

THE BLACKSONIAN

Reporting the News at Blacksburg High School Since 1927

Spring Sports (Track, Baseball, Softball)

By: Kristin Kpor

Blacksburg High School's spring sports have all started off to a good season. The Blacksburg Boys Varsity Baseball Team was 3-3 at the beginning of the week. They lost their first three games against Mauldin High School, Broome High School, and Spartanburg High School. The other three games they won and beat GTC, Berea High School, and GTC again. The BHS Varsity Baseball team went up against York Prep on Thursday, March 19 and won that one as well. Moreover, our JV and Varsity Boys Baseball Team will play against Landrum on Friday, March 20, at 5:30 pm.

The BHS Varsity Girls Softball Team played their first game against Rock Hill and won. Furthermore, the JV softball team is currently 3-2. They beat Rock Hill but lost to Gaffney and Chapman. On Thursday, March 19, JV went against Broome.

The Blacksburg Track and Field had a home meet on Thursday, March 11 with Chesnee. For the Boys 100 Meter Dash, Tony Morris and Blake Gilmore both placed top five. In the Boys 200 Meter Dash, Blake Gilmore placed second and Jacob Gattling placed sixth. For the Boys 800 Meter Run, with a time of 2:20, Kayden Funderburke placed first. Additionally, Tyeon Mayes placed second and Jamari Houey placed fifth. In the Boys 1600 Meter Run Jamari Houey placed sixth. Blacksburg placed second in both the Boys 4x100m and the 4x400m Meter Relay. On the other hand, for the Girls 100 Meter Dash, Serenity McGill placed first, Janiyah Minton placed second, and Adailynn Smith placed fourth.

Congratulations to all of our BHS athletes, and good luck as you continue to compete!

Famous Woman in History

By: Drake Clark

March is about celebrating basketball, Saint Patrick's Day, and most of all it's Women's Appreciation Month. A woman we should appreciate is Amelia Earhart.

Amelia Earhart is the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean in 1932 and the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to the U.S. mainland in 1935.

Earhart was born on July 24, 1897. When she was young, she had developed a sense of being independent. After attending an airshow, her interest in flying started to show, and she started taking flying lessons. Earhart is known for breaking records and challenging other people. In 1928, she was the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean as a passenger; however, she wasn't satisfied with that accomplishment. In 1932, she became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean solo. One record that she set was the altitude record for women. She reached 14,000 feet and reached speeds of 181.18 mph.

Amelia Earhart's courage and determination inspired many women to pursue careers in aviation and any other field that was traditionally dominated by men. Amelia Earhart was also a strong advocate for women's rights. She believed that women should have equal opportunities to follow their dreams. In 1937, she attempted to fly around the world. During her journey, her plane disappeared over the Pacific Ocean near Howland Island. Despite the search efforts, neither her nor her aircraft was ever found. Her disappearance remains one of the greatest unsolved mysteries in aviation history.

Today, she is remembered as a symbol of bravery, determination, and how she pursued her dreams and inspired other women to do the same. Her legacy continues to inspire young people to push their limits and to never give up, no matter how impossible a goal may seem.



SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Winterguard

By: Mackenzie Valentine

This year's Winter Guard Team has done great; they brought home first place in the SAAA class at Northwestern High School on February 14th, 2026. They also placed second at Pickens High School. They have taken a step up and become stronger than they were at the beginning of the season. They have grown in confidence and still are everyday as they practice.

Autumn Satterwhite, their head coach, claims that their competition has gotten tougher throughout the season, and she believes that the team has so much talent. They have worked hard each week to edit their show, and to work on their skills as well as to make their performance the best as they can.

Their next competition, which is the last of the season, will be on March 28 at Winthrop University, where they compete in their championship. They are determined to come back with a win. They hope to impress the judges and get a high score to end their season on a high note. Winter Guard will be performing at the middle school on Wednesday, March 25 at 3:00 pm, and the next day, they will also perform here at BHS in the gym at 1:30 during homeroom.

