



National leaders recognize collaborative program in Delran

By BROOKE OBU-
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On Sept. 8, our first day of school at DHS, NEA (National Education Association) President Becky Pringle along with the U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and other education specialists visited Delran High School to learn about the Labor Management Collaboration, a program sponsored by Rutgers University that works to make the teachers' voices heard, and connect the entire faculty and administration into one big team.

"We as teachers always collaborate with our administration to improve student achievement, so it always seemed like an ordinary thing and not a big deal. This is just what we do," said Amy Yodis, 7th grade science



Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona and National Education Association President Becky Pringle chat outside of DHS during their September visit to recognize the district's work as part of the Labor Management Collaboration.

Photo by Luke Arcaini.

teacher and President of the Delran Education Association. "However, to be recognized for the work we do made me realize that we are doing something special here in Delran and not all other school districts operate this way."

Research from Saul A. Rubenstein, a professor from Rutgers University, shows that the Labor Management Collaboration reaps benefits in both high poverty and wealthy schools. His results show that teacher turnover has

decreased and students have benefited both in the classroom and on standardized tests as a result of collaboration. For example, Rubenstein's statistics indicated that 12 percent of students tested above standards in ELA.

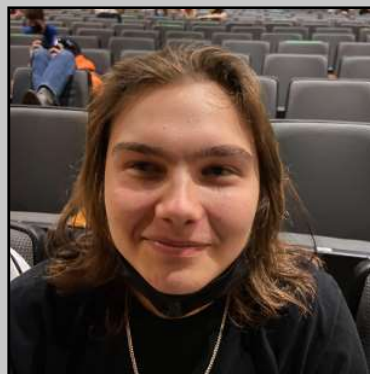
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We asked. You answered.

What advice would you give your freshman-year self?



"Have a positive outlook on life," said Sadie Sabarese, grade 11.



"Don't care as much," said Dylan Cooke, grade 12.

We asked. You answered.

How do you stay organized with all your schoolwork?



“Just have a set of folders for each subject,” said Rachel Lee, grade 12.



“I put my schoolwork first and I multi-task,” said Emily Santos, grade 12.

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

School is finally back in session after almost two years of struggling with the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the thought of “normal school” still seems far away, there are many events to look forward to in this upcoming year.

We started this year with a bang as two of our *Bear Facts* staff members, myself and Abby Olear, were invited to attend a meeting with U.S. Secretary of Education Miguel Cardona, and NEA President Becky Pringle honoring the work of the Labor Management Collaborative practices that have been in effect at Delran School District. We served as representatives of the student media.

This was a tremendous opportunity for the both of us as students and (possible) future journalists. It was interesting learning about the “behind-the-scenes” work of the district and how these efforts benefit students.

In addition, we were able to observe how real journalists work in the field when gathering information to build an article. It was an honor to meet and speak with various members of the media, Secretary Cardona and President Pringle and we can’t wait to see what other opportunities this school year will bring!

For this first issue, *The Bear Facts* has begun things differently. In this edition, we put together a collection of “We Asked. You Answered” columns, as well as a few articles for your reading pleasure. Stay tuned for future editions of *The Bear Facts* where we’ll comment on Homecoming and all things Delran.

Sincerely,

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Editor-in-Chief

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Contact the staff or submit an article through e-mail at bearfacts@delranschools.org.

Collaboration is key in Delran School District

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“...Another thing that created a lot of improvement in the classroom was working collaboratively on professional development for teachers around new curriculum that’s being introduced. So as a new language arts curriculum was being introduced, or a new math curriculum, or a new science curriculum, we were able to have much more voice in what was meaningful to us from a professional development standpoint,” said Kathleen McHugh, a teacher at Millbridge Elementary School.

Schools throughout the district are using techniques from the Labor Management Collaborative to benefit their specific needs.

Yodis praised collaboration for allowing middle school teachers to air their opinions.

