



In this issue... Politics, Sports and More

## Students Weigh In On Hybrid Learning

By Lindsey Leary  
Redcoat Review Writer

March 16th marks one year since Berlin High School closed its doors and moved to remote learning. Very few teenagers at BHS can say that they have felt anything close to what was once viewed as a “normal” school experience. Students’ lives have been completely turned upside down as they were forced to adapt to a new learning style and environment. As we will soon be transitioning back to full-time in-person school, it seemed like a good time to collect feedback directly from the students to understand how they have felt during hybrid learning.

BHS has operated on a hybrid schedule: cohort A is in-person learning while cohort B is remote, and the next week, the two groups switch. Cohort C is made up of students that are fully in-person, and cohort D is fully remote.

For the purposes of this article, I published a Google form for all BHS students to express their opinions and feelings towards school during a pandemic. Out of the forty-two students who responded, thirty-five were in cohort A or B, three were in cohort C, and four were in cohort D.

The first question was simple: “Do you enjoy remote learning?” 62% of students responded that they do not, and 79% of students agreed that remote learning is typically more difficult than in-person learning. When asked to expand on her answer, junior Clare McGeever shared that “when you are in

school, you are able to put your phone down, be held accountable to actually do the work assigned to you, and pay attention in class. This discipline does not translate over to online learning.” Many students shared similar sentiments, often saying that when remote, it is extremely easy to become distracted and lose both focus and motivation.

On the other hand, some students shared that they actually enjoy remote learning. Senior Michael Barnat shared, “I feel like I have more control over how I schedule my day because I am at home.” While many students did remark on the difficulty they often face with technology and wifi connections, 62% of students said they do feel comfortable participating in class when they are remote.

However, the majority of students who shared that they do enjoy remote learning did not list many positives regarding academics. Senior Abby Ferland said that “the positives of online learning have nothing to do with the learning.” She shared that what she enjoys most about remote learning is her ability to eat and drink whenever she wants during class. She also added that another positive is an increased amount of sleep due to the lack of commute to school. Numerous students reiterated these same feelings.

School is more than just learning; it is also about the relationships we build and create with teachers and friends, and the overall sense of community we gain in school. An overwhelming number of students shared that they feel isolated and alone when they are remote learning. Dr. Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of



Photo Credit: Lindsey Leary

Students learning both in-person and virtually in a science class at BHS.

psychology and neuroscience at Brigham Young University, co-authored a study on the effects of social isolation. She found that a lack of social connection can be as detrimental to a person’s health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day, a staggering statistic when it is looked at in the perspective of remote learning. While this situation has become a sort of “new normal,” social isolation is still extremely harming for students’ mental and physical health.

Every student that responded shared something different about themselves and their experience, both the positives and negatives. Junior Sephora Cote shared, “I’ve started to learn who I am and be more creative because I’m at home more often.”

As we move forward to a “post-COVID” life, it is possible that many of the lessons and changes we adapted will also move forward with us. Hybrid learning has forced staff and students to become more creative in the way we learn, communicate, and coexist. Perhaps these changes will continue to have a positive affect on our future.

## McGeever Crowned Connecticut Champion

Berlin High School senior John McGeever was the Connecticut winner of the Daughters of the American Revolution Essay contest. His essay is now being considered at the New England Regionals. Read his essay below:

*As the 2020 Presidential election comes to an end, turmoil and unrest are at an all-time high for the country. With fraud and corruption being accused by both parties, the strength of our democracy is truly being tested more now than it ever has.*

*The responsibility to uphold Democracy falls upon voters themselves to go and vote. Our founders created the electoral college as a way for every individual to be represented in the federal government. They opted out of the popular vote system to avoid the fear of majority rule. This way the minority voice is heard without creating a system that only favors minority voices. For over 200 years our nation’s*

*citizens have lived up to the task given by our founders and used their architecture to ensure representation for all.*

*Our nation’s elections stand as a beacon for the world. Nothing represents the motto of democracy, “E Pluribus Unum” more than the nation’s ballot counters. Out of all the workers, there is one responsibility, a responsibility that is too great for the government itself. That being to accurately and truthfully represent the voice of America. Through the power of hundreds of thousands of American citizens, democracy is preserved and upheld.*

