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# The Bear Facts

Homecoming Edition

Oct-Nov 2018

## The Crowning Moment

By Rami Guzman, *Layout Design Editor*

Coming into the 2018-19 school year as a senior is one of the most heart-wrenching and emotional times, yet it also manages to be the best year of your high school career. As a senior, this year is the last of everything. It's the last Homecoming, the last football games, and the last time that all your friends and peers are just an arms reach away. But homecoming, especially for the seniors, is a time to forget all that, it's a time to be with your class and experience building floats, practicing skits and just having a good time. The Homecoming court is a big part of that senior experience.

At the start of the week, seniors vote on who they would like to nominate to be on the Homecoming Court and the next day the members of the court are announced. The initial reactions of many of the seniors who were chosen were very similar. Nominees said things like "I couldn't believe it was actually happening" and "When I found out I was nominated for Homecoming Court, I truly felt so honored. I never would have expected to be nominated".

One of the privileges the Homecoming Court receives is performing a dance during the pep rally at the end of the week. This is a chance for the seniors to see their

friends out on the court which brings out laughs and cheers from the senior class and all classes below. When members of the court were asked what they looked forward to the most, many said they looked forward to dancing at the pep rally. Nominee Tati White said "I looked forward most to performing in the dance at Pep Rally! I also was very excited about the parade!"

The parade is also a big part of the Homecoming Court experience. During the march down Conrow Road, the Homecoming Court gets to be driven in front of all the floats in their own individual convertibles. After speaking with some of the court, I found out that this is actually the most stressful time for them because the students are required to find their own convertible to ride in during the parade. Yet many said that once their car situation was taken care of the rest of the week was stress free.

Yet what qualifies someone to be on the Homecoming Court? Although students vote on who will be in the court, many of the members have impressive resumes and are well known throughout the school. When asked what the members of the court believe qualifies them, nominee Sophia Chascsa said "I believe someone on Homecoming

Court should be respectable, original, involved, and an overall genuine person, just like everyone who is on



Homecoming Court this year."

At the end of the week, before all the classes perform their skits on the football field, the Homecoming King and Queen are announced. Moments before the King and Queen

are chosen, the senior class, parents and siblings watching are on the edge of their seats. This year the class of 2019 Homecoming Queen is Rachel Sofronev and Homecoming King Sean McLoughlin! When asked how they felt about winning, Sean said "It was really an honor to be voted by everyone and to represent the student body. I was really grateful just to be on the homecoming court and winning was just the cherry on top." Rachel's reaction was similar, "It was a surreal feeling and was an amazing end to our last homecoming!"

Your senior year of high school goes by quicker than you expect, and to many seniors, the past three years now feel like a blur. This last year is a time to cherish your hometown and to really appreciate the people you are surrounded by. The Homecoming Court is a great way to show Delran spirit while giving students a chance to represent their peers.





# The Bear Facts

## The Bears Credit “New Culture” for Hot Start

By Matt Lubicky, *Editor in Chief*

In just one year the Delran football team looks like they have transformed from a bottom-tier team to

one of the elite teams in South Jersey. The Bears are off to their best start in six years, starting the season 6-0. The Bears have backed up their hype with on field performance thus far, and look to keep it going. For the first time in a long time there is a great amount of excitement surrounding DHS football. The Bears believe the newfound success is rooting from a complete culture change. That culture change revolves around

a new head coach, leadership from seniors, an elite player on both sides of the field, and a quarterback looking for a huge comeback season.

When asked what Mr. Lucas feels is the biggest difference from this year to last year he said, “I’d say the culture. We aimed to flip the culture and just make it an uptempo and upbeat atmosphere, to make sure our players get the ultimate experience on and off the field.” Whether it’s from social media, players overall excitement to get on the field, or just the bond this team has formed, it’s clear to see this culture has changed. Mr. Lucas has been a huge part of this. “He’s not just a coach, he’s a mentor in life. He is trying to make us respectful young adults and trying to get us to have a bright future where ever it takes us.” Dustin Desher stated. Captain Jared Namnum added, “By this time last year we were dragging, but we are in week six and still competing every day in practice. I feel like it’s a combination of the coaching staff and our hard work/teamwork”. You can see the respect these young men have for Coach Lucas and the quick impact he has had on their football and outside life.

Mr. Lucas was faced with a heavy task before this season. He was coming into what has been a generally losing program the last few years and his responsibility was to bring Delran football back to life. With his tremendous character and high energy he has brought back a great deal of excitement to the program. Despite being faced with a tall task, Lucas didn’t feel much pressure. “Honestly, I felt no pressure. I put so much of my personal time into this that I always know that myself and every other coach are prepared.”

I also asked starting quarterback Dustin Desher

what he feels the biggest difference this year is and he also brought up the family this team has formed. “We have all come together as a family and there is no negativity. We have each others backs and we are brothers.”