“It (the collaborative model) really has given a voice to so many teachers to share what is most important for our students’ success. Administration listens to us and looks to us for ideas when issues arise,” she said.

Yodis also said the program allowed for the creation of a School Leadership Team and Feedback Circles in Delran Middle School and a District Leadership Team for Delran’s four schools.

Overall, the collaborative model helped teachers build relationships, work on solution-making, and helped administrators grow and work in different ways to support staff collaboration.

“Delran has really come a long way in the years that we’ve been doing this. And that makes me so proud because I have such high regard for the faculty in this district and I have such high regard for the administrative team and the supervisors,” said McHugh.

Secretary Cardona was impressed with the progress Delran is making through staff collaboration.

“When you see something that’s working, people want in,” he said. “And you know it’s working not only because student success is increasing, but because educators are happy to be there, principals are happy to be there. It kind of connects them to the reason they signed up for this profession in the first place.”

Cardona hopes to encourage the implementation of a similar collaborative system to public schools nationally.

Pringle has plans to expand the Collaborative as well. She believes that the expansion of the Collaborative via a partnership between the NEA and the NJEA (New Jersey Education Association) could transform every public school into an equitable system in which all students benefit no matter their social, economic or racial status.



Brooke Obuchowski and Abby Olear, both editors of The Bear Facts, were able to participate as members of the student media and ask questions at the event to recognize the work of the Labor Management Collaborative in Delran School District.

Photo by Luke Arcaini.

“If every student could receive as much education as their minds could absorb, that would be good will,” Pringle stated after the event.

As for Delran, Yodis sees the collaborative model strengthening the future. Teachers involved with the program would like to continue their work in order to reach a greater number of students. Legacy is also a goal.

“We also continue to firm up our structures and processes so this collaboration model will long out last any of us once we are no longer working in Delran,” Yodis said.

We asked. You answered.

What are you looking forward to this year?



“I am looking forward to the rest of my field hockey season and going to playoffs,” said Natalie Cauley, grade 10.

“I am super excited for a normal lacrosse season this year,” said Ashley Hartman, grade 10.



We asked. You answered.

How long do you think it will take until we can be free from wearing masks?



“Hopefully by next year, but I have a feeling it will probably be another two years,” said Mason Bodary, grade 12.



“I have a feeling that it will be by next year since there is a vaccine out,” said Hugo Nascimento, grade 10.

We asked. You answered.

What is your favorite class you're taking this year?



"Behavioral Science is my favorite because it's interesting and we get to do a lot of experiments and it's a lot of fun. I'm also interested in Psychology," said Nick Teixeira, grade 12.



"My favorite class this year would have to be intro to guitar and piano. It's a good break in my day and I'm excited that I get the opportunity to learn a new skill," said Maddie Leusner, grade 12.



"My favorite class this year is behavioral science. Mrs. MacFarland is a really fun teacher. The class is very interesting and I love all of the experiments we do," said Rachael Brown, grade 12.



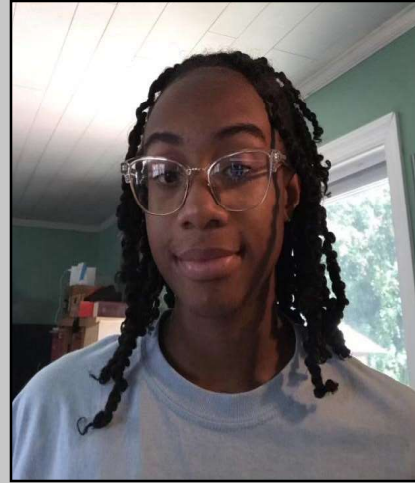
"My favorite class this year is forensic science. It's a great last period and a super fun class, plus that's what I want to major in in college," said Sal Mancini, grade 12.

We asked. You answered.

What are your thoughts on summer reading?