*When a candidate concedes in the election it is out of deep respect and trust for the men and women who count these ballots and who voted. The candidate can rest assured that the voice of the country is reflected in the numbers projected and the same goes for the American citizen. We entrust the power of counting to no one else than ourselves, to ensure our opinions*

*and voices are not suppressed by one group.*

*This is compared no more greatly than when looking at other nations who aim to defy us. Those who look to disrupt our goals of freedom and equality through the spread of power, fear, and manipulation. In nations where voices are not heard and opinions matter not, those agents of chaos are reminded every four years of their limitations. When the nation comes together to preserve our system, the world takes notice.*

*Through the combined efforts of the American election network, our duty as American citizens is accomplished. So long as we are united under one common goal, to uphold the standards created by our founders and generations before us, and to participate and truthfully manage the election. Our next step is to make sure that the generations after us follow in these footsteps as we have. Our Democracy is continued by no man, by no one power or institution. It is propelled and preserved by us, the American people.*

# The Four I's of January

By Gina Scalaro  
Redcoat Review Writer

The first four Wednesdays of 2021 will be remembered for the rest of history. Some have given them the name “The Four I's of January.”

## OPINION

Insurrection.  
Impeachment.

Inauguration. Investments. All of these events were covered by the news extensively, but it's important to talk about them in the educational world due to their resounding impact on our lives.

**Wednesday, January 6, 2021:** Insurrection at the Capitol. The day started as a regular workday, where women and men of both houses of Congress and Vice President Mike Pence were certifying the 2020 Presidential Election results. While Congress worked to certify the results, then President Donald Trump held a “Save America” rally at the White House Ellipse.

Rally supporters who wanted to stop the certification surrounded the Capitol after a violent mob stormed the building. Rioters put their feet on the Speaker of the House's desk, and waved the Confederate flag in the Capitol for the first time in American history. Congress members and Vice President Pence were rushed to a secure location seconds before the mob got to the Senate floor and outside the House chambers.

During the insurrection, five people died, one of whom was Officer Brian Sicknick who was laid to rest at the Capitol Rotunda on February 2. According to a report from the *New York Times*, two police officers who responded to the attack at the Capitol committed suicide following the event. At least 138 officers sustained injuries.

**Wednesday, January 13, 2021:** Impeachment. H.Res 24 - 117th Congress

was drafted as House members were in a secure location while insurrectionists roamed through the Capitol.

The resolution was an article of impeachment for President Trump, made to impeach him for high crimes and misdemeanors, stating that he incited an insurrection against the government of the United States. The article of impeachment also included that Trump endangered the security of America on January 2, 2021 by calling Georgia's Secretary of State and asking him to find votes for Trump to win the 2020 election. On January 13, the House debated and voted on Trump's second impeachment.

H.Res 24 passed with a vote of 232 - 197, with 10 Republicans voting with all House Democrats. That vote awarded Trump with the title of the first American president to be impeached in the House of Representatives twice. On February 13, 2021, Trump was not convicted in the Senate; however, a record was set for the amount of Republicans to cross party lines to vote to convict in a 57 - 43 vote for conviction.

**Wednesday, January 20, 2021:** Inauguration. The day President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr. was sworn in as the 46th President of the United States and Vice President Kamala Devi Harris was sworn in as the 49th Vice President of the United States. President Biden held an outdoor inauguration at the Capitol just two weeks after it was breached by the mob.

Former President Trump did not attend the inauguration of his successor, something a president has not done since 1869. Former Vice President Pence did attend, peacefully transferring power to Vice President Harris. It was a historic day in a multitude of ways. Harris was sworn in as the first female, black, and



Photo credit: Leah Millis of Reuters

Asian American Vice President. Mrs. Biden is the first First Lady to hold a paying job outside of the White House. Madam Vice President's husband is the first Second Gentlemen.

