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Delran High School

October 2019

# Changes to Delran High School Homecoming brings fears, then cheers

By SAMANTHA BATISTA  
Sports Editor

Delran High School's Homecoming is a time to celebrate school spirit and participate in tradition. While some changes to this year's schedule got the rumor mill churning, students will still have the opportunity to enjoy many of the festivities that make Homecoming week so exciting.

One change that initially made students a bit worried was the lack of a traditional Homecoming football game.

"It's not Homecoming. Everyone knows that it has to be a football game," said junior Emily Swift.

Because of scheduling issues and the fact that the team is on a bye-week, students will celebrate Homecoming by rooting on the new Unified Soccer team during a Friday afternoon game. The Unified Sports program offers student athletes of mixed abilities to play together in the spirit of promoting social inclusion and making new friends.

The lack of a Friday night football game originally concerned some students who thought their vision of Homecoming would be lackluster. However, other students rejoiced as they learned the news and found a desire to go out and support our Bears. Senior Cynthia Sienczenko is one of the students who is looking forward to Unified Soccer game.

"It's something new and unexpected, I'm definitely going to watch it now," she said.

Rumors about the game and changes to other Homecoming events worried some students, but teacher and Class of 2021 advisor Nathan Marter soothed those concerns.

"It's not a permanent change, at least I am not aware of it being a permanent change, where it's never going to be football again, it just so happens this year the schedule didn't work out well," he said, referring to the bye-week and other conflicts.

There will still be plenty to celebrate. Homecoming in Delran is a time of year where students gather to design floats and create and perform skits for the student body and community. And to the relief of many, that tradition will remain in place.

Despite the changes, students were assured their experience would be unforgettable. After all, the classes will still come together in the spirit of unity and competition.

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*Float made by the current seniors during the 2017 Homecoming, with the theme of Toy Companies. The then sophomores chose the theme: Hasbro.  
Photo by Javier Batista.*

## Spirit Week Schedule

**Monday,**  
**Oct. 14**  
**Bear Wear Day**

**Tuesday,**  
**Oct. 15**  
**Time Travel Tuesday**

**Wednesday,**  
**Oct. 16**  
**Color Day**

**Thursday,**  
**Oct. 17**  
**THEME DAY**

**Friday,**  
**Oct. 18**  
**Freaky Friday/  
Toga Day**

## We asked. You answered.

What additional security upgrades would you like to see at DHS?



“To have metal detectors, but I am fine with our school’s security,” said Riley Figiel, junior.



“To invest in a vape alarm and a metal detector,” said Mario Garcia, junior.



“Extra cameras would be nice or having more employees,” said sophomore Tim Melvin.

# DHS improves security with \$900k grant

By LIZA CLARKE  
Managing Editor

This year, a \$900,000 grant from Burlington County was distributed to 30 schools including the Delran School District. The County felt recent school shootings warranted an increase in security, so the grant was allotted for the schools in Burlington County to be able to make safety improvements. Delran High School used this grant money to make multiple extensive changes.

This school year, students at DHS were given school IDs with their pictures, names and graduation year on them, as they were in years prior. But unlike past years, the IDs are used for entrance into the bathrooms, usage of the printers, along with the preexisting purpose of buying lunch. Assistant Principal Brian Stolarick commented on the new measure.

“IDs help distinguish current students from former students in the halls,” he said.

These IDs are also helpful in distinguishing students from strangers attempting to enter the school. Staff members also have their IDs on hand and use them for entrance to bathrooms as well.

Another major change is the newly constructed entrance or “vestibule” located at the front of the school next to the main entrance. From now on, after 7:30 a.m., students and visitors will be required to enter the school through the new vestibule and sign in upon entering. This allows administrators to more carefully observe who enters the school, helping to eliminate the chances of an unwanted person in the school during the day.

Other smaller, yet effective purchases for security have been made by DHS, such as digital walkie talkies, lighting, and signage. The new digital walkie talkies are now compatible with first responders which increases the safety of students if first responders are needed because they can be contacted so quickly. The newly-installed lighting allows for a better view of the halls, preventing anything or anyone from being hidden from the administrators. The signage better directs students so they no longer have the excuse of being lost in the halls.

In the future, the school hopes to change the traffic layout in the parking lot. The traffic on campus has been an ongoing conflict. Each year administration has issues with morning traffic, parking spots and entrances. A goal for DHS is to relieve congestion in the parking lot by encouraging bikers, walkers, and carpoolers to reduce the

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Contact the staff or submit an article through e-mail at [bearfacts@delranschools.org](mailto:bearfacts@delranschools.org).

