

# Sports Preview Night

*Back in action!*

*The Sports Are Back!!*

Welcome back, Barbs! A new school year means the start of fall sports here at DHS. The season started with the fall sports preview night where fans could watch the Band and the Cheer team perform. After the fall sports preview night, the teams have been in full swing. Here is a preview of the fall sports here at DHS.

## Football

Keith Snyder is the new coach for the 2019 season. He is always excited about seeing the growth and development of players from one year to the next. Every year provides new challenges. Snyder is eager to see how his players handle these obstacles. “As a coaching staff, we strive to develop these young men not just as football players but as humans too, ans when you see the growth, thats what I enjoy the most.”

Some of the returning talent inclues seniors Alex Sibens, Donovan Lacey, Avery Medina, and Jalon Redmond. Snyder explained that all the players will make a difference for the team this season.

Some of the other players expected to make their mark this year are juniors Trenton Kyler, Tucker Ikens, and Cole Girardot. Sophomore Toriano Tate is also expected to make his mark. “I really think you are going to see big improvements on the offensive side of the ball with so many returing starters, and that is really exciting for me as a coach.”

The Barbs kicked off their season with a shut out win over Lake

Park High School on Friday, 8/30.

## Soccer

The soccer team is looking to have a strong season this fall season. They are coached by Brent McIntosh and assisted by Phil Rouse.

Playing in a new conference this year could lead to new challenges for the team. The team opened its season with a victory at the Barb Cup tournament over Labor Day weekend. The team is hoping to build on that momentum over the season.

## Swimming

This year’s swim team is excited to begin competing again. Coach Melanie Chambers is “excited about rebuilding the team.” The goal for the team is to win more meets and place better as a team. A few of the standout returners include seniors Grace Flemming and Elizabeth White. The swim team is always looking for new team members! Best of luck throughout the season!

## Tennis

Coach Brad Bjelk is most excited about comepting in the new DVC conference. “There will be very good competion, so it will be a real test for our girls. We had many of the girls attend our summer camps. So they have been working really hard in the offseasn.” Bjelk continued that he’s “looking for those girls to gain experience and skills over the course of the season. For the varsity team I’m looking for them to work hard in practice and improve thier tennis skills and strategies and apple that to their play on court.”

The girls plan to continue working hard to participate in the post season in October.

## Cross Country

The boys and girls cross country teams are both coached by Mike Wolf. The team has a mix of talented veterans and fast newcomers. Some of the veteran returners include seniors Aidan Donohue, Manny Yepiz, and Juan Castro. The will help pace the boys this year. Some of the strong newcomers are Riley Newport, Angel Fernadez, and Jack Harrisson. The girls team also has some strong returners this season. Seniors Andera Porcayo and Inga Collin along with sophomores Annika Burchell and Leah Valentin will help lead the girls. Both the girls and the boys teams are looking forward to competing in the new conference.

## Golf

This year for the golf fall season. They have a boys team. The head coach is Coach Kerkman with assistant coach TJ Fontana. The senior golf players are James Keck, Derek Olson, Jack Paeglow, William Schimbke, and Allison Yohanan.

## Volleyball

This year for Volleyball fall season, they have only a girls team. The Assistant coach is Coach Camels. The head coach is Coach Hoscheit. The senior players are; Isabella Finch, Florence Omodayo, and Kayli Hilliand.

Best of luck to all of the fall athletes this season!

take a peek

Recipe p. 3



New School policies p.6



New staff p.7



Incoming freshamn p.6



DeKalb High School | 601 W. Dresser DeKalb, IL April 2019

Follow us on Twitter and Instagram:  
@dhsbarbwire  
or visit us at dhsbarbwire.weebly.com

Barb Wire

# 42nd Annual CornFest

*Aw shucks, here we go again*

*by Leah Sibley*

The citizens of DeKalb come together on August 23, 24, and 25 to have fun at the annual Cornfest, which provides family fun activities like live music, rides, and games. There is also a variety of foods being cooked there. The event kicks off at 3 p.m. on Friday, with many kids and adults surveying the vendors, food, and rides available. There was also free Wi-Fi at the event, this being the second year that it’s available.