Amanda Gorman became the youngest inaugural poet in American history by reading her moving poem “The Hill We Climb.” The fashion seen throughout inauguration day was also breathtaking and helped smaller designers like Sergio Hudson, a black designer from South Carolina who dressed former First Lady Michelle Obama and Madam Vice President Harris, make a name for themselves.

Ultimately, this day almost seemed necessary to begin America's reunification after the weeks leading up to President Biden's swearing in. We can all learn something from the words of Amanda Gorman: “For there is always light, if only we're brave enough to see it, if only we're brave enough to be it.”

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021:** Investment. GameStop used to be the biggest retail gaming store in America, but with the purchase of games becoming more and more digitized, the company had lost much of its popularity. That changed when a Reddit user by the name of “r/WallStreetBets” wanted to get back at the rich and powerful on Wall Street. GameStop stock was being shorted for millions of dollars by some U.S. hedge funds which are usually filled with wealthy investors. Reddit users learned about what Wall Street hedge funds were doing.

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# Biden Brings Change to White House

By Julia Oakes and Emma LaFrance  
Redcoat Review Writers

On January 20th, 2021, Joe Biden was sworn in as the 46th president of the United States. Within 24 hours of his inauguration, President Biden had signed fifteen executive orders. As of March 4th, 2021, he published 34 executive orders pertaining to a wide range of topics including climate change, immigration, COVID-19, and the public workforce.

The executive orders signed into effect included a number of reversals of policies set in place by the Trump administration. Biden's first act as president was rejoining the Paris Climate Agreement. The US played a key role in the development of the Paris Agreement in 2015 but withdrew in 2017. Biden's efforts to establish the US as a world climate leader were a prominent



part of his campaign, and rejoining the Paris Agreement was a necessary step in that direction.

Biden also rejoined the World Health Organization (WHO). The US withdrew from the WHO in April 2020, and many who viewed the nationwide pandemic response as inadequate felt that it could have been strengthened by the WHO.

A number of Biden's executive orders centered on immigration policies, revoking many of the policies put in place by the previous administration. Biden's order reversed a policy that excluded undocumented immigrants from the census. He also halted border wall construction and fortified the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, which aids people who were brought into the US as undocumented immigrants when they were children.

As of March 8th, Biden has not yet achieved the \$15 federal minimum wage he vowed to create immediately after his inauguration. Biden has made it clear that he continues to go forward with

raising the minimum wage and is willing to make certain concessions if it will earn bipartisan support.

Biden has continued to set goals for the future of his presidency, including his goal to administer 100 million vaccines by his 100th day in office. Instead of making it a promise, he has made it a goal that he plans to achieve. This goal motivates health care workers and pharmaceutical companies to produce and administer vaccines at a faster rate to better protect the community.

Though President Biden has signed a number of policies into action since being inaugurated, he still has nearly an entire term left during which he can continue to change public policy. Orders will continue to be scrutinized and amended.

While Biden has managed to sign a number of orders into effect, many of which will reverse policies created during the previous presidency, Biden's faults cannot be ignored. Campaign promises are often left unfulfilled, and Biden will be no exception.

# Inside the Success of BHS Broadcast Club

By Matt Tierney  
Redcoat Review Writer

In a year where the Berlin community was stripped of their ability to attend games and events, the Berlin Broadcast Club has stepped up and delivered high quality and successful broadcasts of events around the school community.

While sports are the flagship production, the club has ventured into broadcasting events such as the Fall Play, Board of Education meetings, McGee Middle School sports, and the National Honor Society's induction ceremony. Currently, the group is broadcasting both boys and girls basketball games and has enjoyed great success in doing so, recently surpassing 150 live viewers on the Berlin vs. Maloney boy's basketball stream.

The streams have been a huge hit, gaining praise throughout the community for the quality and experience they have brought in unprecedented times. But what goes into creating such high success?

Comprised of 20 members and led by Mr. Smith, the school's Tech Specialist, each broadcast is truly a full team effort. Mr. Smith provided some insight into what goes into making each stream run. It usually takes about seven students to set up all the equipment and technology that operates the stream, which typically takes place two hours before gametime. At the conclusion of the stream, it is again a full team effort to disassemble everything, taking at least an hour. All in all, it clearly is a long time commitment, and Mr. Smith is "grateful for the students' help" and says, "it takes a lot of passion for them to do this."