## Grant brings security upgrades to Delran High School

*Continued from page 2*

number of cars in the lot.

The students of Delran High School are still adjusting to the modifications that were made this year. For many students, there was no issue transitioning to the increased use of IDs. However, one student, a junior, Marissa Brignola, faced problems after her ID repeatedly denied her entrance to the bathroom.

“I kept scanning my ID, but the door wouldn’t open. I had to wait for another person to scan their ID so I could go in. After reporting the issue and consulting with the school’s technology aid, the issue was able to be fixed within the week,” Brignola said.

Stolarick reflected on all the substantial security changes made this year.

“I’m proud of Delran for taking security very seriously,” he said.

## DHS students ready for HOCO

*Continued from page 1*

Students will also get to experience their traditional Homecoming dance. Students feared other changes, but points will still be distributed for the competitions, including the spirit week that leads up to the float contest and the annual skit performance.

History teacher and Homecoming advisor Caitlin Como commented on the matter.

“No changes have been decided on and there is not a new point system.

There are a lot of false rumours floating around,” she said.

While emotions still varied on the lack of a football game, Delran students were assured this year of Homecoming will not be that different. Excitement was already growing in September for the floats and other competitions. Social media was awash with rumors, but also with ideas for float designs. Spirit Week winners will be announced daily, while the overall class winner of Homecoming events will be announced on Sat., Oct. 19.



*Float made by the current sophomores during last year's Homecoming. The school theme was Reality TV/ Competition Shows, and the freshmen at the time chose American Ninja Warrior as their theme.*

*Photo by Javier Batista.*

## We asked. You answered.

What are your expectations for Homecoming?



“Everyone working together and sharing our knowledge,” said Blythe Butler, sophomore.



“Opening up to the other classes as well as having a fun time competing,” said Derek Namnun, freshman.



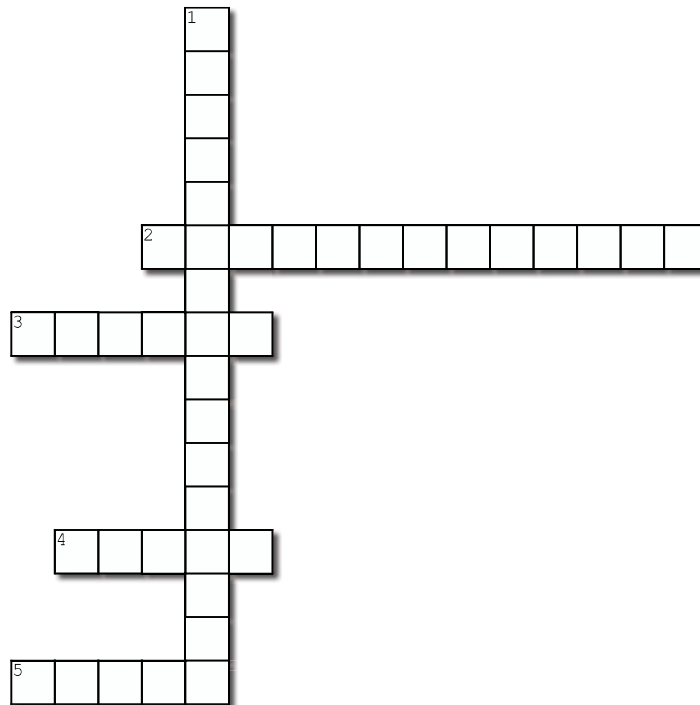
“I think ( the class of 2021) should rise up as a class and start winning by participating more in the activities,” said Kenia Sanchez, junior.



“Having a fun time with our class, and coming together in order to win,” said Sara Ottomanelli, sophomore.

## HOCO CROSSWORD

Complete the crossword puzzle below



**Across**

- 2. Where the parade presentation is held
- 3. The name of the week when students dress up
- 4. What students build on for the parade
- 5. What was announced on Oct. 8

**Down**

- 1. An activity where students have fun with their friends and dates

# German Club celebrates culture and tradition

By ZACHARY WAYMAN  
Staff Writer

There's one club at Delran High School that seeks to educate, explore, and enjoy the wondrous culture of Germany. German teacher and advisor for the German Club, Laura Diamond, sat down to answer some questions about the club.