The Bears have coined the term #Bear-Down as their slogan this season. I asked what this slogan meant to star player R.J Moten, he explained that, “when we need something big we bear down and come together as a team and work harder on what we need to succeed in.” This team truly does come together when it matters most. They did just that on Friday.

The Bears went into their huge Homecoming game with high energy and

high confidence. Members of the community were buzzing, curious as to weather or not the Bears could keep this streak going. The

5-0 Bears were squaring off against the 1-4 Haddon Heights. The game was hard fought until the very end, but the Bears prevailed and came out on top in a 28-19 victory. R.J. continued on his ferocious tear, picking up 175 rushing yards and 133 in the air. Quarterback

Dustin Desher

threw for 250 yards and two touchdowns. Mikel House also added 117 receiving yards and a receiving touchdown. Delran looks to continue their surge this Friday at Northern Burlington in a crucial game with high playoff implications. The Bears look to continue to BearDown and need your support through the end of the season.





# The Bear Facts

## Don't Forget Your Homecoming Ethics

By Rachel Sofronev, *Feature Editor*

Christmas is often referred to as “the most wonderful time of the year” - but for the majority of students of Delran High School, the most wonderful time of the year is Homecoming Season. What’s not to love about it? Nearly a week and a half is spent at your class site, rolling paper balls until your hands go numb, sitting in your ninth period class in anticipation waiting for the announcement of what class won on each spirit day, and having fun alongside your classmates building floats and creating a skit. Three years of fun lead up to your fourth and final year; senior year is one filled with many lasts, along with the best memories. As a senior, it’s your last chance to embrace what DHS homecoming truly is, and to have fun alongside your class for the last time.

Over the years, Homecoming in Delran has gone through its changes. Older alumni can recall building their float in students’ garages, and certainly not having such a competitive edge between all of the grades. This year, a few important changes were instilled by administration. What counted for Spirit Week days became more specific, with no more tape-on objects or colored beads simply counting for participation. “We wanted to promote full participation in Spirit Week so we made more specific guidelines for what apparel met the qualifications for each day of Spirit Week,” said Homecoming advisor, Mrs. Caitlin Como.

While the points system didn’t meet any changes, a new category for class t-shirts was added, increasing the total possible points for homecoming. However, besides a new category, the importance of Homecoming ethics was made a priority by administration this year. With classes getting aggressive and out of hand, this year was the year of change. Administration gave an assembly to all classes regarding what is expected of students during this exciting week, and to not forget that education and respect are still the main priorities of our school.

For the senior class, their last Pep Rally is always one filled with energy and excitement. Traditionally, Freaky Friday, the last day of Spirit Week, is filled with seniors storming through the hallways armed with homemade spirit sticks, and togas, cheering for their class, all while underclassmen watch in amazement. “I felt like Freaky Friday was crazy, but it was a good kind of crazy,” said freshman Kayden Ellington. “It was nothing I wouldn’t have expected, because I would’ve done

the same thing if I was a senior.” While many students exert their excitement for pep rally through chanting and running through the halls, other students have gotten way more out of hand in the past with this.

Collin Koehler, a senior, recalled his first experience of the seniors during Spirit Week. “When I was a freshman, I was pushed into the lockers during Freaky Friday,” said Koehler. “For me, I just didn’t think it was fair that our class was barely allowed to yell on that day, and other classes before us got away with a lot more.” Principal Dan Finkle halted the senior class from running through the halls and cheering around 7:25 AM that morning, and sent the seniors to homeroom. Seniors travelling downstairs had to travel through the doorway at three students a time, and seniors were left wondering why they were being stopped from doing seemingly traditional activities.

While many seniors were upset by their limitations on Pep Rally day, Vice Principal Brian Stolarick understood where the students were coming from. “Unfortunately, the senior class is a victim of change, in that they had to deal with that intimidation as freshmen,” he said. “Then, you matriculate to senior year, and you want to be excited, and it comes off as somewhat negative in terms of what your expectations were.” Principal Dan Finkle also reminded the senior class that over an hour was designated for Pep Rally to get the excitement and energy out of everyone’s systems. Even though us seniors may have been upset by the limitations set for us on that day, we have to remember that it was for the better. On the Wednesday after Homecoming week was over, the senior class was rewarded for their well behavior with a catered lunch served by administration.