Aside from the setup, there is a lot that goes into actually making the stream run successfully. There are three camera operators that create all the shots we are seeing in real time, a producer who switches between camera angles, a sound manager, and two commenta-



Photo Credit: Mr. Smith

Pictured Front To Back, Left To Right: John McGeever, Connor Therrien, Marek Grabowski, Tyler Chamberland, Michael Vignone, Michael Damiana, Kat Geschimsky, and Ali Cavanaugh

tors, BHS seniors John McGeever and Connor Therrien. A strong emphasis is put into the components of the sound design, from the sounds of the game to the voices of the two commentators. Cumulatively, it is no one person making it happen but rather a group of dedicated people in order to bring all of us the great entertainment value it provides.

Something that has taken these streams to the next level, Smith says, are the commentators. While the basketball games aren't the first sporting events the club has streamed, they are the first to feature commentators. Without a doubt, the personalities of McGeever and Therrien have been able to add another level of excitement and entertainment to the stream and give it more of a professional feel.

When asked about the commentating experience, Therrien expressed that "John and I are really having a blast doing this, and really we're just hoping to add something extra to the viewing experience." He also went on to say that

he "hopes the underclassmen and juniors continue commentating and can keep going what we started in the coming years."

Despite the success of the club, Mr. Smith reiterates to his group each time that "you are only as good as your best stream," and hopes to continue to grow and progress with each game. He is also very proud of what the students are doing as it really has done a lot for the community, as it reaches people who may not always be able to see the teams play.

As for the future of the club and streams, look for both boys and girls basketball games the rest of the season, as well as some action with the upcoming Spring sports season. You can check out the streams and even watch them on demand by heading to BHSTV Broadcast on YouTube and are encouraged to subscribe (free).

Finally, if you are interested in getting in on the production, you can join the Berlin Broadcast Club. Feel free to email Mr. Smith at [nsmith@berlinschools.org](mailto:nsmith@berlinschools.org) for more information.

# Library March Madness Kicks Off its Third Year

By Dan Lamoureux  
Redcoat Review Writer

Prepare your brackets and get ready for some reading! This year's Library March Madness is full of interesting titles for students to read and vote for.

The bracket for 2021 consists of 16 popular titles in eight categories. Which book will win is up to the students right here at BHS. Will a classic like *Catcher in the Rye* or *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* take home the title, or will it be a newcomer like *Ready Player Two*? Will a new movie coming out cause a shake up in the voting? (I mean Stephen King's *It* didn't win last year because of his good looks.)

The voting will take place in several rounds, with the fourth round crowning a victor. Don't forget to vote through Schoology to help the books you chose for your bracket go all the way.

Good luck, and may the best bracket win.

## BHS March Madness 2021 Book Bracket

Pick your top choices in each category. The most correct answers will win a prize.

<p><b>Round 1</b></p> <p><b>One of Us is Next</b> Baron Ramin</p> <p><b>Then She Was Gone</b> Lisa Jewell</p> <p><b>Hey, Kiddo</b> Jarrett Krosoczka</p> <p><b>Bloom</b> Kevin Rexhepo Sovanna Gonzalez</p> <p><b>Becoming</b> Michelle Obama</p> <p><b>Might</b> Clay Aiken</p> <p><b>Mudbound</b> Hillary Jordan</p> <p><b>Water for Elephants</b> Sara Gruen</p>	<p><b>Round 1</b></p> <p><b>Ready Player Two</b> Ernest Cline</p> <p><b>The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes</b> Susanne Collins</p> <p><b>Before I Fall</b> Lizzy Collier</p> <p><b>The Girl Who Fell From the Sky</b> Heidi Pitlor</p> <p><b>A Girl Like That</b> Tara Beal</p> <p><b>Speak</b> Lauri R. King</p> <p><b>The Catcher in the Rye</b> J.D. Salinger</p> <p><b>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</b> Maya Angelou</p>
<p><b>Round 2</b></p>	
<p><b>Round 3</b></p>	
<p><b>Round 4</b></p>	
<p>The champion is...</p>	
<p>Your Name _____</p>	