**Q: What is German Club about?**

A: German Club is about German culture and traditions. So, we try to talk about German food, holidays, we go on field trips to German restaurants, and we go to the Christmas Village in Philadelphia because a lot of Christmas traditions that people celebrate

come from Germany.

**Q: Why should people join?**

A: I think it's a really good idea to experience a culture other than your own. I think that you can learn a lot from another culture, and it's fun.

**Q: Is there anything planned special for this school year?**

A: We always do a candy-gram fundraiser in February, and we're selling chocolate bars in the fall and spring. But, the biggest thing that we're doing is Sprachfest (Talk-fest). Sprachfest is a competition among all the German programs in the highschools in South Jersey. So, we do bake-offs, trivia contests, and games. We'll also

do individual poetry reads and skits in the language. And what's really cool is, this year, every school is going to submit a t-shirt design. We'll select the best one, and that'll be the t-shirt for the event. Every student will get a free t-shirt and lunch for the event. So, that'll be at Seneca this year.

Be sure to listen out for announcements on upcoming German Club meetings and how you can get involved. For any additional questions concerning German Club, be sure to stop by room 202 and talk to Frau Diamond.

## Homecoming

I Y L X U R Z T E J C S E F  
 P H B V N R E I X C Q M P M H  
 F E J J L P R C C X S N M X J  
 W Z P B J I T X D W E A O H E  
 O T W R P G Y Y L I L G H Z Q  
 W H P S A C Q O G U T A O A W  
 K Q J L F L J T G I C S D O X  
 Z V J L D Q L W B I N W I V N  
 Q X S A C L E Y H L D A N C E  
 N O R B E E V L W K A H F T X  
 A D X T K A J O W V E T O D G  
 M N Y O D I Y F E D X C A B B  
 P H J O A Z I B W X K G Z Q G  
 C W J F K T Q A L V J H T X B  
 O H L G R Y S X L P G H R C J



DANCE

FOOTBALL

PEPRALLY

SPIRIT

WEEK

Check out the next issue of *The Bear Facts* coming in November.

Send us your Homecoming photos to see yourself in the paper!

Email us at **[BearFacts@delranschools.org](mailto: BearFacts@delranschools.org)**.

# Field hockey team hits the ground running

By DRUE HAMLET  
News Editor

It is a new start for the Delran Lady Bears Field Hockey team. Currently, the girls are 4-2, so they are headed in a good direction for the rest of the season. Last year, the girls ended with a record of 5-15, making the goal for this season to improve. With a new coaching staff, Catherine Traitz or Coach T, is the varsity coach this year. She previously held the junior varsity coaching position, but now that position belongs to Coach Bobbi Jo Gormley or Coach G, who is new to the squad.

At the start of preseason back in August, there were many different expectations for the season. Gormley mentioned how she was pleasantly surprised with the amount of effort put into preseason.

"I was happy to see the fitness that the girls came with and the drive that everybody seemed to work hard over the summer," she said.

It was clear to Gormley the girls were ready to dedicate themselves to the team. Traitz came into this new year with a focus of growing fundamentally.

"The passing, the driving, the looking up, recovering, those things which make a good field hockey team great," Traitz said.

The Lady Bears had two scrimmages to warm up for the teams that they would face this season. On Aug. 21, the team faced Lawrence High School. They came out with a win and a final score of 2-1. That victory gave the team some confidence and ground work to set them up for their future games.

Next, the Delran Field Hockey team played Camden Catholic. The team faced a tough loss to the Fighting Irish, but they used this opportunity to improve. Traitz acknowledged a strength of the team was their pre-game analy-

sis. However, according to the coach, sometimes the team can be too focused on their faults.

"I think that it's sometimes a good thing, but if they are being too critical, they might dwell on their mistakes, rather than growing from them," she said.

This idea of acknowledgment and growth is something Traitz has tried to reinforce daily, so she can show her players the importance of improving and moving forward from past mistakes or losses.

The final preseason scrimmage against Haddon Township on Aug. 29, tested the girls. The score of the match was 2-1, leaving Delran with another loss. Their preseason ended with a 1-2 record, so the numbers were not in their favor at the opening of their season.

However, Traitz and Gormley did not doubt the team's communication skills, dedication and hard work. While having fun and bonding with teammates is a huge part of the game, putting in maximum effort at practice is a main priority. Senior and varsity captain Mia Lanzilotta reflected on the lessons she learned over the past four years.

"One of the biggest things I have taken from this program is friendship. I have become really close with many of the girls, and it's really made playing more fun, but on the field we work so much more collaboratively," Lanzilotta said.

