

THE ADVOCATE

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Jonathan Law High School

Milford, CT

Free

Jonathan Law Community Remembers 9/11

Jesiree Carrera
Editor-In-Chief

The day the Twin Towers fell. National Day of Service and Remembrance. Patriot Day. 9/11.

No matter how it is recognized, it will always be remembered.

Jonathan Law led Milford's city wide commemoration for 9/11, organized by the history department. The day's schedule consisted of the Red Bandana Walk, a community service fair, and presentations from visiting speakers.

"The September 11 community is an amazing and inspiring group of people who have taken their pain and made such a positive impact with it," said history teacher **Mrs. Rowley**. "They are dedicated to making sure we never forget that day and it really saddens me that as a society, 9/11 has become an afterthought though it is an event that has a daily impact on us all, whether or not we realize it."

The event was envisioned



The Honor Guard begins the 9/11 ceremony led by Law's history department and senior class. (photo courtesy Kathy Bonetti)

when the history department learned of the Welles Story: a man who had continuously went back into the towers to rescue as many people as possible without thought to his own survival. The Red Bandana Walk came into being due to the red bandana worn by Welles during his heroic final acts.

Students were sent home

a letter over the summer asking to receive sponsors for the Red Bandana Walk. The school hoped for 100 percent participation and was blown away by the response of the community.

Even though many of the students were very young during the tragic incident, they rallied together to fundraise and

participate in the event. The students exceeded expectations and raised over \$6,000 for the Red Bandana Walk.

All of the money went to the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust since the Crowthers presented Jonathan Law a monetary scholarship for writing 9/11 curriculum.

After the scholarship, the

Jonathan Law community wanted to give back to the 9/11 community as well as award the students with a meaningful experience to learn more about the event.

The shirts worn by the history department were also put on sale to gain more funds for the Welles Remy Crowther Charitable Trust. They were envisioned by senior **McKenna Staurovsky**.

"The event was really about making peace with the tragedy, so the peace sign hand came to mind," said Staurovsky. "I wanted to create an image that reflected how America is stronger today, and I think a peace sign is a really good representation of how we want to reflect on the day."

The logo on the shirts consisted of a "9" designed with the pattern of the American flag and a peace sign in the shape of the towers. Staurovsky was but one of the many students who participated in making the day a community experience.

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Milford Adjusts To Common Core Standards

Jesiree Carrera
Editor-In-Chief

The Milford school district plans to replace CAPT and CMT state tests with Common Core curriculum standards for the 2013-2014 school year.

The Common Core standards were adopted by Connecticut on July 7, 2010, and will undertake the new SBAC (Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium). The test will analyze English and math skills and will be standard in the 2014-2015 school year.

"It's a brand new test with very different standards," said Superintendent of Schools Elizabeth Feser. "These are new standards, these are far more rigorous."

The standards focus on literacy and mathematics while impacting on every subject area. Teachers will have to revise their curriculum to prepare their students for the deeper thinking

and rigorous standards.

"It's going to be a new and interesting process," English teacher **Mr. Kulenych** said. "We are changing curriculum and writing new assessments and lesson plans to make sure that all of our students are prepared for SBAC."

For two years, the entire district has been working on implementing Common Core and SBAC. Each grade will have distinct learning goals and will measure the success among the 45 states which have adopted the standards.

The only states refraining from adopting the standards are Texas, Alaska, Minnesota, Virginia, and Nebraska.

Since this is the first year that the SBAC will be implemented, the test scores are likely to be low, but the early implementation will allow the district to adapt to the test questions. The previous

CAPT and CMT tests were "not aligned" with Common Core, so this trial run will be a baseline for future results in the district.

"This is the first time that we are going to implement the SBAC and the Common Core standards in the district, so it may take a while to get used to," said principal **Mr. Thompson**. "Even with the more rigorous standards, I know that our students will rise to the occasion, as they always do."

Connecticut students have previously taken the Connecticut Mastery Test during their third through eighth grade and the Connecticut Academic Performance Test during their eleventh grade.