# The Historic Return of the Boeing 737

By Tim Lewis  
Redcoat Review Writer

If you are traveling via the air during April break, you might find yourself on a brand new Boeing 737 MAX aircraft - a model that has recently undergone a comprehensive redesign following two fatal crashes in just under one year. The historic return of this aircraft comes only after numerous complaints, reported design flaws, and two fatal crashes.

On May 22nd, 2017, after six long years of development, the next generation of the Boeing 737 series aircraft were finally distributed to customers. The first customer to receive and fly their Boeing 737 MAX was Lion Air subsidiary Malindo Airlines. The 737 MAX seemed to be a success during the first year of service where it saw commercial use in both regional and international flights.

This success was short-lived, however, because on October 29th, 2018, Lion Air Flight 610 crashed shortly after takeoff in the waters of Indonesia, killing all 189 persons on board. Investigation into the crash revealed that there were serious control issues which largely included a failure of the angle of attack indicator. Complaints about the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) had been made on previous flights with pilots believing this to be a design flaw of the aircraft.

Before the next crash of a 737 MAX aircraft, both Boeing and the United States Federal Aviation Administration sent out warnings to pilots about these design flaws. Boeing offered updated training procedures that were to be



Photo Credit: Philip Pilosian/Shutterstock.com

United Airlines is one of several carriers that have added the Boeing 737 Max 9 to its fleet.

implemented immediately in order to account for these flaws. This was their attempt at keeping the aircraft flying while they developed the appropriate physical changes necessary for the aircraft to be 100 percent safe.

However, these warnings and updated training procedures did not come in time as Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crashed only six minutes after takeoff from Addis Ababa Bole International Airport on March 10th of 2019. Tragically, this crash also killed all of its 157 occupants including its 8 crew and 149 passengers.

At this point, it was clear that the 737 MAX series was unsafe for commercial flight. Quickly after the crash, the FAA joined other countries around the world in grounding all 737 MAX aircraft until Boeing could make the sufficient alterations in the flight control systems to become safe to fly.

Finally, after more than a year of

re-engineering and fixing the design flaws of the MAX series aircraft, the FAA finally lifted the grounding order, allowing it to resume commercial service. With the lifting of the grounding order, however, came more regulations. The FAA mandated a revised training procedure for pilots in order to start flying the aircraft again.

By familiarizing pilots with the changes and updated flight characteristics, the FAA believes that the 737 MAX series is fit for commercial service once again.

On December 29th, 2020, American Airlines returned the first 737 MAX to service. The flight gave service from Miami International Airport to Laganardia Airport in New York. Since the first return flight, many carriers have added the aircraft to their fleet, including both Alaska Airlines and Southwest Airlines.

Since this aircraft is the newest of Boeing's lineup, we can expect to see more carriers operating these aircraft in the near future.

## Teacher Spotlight: Mr. Jones

By Dan Lamoureux  
Redcoat Review Writer

The *Redcoat Review* is turning the teacher spotlight on Mr. Jones, a business teacher who teaches Marketing 1 and 2, Personal Finance, and Business Law.

Mr. Jones joined the BHS family last spring. I recently had a very enjoyable conversation with Mr. Jones about his time at BHS so far. See our conversation below.



### What brought you to BHS?

I was in the state's alternative route to teacher certification program and the opportunity arose here for me to get my certification through working in a classroom setting.

**How has your time at BHS been so far?**  
It has been...full of transition.

**What is your favorite class to teach?**  
I enjoy all of them because I enjoy the content of business, so the content connects all of my classes.

**What aspect of your job is the most enjoyable?**

It's the people; the relationships you get to build with students and colleagues is

what makes it enjoyable. I wouldn't come all the way here if I didn't find it enjoyable. I live in Fairfield County, so that's about a 45 minute commute.