With new coaches came some new traditions and changes for the Lady Bears, like their new offensive front.



Maggie Flynn, Lauren Wszolek, and Drue Hamlet facing off against Haddon Heights.  
Photo by Oguzcan Uslu.

The formation of the forwards soon became four on the forward line, as opposed to the three in years prior. This prominent offense was slowly implemented during the preseason and when the first game day rolled around against Haddon Heights, the girls were ready to prove themselves. After a hard-fought first game, the team came out with a W and a score of 2-1.

From this game forward, the girls continued to win over teams like Pennsauken, New Egypt, and Medford Tech. The Lady Bears suffered a tough loss on Sept. 13 and lost their undefeated record to neighborhood enemy, Holy Cross, when the Lancers pulled through with a score of 3-2. This loss taught the girls valuable lessons and showed them what they really need to work on in the future.

On Sept. 18, the team matched up with rival Cinnaminson. This game led to a score of 3-0, leaving the Bears with a tough loss. The team is not giving up and they are continuing to push through. The Lady Bears encourage students and faculty to come out and support the team when they face the Cinnaminson Pirates again on Oct. 11.

## DHS Football team welcomes new players and coach to team

By AIDEN BUTLER & OGUZCAN USLU  
Staff Writers

The Delran Bears football season has been upon us for some time. Last season, the Bears achieved a record of eight wins and two losses, but were denied a spot in the playoffs. This season, the Bears plan to make a deep run in the postseason. At press-time, the Bears had a record of 3 and 1.

This team has added an array of new coaches and three new transfer players. Junior Jason Holmes, son of coach Frank Holmes from Holy Cross, senior Paul Ginty from Holy Cross, and junior Anthony Davis from Rancocas Valley Regional High School all performed very well for their respective schools last year and transferred to be a part of a winning team at Delran. Also, Michigan commit senior RJ Moten has the stands packed each game with new fans coming to watch him play.

The team members think the new players are a great asset.

"Jason Holmes is going to be a very important part of the defense once he's allowed to play," said senior Defensive end Ahmed Johnson.

Senior Troy Wells agreed with Johnson.

"Holmes is playing middle linebacker so he has good speed and makes good reads so he will get to the ball and that's what we need on defense," he said.

Recently, Head Coach Garret Lucas said the strengths of the team include the skill positions such as running back, wide receiver, and quarterback.

He also said the front defensive seven, which includes the defensive line and linebackers, is going to be important in putting pressure on



**Sophomore Kenny Fletcher on the field during Delran's game against Cinnaminson.**

*Photo by Oguzcan Uslu.*

the opposing quarterback.

The NJSIAA (New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association) has rules in place so when an athlete transfers to another school, they are not allowed to play in the first three games/matches if they didn't have a change of residence. The NJSIAA does this to maintain fair sportsmanship throughout the state. Junior Jason Holmes will be playing center and linebacker once he is eligible.

This rule also applies to Paul Ginty. Ginty previously played for the Holy Cross Lancers, where he was the number one receiver. Ginty's family decided to transfer him and his siblings from Holy Cross Preparatory Academy to the Delran School District.

"Paul is probably going to be our number 1 receiver. He has great hands and great speed and that's just a good addition for us," said Wells.

In the next few weeks, the Bears will take on Ewing, Northern Burlington and Princeton High Schools for their final three regular season games. The only home game in that series is their match against Northern Burlington on Oct. 25.

## Delran Lady Bears bite back this year

By SERA CAROLLO  
Editor-in-Chief

Gender equality in athletics is an age old fight, and female athletes at DHS feel they can't score a win. On a global scale, the Women's National Soccer Team fights for the wages they deem fit based on their successes. Here at Delran High School, some female student-athletes feel their teams haven't been given the recognition they deserve and don't feel as valued as some of the male programs, such as football and baseball.

The bleachers around the football field are always packed to the brim with Delran pride. Students, teachers, and parents alike cheer on our football players. The female athletes of Delran aren't used to such support.

"I feel like a lot of girl teams feel the same way I do. My field hockey friends and I can relate because it's almost like the only people supporting us at our games are our parents," said Lindsey Rodzen, member of the varsity girls' soccer and varsity softball team.

The football games often take place at night on a lit up field and tickets are sold for their events. The boys' soccer team recently had this luxury, as they played a night game where tickets were sold with an audience that included more than just parents of the players.

"It's a lot easier to play for a crowd knowing you are being supported rather than having no support from the student body," said Breana Parkinson, member of the varsity girls soccer team.