Students will still be mandated to take the science portion of CAPT despite the new SBAC.

During the 2013-2014 school year, the SBAC will be administered to the juniors in



Common Core standards and SBAC will replace CAPT and CMT. (photo courtesy boe.townofmanchester.org)

high school in addition to the science portion of CAPT.

"I don't believe that SBAC will truly test student learning due to a lack of student knowledge," said junior **Hayley Sanchez**. "When I hear CAPT, it comes off as more official unlike the SBAC which is not as well known."

A true concern of the new testing for the district is trying to provide students information to take the test seriously. It may prove difficult to get students to answer the questions earnestly.

The SBAC will be administered online, beginning in the third grade.

The Field Test will provide them with experience of online testing and will determine whether students are prepared to take online tests.

The Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSSI) attempts to establish "a single set of clear educational standards for kindergarten through 12th

grade in English language arts and mathematics that states voluntarily adopt." As said in an explanatory statement by the CCSSI, "The Common Core state standards focus on core conceptual understandings and procedures starting in the early grades, thus enabling teachers to take the time needed to teach core concepts and procedures well-- and to give students the opportunity to master them."

Milford School District has decided upon administering the SBAC Field Test instead of the CMT or CAPT.

Teachers will be evaluated on the student growth on the SBAC Test due to the belief that experience in the test will provide a positive impact on the instruction in the classroom.

The testing will become official in 2014-2015.

(Some information courtesy newhavenregister.com, Milford Board of Education, and corestandards.org)

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The Advocate is the official student-run publication of Jonathan Law High School. The opinions presented in The Advocate are solely those of the students. As journalists, the members of The Advocate staff are committed to upholding the core of our code of ethics: objectivity, integrity, and truth. The staff endeavors to report the news without editorializing, include a diversity of opinions in our coverage, and present sound, corroborated information. We welcome letters to the editor as well as issue-based commentaries. If you are interested in contributing, please submit your writing to: The Advocate, Room 129, Jonathan Law High School, 20 Lansdale Avenue, Milford, CT 06460.

Jonathan Law High School Mission Statement

Jonathan Law High School is a community that exists to maximize the intellectual, the social, and the emotional growth of each student in a safe, stable, supportive environment. We believe that a positive, collaborative atmosphere fosters high expectations and recognizes individual differences. In partnership with students, parents, and the community, we are committed to developing the skills necessary for educational, career, and life choices.

THE ADVOCATE ONLINE EDITION



jlawadvocate.wordpress.com

Welcome Back From The Editors

As a new school year begins, *The Advocate* returns to welcome all members of the Jonathan Law High School community, old and new.

The staff, editors, and Mr. Kulenych, the advisor, of *The Advocate*, are looking forward to providing the Jonathan Law community with reliable, trustworthy, and accurate news, as well as lively and significant opinions, features, and columns.

The 2013-2014 school year is coming with exciting new features to both the newspaper and the school itself, and *The Advocate* is ready to give students and faculty as many details as possible concerning the new events at Jonathan Law.

The Advocate's website, jlawadvocate.wordpress.com, will be entering its third year. On it will be an electronic version of the paper, as well as additional up-to-date news to complement our traditional seven monthly issues.

The staff also continues its Twitter account @jlawadvocate which delivers news to students in short, instant messages to the students of Jonathan Law. *The Advocate* aims to have around 1,000 followers by the end of the 2014 school year.

The Advocate's staff editorials, much like the one you are reading, will represent the opinion of our staff, and our commentaries will provide often unconventional perspectives on current controversial issues. Our articles will be fair and balanced and our staff is devoted to maintaining

objectivity, integrity and truth in everything we write.

After 53 years of upholding the highest standards of effective reporting and ethical journalism, *The Advocate* staff will continue to strive to provide the same excellent quality of school, local and national news.

We will try to meet your expectations for this paper, as they should be high. We will aspire to include all viewpoints to ensure that our entire student body is represented in our publication.

In the spring, *The Advocate* staff will publish a senior supplement inside the June issue.

