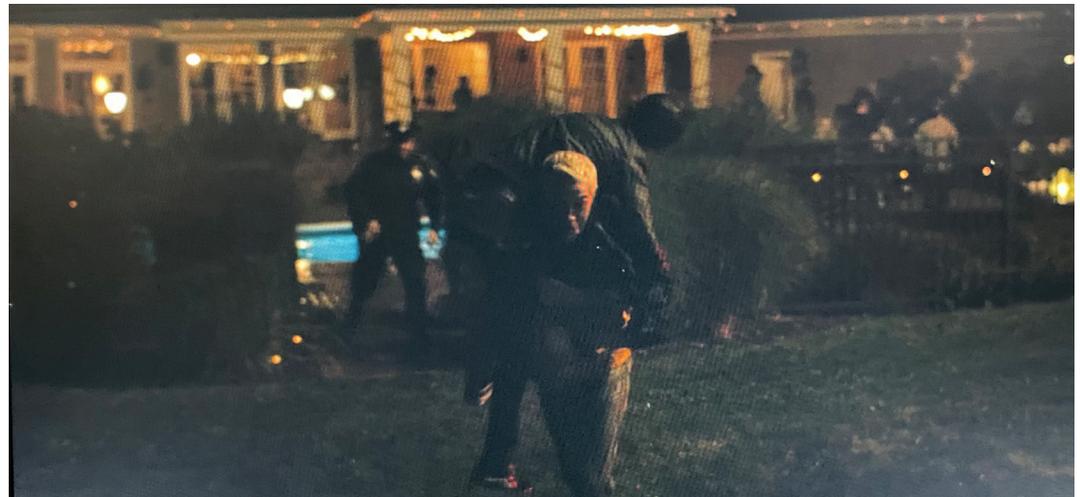
The movie "Big Time Adolescence" is a well-thought, detailed, and realistic coming-of-age dramedy about the woes of adolescence, particularly in high school.

"Big Time Adolescence" was shot in 2018, premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in 2019 and its movie rights were subsequently purchased by Hulu for a price of \$4 million.

The film follows Monroe Harris (Griffin Gluck), a 16 year-old boy struggling to find his place in high school and in life.

Watching the trailer, many might expect this to be more of the same when compared to other coming-of-age comedies, with immature humor and drug paraphenelia galore, but what they were able to do with what they had is impressive.

Director Jason Orley and his cast, including headliners Pete Davidson, Griffin Gluck, Colson Baker and Jon Cryer, do a great job of realistically portraying the temptations that



Above is one out of the handful of questionable situations Zeke and Monroe find themselves in throughout the course of "Big Time Adolescence".

Photo: E. Ziegler-Cairns

many teens are faced with in high school and how negative influences can send even the best of apples down the wrong path in life.

While keeping a mostly lighthearted tone with the many seemingly humorous situations which take place throughout the film, they manage to remind us that there are a few very serious lessons to be learned from this particular story.

The actors are believable as friends and their chemistry is easy to notice. The soundtrack also does a good job of making us feel the emotion they were aiming for in many scenes.

It is also very easy to empathize with Monroe and wonder why he lets his best friend Zeke get him into the situations they end up in.

The movie takes viewers on a journey with Monroe, showing the impact role models

can have on young adults, even affecting their ability to succeed in the areas of their life that genuinely matter in the long-run.

For those looking for an emotionally moving, yet humorous movie regarding high school and its ups and downs, watch "Big Time Adolescence."

Rating out of 5: 4.5

Girls basketball defeats rivals

by

Chloe Dutcher

The girls basketball team played the Ripon Tigers on Thursday, Jan 5. Ripon has been Berlin's rivals and they have a similar skill set making for a competitive game.

"The hardest part about playing ripon is that it's a fair game, our level of difficulty is similar and they play good defense," junior Kaydence Scofield said.

Berlin ended the first half down by 14 points. Despite entering the second half on the lower hand and senior Anna Kurczek fouling out, they were still able to make a comeback winning the game with a final score of 47- 42.

"It was a tough game. I think my teammates are really good about knowing what needs to be done to get us ahead," sophomore Callie Kurczek said.

Kurczek plays point guard on the team and has an average of 10.1 points per game.

"We're getting a lot better at playing together. I feel as though we share the ball and play well together. As the season progresses I have noticed the team coming together to be more cohesive on the court," Scofield said.

She also said that for the next game she hopes that the team will collect fewer fouls.

Berlin is currently standing fifth in the conference with a 6-4 record all season and a 1-4 for conference games.



Above: Callie Kurczek plays tough defense against ripon. She scored 16 points at the game against.

Left: The team regrouped during a timeout, talking about new strategies to help them earn a win.

Photos: C. Dutcher

Boys defeat Adams-Friendship

by

Aaron Elm

Boys basketball won against Adams-Friendship 46 to 40 on Jan. 10. The guys played well together, passing the ball back and forth and making accurate shots.

"One advantage of the non-conference is that it is an unfamiliar opponent," Head Coach Jeremy Mercer said.

While they still have work

to do, they used this game to strengthen some of their areas of weakness.

"Our screening is one area where I'd want to see us make improvements. We must screen much more diligently," Mercer stated.

The boys say they have plans to improve.

"We do have certain advantages. We just have to take better care of the ball and force fewer mistakes, especially while playing against a zone," senior Conner Batley

said.

Before the game, Mercer had a sound strategy in place. On the basis of his past information, he had planned their plays.

"We' were anticipating Adams-Friendship playing primarily zone defense so our focus had been on preparing to attack that," Mercer said.

The boys play a non-conference game on Jan.14 at home against Wild Rose.



The boys huddle up before the game begins.

Photo: A. Elm