Even male players agree that their female counterparts don't get equal attention.

"I don't think they [female teams] get the same attention [as male teams, specifically the football team]. It might just be because of the status and [successful] records of the football team. If field hockey had a Friday night game, I bet there would be many more people there. I would go," said Dustin Desher, the quarterback of the football team.

Female athletes noticed a discrepancy in the number of tweets being sent out by the administration in recognition of their success and the success of male teams, according to Rodzen. Yet, only after parents made the decision to bring it to the school's attention directly did the girls notice the tweets that highlighted them.

Anthony Guidotti, the Athletic Director at Delran High School, commented on the tweets.

"When the games are over, as long as I get updates of it I'll put out congratulations to, for example, girls' soccer beat Holy Cross on Wednesday," he said.

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## Female athletes feel the sting of playing in the shadows

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“As far as trying to tweet out as much as possible, I know I definitely miss things,” Guidotti added. “Over the weekend, I’m not necessarily on my work phone. Have I probably missed some girls articles that have come out, absolutely. I’m sure I’ve missed some boys articles that come out. It’s nothing intentional.”

Yet, early in the school year, controversy rose when the administration sent out a phone blast that included only information and the promotion of football and boys soccer, all while the girls’ soccer, field hockey, and tennis teams had games of their own. Additionally, some sports even had games the day the blast was sent out.

“Recently we had our first ever night boys soccer game. There was a phone blast that went out, during the first week of school. [It was] just to mention two events that had never occurred at Delran High School before and we wanted to be able to remind people that we’re having our first ever boys soccer game and we also wanted to let people know that there were tickets being charged,” Guidotti said. “As far as the football game that was also in that phone blast, that was the first time in my knowledge in the school’s history that we’ve ever played week zero.”

Guidotti explained another reason why certain teams didn’t

make the phone blast.

“I didn’t want the phone blast to be a long five minute message of everything that was going on, because I’m not doing a phone blast every week with all the events. It was an unusual circumstance,” said Guidotti.

Phone blasts aren’t the only area where the girls feel neglected.

Last year, the baseball team won the divisions, receiving brown and gold jackets commemorating their victory. This year, the softball team won the division championship. According to Kylie Quaker, member of the varsity softball team, they have received nothing.

Meanwhile, Quaker explained that the baseball team has two different, matching uniforms, one for away games and one for home games, while the softball team plays in t-shirts with different designs and pants that don’t fit all the players correctly.

Quaker and Rodzen recall feeling like their uniforms make their opponents look down upon them from the start, they lack the confidence and professionalism a proper uniform would command.

Again, administration said the slight was not intentional.



**Junior Lindsey Rodzon prepares to receive a pass from a teammate.**

*Photo by Guzman Uslu.*

“The baseball team does have multiple uniforms. That was in place before I got here,” said Guidotti. “The girls team, I believe it was two, maybe three years ago, we ordered new shirts for their uniforms. They [the shirts] seemed like they were sized smaller than what they were supposed to be. So, instead of them wearing scuba gear tight shirts, we quickly got a company to get us some uniforms so they had something to wear. We are in the process of getting more uniforms. We are aware of this situation.”

The issue of gender equality isn’t just limited to adults in the workforce, and can also affect high school students, suggested Cathrine Traitz, varsity girl’s field hockey coach.

“I believe that there is a culture that recognizes the most successful sports at the school.

Currently that would be the boys soccer team which they absolutely deserve, but I do believe that other sports aren’t recognized equally,” said Traitz. “I think that maybe because there are a lot more male professional sports that are obviously on TV and media wise, you don’t really hear much about, let’s just use the Women’s Soccer team for example. They just won the world cup, and you’re not hearing much about them currently because it’s baseball season and football season just began. Male sports are more in the public eye. That’s a trickle down effect, once it starts up high, it continues down to us at the high school level for sure.”

She shed light on one of the key issues in women’s sports. They are reported on and treated as a hot topic, rather than something that people could possibly be interested in for a prolonged period of time.

As for the future, Traitz said, “For me, the needle has moved, however it has not moved enough. I just had my second child, and she is a girl, so I am even more vested in this issue, now with having a daughter who will eventually become an athlete, hopefully. A lot of times, it has to do with funding unfortunately, and that’s tough especially in small school districts, but I do believe that we are taking steps in the right direction, but it has to be continuous.”

Interested in writing for *The Bear Facts*?

Email us at **BearFacts@delranschools.org.**