The supplement, as per tradition, will include information about the senior class' post-graduate plans along with the graduates' most memorable high school moments and bequeathments.

We not only accept, but encourage, feedback by inviting all readers of *The Advocate* – students, teachers, faculty members, parents or community leaders – to contribute letters to the editor for publication.

Letters should be submitted to either the main office at Jonathan Law or to Mr. Kulenych in Room 129.

We sincerely hope that our practice will live up to our theory — that *The Advocate* will competently serve as a forum for student opinion. As former editorial editor, Justin Margeson, once said, “*The Advocate* is not a high school newspaper, but rather a newspaper based in a high school.”

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3. Fill out the answers to the quiz.
4. Return the quiz to **Room 129** to be eligible for the **monthly drawing** for a **\$50 Visa Gift Card**.



Jonathan Law Commemorates 9/11 Day

(Continued from page 1)

"I think the students took a lot from the day," said Staurovsky. "Even though you may think you only have a small part in the community, you can make a difference through volunteering and taking part in events like these."

Many students, such as those in the band and choir, participated in ensuring that the event became a truly unforgettable experience.

With such little time to truly practice, the band and choir needed to decide upon their performance pieces quickly to make certain that they represented the school's spirit for the day well.

The band decided upon the National Anthem, while the choir sang "God Bless America."

"We had such little time to rehearse, especially with the block scheduling, but we wanted to perform our best and show everyone that the Jonathan Law community truly shone despite the darkness of 9/11 previously," said choir director **Mrs. Rizzotti**. "All of my students were nervous since it was a more public event, but we kept practicing to perfect our song to truly show our community spirit."

The other presentations from the Jonathan Law community also consisted of senior **Kira Topalian**'s rendition of "Let There Be Peace On Earth," and band director **Mr. Marino**'s arrangement of "Taps."

There were speeches made by the history department, specifically **Rowley**, **Mr. Zuraw**, **Mrs. Mannion**, and **Ms. Burns**.

Jonathan Law's 9/11 day was not restricted to the school community alone. The school had visiting speakers from the Board of Education, state representatives, police officers, fire fighters, members of the Honor Guard, and the general public.

The procession was led by the Milford Police Honor Guard, Milford Fire Honor Guard, and Milford Veterans Honor Guard. There were also personal remarks from Mayor Benjamin G. Blake, Representative Kim Rose,



and Representative James Maroney III.

The commemoration was in special memory of Seth Morris, Michael Miller, and Avnish Patel, Milford's own who died on September 11, 2001 in New York City.

"It makes me proud to go to Jonathan Law," said sophomore **Ryan Gando**. "We get chances to participate in our community as well as hear about what occurred, especially from the visitors; I'm definitely very proud in my school."

The visitors were those who have served the United States, been eyewitness accounts of the 9/11 attacks and the aftermath, and volunteers at the site of the tragedy.

"The stories of the speakers were truly inspiring," said senior **Michelle Novak**. "We're all too young to remember the tragedy well but we're still affected by it, so it was amazing to hear from people who were there firsthand and still strong and hopeful today."

One Milford Board of Education member, Michael DeGrego shared his experience to the students of Jonathan Law.

"As hard as it was for me to get up on [the] stage and pour my heart out to everyone there, I felt so honored and humbled at the same time," said

DeGrego. "This was the first time I publicly said anything about that day; I started to get choked up on stage, but felt propelled by the necessity in doing so."

DeGrego, like Foran Spanish teacher Mr. Troy, National Guard recruiter SSG Daniel Rodriguez, and others have spent their time to help out after the attacks and to defend the United States of America through their service in the military.

"The students were great, very supportive, and seemed genuinely interested and intrigued by the information we provided," said Troy. "I thought it was top notch and better than some events and ceremonies I've done in the military."

The day did not end there for the Jonathan Law community. The students also partook in a community service fair which hosted many different organizations such as Red Cross, YMCA, and other youth programs.

Students went around to all of the stands after a short presentation about community service and the response from the community after 9/11. They received the chance to sign up to work with the different organizations for events in and around their school.