In previous years, it wasn’t uncommon to be chased by a stampede of seniors, hit with spirit sticks, screamed at, or even get injured. Homecoming embodies what Delran is made of - unity, respect, and hardwork - and eliminating these extreme aspects from Homecoming makes for a more enjoyable experience for future classes. “Delran Homecoming is so special, and we want to continue to make it better,” continued Mr. Stolarick. “Last year, we were upset that students were pushing with sticks, screaming, and it just was intimidating.” Things get competitive during Homecoming between classes, as everyone is vying for the coveted spirit stick (and bragging rights of course), but at the end of the day, regardless of grade level, we are all Delran Bears, and treating each other with respect is of utmost importance. Future classes won’t have to try to avoid seniors on Freaky Friday in fear of being hit with a spirit stick. Homecoming is the most memorable time of the year for so many students, so making it the best it can possibly be and removing the negativity is a legacy the Class of 2019 and this year’s administrators can leave behind.





## That's Just Reality

By Kayla Cranmer, *News Editor*

The competition was real after the DHS student body took their own spin on this year's Homecoming theme: "Reality TV Show Competitions." It was certainly a surprise to all when the administration decided to have an evacuation drill during ninth period on October 2nd, the day of the theme announcement, to fulfill their monthly drill requirement. However, Mr. Finkle took it upon himself to organize the students in a circular setting on the football field to announce the theme.

The reaction among the student body was definitely varied. A poll was conducted this week to gather students' feedback about this year's theme and the new Spirit Week protocols.

The results showed that out of 125 students that took the poll, 25.6 percent were satisfied with the theme at first, 20.8 percent

were unhappy, and the remaining 53.6 percent were neutral or didn't have a strong opinion on it. As the most wonderful time of the school year got into motion, those numbers changed significantly. A whopping 51.2 percent of the students stated that they liked the theme even more than the prior week, 8 percent disliked it more than they did in the beginning, and the remaining 40.8 percent still felt the same as they did before.

Students were also given the opportunity to comment about their feelings about the theme, and fifty-eight of those students voiced their own unique opinions. Their comments ranged from, "Our Homecoming theme was really easy and fun to work on," and "I was concerned that the theme wouldn't be executed well by the classes but it all turned out amazing," to more negative comments such as, "Reality TV Shows' is a boring theme, and it was hard to build around," and "I thought the theme wasn't very good."

Another common complaint mentioned in comments was the feeling that students did not have enough time to build floats or rehearse for skits. For the senior class, their time slot for building their floats was shortened by one day, due to the funeral preparation for Lieutenant Craig Pennell, a firefighter based in Station 232, which has been the Class of 2019's Homecoming site for the past four years. Other students claimed that they were confused by what they could wear for Theme Day, and that there was no variety of apparel, hence the majority of the grades looking the same.

The common question among many students, was

how Mr. Finkle picks the theme every year. Since he began his tenure as DHS principal in 2012, he has bragged that he is "the only one that knows it." He admits that he always loves the anticipation from the students, hearing their predictions of what the theme will be weeks prior to the day it's announced. This year the most commonly speculated theme was "Decades" (even though Mr. Romanik tried to convince some of his classes that it was "US Wars").

"It was fantastic. I love all the ideas, and the fact that everybody thinks they know the answer," Mr. Finkle said.

The Homecoming advisory team consisted of Mrs. Como, the Spirit Week coordinator, and Mrs. McGhee, the overall Homecoming coordinator and skit announcer. Mr.

Finkle explained that he bounces ideas off of the two teachers, but he ultimately has the final say of what the theme should be, and reveals it to the community on the Tuesday before Spirit Week. Then, the representatives from each class meet up that evening to discuss their individual themes and start to prepare their float, banner, and skirt designs, as well as their skits. It may come to a surprise that the theme doesn't need to be approved by the Board of Education. Mr. Finkle also admitted that he talks to his family about what the theme should be, and that Mrs. McGhee keeps a list of ideas for the theme that they started a few years ago.

Mr. Finkle made a solid decision after his first year at DHS and first experience with a Delran Homecoming: "As long as I'm here, I'll never repeat a theme. I think that it's nice for people to get new ideas and to see new ideas, so I think that's very important." Over the years, DHS has had movies, cartoons, and other film themes for Homecoming. This year, Mr. Finkle thought that the theme should

correlate to television, as they have done movies and cartoons in the past. He felt that television's newest craze, "Reality TV Show Competitions," would inspire students to create something spectacular.

That's exactly what we did. The seniors swept the board with The

Amazing Race, the juniors powered through in second place with Survivor, the freshmen swung their way to third place with American Ninja Warrior, and the sophomores got buzzed out to fourth with America's Got Talent. Mr. Finkle was as proud as ever with this year's competitors, and you won't find him taking any credit. To him, the theme is just the foundation to something great. "I think that everyone takes the theme, they go with it," he expressed, "You guys do amazing, amazing things." There's no telling what we will be given to work with next year, but one thing is clear: the long hours of hard work are always worth it in the end.