"I really liked my summer reading book, but I didn't get to finish it. The book I read was very good, but I would rather spend my summer having fun rather than reading," said Dylan Husband, grade 9.



"I really think reading a summer book is unnecessary and probably more than half of the school didn't even read their summer book. Therefore, most of the kids are walking into the classrooms for the summer book talk unprepared. I would like to spend my summer having fun. Reading a book is healthy, but we read books in school all the time. Save the reading for school and save the summer for fun," said Blythe Butler, grade 12.



"It can be nice for teachers to see if kids read over the summer. It's (the book talk) also a chance for students to meet people with similar things in common. I personally think it's a nice idea," said Natalie Buckousis, grade 12.



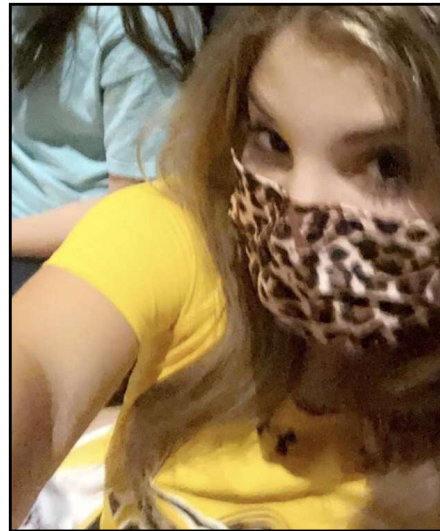
"I didn't read my summer reading book, so I am not very prepared for the reading book talk," said Sadie Sabrese, grade 11.

We asked. You answered.

Do you miss anything about having school online?



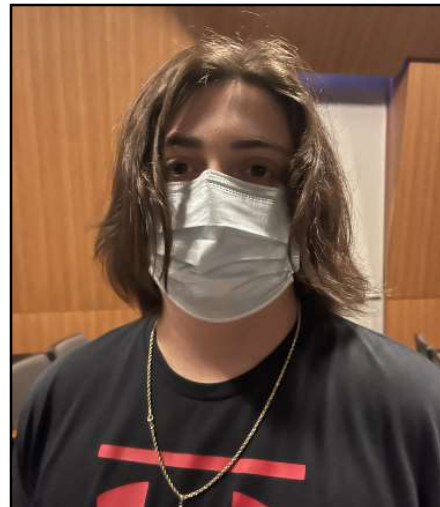
"I miss being able to sleep in later. Also, the classes were a lot easier than this year," said AJ Cobb, grade 10.



"I don't miss having lots of work each day," said Ava Boyer, grade 10.



"I miss being able to work from my room," said Dino Suko, grade 10.



"I don't miss anything about it. Sleeping in was nice but sitting on the computer all day was horrible. My grades suffered also," said Luca Esposito, grade 10.

Summer practice keeps DHS athletes sharp

By BROOKE OBUCHOWSKI
Editor-in-Chief

After the whirlwind school year of 2020-21, high school is finally starting to look somewhat normal again. Along these lines, high school sports picked up in the summer and are now well into their regular seasons.

“After the roller-coaster ride of last year’s football season, this year’s team realizes that nothing is promised to them and that they should take advantage of each and every opportunity to play,” said Karen Rau, freshman football coach at DHS.

Throughout most of the summer, teams practiced ahead of preseason scheduling through weightlifting, running and working on some fundamentals outside of a typical practice.

“I am keeper of (motivation) by the fact that if I work hard in the summer, I will be ready for the season. Also it gets me in shape,” said Abby Wallis, a senior and field hockey player at DHS.

However, while training ahead and preparing for

the upcoming seasons is important, the summer is a time with constant high and humid temperatures.

Oftentimes, weather can be unpredictable with the rapid changes in the forecast. It’s important for an athlete to stay hydrated throughout the summer.