Many local stores that were located along the event had open doors to all people, including The Gaming Goat which had free water, and Cracker Jax which had clothing sales.

Something else Cornfest is known for is the vendors that are there. Dance Dimensions, the National Guard, and the NIU Grad vote Program all had booths open. There were also many of the iconic lemonade stands open, and many fired foods being cooked.

Food options were aplenty at the yearly event, with a free sweet corn boil to honor a long participating member of the community.

Sophomore Camila Berrocal said, “I’ve been going to Cornfest for



*CornFest Rides. Photo provided by Leah Sibley*

6 years, and I really like to eat the mango treats and tacos.”

The Beer Garden is available to all, as long as kids under 12 are accompanied by an adult, and this allowed patrons to enjoy the live stages done by John Waite, 7th Heaven, Blind Date, The Relics, and many other bands.

Cornfest also offers rides and games. There are separate sections for older and younger kids, so it’s safe and fun for all. You could buy tickets for a cheap price, or buy a wristband or weekend pass to make the most out of the Cornfest experience.

Sophomore Coba Sexton said, “I’ve been going pretty much since I was born and always get the weekend

pass so I can go on all the rides. That’s my favorite part.”

The temperatures only reached around 78 that weekend, so many more people were able to come out and enjoy the festivities since it was so cool. Last years’ temperatures reached up to 89 degrees.

This year Cornfest had starting checking bags to make sure everyone was safe and secure at the event, with state and town police around the area.

Hopefully everyone had a fun experience with good food and fun rides at the 42nd annual Cornfest, and if you happened to miss this year, there will always be next year!



*John Waite performing. Photo provided by Leah Sibley*



# A Bell Change?

Does the early bird really get the worm?

by Abby Jamison

Across the country it has been in debate whether school start times should be moved back. According to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, 42 states have 75%-100% of their schools beginning before 8:30 a.m. As a student, I want to be able to manage school and activities without letting my sleep schedule suffer. Looking at all the negative effects a lack of sleep can cause, I find it is necessary for a bell change to take place in order to provide the best learning environments for teenage students.

According to The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, teens need at least 8 hours of sleep every night. It is proven that teenagers get tired later at night, and hence need to sleep in longer in the a.m. Sleep deprived teenagers are more likely to perform poorly in school and experience a decrease in both mental and physical health. With a simple change within our school districts we could avoid these concerns. I find it challenging to get to bed before 10 p.m. most nights . My sleep schedule has been a struggle for most of my high school career and I know that I am not alone.

With this accomodation, there would be many positive changes for our school district. According to *neaToday*, more sleep leads to higher student attendance, better academic performance, and increased mental health. For an example of this alteration being implemented, UW News dis-

cussed Seattle school districts' 2016 bell change. With pushing back start times to 8:30 am, there was an average grade increase of 4.5% or higher for the majority of students. It is clear that there needs to be a bell change if teenage students can experience such positive outcomes.

My biggest concern with this change is how it would work with after school activities. All year I participate in after school programs and pushing those times back could prove to be difficult to manage. Although that is a worry, the Seattle students didn't end up going to bed much later than they did before the bell change regardless of what they had going on after school. Most students prioritized their homework after their activities instead of giving themselves freetime.

The majority of students don't get the sleep they need every night. If our school district could make one change to try and accomodate sleep schedules, we could see happier, more successful students. I know my fellow tired students and I would love an extra hour of sleep every night and would greatly appreciate a bell change within our school district. It's what's best for all of us.



Nap time for sleepy DHS students. Photo taken by Abby Jamison.



**BARB WIRE**  
De Kalb High School  
501 W. Dresser  
DeKalb, Illinois 60115  
barb.wire@dist428.org

**Principal:** James Horne

**Teacher Advisor:** Colleen Solomon

**Co-Editors:** Khadija Nagi, Arianna Rodriguez, Sydney McNett

**Artistic Director:** Emma Komes

**Writers:**  
Anthony Burgess  
Sierra Cleveland  
Sara Collins  
Clarissa Corbin  
Jasmin Garcia  
Abby Jamison  
Alexa Schultz  
Rebecca Shank  
Leah Sibley  
Tiana Tingling  
Asia Greer

**Mission Statement**  
The Barb Wire aims to encourage students in becoming actively involved to improve their high school experience by providing up-to-date, well-researched, and well-written news relevant to DeKalb High School.