# The Bear Facts

## Like Nothing (and Nowhere) Else

By Madi Lowe, *Op-Ed Editor*

Pull aside any student in the halls of Delran High School and ask them what their favorite week of the year is, and you'll likely hear one answer above all others: Spirit Week. A week of festivity and brilliant chaos, Spirit Week sees Delran High explode into a barrage of color and chaos, creativity and competition. Not a thing in the school goes unchanged, from the daily schedule (with the addition of homeroom) to the afternoon announcements (Hey Delran, anybody?) Homecoming overtakes the collective minds and hearts of the student body in a way unique to Delran, where we take unity and pride both in our classes and our town to a level most towns only dream of. In a town full of legacy families, this seems natural. After all, who wouldn't make the most of their homecoming, when they spent years watching their siblings parade down Conrow and hearing about their parents own celebrations? Homecoming has been a unifying thread through generations of Delran students and faculty alike. To someone new, however, coming into Delran High without any Spirit Week experience or homecoming preparation, the celebration can range from fantastical to overwhelming. That's why the Bear Facts has chosen to spotlight three Delran newcomers from recent years, and get their take on exactly what makes Delran Homecoming --



One might think

that a Bear's Homecoming is equal to any other town; just the Delran version of a classic tradition. Our newcomers made it very clear that's not the case. When asked if he'd seen anything equivalent to our Homecoming, Mr. Lucas, history teacher and notable football coach, explained that the dynamic of Delran homecoming was radically different to what he'd seen in western Pennsylvania. Whereas other towns may focus on the dance and game, in Delran, the dance is almost an afterthought - the reward for a week of building and rehearsing, rather than the reason. For Saturday festivities, it's common knowledge that skit and float take priority, at least until the crown has been passed down and the competition comes to a close. The football game, for one, is more commonly discussed as a way to earn points than a way to support the team, though that dynamic has begun to shift with the football team's unprecedented winning streak, which continued into the homecoming game against Haddon Heights. Ms. Sanchirico, who came into the school just three years ago, tells a similar story of her first homecoming with Delran, explaining that she hadn't anticipated the intensity with which Delran students approach Spirit Week. At her school, she says, it "wasn't as competitive" and was focused instead primarily on fun, where Delran balances fun and competition.

This was a recurring theme when discussing the brilliant,

competitive takeover that characterizes Delran Homecoming. While in Delran, a little rivalry between grades seems to be only natural, and the common goal of taking down opposing classes brings out both the best and worst in students, other towns seemingly focus in on the development of a singular identity. When Mr. Lucas was in high school, he tells that this that meant school wide days, where no one kept count but everyone strove to wear school colors, maybe college gear, as opposed to the meticulously numbered and hotly debated participation tallies every morning of Spirit Week. Yet teachers are quick to explain that this is the best part of Delran Homecoming. Though everyone seemingly turns against each other, it's easy to see that there's a common goal in mind: school spirit and pride in our town.

Even those who have been part of Delran for years, like Mr. Pope, who worked at the middle school long before trans-

ferring into the high school for the 2018-2019 school year, admit that the magnitude of Delran's celebration is entirely unanticipated. Pope admits that while he was aware there were floats built and presentations given, the degree to which Homecoming enraptures Delran was something he was taken aback by. For a week, the halls become home to masses of color, college and Philly

gear, and insane outfits, and anyone caught outside of that days uniform is grilled over it. It's a sight unique to our town, and one that signifies to many the best thing about being a Bear.

Though chaotic at times, the unique nature of Delran homecoming is adored by all those lucky enough to witness it. Whether it's being lauded for setting a positive tone for the school year, or teachers simply regret that they weren't fortunate enough to partake in Delran level festivity themselves, as several admitted, homecoming has universal appeal. "I love Homecoming" as a quote can't even be attributed, it came up so often in the research for this piece. Teachers may take different sides - Mr. Lucas and Ms. Sanchirico, notably, going for the seniors, while Mr. Lewis took to the speakers of the football field to pledge allegiance to the freshmen and Mrs. Bradbury sided with the juniors - but in the end, it's a unifying experience for all those involved, be they student or faculty. Even college can't compare, or so it's been said. Instead of one day, Lucas noted, Delran students are lucky enough to get "something special for a week straight," and there's nothing else quite like that. In the immortal words of the Class of 2019, there's "no place like Delran," and, naturally, there's no Homecoming like Delran's, either.



# The Bear Facts

## Welcome to Delran High School Homecoming

By Cameron Fitzpatrick, *Sports Editor*

Hey Delran: It's that time of the year again. The time where every member of every class, the freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors, battle it out over the course of the week to ultimately crown a Delran Homecoming winner.

There's no school that does Homecoming relatively close to how Delran does it. Ask anybody from freshmen to seniors about how they showed their spirit all week long through their participation in Color Day, Philly Sports day, College Logo Day, Theme Day, and Freaky Friday. Ask them about the hours they clocked in at their float sites practicing their skit to absolute perfection and rolling paper balls that would soon go onto their monstrous float. Then ask them why they are so eager to win, and they'll say that's all for the glorified spirit stick.