HOSA Competition

By: Bryanana Jefferies

During the HOSA Leadership Conference in Charleston, SC, there were over 2,000 people there. BHS had a total of seven kids make it to round two of the conference. Dasia Smith, Destiny Smarr, Bryanna Jefferies, Neveah Allen, Skylar Castera, Taylor Kelly, and Lauren Moore. There were a total of four different events that they were competing in.

All of the girls that competed did a fantastic job. They worked very hard.

This trip was a great experience and we are very excited to see what next year will bring. Thank you to the school and everyone who made this trip possible.

Attendance Make-up

By: Ms. McAfee

While some people may argue about attendance rules in public schools, the fact remains that there are laws about attendance, and administrators, faculty, and staff of all districts are simply asked to uphold those laws.

In CCSD, they follow common SC attendance laws. Students MUST be present in each high school class for over half of the time allotted for that class (46 minutes or more). Students cannot have more than 5 unexcused absences for a semester class, and no more than 7 total absences. Anything over 5 unexcused absences (or 7 total absences) causes failure of the course. There are some absences that do not count against a student such as: field trips, court appearances, etc. Students are encouraged to speak with the school's attendance clerk, Mrs. Dixon, to find out detailed specifics.

To help students who have too many absences, CCSD implements make-up days one Saturday a month, and there is one this week on 3/21 from 9 am to noon. There are rules that students must abide by or they could lose their right to attend these days. Please see the list of rules below. If you have more than the allotted number of days, it would be to your benefit to attend this day this week.

Make-Up Day Policies and Procedures

- No Talking:** Students are not allowed to engage in conversation with others during make-up day. Any talking can result in the loss of make-up time.
- No Sitting Together:** Students must work independently and are not allowed to sit together. You must remain in your assigned seat. Assigned seat will be given by make-up day instructor.
- Dress Code Adherence:** Students are expected to follow the same dress code rules on make-up day as they would on a regular school day. Any student who is in violation of the dress code will be asked to leave and will not be allowed to participate in make-up time. Please ensure that you are dressed appropriately according to the school's dress code policies.
- No Earbuds/Headphones:** Earbuds or headphones are not permitted. The focus should be on completing your work, not listening to music or other distractions such as computer games and YouTube.
- No Cell Phones:** Cell phones must be put away and out of sight. If a phone is seen or used during any part of the make-up day, your make-up time will be forfeited.
- Stay Awake:** Students must remain awake and alert for the entire duration of make-up time. Sleeping or appearing to sleep will result in the loss of make-up time.
- Work Completion:** Students must have school work to complete during this time. Simply sitting without work or using this time for personal activities is not allowed. Not completing make-up work during your time will result in the loss of make-up time.
- Laptop Required:** Students are required to bring a charged laptop to work on missing assignments. Visiting online sites that are not school appropriate or being used for anything other than making up assignments will result in the loss of make-up time.
- Restroom Breaks:** You are allowed to use the restroom once every hour. Any restroom breaks must be kept to a reasonable time frame and should not interfere with your work. Make-up day instructor will announce when restroom breaks are.
- Consequences for Violation:** Any violation of these rules will result in your make-up time not being counted.
- Adherence to Regular School Day Rules:** Students are expected to follow the same behavior and conduct rules as they would during a regular school day. This includes showing respect for others, following classroom expectations, and maintaining a focused, productive environment throughout the make-up day. Any violation of these general school rules, including disrespect towards instructors, will result in consequences and the loss of make-up time.

These rules are in place to ensure that make-up time is used effectively. Please follow them carefully and understand your obligation to adhere to the rules of make-up days at Blacksburg High School.

ACADEMICS

Teacher Spotlight: Jeff Hamilton

By: Dakota Wullimann

One hand full with a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and the other with *Julius Caesar*, Dr. Hamilton leads his class with pride.