**EDITORIAL POLICY**  
The Barb Wire is produced approximately every month by the Journalism classes at DeKalb High School, 501 W. Dresser, DeKalb, IL 60115. Letters to the editor may be left in Mrs. Solomon's mailbox in the main office or be e-mailed to [barb.wire@dist428.org](mailto:barb.wire@dist428.org). Letters must be 300 words or less and may be edited for length, clarity, or libelous content. All letters must be signed, but anonymity may be granted if the editors see just cause. The Barb Wire will not print any material that is obscene, libelous, or that may be an invasion of someone's privacy, or may cause material disruption of the school day.

The staff of the Barb Wire is responsible for observing the legal and ethical responsibilities expected of them as practicing journalists. Opinions expressed on the editorial page are those of the writer and not necessarily those of other staff members, students, faculty or administrators of DeKalb High School. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the editorial board of the Barb Wire.

The Barb Wire reserves the right to reject any advertisement from any business or company if the editors see just reason.

# New Staff

## The New kids on the block

by Jasmin Garcia

Welcome back, Barbs. As DHS welcomes in 536 new freshmen, the school also welcomes in over 40 new staff members this 2019 school year.

The new staff members range from assistants to teachers to a new dean. The staff members have come from all over to help make this year at DHS one of the best yet.

One new staff member is Dean Jeff Helberg. He is a new face to the dean's office replacing new Cortland assistant principal Maurice McDavid.

When asked to describe his new position, Helberg replied, "I am one of the Dean's here. I work with the students whose last name starts with DL and goes through MCC, I also work with the students who are ELL or ESL."

Helberg explained what brought him to DHS. "I taught in the classroom for ten years, and I felt like I was kind of ready to go in the administration route. Being a dean always interested me. Looking around at the other places, DeKalb was one of the schools that had it."

He continued that he "liked the idea of a community field. I like the unit district that DeKalb is a part of and it was something that kept my interest in working with the students here the diversity that the school has well I was interested in."

Helberg also mentioned "I would say that there are things that are easier about this job than being a classroom teacher bu then there's also easier things of being a classroom teacher than what I do right now. It's a little early to kind of say".

Helberg continued "I usually try to keep an open mind about anything

that I might be going into that's brand new. I was just more like I'll kinda tackle things as they come along, as students come to school it might get a busy a bit."

Another new staff member is teacher Thomas Battista. He is a new face this year replacing retired ICP teacher Jay Smith.

Battista described the classes he teaches here at DHS. "I am a science teacher, and I teach all freshman to intro to chemistry and physics"

Battista explained why he wanted to work at DHS. "I went to DeKalb High School, and I enjoyed it. I graduated in 2002, and my family is moving close to the area. I liked how DeKalb High School has an interesting, diverse group of students and it had a big nice



Photos taken by jasmin Garcia.

building which was kind of cool."

Battista explained what are some of the most important qualities to excel in this role. "I think you have to be patient and you have to understand that students are individuals and that sometimes you have to spend a lot of time to get to know your students and let them get to know something about you as well." That is how Battista builds relationships within his classroom.

Battista loves teaching. When

asked what motivates him to get up and come to work each day, he said "I think it's just I don't have a job where I'm sitting down at a desk all day. I'm interacting with people every day, all the time. Every day is different in that way."

The Barbs also welcome new staff member Jessica Byerhof. She is a new face at DHS.

Byerhof explained her position at DHS. "I am a teaching assistant, so I work one on one with a student. I help with transitions in the hallway. I help with taking notes in class and making things easier for them and making life overall easier."



Byerhof was asked what made her want to join DHS she replied with "I worked for the district for 4 years. I was at the elementary level and I really liked it. I left and went back to school and got my degree and decided to come back. I graduated in May and I needed a job and I knew I liked working for DeKalb before and came back."

Byerhof explained some of the important qualities needed for someone to excel in this role. "Patience. You must be very patient. Sometimes your student is having a bad day and you have to work through that."

DHS is lucky to have so many amazing new staff members in the buidling. Be sure to welcome all the new staff members this year!