During the community service fair, students also signed



Top: Students partake in a moment of silence during opening ceremonies at Law's 9/11 Day event.

(photo courtesy Kathy Bonetti)

Top Left: The Jonathan Law choir performs "God Bless America" during opening ceremonies.

(photo courtesy Kathy Bonetti)

Bottom Left: A group of Law students listen to military officers' presentations in the new gym.

(photo courtesy Mr. Kulenych)

Right: Presenter Mike DeGrego retells his experiences during 9/11.

(photo courtesy Nancy Brown)

a banner to commemorate 9/11. They finished off the activities at the fair by creating links about what they, as a school and local community, could do to further enhance and broaden community service opportunities.

Event organizers said that the event was truly extraordinary for the Jonathan Law community.

It showed how children and teens, while being very young during the time of the tragic event, can still rally together to make a difference in the community years after.

There was such a great outcome in the crowds and the overall student participation exemplified how the school has fantastic morale.

"With the crowd, dignitaries, and students in the football stands, it was truly a remarkable event," said Law principal **Fran Thompson**. "We showed how Jonathan Law is a community school, and we pride ourselves on all of the participation, especially

with the significance of the event."

Since the school's 9/11 day became the city wide commemoration, the school staff had to work with Mayor Blake and City Hall's offices.

There was also coverage from local news stations and newspapers, so much so, that Rowley has visions to take the event up to the next level.

"Most people don't know but September 11 has been deemed by Congress as a "National Day of Service and Remembrance," said Rowley. "My hope is that we can have a time of remembrance as a school body and then devote the day to community service; there is so much that can be done right here in Milford."

Jonathan Law, especially Rowley, has high hopes for leading the city's commemoration every year. Due to the amazing experience the community received that day, Rowley believes that there will be even more momentum in the next school year.

Milford Introduces New Elective Courses

Ryan Axtell
Staff Reporter
@ryanaxtelll

Jonathan Law students have several new course options for the 2013-2014 school year.

Dramatic Experience, App Design, AP Psychology, and Advanced Mathematical Decision Making, are all part of a set of new and exciting choices students have for the current school year and hopefully for future years to come.

Overall, student and teacher reception of these classes has been phenomenal.

“So far, we’ve learned about stage directions, acting, and costumes,” said senior and dramatic experience student **Matthew Cadrin**. “As the year goes on, **Ms. Goldbeck** will teach us much more.

Cadrin’s positive comments can apply to other new classes as well. App Design student **Gabe Salles** enjoys the new tech course.

“We’re learning how to make simple apps through certain sites, as well as learning how to do binary



*Seniors Mariah Hanania and Aashu Patel work on their AP Psychology assignments.
(photo by Ryan Axtell)*

code,” Salles said in regards to what his class is currently learning. “Eventually we’ll be making fully operable apps that are interactive, colorful, and compatible with Android phones.”

Another new highly anticipated class introduced this year is AP Psychology, a class where students get an in-depth look at the functions of the brain and why people act the way they do.

The history class is being taught by **Mr. Young** and **Ms. Burns**.

“My classes this year will be doing plenty of experiments. Soon we will be performing “brain surgery” on an orange

to show how different parts of the brain each impact our behavior, and how damaging certain parts can severely alter our behavior” said Mr. Young. “I really like teaching the class because the topic is interesting and the students are engaged.”

It’s not only the teachers who have a positive opinion on the new psychology course. The students themselves also really enjoy the class.

“It’s really awesome that Law now offers a class like this because it’s so interesting to learn things about my everyday life that I never would have noticed otherwise,” said senior **Meaghan Sollitto**.

There is also a brand new math class being offered at Law. Advanced Mathematical Decision Making gives students real life situations to work and solve problems with: something that may come in handy later in life.

“Right now, we are learning all about different real life situations, like how many people can fit in a certain area,” said senior **Ben Buczek**. “It’s much different from other math classes.”