On October 2nd, Mr. Finkle made the announcement that our school-wide theme would be Reality TV Competitions. From there each class quickly got together and decided on a show. The freshmen had "American Ninja Warrior", the sophomores had "America's Got Talent", the juniors had "Survivor", and lastly, as their theme decision as DHS students, the seniors wore red and had "The Amazing Race."

Later that week, the classes went to work brainstorming and planning towards making final decisions on ordering their already planned t-shirt designs, determining how the float and skit would work, and refining their chant to perfection. However, the

excitement goes beyond working at the float sites and Spirit Week. The Friday of Homecoming week gives students the leisure to compete with one another to who can jubilate the loudest for their class and get judged upon for their chants at the annual pep rally. Later that same night is the Homecoming football game, where each classes' attendance is tracked for more points towards their overall score.

After a week of hard work and sweat poured coming from students, class leaders, class advisors, and parents, the classes came together to walk up Conrow Road, walk with their floats behind the smoothly-cruising Homecoming king and queen nominees, and rejoice in chants to fire one another up for the skit and send jabs at the other classes in front and behind.

Then, when the classes have all arrived to the high school track with parents and other Delran residents and alumni in the stands, the skits are set to commence. The Homecoming Court walks down the track to face the crowd where the winner is announced and is given the crown by the previous year's king and queen.

After all is finally said and done, the freshmen take the field to perform their skit, followed by the sophomores, then the juniors, and, last but not least, the seniors.

Where did each class rank come Saturday afternoon? Check out the following short beats to see where each class ranked overall, how the points stacked up, and some exclusive interviews from class presidents!

## Bring in the Newbies

By Cameron Fitzpatrick, *Sports Editor*

The Class of 2022 came into this year's Homecoming with few expectations as to how the week would progress. As expected for freshmen, the idea of Delran Homecoming came as sort of a rush for the new students to the school. Despite being new to the idea of Homecoming as a whole, the freshmen class, led by class president Chris James and class advisors Mrs. Carey and Mr. Lewis, impressed many with their participation and teamwork.

The freshmen's first ever day of Spirit Week had them wearing their class color of yellow for Color Day. The class took home third place that day for participation. Then came Philly Sports Day, which they ranked last in for participation. College Logo Day didn't go much in their favor either, as they took home third place honors yet again. However, the class of '22 started to find a spark late in the week. They took second for Theme Day wearing their "American Ninja Warrior" looks.

The freshmen class came into Freaky Friday ready to impress. Their shirts, which they received second place for, was an homage to the popular show "Friends" with a quote reading "The one that we win!," from the made-up season 20, episode 22. Their class chant was parodied from Queen's classic song "We Will Rock You." The large, boisterous class cheered loud enough to propel themselves to a second place finish for the Pep Rally, but placed fourth for Freaky Friday participation. Later that night, the freshmen tallied the second largest class attendance at the Homecoming football game.

The freshmen woke up the next morning ready to impress the judges in their first ever class parade to the school. Their float, which received 368 points out of 400 and tied for second place, was designed to resemble a course from "American Ninja Warrior." The skit, which they got third for, read "Freshmen" and "2022" with a ninja as the "0." Their skit simulated an episode of "American Ninja Warrior" with the occasional funny and heartfelt moments, like a commercial break from the regularly scheduled program where a man asks for the audience's social security number and credit cards in exchange for a free vacation. The judges calculated the final score of the freshmen's skit to be 643 out of 720 points, taking fourth place just four points behind the sophomores.

After all was said and done, the freshmen still had a great week on paper. They took third place for the entirety for Spirit Week, leap-frogging themselves over the sophomores to steal the third place overall spot for their first ever week of Delran Homecoming. While they did not win, you could count this year as a success. The Class of 2022 has a lot to learn from this year that can be useful for future Homecomings. Now that they have one Delran Homecoming under their belt, you can expect bigger and better things from this class over the next three years.





# The Bear Facts

## Sophomore Slump?

Cameron Fitzpatrick, *Sports Editor*

No class would ever hope to get caught in the “sophomore slump.” It’s been a common occurrence throughout previous years of Homecoming for the sophomore class to regress as a whole from what made them stand out from the year before. After placing third in Homecoming last year, the sophomore class made a serious attempt to avoid this slump. Class president Serafina Carollo and the class advisors, Mr. Marter and Ms. Lucidi, led the way for the class and hoped they could breeze over the slump and succeed. However, now that the jitters and general excitement of freshmen year had started to fade away for the Class of 2021, the regression that annually haunts the second year class managed to strike again.