# New School Policies

## New Year, New Rules

by Asia Greer

With the new school year starting on August 15, there were two major school changes. The first change is that students are now allowed to carry backpacks.

Although it is not explicitly stated in the handbook that backpacks are allowed, language prohibiting them was removed. Before, it said explicitly that backpacks were not allowed. Now there is no specific rule on it. It may also be a result of the large number of incoming freshman and the lack of locker space as a result of this. Senior Brianna Jackson feels that, “It is an easier way to go from class to

class” without having to worry about being late or getting in trouble. Although this is one of the perks, many students are afraid for their safety and skeptical of the new policy. There are many risks that come with allowing students to freely carry a backpack to class without begin checked. Senior Iyanla Ross feels that the policy is extremely dangerous. “It’s really stupid because it is easy access for someone to bring a weapon in.” Also, the rules about late work have changed as well. The homework policy was a little more strict in past years, allowing teachers to give students an automatic zero on late homework. The new policy says that all teachers must issue partial credit to students for work that is a day late. This does not only apply to students with an excused

absence. This will more likely motivate more students to do their homework and has the potential to improve homework or just overall grades. Each year brings new policies to DHS. Hopefully the policies instituted this year will make life a little easier for students and staff alike.



Photo taken by Asia Greer

# Class of 2023

## Welcome to the big house...

by Becca Shank

Welcome back, Barbs! As the new school year begins, the class of 2023 has arrived! This school year there are approximately 536 freshmen. That’s approximately 100 more students than the current sophomore class. This explains why the halls feel more crowded this year.

The halls aren’t the only thing different that is different this year. To help accommodate all these students, new sections were added to Humanities along with other subjects. For example, there are about 18 sections of Humanities classes this year when last year only 14 were needed. With a big class, though, comes great talent.

How are the current freshmen feeling about their new journey? Freshman Taylor Dean said this year feels “different.” Many people can agree that high

school is quite different from middle school.

Freshman Terrence Davis explained the biggest difference he’s realized from middle school. Davis has noticed, “More people, and it’s a bigger school.”

Freshman Physical Education teacher Bradley Kerkman described why he enjoys working with the new freshman. “I like the fact that they are finding their bearings in high school and help lead them toward making good decisions and finding out who they want to be in high school.”

Kerkman continued that “I also like the fact that they have a lot of energy so it makes the teaching of the freshman class a lot more fun.”

When asked if he likes his job, Kerkman quickly exclaimed, “I love my job! I get to come to work everyday and work with kids. Coaching is a lot of fun as well. With P.E you get to participate in games with the students as well. Playing games for a living and helping direct the youth to become what they want to be is a great job.”

Transitioning to high school can be difficult. Staff member Nicky Gunn

explained her advice to the newest freshman class, “Take advantage of every positive opportunity.”

Security assistant Cedric Little has his own advice to offer. “Don’t mess up your freshman year because you’re going to regret it.

He explained students would regret it because “all of the other years you’re going to be trying to catch up. Your senior year is the year you kinda want to take it easy unlike trying to catch up your from your freshman year.”

The 2019-2020 school year is officially in full swing. Best of luck to all the Barbs out there but especially to the newest Barbs. Always remember, there’s only one Barb!



First hour P.E. Photo taken by Becca Shank.

# Tasty Avocado Salsa

## Fresh and delicious, perfect for summer.

by Clare Corbin

Why have plain old tomato salsa when you can add avocados to the mix? This Avocado Salsa is amazingly delicious, and it’s easy to make! Fresh avocado salsa has the flavors of guacamole but more of a texture similar to a chunky salsa. This zesty recipe was inspired by and can be found on [cookingclassy.com](#)

Prep Time: 15 minutes  
Total Time: 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 6 medium tomatoes, seeded and diced
- 1 cup red onion, chopped
- 1 large jalapenos, seeded and chopped
- 3 medium avocados, peeled, cored, and diced
- 3 Tbsp olive oil
- 3 Tbsp fresh lime juice
- 1 clove garlic, finely minced
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 1/2 cup cilantro leaves, chopped

Instructions:

1. Place red onion in a strainer and rinse under cool water to remove harsh bite. Drain well.
1. Add onion to mixing bowl along with diced tomatoes, jalapenos,

and avocados.