### Has teaching online been a challenge compared to teaching in person?

I feel teaching online is a challenge for everybody. For me, I had some background in Zoom prior to coming here in my business life, so it was okay. Still, I preferred classroom instruction and I think my students do as well, if they're honest about it.

### What did you do before you started at BHS?

I worked as an entrepreneur and a financial advisor for over ten years.

### Is there anything else you would like the BHS community to know about you?

I consider student interactions to be coaching opportunities, and my classroom reflects that intent. I'm originally from Brooklyn, New York. I came to Connecticut after I went to college; afterwards I worked for ten years at People's United Bank. I like to let my students ask questions about me because I feel that it is important that my students know I am a credible source of information on the content they are learning. In the field that I come from credibility is everything.

## Something to be Learned From January

Continued from Page 2

The Reddit users bought massive numbers of GameStop shares, inflating GameStop prices enough to cause Wall Street hedge funds to lose billions of dollars because they had to buy back the expensive shares they shorted so they could return their borrowed shares. The Wall Street investors were dismayed after they lost money and claimed that this sort of action should be illegal.

Even though regular people momentarily defeated Wall Street, in the long run they will lose because GameStop stock prices will go down and they cannot recover from it as easily as Wall Street is able to.

We can all take something away from The Four I's of January; one of the biggest being that even in times of darkness, there is always a path to light.

Whether that be through accountability, restoration, or learning, we can overcome the country's biggest obstacles and build back better.

# A Fresh Start for Boys Basketball

By Garrett Fallon  
*Redcoat Review Writer*

Coming into the season, the Berlin Boys Basketball team and coach Mike Veneziano knew they would have to be making some changes. Leading scorer and 2020 senior captain Jeff Madeia graduated, leaving the Redcoats with a huge void to fill. Veneziano hoped to fill Madeia's shoes with a "team with five guys more involved and five guys contributing on a nightly basis."

But this was far from the only change to come Berlin's way this year as COVID-19 has upended the normal procedures for the team. This has led to a new schedule, limited fan attendance, and social distancing requirements.

According to the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC), the new schedule revolves around limiting travel and creating groups of towns in close proximity that will allow for easier contact tracing. Berlin had a level of familiarity with some of the teams on its schedule, such as local rivals Platt and Maloney.

As expected, the Redcoats engaged in close and physical games with these teams that came down to the wire. Teams such as Rocky Hill and Bulkeley were new opponents. Nevertheless, Berlin fared very well with these teams, cruising to a

3-1 record against these new schools. The toughest teams Berlin faced this season were Wethersfield and Middletown, who triumphed over the Redcoats.

Another glaring discrepancy this year is the replacement of loud and packed gymnasiums with near-silent and mainly empty crowds. Although at least one parent of each player is allowed to attend, the student section known as "The Red Sea" has been forced to stay home and watch a livestream of the games.

According to junior captain Michael Ciarcia, the loss of the Red Sea has led to a loss of energy for the team. Ciarcia said that the players were instantly excited and ready to go whenever the rambunctious student section lined the stands. Instead, players are now forced to generate their own energy and get themselves ready to perform.

During play, players are required to wear masks at all times, though they do receive a mask break at the halfway point of each quarter. Some have complained about the difficulty and tediousness of sporting a mask for multiple hours in the midst of high intensity play. But Ciarcia and his teammates have taken a different and more positive approach to the flurry of new restrictions on play this year.

Ciarcia stated, "It's better to have a season than not. We're just happy to be here."

In a recent game, the Redcoats



Photo Credit: Garrett Fallon

Junior Sal Dastoli goes for a layup. The Redcoats have rolled with many changes this year.

cruised past Bulkeley by way of a fast break offense and stifling defense. Bulkeley managed to net only nine points in each half, leading to a final score of 57-18.

Thus far, Ciarcia, fellow junior Sal Dastoli, and senior captain Justin Piskorski have been instrumental to the Redcoats' success.

Broadcasts of the Redcoats' remaining games are available for streaming on the BHSTV YouTube Channel.