Spirit Week was nowhere near the turnout that the sophomores were hoping for. The class of ‘21 did not have a better finish than third place for any day of the week. The week started with the sophomores boasting their class color of green, but it was not enough to compete with the other classes as they took fourth place. But it did not stop there. The sophomores followed Monday



up with a third place for Philly Sports Day, followed by fourth place again for College Logo Day. Theme Day came and went and the sophomores took fourth place again after not having enough participants portraying their “America’s Got Talent” theme.

“We had [some] trouble coming together as a grade during Spirit Week,” sophomore Riley Maher expressed. “That’s why we had trouble winning.” With that being said, the class of ‘21 was hoping to “flip the switch” and succeed in both the Pep Rally and Freaky Friday. Speaking of “flipping the switch,” the sophomores chose Drake’s top charted song, “Nonstop” to parodize for their chant. The sophomores came in ready to make some noise in their

class t-shirts, that had the Snapple logo and a fact on the back that read “winning comes naturally,” in which the judges placed in third for, tied with the juniors. The sophomores left that afternoon empty handed, after receiving fourth for Pep Rally and third for Freaky Friday. Things didn’t get any better later that night as they ranked fourth in the Homecoming football game attendance too. There was a sense of frustration and disappointment coming from the Class of 2020.

“Students would blame one another over one kid in home-room who would not participate,” class president Serafina Carollo admitted. “People were forgetting to take into account that some kids might not fully understand like others who appreciate the true importance of Homecoming.” Putting aside all drama from the days before, the sophomores came into Saturday longing to prove themselves as a great class who can work together as one.

The rally-crying sophomores walked down Conrow Road

with their “America’s Got Talent” inspired float that had a judges table designed to look like the one on the show with cardboard cut-outs of judges Howie Mandel, Mel B, Heidi Klum, and Simon Cowell. The judges sat in front of a sign that read “Sophomores Got

Talent” in front of a large, blue star that shot confetti. However the float judges weren’t too enthusiastic with both



the float itself and the music-themed skirt and ranked them last amongst the classes. Their skit brought the world of “America’s Got Talent” to Delran, incorporating this year’s Seniors and Mr. Romanik and Mr. Marter’s “Delran’s Got Talent” performance into the presentation. The Class of ‘21 took home third place for their skit.

The sophomores finished Homecoming 2018-19 in last place. The “sophomore slump” had struck again. Although this year didn’t go as expected, there are still two more years to improve as a class. Together, this class should easily be able to come together and bounce back from the slump.



# The Bear Facts

## Survivors of the Fittest

Cameron Fitzpatrick, *Sports Editor*

With two years of Delran Homecoming under their belts, the Class of 2020 came into Hoco 2018 dire to win it all for the first time. The juniors have been somewhat shadowed by the upperclassmen for previous years, but this year, things were different. They were out to get the upset against the seniors and get the win, just like the Class of '19 had done the year before as juniors.

"I felt very prepared this year," class president Chris Pappas told me. "The student council body for the Class of 2020 met weeks before Homecoming in order to make early preparations and start organizing for teacher signs and t-shirt designs. We also



organized a meeting with some of the lead parents for the class and the officers/representatives to go over a general overview of what our Homecoming project would incorporate the night that the theme was announced, so after all that I felt pretty prepared." With leadership and help from Chris and the class advisors, Mrs. Schmidt and Mr. Niemczak, the Class of 2020 was ready to strive to be the survivors of the fittest.

Spirit week started strong for the juniors, as they upheld the seniors by wearing variant shades and styles of blue to steal first place for participation on Color Day. They continued to rank well for the rest of the Spirit Week. The Class of '20 took second place for Philly Sports Day then first again for College Logo Day. The juniors followed the hot first half of the week by trying to spread their theme of the hit show "Survivor" across the school through camo outfits and other items relating to the show. However their efforts were not enough to stack against the other classes' participation and they had to settle for third place.

The juniors came into Freaky Friday eager to make some noise. The class wore their Eagles-inspired, dog mask shirts that read "Fly Juniors Fly" on the front and "Underdogs" on the

back to signify that they understood what it meant to be an "under-dog."

"This year, we aimed to attack the competition at full throttle," class president Chris Pappas explained. "It all revolved around maximizing participation, keeping up the morale, and peer leadership."

The judges would go on to give the juniors and sophomores a tie for third place for their class shirts. The whole class was at their loudest when they came together to sing their chant. The chant drew inspiration from the main chorus of "Motorsport" by the Migos, featuring Nicki Minaj and Cardi B. The juniors were only loud enough to hold down third place for the Pep Rally, but the Class of '20 still took second place for participation in Freaky Friday. The attendance for the class at the Homecoming game that night was not enough to compete with the seniors and freshmen, so they had to settle for third in game attendance.