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Mr. Ragaini, the new Dean of Students, sits in his new office.
(photo by Hayley Sanchez)

Ragaini Becomes Dean Of Students

Hayley Sanchez
News Editor

Jonathan Law High School has hired a new Dean of Students this year - and it's a familiar face.

Former math teacher **Mr. Ragaini** takes over the dean job this year, replacing Mrs. Fortney.

"My responsibilities as dean are different," Ragaini said. "One of my major responsibilities is to create and maintain a safe school climate, free of bullying, harassment, and discrimination."

Many students believe that he will do a good job at his job and treat them like adults.

"He actually respects us like adults and not as kids," senior **Kim Donato** said. "He will be strict enough not to the point where everybody hates him."

Ragaini seems eager to being an administrator for the Law community. He feels that he can accomplish a lot while in this position.

"I want to do whatever I can for Law to make it a better school than it already is," Ragaini said.

Ragaini was one of 37 applicants that applied for the position. Out of the 37 applicants, the list was narrowed to 13.

A committee made up of faculty interviewed 10 of those applicants.

Ragaini was then put through series of interviews and then met with the superintendent. He was offered the job in June.

"I think he'll do great and he will work with the kids," Law principal **Mr. Thompson** said. "He will reach out to all the kids and he's such a good role model."

*"I think he'll do great and he will work with the kids. He will reach out to all the kids and he's such a good role model."
- Law principal Mr. Thompson*

Ragaini taught math for 15 years. That experience at Law, he said, will help him with his new job.

"I think he will do a good job because he was a fair teacher so he will be a fair dean and treat the students equally," junior **Morgan Eldering** said.

As the new dean, Ragaini is in charge of making sure that all the students are following the dress code and are not making bad decisions. He will also deal with all bullying issues.

"He will bring kids in who would be a problem," Thompson said. "His knowledge and having connections with the students will foster a great connection."

The students seem that they will appreciate Ragaini as the dean of students.

"He was one of my favorite teachers," sophomore **Amita Sastry** said. "I'm just sad that he isn't teaching anymore."

Ragaini does have responsibilities from Thompson. He certainly does understand that he is dealing with students.

"Have always considered myself a leader," Ragaini said. "As a teacher, as a coach, or even as a parent."

Choir Rings In New Year

Hayley Sanchez
News Editor

The Jonathan Law High School choir is looking forward to a great year.

There are several new ensembles offered for choir this school year: freshman choir, concert choir, and advanced ensemble.

"I'm excited about the sound we have and the voices that have developed," choir teacher **Mrs. Rizzotti** said. "Based on the growth, our concerts will be much more in depth because of the number of ensembles and voices."

This year, the choir sang at the 9/11 memorial service that the Law hosted.

The different ensembles will be working hard to develop their voices and make them stronger.

"We are trying to get better with our sounds," senior **Victoria Toth** said. "Personally I'm going to work on my music technique."

The choir will be doing many different concerts throughout the school year. They are also working on site singing. On site singing is singing without preparation.

This year, the choir has grown in size with 36 students in the different ensembles.

The choir is hoping that



The Law choir does its warm-up at the beginning of class.
(photo by Hayley Sanchez)

they can develop a stronger voice.

"As a group I'm looking forward to hearing the new talent and hopefully expanding on that talent for future years to come," senior **Jesiree Carrera** said.

Rizzotti seems excited and ready to do a lot with the students. She feels that they will do really well with their voices. Choir members said that Rizzotti has a great sense of what she wants her students to do. She understands what the students want to succeed and wants to help them.

The advanced choir is a class that select students are in and learn advanced music. The concert choir that is for anyone that would like to do choir and is not in the advanced choir.

"I'm very excited for this year and working with all the new members," junior **Olivia Wright** said.

The students seem very excited for this year and are very comfortable with Rizzotti.

The students can't wait for the concerts and to show everyone what hard work they put in.

"We would like to have a big turnout at our concerts this year because we have a lot to share," Rizzotti said.

The choir students are determined to produce the best sound that they can and to try hard at new songs.