It wasn't until his sophomore year of college that he knew he wanted to become a teacher. After going to a local high school to do group teaching, he was certain. From then



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on, he has mostly only worked as a teacher, teaching high school and college level classes; albeit, Dr. Hamilton worked as a school administrator for 14 years at one point. After leaving Gardner Webb University, Dr. Hamilton landed at Gaffney High School and then transferred to Blacksburg High School after one year because it was closer to his home. He is now in his second year teaching here.

In total, Dr. Hamilton has worked a whopping 41 years in education. He chooses to teach students about English through seminar and discussion primarily, saying his favorite aspect is working with the students. English has always been his best subject, and with that, his favorite part of the subject is reading and telling stories, exploring all that books have to offer. The ultimate goal that he wants to achieve with his students is having them leave the classroom with the skills needed to become successful. He wants every student to be able to read, write, listen, view, and speak with knowledge at the end of the day.

Teaching him more than just the subjects, Dr. Hamilton's greatest role models were his former teachers. They taught him not only their respective classes, but to make a real difference in the world; so, he strives to do the same. According to Dr. Hamilton, nothing is better than a student reaching out after they have left school to tell him what they're doing now, saying his class made a difference in their lives. That's the most impactful thing of them all.

Class Spotlight: Anatomy

By: Carter Silpeth

In this week's class spotlight, we have Anatomy. Anatomy is an honors level class taught by Misty Greene, and it is recommended that any student who wants to go into a career formed around health sciences should take Anatomy.

After asking a few questions, Greene was able to supply the following information surrounding the class. For students wondering what the class will be about, and what will be done? In Anatomy, students will study the structure and function of the human body. The structure being mainly the skeletal system along with the other components that also hold the body together. For the function, it will be the different systems in the human body that help us function, for example, the nervous system, digestive system, and respiratory system.

Besides just studying the human body, students will also be able to do hands-on assignments throughout the class. For students wondering why the class is important, and why they need to take it? If you are a student and leaning towards nursing or healthcare, then it is highly suggested that you take Anatomy, as it teaches you about the human body and how it functions. Other reasons to take Anatomy are because it can help you achieve a third lab science class needed to earn acceptance into some colleges. Overall, Anatomy is one of the most important science classes here at Blacksburg High School.

Choosing a College

By: Amaya Wright

When choosing a college, there are a lot of key factors that you will have to pay attention to. The main factors you need to pay attention to are academics, like what majors, and programs they offer, or the internship and research opportunities.

Before applying, you should look into how large the classes are, especially if you prefer smaller environments. Another factor to consider is the cost and financial aid, like the tuition, if they offer housing, or what extra fees you would have to pay, and what scholarships they offer. You should also look into the location: is it far away or close to home, what's the weather like, what's the safety of the area? You should also find out the campus life and culture, like what clubs, sports, and student activities does the college offer, or how diverse it is, and what is the quality of the housing? Another thing to consider is what are the career outcomes.

Some things a high school student should do to prepare for college would be to concentrate on their academics. If you start early in academics, then you will have a headstart and be more likely to get accepted. Doing extracurricular activities is also important, but you must participate and show an actual interest in the activity. You should also build relationships with teachers, asking for help and staying involved in class help the most. Doing research is one of the most important things a high school student can do, as it helps with finding out what colleges fit you best.

Overall, when choosing a college you have to find one that best fits you, and when preparing for college you should build a strong profile on yourself.

LIFESTYLES

Prom Bash

By: Addison Lowe

Prom Bash was created more than two decades ago by former Superintendent Bill James to encourage students not to drink and drive on Prom Night. Mr. Coggins and Mrs. Black plan all year long to organize this event while coordinating with RADA and the local sheriff's department (RADA is a student organization used to teach peers about rising above drugs and alcohol.)

During this event, students hear firsthand how drunk driving has negatively impacted the lives of peers in our area. There are games from the National Guard and local vendors organized by Mr. Coggins. Mr. Coggins will ask for donations from the community; lastly, there will be grilled burgers and a huge drawing for prizes. Ms. Greene will, as the senior class sponsor, get drinks and snacks for the students during the event. Dr. Hamilton will also be helping Ms. Greene on the field as she gets things ready for Prom at Cherokee National.