The juniors kept the same energy as the other classes during the parade on Saturday morning. The float they constructed, which they tied for second with the freshmen for, sets a scene from that occurs in every episode of "Survivor" where Jeff Probst, the show's host announces who will be the eliminated that week. The float feature a volcano and several tiki torches surrounding a life-sized, paper ball covered figure of Probst wearing his signature blue collared shirt and khaki shorts with a pair of sneakers on. Their skirt, which they got second for, had a nearly identical logo from the show on the side and "2020" written on the front using pieces of wood. The skit followed the story of an episode of "Survivor" around the different classes competing against one another, but coming together in the end to help the seniors. The judges gave the juniors second for their skit.



The final call on the field Saturday ended with the juniors in second place behind the seniors. The overall participation and effort from the Class of '20 was nothing to be ashamed of. The class came together efficiently to put together a special Homecoming week.

"We've come so far after 3 years of being at DHS, and the performance of the Class of 2020 was incredible during Homecoming 2018," Pappas stated. "They're a fantastic group of kids, and one that I'm very proud to be a part of." So don't keep your heads down 2020. Remember the values of what made this Homecoming so special and apply it next year for one last time, and you may reign victorious.





# The Bear Facts

## Bringing out the Brooms

Cameron Fitzpatrick, *Sports Editor*

"Who are we?" senior president Makayla Heisler asks boldly, "The winners." The Class of 2019, as expected, did not disappoint in their last ever Homecoming here at Delran High School. After winning both freshman and junior years, the seniors were locked in on accomplishing a feat that has never been done before in DHS Homecoming history: going three for four in victories in their high school careers. Led by class president Makayla Heisler, class advisors, Mr. Blenderman and Mrs. Spera, and with the help of Mrs. Gupta, the seniors were emotional, yet excited to go for one last ride. The final Spirit Week for the



class of '19' kicked off with the seniors flaunting their hot of the press, red class-colored shirts that held a reference to the infamous "Back to the Future" movie. The shirts read "Back to Back" on the front and "We Are The Future" on the back. The seniors would go on to take second for participation in Color Day, however their shirts were ranked first for having the best shirts among the classes by the judges later in the week. The rest of Spirit Week was dominated by the seniors. The Class of '19 took first for Philly Sports Day, then second in College Logo Day, followed by first again for Theme Day. For their final class theme, the Class of 2019 chose to use "The American Race" as their reality TV show.

"I loved [our theme] because we really took every part of it and made it our own," Heisler preached. Rightfully so, the ideas were endless for the seniors to incorporate their theme in special ways into their skit, float, etc.

The last Freaky Friday and Pep Rally for the seniors might've been silenced in the morning, but come 1:15, they truly rocked the house. From the moment the seniors bull rushed into the gym together as one class, it was known they'd be a thunderous force to be reckoned with. The chant they created hyped up the crowd of toga-wearing seniors, which was remixed from "Dreams and Nightmares" by Drake. No class could keep up with 2019 that day, as they snagged first place for both Freaky Friday participation and Freaky Friday. The dominance from the seniors continued later that night for the Homecoming football game, ranking first in total attendance.

Then came the final brawl for it all. Would the seniors clinch their third win in four years? Would they be sent home riding into the sunset empty-handed? Everything was on the line Saturday morning.

For the final time as Delran students, the seniors hit the streets to boast their banner and float. The float, which they placed first for, featured subtle references to all the different countries "The Amazing Race" has taken place, including a dragon for China and the Eiffel Tower for France. The main prosthetic of the float, however, was the rotating globe that spun throughout the whole parade and at the fields. The skirt, which also ranked first, was a creative incorporation of countries flags that spelled "Seniors" one side and the "2019" on the front with the two and the zero each resembling a form of navigation, the one resembling a spirit stick, and the nine resembling a checkered flag.

After the underclassmen finished their skits, the Class of 2019 took the field one last time to perform their skit. Coordinated by middle school teacher and class volunteer, Mrs. Gupta, the skit was choreographed to go through the different countries of "The Amazing Race." From French dancers doing the can-can dance in dresses to the whole class coming together to raise their "hands up for their colors," there truly was no dull moment in the presentation.

After the skit has concluded, the field went silent to hear the announcements of who'd won each category. There was one common thing about each category: the seniors were first for everything. From float to skit, the judges generosity to the seniors was shown. Chants of "Sweep, sweep, sweep" started to get louder and louder.

At last, the winner was officially announced. Winning Homecoming 2018-19 was... the seniors! The impossible had been done. The Class of '19 didn't win their first, nor their second, but their THIRD Homecoming in four years in the most dominant way possible, through a clean sweep. The whole class erupted with both cheering from the top of their lungs to tears of happiness. The moment was an instant classic and one that won't ever be forgotten.