“The football team tries to keep practices early in order to avoid the heat, typically meeting from 7 to 11 a.m. each day,” said Rau. “We vary the types of drills we are doing and mandate frequent water breaks. We also are flexible in moving the time in which we watch film or lift in the weight room in order to maintain the safest environment possible for our players. We work closely with the district athletic trainer who not only observes the temperature and weather conditions, but also helps monitor and treat any injured athletes.”

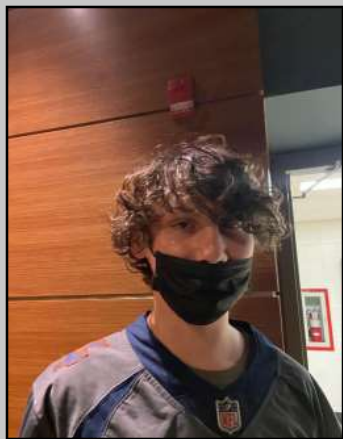
But sometimes student athletes feel the heat.

“The heat does affect my performance because of the spot I play on the field. All of the equipment can lead to overheating,” said Wallis.

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We asked. You answered.

What advice would you give your freshman year self?



“Don’t trust many people because eventually they will stab you in the back,” said Michael Beckett, grade 11.



“Try hard because it counts,” said Nate Smith, grade 11.

Field Notes: DHS athletes lead their teams



In their 2-3 defeat against St. Augustine, senior Captain Nicola Delliponti scored a free kick in the last minute of game.

Photo by Luke Arcaini.



Senior Captain Connor Daly leads the varsity football team in a long and vigorous practice.

Photo by Luke Arcaini.

DHS athletes sharpen skills during summer months

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However, fall sports aren't the only teams practicing. According to Pete Miles, girls basketball coach at DHS, all sports are allowed to practice from the time spring seasons end to when fall seasons begin.

During summer workouts, athletes can build bonds while working to better the team as a whole. In sports, bonding is important. Having a lack of trust and team building can decrease the team's

overall performance and affect an athlete's confidence, according to the Michigan State University article, "Building Trust Within Your Team" by Jenny Nalepa.

"My main goal for our athletes is for each player to get better every single day," said Garrett Lucas, varsity football coach at DHS. "That might mean focusing on one small thing and trying to strive to get better in the area. You have to set small goals in order to achieve the big ones."

We asked. You answered.

What do you think about the new lunch schedule?



"I hate it. I don't like sitting in the PAC for 20 minutes waiting to eat. If I could change it I would just make normal again," said Brooke Phillips, grade 11.

I don't like going to the PAC. It is better than last year though, when I was at middle school, since we had to all sit separately at desks," said Lyla Kaighn, grade 9.



The varsity girls and boys Cross Country team stretched before a hot practice. The team had their first meet the next day where they finished 5 -2.

Photo by Connor Kakowski.

We asked. You answered.

What are your thoughts on dress codes and our DHS dress code in particular?

"I don't like the dress code because I don't understand why showing a little bit of my stomach is a big deal," said Gianna Malatesta, grade 11.



"I don't really care but it's a little annoying because a lot of my shirts are on the shorter side," said Danielle Ragan, grade 11.



"A lot of my clothes don't fit the dress code," said Alyssa Irons, grade 11.



"I don't really care because I dress comfortable to school every day," said Gia Reinhold, grade 11.

We asked. You answered.

How do you think the Eagles will do this season? Why?



“Overall, the Eagles have a bad defense, bad receivers and a bad coaching staff,” said Michael Papi, grade 11.



“The Eagles, at the end, will have a record of 6-10. They are a bad team but they also play bad teams,” said Mason Williams, grade 12.



“The Eagles are going to be below average. They have a first-year quarterback and a first-year coach; it’s going to be difficult. The only thing that will save them is that they play in an average division,” said Mr. Murphy.



“The Eagles will come last in their division with a record of 6-10. They just don’t have a good team, not as good as other teams in their division,” said Zachary Palmer-Smith, grade 12.