"I like to develop a stronger trained voice and becoming more confident singing in front of people," sophomore **Mikala Fama** said.

Students, Faculty Adjust To New Hybrid Block Schedule

Christina Macaluso
News Editor

A new school year means new changes for Jonathan Law.

One of the biggest changes was the new and improved schedule.

The schedule was planned and put together by a group of teachers last year. They spent the end of the 2012-2013 school year discussing ideas and planning the most efficient way to introduce and use the schedule.

"I was eager to be on the committee because a group was formed in the 1980s to find an alternative schedule," English teacher **Mrs. Reshenk** said. "After two years of piloting programs, the committee was disbanded."

The new schedule added a period to the day, so that students could take up to eight classes instead of last year's seven. Along with the added period, another letter day was added, making the days A-F.

The lengths of the classes were made longer so that on letter days A-D, periods would be 56 minutes long, with a rotating schedule of six periods a day.

The lunch period on the first four letter days was

extended to 92 minutes. Letter days E and F consist of four class periods of 78 minutes each. The lunch period on these days was extended to 114 minutes.

"The new schedule is not really a block schedule, rather, it's a hybrid-schedule," principal **Mr. Thompson** said. "It offers more classes to students and it creates a deeper learning environment."

For students, and more so teachers, the schedule can be difficult to adjust to simply because the order of periods is not the same each day.

"It's extremely difficult to get organized, especially for the 'cart teachers' but if it benefits the students I am all for it," health teacher **Mr. Sweeney** said.

"However I am reserving my judgment until we get a year under our belts."

With the rotating schedule, students (and teachers) don't see all their classes every day. This gives the students a break, especially in regards to homework.

"It's good because since we don't have the same classes every day we get a break from teachers and homework," senior **Brittany Scott** said.

"But a downside to it is that it's a little more work to memorize."

The added period also helps students because they can fit in a study or they can take advantage in another way and add a class or elective to get more credits.

"I thought I would not like the schedule at all because I figured it would make my senior year more complicated and that it would be impossible to understand," Scott said. "Now I realized it isn't hard to understand and the day seems to go by faster."

Overall, students seem to be adjusting well to the schedule and the way that classes are now run.

"I think that the schedule is a great idea because it gives the students an opportunity to take more classes," junior **Hayley Sanchez** said.

Other than minor complaints students along with staff seem to be optimistic about how the year will turn out due to the schedule.

"Since it's so new, we are still evaluating the schedule," Thompson said. "So far the feedback from the students, teachers, and staff has been very positive."

TV Production Program Adds New Classes

Laura Gonzalez
Staff Reporter

There are three TV production classes at Jonathan Law this year: Video Production, Television Production, and Broadcast Journalism.

As of now, because of the new schedule, the production classes have a variety of students from different grades, but as of next year, the classes will go by levels: Video Production for sophomores, TV Production juniors, and Broadcast Journalism for seniors.

"The new set-up for the TV program is great," Broadcast Journalism teacher **Mr. Kulenych** said. "The earlier kids get involved with video and learn how to use the equipment and the editing software, the more they learn as they move up the ladder"

Along with the new levels of Broadcast, this year, there are new teachers and new projects.

Ms. Martinich is the new TV Production teacher. Her class will produce projects such as game shows, 'mockumentaries' of movies,



Mr. Ragaini appears as a guest on Eagle Eye News. (photo by Meaghan Solitto)

TV shows, and more.

At the moment, the TV Production classes are working on a project called "Roar." They will be competing with schools from all over the country, and if they win, Katy Perry could perform at Jonathan Law.

"There are some very talented students (in TV)," said Martinich.

The TV Production classes have acquired new microphones and handi-cams to improve the quality of their videos, which eventually will air on the Eagle Eye News at

least once a week.

Mr. Barcello, the new Video Production teacher, is currently working on a video scavenger hunt, where students have to go around the school getting shots from different views.

Video Production will soon be working on public service announcements, a commercial on a local business, and a music video.

"It's a pretty creative group," said Barcello.

Their videos will also be played on Eagle Eye News for

everyone to enjoy.