# Boys Swim Ready For Unique Season

By Matt Tierney  
*Redcoat Review Writer*

Coming off a devastating finish to last season due to the unexpected cancellation of the State Tournament, the Boys Swim and Dive team returns to the water in a season unlike any other. Led by a core of predominantly underclassmen, the team jumps into a season highlighted by new competition and vast differences due to competing in a Covid environment.

There have been a multitude of sacrifices the team has had to endure in order to make this season possible. For starters, prior to each practice, each athlete's temperature has to be taken, in addition to daily symptom checks and persistent distancing in the pool environment. The facilities aren't always widely available either. For example, the team does not have access to the diving boards everyday, which means they have had to adjust and do more conditioning to make up for the lost time. Finally, while it hasn't been possible to have spectators present, the meets can be viewed on livestream via YouTube or Facebook Live.

In a season that cannot be taken for granted, Coach Thurston is focused on "growing and jelling" as a team. The team is focused on the fact that they are able to practice and compete, and they hope to set a framework for success for years to come. Despite having such a young team, Coach Thurston assured that "young guys are really stepping into new roles as leaders and point scorers in new events. Overall, everyone's kept the attitude that they're going to be ready to give the team

everything they've got when it's their turn to step up. Our freshmen have really been learning quickly. They listen really well, have a lot of fight, have been making great progress, and have shown signs that there are really good things to come from that class."

As for the season ahead, meets against Hall and Conard figure to be the toughest of the season. The rest of the schedule for the Redcoats seems to be competitive as well, as this year Berlin shifts to a different conference due to schedule changes from Covid-19. Despite the challenge, Coach Thurston says that they are "enjoying the challenge and the new set of opponents, pools, and matchups" but adds that "we'll definitely miss having our co-hosted senior night with Meriden Co-op." With such challenges ahead of them, Berlin projects to only get better and to be successful for years to come in the water.

Unfortunately, in the age of Covid-19, for the second year in a row, there will indeed be no state postseason for swimming. As an alternative, according to Coach Thurston, there tentatively appears to be a "championship week," but like everything these days, the plan is fluid. The plan is during that week, each team will participate in one meet against one school with the goal being to set your fastest times of the season. Those times will then be sent into the Conference for use in determining all-conference teams.

With a couple meets under their belt already to start the season, Berlin has had a few standout athletes that have really

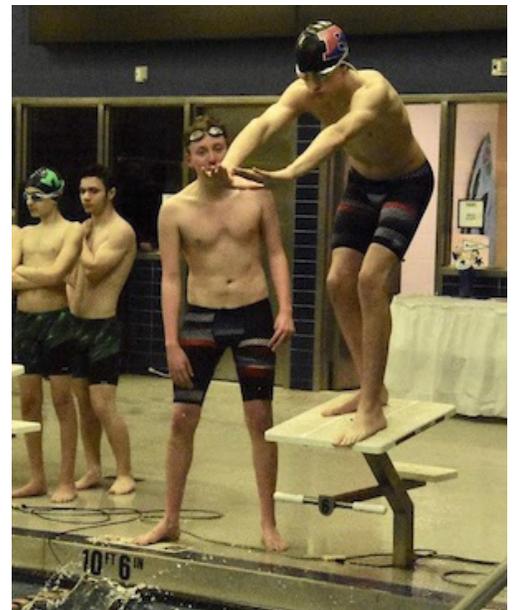


Photo submitted by Eileen Thurston

been showing out. Captain Nathan Snyder and Sophomores Marcel Dabek and Matt Jamrozek have started the season as double winners at Wethersfield and have hit career best times to kick off the year. Coach Thurston spoke highly of that trio, stating that, "They've been working really hard over the first few weeks of our season and really set the tone for us." Senior Captain Dean Guerrette has been a "stabilizing force" and been able to do a lot for the group of divers early on in the season. Finally, Freshmen Logan Szczesniak, Glenn Fearn, and Aiden Melnyk have taken some key finishes in the first two meets and showed lots of potential for what's to come.

All in all the Boys Swim and Dive Team not only seems poised for success this year but also have the potential to be a dominant force for years to come.