This event will lead up to Prom. Everything at Prom Bash is free to the event's participants. The entire faculty participates in some way to help students have a safe prom. Drinking and driving can be fatal, so teachers try their best to organize Prom Bash to prevent this. One wreck could ruin a student's whole prom night, and prom is supposed to be a good, memorable night.

Let's try our best to not drink on prom night or any night; this can prevent wrecks and help students to have a better night. Teachers are hoping to see students happy and beautiful at prom!

World Religion: Christianity (Baptist)

By: Matthew Horne

Many people in the United States follow different denominations of Christianity, and two groups that are often talked about are Baptist and Southern Baptist churches. Even though they sound very similar, they have some differences but also share a lot of beliefs.

Baptists are Christians who believe that a person should choose to be baptized when they are old enough to understand their faith. This means they do not baptize babies like some other denominations do. Instead, they baptize people by fully putting them under water, which symbolizes being cleansed from sin and starting a new life. Southern Baptists are actually a specific group within the larger Baptist tradition. The Southern Baptist Convention started in the 1800s in the southern United States. Today, it is one of the largest Protestant groups in the country.

Southern Baptists believe many of the same things as other Baptists, such as baptism by immersion and the importance of the Bible. However, they are more organized as a group and often work together on missions and church planting. One thing that stands out about Southern Baptists is their focus on sharing their faith with others. They send missionaries around the world and encourage members to talk about their beliefs. They also tend to have similar teachings across their churches, even though each church is still independent.

In conclusion, Baptists and Southern Baptists share core beliefs but differ in organization and history. Both groups play an important role in American religion and continue to grow today.

Easter Traditions

By: Esme Bazan

Easter is right around the corner. It is on the 5th of April, so don't forget to mark your calendars. On Easter, people have different traditions or at least different ways one celebrates.

Easter is mainly known as a Christian celebration for marking the resurrection of Jesus Christ. It has evolved into a holiday with family gatherings, colorful activities, and festive activities. One of the main Easter traditions is decorating eggs. The reasoning behind that is because eggs symbolize rebirth and new life, and that makes them a perfect representation for the holiday. Families often color or dye eggs. They make these Easter eggs fun, creative, and colorful for children to find during egg hunts, where the children look for hidden eggs filled with surprises like candy, money, or small toys.

Another well known tradition about Easter is the Easter Bunny. This fun and cute Easter Bunny is to deliver easter baskets filled with sweets like chocolate and small gifts. Although the Easter Bunny has no real correlation with the religious meaning to the holiday, it is very much beloved for the younger children.

Food also plays a major role in Easter celebrations as it does for many other holidays. Families gather for a special dinner with traditional baked goods. These warm meals are shared between families' loved ones showing gratitude and togetherness of the families.

At the end of the day Easter is a holiday that is religiously important with a blend of



holiday fun to it. Whether it's through egg hunts, family dinners, or

church services, it's a holiday that brings many together as many other holidays do.

ENTERTAINMENT

Music

By : Cassidy Fuller

Music

She finds her escape
In melodies that understand
What words never could.

Music quiets her mind
When the world grows heavy,
When ever challenge
Presses against her chest.

When no one is there,
earbuds in, phone glowing,
She steps into a space
that holds her together
even when nothing else can
take the pain away.

Music stays
when silence feels too loud,
when her thoughts echo
inside her head.

It never walks out.
It never says goodbye.
Music never leaves
the way people do.

Recipe

By : Lanie Watts

This cookie is heaven-sent. It has creamy milk chocolate, ooey-goey marshmallow, and crunchy graham crackers in the most perfect chocolate chip cookie. Forget the smores! Bring on the chocolate chip smores cookie.