"It takes some getting used to because of all the new equipment, but after a while you get used to it," Video Production student and sophomore **Nicholas Ferrara**, said

Finally, Kulenych's classes are working on producing and reformatting Eagle Eye News.

This year, Broadcast Journalism is going to be true to its name and become a visual version of *The Advocate*.

"The goal of the class is to make *The Advocate* TV

version, so once issues of The Advocate start coming out Eagle Eye News reporters will be sent to cover those same stories, so the kids can get a print version of that story as well as a video version," Kulenych said.

The reporters for Eagle Eye News have already started working on covering stories all over the school. They have also made a promotional video for Law's Open House and a video commemorating the 9/11 Day ceremonies held at Law.

"I am definitely excited for all the interviews we are going to be doing this year," said senior **Jacob Williamson**.

The Broadcast Journalism class acquired a variety of new audio and video equipment this year, but the most prominent is the new background for the Eagle Eye News set.

This month the Broadcast Journalism classes also put together two PSAs about bullying as part of Bullying Prevention Month. The PSAs were shown on Eagle Eye News, and are available, as are the daily episodes of the show, on dailymotion.com/eagleeyenews.

Sign Language Club Raises Awareness

Ismar Junuzovic
Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law Sign Language Club is back for a new year with hopes of raising awareness for the deaf.

The club originated in 2005 when two senior students had requested that some form of sign language be taught because many people have hearing impaired family members or friends. Since then, the club has grown in popularity each year.

This year, there are many new members who have never learned sign language before but were still willing to join.

"I chose to join the club because my mother and sister are fluent in sign language," said senior **Hayley Sanchez**. "I wouldn't want to be left out."

The club is very welcoming and can be fun for any students willing to try. Members will be able to communicate after just a few meetings.

"I was able to do the alphabet and communicate after the first meeting," junior member **Niki Patel** said.

The club has been run by **Ms. Reeves** for five years and she is excited for a new year.

"We plan on many new activities for the club this year, we will focus on real life uses

"I was able to do the alphabet and communicate after the first meeting."
- Law junior
Niki Patel

of the language," Reeves said, "These include interpreting, or performing at events such as Open Houses."

Many students have different purposes for joining the club.

President **Carol Phillips** said, "I worked at a camp as a freshman and I was so intrigued by the language that I wanted to learn more about it."

This year, there are six new members applying to join the club. When members aren't in meetings, they can be found around Jonathan Law communicating through their own means of talking.

The Sign Language Club meets every week in the College and Career room.

"I have a blast going to some of the meetings," said iunior **Ashley Irvine** "I feel like I am learning something useful that I can use and I enjoy learning it with my friends."

Law's Friends Forever Club Back For Another Year

Carol Phillips
Staff Reporter

Law's Friends Forever Club is back and ready to make more memories this school year.

Old and new members will meet this month for a bunch of fun activities, including decorating cupcakes.

The group of students, including post-graduates, students from the Academy, and students from Jonathan Law, meet once a month in the senior café to get together and spend time with each other.

At the meetings, there are fun activities to do, including arts and crafts and playing games.

"I like the games," senior **Ryan Riordan** said.

The members of the club also like to have fun after school. The first meeting is the club's Halloween party, where the members get to dress up in costumes and play Halloween-related games.

"I was a banana last year, it was fun," sophomore **Luigi DeCastro** said.

Every meeting consists of some game or event, from coloring pictures to playing musical chairs.

"Drawing pictures with my new friends is fun," DeCastro said.

The Friends Forever Club



The Friends Forever Club meets once a month at Law. (photo by Carol Phillips)

also goes on outings in the community for nights of fun.

"I like going out on trips, like to the movies," post-graduate **Kristin Connolly** said.

The most popular outing that all the club members enjoy is going to the movies. Other members just like being able to travel to Law just to see their friends.

"I like getting my friends' phone numbers, too," DeCastro said.

The advisor of the club, **Mrs. McNulty**, is looking forward to the year ahead. McNulty and Friends Forever president **Ava Favazza** have been planning some special events for the club, including going to the SportsCenter of Shelton.