Although Homecoming was officially over, the work that was put into each class did not go unnoticed. Each and every person who showed up to help leave their mark for their class and help them win all have something to celebrate.

For the Class of 2019, we'll always remember the good times we've had as a class through the celebrations we had on the field and the memories we made with one another. And for the underclassmen, remember to cherish this time while you have it, time flies when you're having fun. Go Seniors!



To the future classes of Delran High School,

No one ever really believes it when they're told how fast these four years fly by. A lot of things become repetitive; you become accustomed to being in high school as a part of your everyday lifestyle. Coming from middle school, everything changes. You make new friends, leave behind old ones, and most importantly, you experience things you could never even dream of.

Ask any alumni, and they'll probably tell you how much they miss Homecoming season - they'll list off countless things they'd give up just to experience it one more time. When they were in that moment, rolling paper balls next to their best friends, engulfed in sound waves of music and the chatter of the people around them, they weren't thinking of the future. They weren't thinking that one day, all of this would just be a distant, nostalgic memory.

In eight months, the Class of 2019 will be the next alumni class of Delran High School. Maybe by the time you're reading this, we'll still be walking the hallways of DHS, or we'll be years gone. Whatever the time frame may be, we have recently experienced our last and final homecoming ever. The realization that this is all over comes at different times for everyone. Sometimes it's the first night, specifically the last first night, maybe it's after learning your skit for the first time, or maybe it's the final night, when the brooms sweep up those last stray paper balls, students wave goodbye and head off to their cars, and the final lights dim and then shut off as your site becomes wrapped in the darkness of the night.

When the realization hits you, it's like a tsunami wave - it's often difficult to comprehend, because five minutes ago, you were a freshman giggling and duct taping the side of a float, and now, you're a senior, looking into the jam-packed football field stands on Homecoming Saturday one final time. As sad as all of this may be, you have three years before the start of your last Homecoming to soak it all in while you can. That's what we're asking you to do.

Stop for a second and take it all in. Try to spend as much time as you can at your site; sometimes, the random trips to McDonald's can wait. Roll balls until your hand cramps up, and laugh when your skin gets stuck to the duct tape. Say "thank you" to the parents that are helping, and say kind things to your classmates around you. Look to the seniors during the skit, see the tears filling their eyes, and know that they would do anything to be in your shoes.

Homecoming is one of the best times of your high school experience. As much as we wish to be older sometimes, wish to stay in this moment for a little longer instead. Those four years will be finished a lot faster than you know, so enjoy every single minute of it, as cliché as it sounds. When you're on the football field four years later, receiving a diploma, you'll think back to these amazing times and wish to be there again.

We are the Class of 2019, signing off on our last Homecoming together. As we begin to leave DHS and go do amazing things in the world, we know that our memories together as a class during Homecoming will stay with us forever.

To the future classes of DHS, this is your moment. Live it up.

Sincerely,  
Your 2018-2019 Senior Editorial Board

# 2018 Homecoming Scoring Summary

## Homecoming Scoring Sheet Summary ALL classes

### FLOAT (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	80	71	67	69
Depicts Theme	80	76	69	78
Use of Color	80	75	70	70
Neatness	79	75	72	74
Float Description	77	71	68	77
<b>Total</b>	<b>396</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>368</b>

**WINNER FLOATS**

SENIORS

### Parade Banners (total possible points per category: 40)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Year/Class Name	34	27	28	31
Theme Well Displayed	38	31	25	35
Creativity	36	28	28	34
Neatness	37	27	28	37
Coordination with Float	36	31	28	35
<b>Total</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>172</b>

**WINNER PARADE BANNER**

SENIORS

### SKIRT (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	80	74	69	69
Use of Color	80	71	68	75
Overall appeal	78	74	69	72
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>206</b>	<b>216</b>

**WINNER SKIRTS**

SENIORS

### PRESENTATION (total possible points per category: 80)

	Seniors	Juniors	Sophomores	Freshman
Creativity	80	70	73	72
Originality	79	71	73	72
Music Fits Theme	80	71	74	72
Use of Props	78	79	75	64
Synchronized	80	69	73	71
Skit Description	80	71	74	74
Appropriate Costumes	80	71	71	73
Field Clean Up	80	80	70	78
Incorporation of Delran/Bears in theme	76	70	64	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>713</b>	<b>652</b>	<b>647</b>	<b>643</b>

**WINNER PRESENTATION**

SENIORS

#### Attendance at Football game

Place:	1	3	4	2
<b>Total points awarded</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>

#### Spirit Week Results

<b>Total points awarded</b>	<b>848</b>	<b>760</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>657</b>
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<b>TOTAL HOMECOMING POINTS</b>	<b>2416</b>	<b>2163</b>	<b>1991</b>	<b>2086</b>
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**WINNER**

SENIORS



# BANNERS

1st



2nd



3rd



4th