2. In a separate mixing bowl whisk together olive oil, lime juice, garlic, salt, and pepper until mixture is well blended.
3. Pour mixture over avocado mixture, add cilantro then gently toss mixture to evenly coat.
4. Serve with tortilla chips, or over Mexican entrees.

If you aren’t a fan of spicy foods you can eliminate the jalapenos. If you like it spicier you can leave the seeds in the peppers, or use a hotter pepper.



Avocado Salsa! Photo taken by Emma Komes.

# Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark

## Scary Stories a great idea failed in execution

by Anthony Burgess

*Scary Stories* is a film based on the popular childhood book, *Scary Stories to Tell in the Dark*. *Scary Stories* was a nostalgic idea that hit it’s mark for me personally, I remember picking up the books in my third grade library and reading it on the floor instead of checking it out because I knew I would lose it. The books were some of the first horror genre I got into, but the movie just failed at capturing those same feelings for me. While some of the stories I remember from long ago were in the movie, they just didn’t feel the same. It didn’t capture the horror I had felt back then that the original writer captured so well. The creators had a good idea with the story of the characters they created but failed to make them interesting enough to grab my attention.

It did a good job building character

relationships in the beginning, but they didn’t change throughout and it became predictable. By the end of the movie it felt like a knockoff of the horror film *It*. It had the kids, it had the monster, but it just dissapointed.

The movie starts with three characters on Halloween. They have the quirky tom boyish girl, the awkward kid, and finally the comedian they quickly add a new one after a prank gone wrong. They meet him on the run- away from a couple of jocks they had pranked. he’s noticeably the mysterious cool guy archetype we’ve all seen before but nonetheless a half-way interesting character.

They make their way to an abandoned mansion that belonged to an old rich family that had some issues like locking their daughter in the basement, because she was albino.

Then they find a book in a secret room and decide to take it which sparks the mishappenings that take place throughout the rest of the movie. Kids start going missing and their sto-

ries are written in the book before they take place in real life.

Obviously the story took inspiration from movies like *Evil Dead* and *It*, which makes it feel unoriginal and kind of a drag to the point where it was a relief when the movie was over.

The nostalgic interest I had in the movie quickly faded after the first half hour of the movie. Most of the horror scenes were more disturbing than horrifying and the terrible cgi in the last story just made it even worse.

Overall, the movie wasn’t for me it’s definitely more of a movie for 9-13 year olds. If you’re looking for a good horror movie like me and my friends were just stay home and watch the *Conjuring* or *It* or wait for the new *It* to come out because that will feel like less of a drag than this movie.



# It’s A Hot Barb Summer

*Was your summer lit?*

*by Sierra Cleveland*

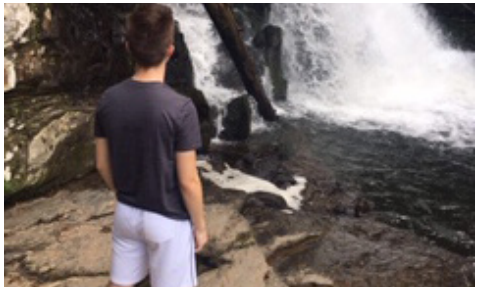
With the sun out and shining, many barbs may have enjoyed taking selfies during golden hour, ice cream from Ollies, bonfires and the freedom of playing video games whenever. The reality of it all was that most barbs worked at their summer jobs, completed AP summer homework, or just slept a majority of the time. There’s nothing boring about that at all because summer is the time to catch up or fulfill the activities you weren’t able to do over the school year.

Ms. Valkner, Ap Euro, government and dance teacher, had gone to Europe with her AP European history class. Europe wasn’t the only goal for Ms. Valkner and her class as they took interest in five other countries. These five countries consisted of Slovakia, Czechia, Germany, Poland and Hungary. Within these five countries, good food left the tourists with a foreign tongue. Goulash;beef stew, pasta,Ice cream in which they ate everyday, pierogi; basically dumplings, and the everyones favorite...water. With foreign dishes came foreign languages. Ms. Valkner met citizens of Europe that spoke English, German and Polish. With Ms. Valkner being an AP European and government teacher, it is no surprise that she said that it was “very cool to make connections between AP Euro and the places we went!”