Start by making chocolate chip cookie dough. Cream butter and sugar for at least 4 minutes, scraping the sides of the bowl to ensure even creaminess. I suggest cutting the butter into cubes to allow for easier creaming.

Stir in milk chocolate chips. My favorite chocolate chips are Guittard. I like to use a combination of milk chocolate chips and chunks. I cut up chunks of Trader Joe's Pound Plus Bar to add to the cookies as soon as they come out of the oven.

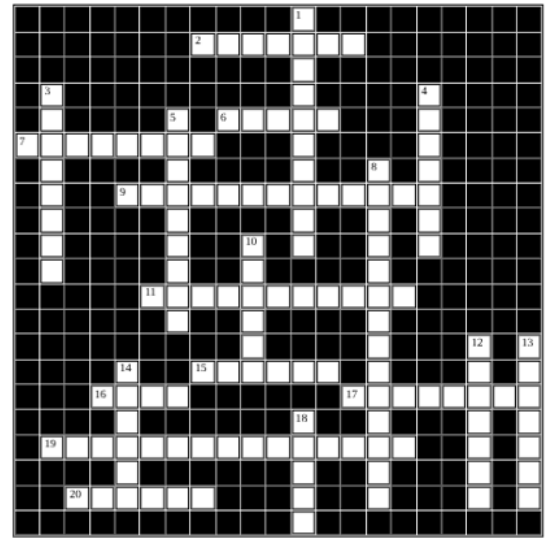
While the cookies are baking, get the marshmallow fluff, milk chocolate chunks, and pieces of graham cracker ready. As soon as you remove the cookies from the oven, add a dollop of marshmallow fluff, press in the chunks of chocolate, and add a few pieces of graham cracker.

Let set up for at least 10 minutes before eating to allow the cookies to cool.



Puzzle

By: Zeke Holmes



Across

2. March rain
6. The fourth color of the rainbow
7. March Flower
9. The NCAA Division I men's basketball tournament,
11. What's at the end of a rainbow
15. A season
16. A word used to symbolize good fortune
17. Warm spring weather
19. time change
20. A hair color

Down

1. A small human-like mythical creature
3. A clover used as the symbol of Ireland
4. Flowers when they open up
5. Birds returning
8. Start of spring
10. An herb with three leaves (rarely four)
12. A spectacle in the sky consisting of multiple different colors
13. Emerald Isle
14. Capital of Ireland
18. Third month on the calendar

EDITORIAL

March marks Women's Appreciation Month, a time set aside not just to celebrate women's achievements, but to recognize the ongoing journey toward equality, respect, and opportunity. While it may be easy to confine appreciation to a single month, the truth is that the contributions of women shape our world every single day.

From classrooms to courtrooms, from homes to halls of government, women continue to lead, innovate, and inspire. Historically, women have had to fight for rights many now take for granted—the right to vote, to work, to be educated, and to have their voices heard. Figures like Susan B. Anthony and Malala Yousafzai remind us that progress is often born from courage and persistence. Their legacies are not just moments in history; they are calls to action.

However, Women's Appreciation Month is not only about honoring well-known figures. It is also about recognizing the everyday women who make a difference—teachers who inspire, mothers who nurture, students who strive, and leaders who advocate for change. These women may not always make headlines, but their impact is deeply felt in communities across the nation.

At the same time, appreciation must go hand in hand with awareness. Gender inequality still exists in many forms, including wage gaps, underrepresentation in leadership, and societal expectations that limit opportunity. Acknowledging these challenges does not diminish progress; instead, it strengthens our commitment to continue moving forward.

For students, this month serves as an opportunity to reflect on the power of voice and identity. It invites young people—especially young women—to see themselves as capable of shaping the future. It also challenges everyone, regardless of gender, to support equity and respect in both words and actions.

Ultimately, Women's Appreciation Month is more than a celebration—it is a reminder. A reminder of how far we have come, how much work remains, and how important it is to uplift one another. When we truly appreciate women—not just in March, but all year—we help build a more just, inclusive, and empowered society for all.

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