Sorry I have to do this but, “Are you from Tennessee, because you’re the only ten I see”. (Lame pick-up line I know). Our very own barb, Bryn Chadra, most likely had to deal with

these pick-up lines as he dealt with old women and very few girls in Tennessee. This barb drove to the state and it was most likely his parents that were behind the wheel because when Chadra drove on the mountains in Tennessee for the very first time he almsot died...according to him. Driving in the mountains wasn’t really his forte so he stuck with hiking. Chadra ate at many diners and out of the variety of food he devoured, he considered most of it to be tasteful,”especially the chicken”. It’s not Tennessee without the country music and country wear, which concludes why he heard country bands everywhere and saw so many boot stores and billboards at every corner he looked. Sounds like Tennessee indeed.

Another one of our fellow barbs, Maya Wallace, wasn’t sipping pink lemonade on the beach, but instead engaged herself with the beautiful mountains of Canada. This Canadian barb loved Alberta, Canada, as it “was fun, it was great seeing..uumm, my hospital where I was born and seeing the house my parents grew up in”.



*Photo provided by Sierra Cleveland*



*Photo provided by Sierra Cleveland*

She petted many majestic horses, and was acquainted to ground squirrels and “ugly little chipmunk things”. Ever heard of poutine? Well, there was plenty of it in Canada, and Maya completely hated it. There were many pizza kitchens and Subways; which were randomly placed on hills. If you are one of those barbs that dream of going to Canada, Ms. Wallace highly recommends the trip!

Traveling doesn’t always have to play a big factor in vocationing. Our very own counselor, Mrs. Pettit, may have found her schedule a bit busy but quite fun in the process. Mrs. Pettit worked a summer job, played volley ball on Tuesday nights and played basket ball as well. She had gone to her friends wedding in July and celebrated her own anniversary with her husband in the place they got married. She spent a lot of time with her puppy that she got in April and plenty of time with her 3 nieces and 3 nephews. Despite what I said earlier, Mrs. Pettit wish she would’ve traveled more.

# Summer jobs

*Welcome back Barbs!!*

*by Tiana Tingling*

When most people think of summer, they think of the beach, watching Netflix, and relaxing at home. However, many students spent their summer working. For many students it is the perfect time to get a job and start working. They wanted to make some money for back to school or just for their own purposes.



Senior Ayana N. Worked two jobs over the summer. She worked at both Party City and Maurices, Ayana would not recommend working at Party City. “The pay was really bad,” she said of her experience at the party supply store.

She did, however, enjoy working at Maurices as they pay well.

She would recommend working at Maurices as the job gave her real life skills. Working at Maurices, “gives me the confidence to talk to other people so then I’ll be able to be more confident, and that will help me because I



*Photos provided by Arianna Rodriguez*



want to be a teacher.”

Senior Megan Grantschmayr worked at the DeKalb County Nursing home as a dietitian. Her job was to basically “serve the people living there dinner, and clean up after them.”

When asked if she liked her job, she said it was OK. She said that she likes certain aspects of it. She likes talking to people there but she doesn’t like the messiness/dirtiness of the job.

When asked if she would work there again she said yes. She also said that she and her co-workers get along pretty well.

Brianna Jackson, another senior at DHS, worked at KFC over the summer. She did many positions working there from a dishwasher to a cashier.

She said, however, when it was her

time to wash the dishes, it was a lot of dishes and some of her employees would help her wash them and some would not even care.

When asked Jackson if she would work there again, and she said no, because “the management there was really judgmental, and she would hear things said about her behind her back, typical it was people gossiping,”

Many Barbs worked their first jobs this past summer while others were returning to their typical summer employment. Between babysitting, retail, and food service, along with lawn management, the opportunities for student employment are plentiful. Have an amazing school year barbs!



*photos provided by Arianna Rodriguez*

## Sibley Heating and Cooling

Servicing DeKalb County since 1977

### Casey Sibley

947 West State Street  
Sycamore, Illinois 60178  
815-895-6686  
sibleyheatingandcooling.com