"We really want the bond and the friendships to

continue," McNulty said.

The club is also looking into going out into the community and volunteering. McNulty says that it might be fun for everyone to go caroling sometime in the winter, too.

"I really want to have events for the members to go to," Favazza said. "This club is really fun."

Whenever the club gets together, everyone has fun. Members love meeting new friends and teachers that like to have fun as much as they do.

"What I like the most is being able to talk to people I usually don't," junior **Jamie Georgelos** said.

The members of the club enjoy themselves greatly when each meeting comes along.

"Keeping friends that go on forever is what this club is all about," McNulty said.



Senior Christina Mazzeo volunteers at Oktoberfest.
(photo courtesy Darby Hudd)

Interact Club Starts Off New School Year

Darby Hudd
Staff reporter

Jonathan Law's Interact Club has a busy year ahead of them.

Starting off their year with the Oktoberfest on September 28, Interact Club is sponsored by the Devon Rotary, volunteering at most of their events. They also host their own activities like the pumpkin carving contest at Law.

"I'm looking forward to all our new members and volunteering for our city and school," advisor **Mrs. Lindsay** said.

Lindsay said that some more events that are coming up are the Beardsley Zoo Howl-O-Ween Trail during the month of October and The Wizards Basketball Game on November 2.

"I'm really looking forward to the Howl-O-Ween spooktacular and getting to dress up and help run the spook trail for young kids," Interact Club President **Casey Bostic** said.

This is Bostic's third year in the Interact Club. Through Interact she has branched off into different service programs such as, Next Generation and RYLA, which are both leadership programs sponsored by the Devon Rotary.

"What I like most about Interact is seeing the looks on people's faces after Interact helps them with their cause," Bostic said. "It's amazing to see how much of a difference a couple of hours out of our day, even when doing something simple like planting trees, can

make to other people."

Bostic said that if it hadn't been for interact and all the opportunities and friends it provided her with, she wouldn't be where she is today.

Along with Bostic, senior **Jessica Whiteny** is vice president, senior **Danielle Biondino** is treasurer and junior **Kelsey Kopazna** is secretary.

"I wanted to run for office for the club, because last year it was really disorganized and I wanted to actively participate more," Kopazna said.

To graduate with distinction you need at least 200 hours. Kopazna said that she has over 300 hours and is working towards graduating with up to 400.

This year interact is creating more of their own events too. Like a holiday party for elementary school kids and the senior prom at Carriage Green Senior Center. They also are selling glow sticks at home football games.

"Last year we did the senior prom and it was amazing seeing all of the old people's faces light up as we danced with them," junior **Mathilda Hill** said.

Interact meets every Wednesday after school in the college and career room. They talk about upcoming events and new events they are eligible to sign up and volunteer at.

"I'm really looking forward to this year in Interact and especially because we're getting our own t-shirts for the club," junior **Emily Laluna** said.

Law Key Club Provides Volunteer Experiences

Michaela Pounds
Staff Reporter

Key Club is starting off the school year with many volunteering opportunities, and new members are encouraged to join.

Key Club dues cost \$15, and meetings mostly take place on Wednesdays at 6:30.

"I suggest that you join Key Club because it is a good way to make new friends and get community service hours," Key Club president **Jacque Jalaf** said.

The Law Key Club now has an Instagram and a Twitter page. People can follow the club on these sites for updates on what they are doing.

Law paraprofessional **Mr. Boynton** is the advisor of the club.

"I have been the advisor of Key Club for over 20 years now," Boynton said. "I get pleasure helping people and helping students get involved in school and community projects."

Key Club has many activities that they volunteer at year-round. One big event was the St. Mary's Carnival, which took place in September, and another is Pumpkins on the Pier, which will be held in late October.

During the holiday season, the Key Club hosts a holiday food drive. The holiday food drive is an event that helps to feed 12-15 Jonathan Law families. This is an important event that the Key Club takes part in because it helps families that members know personally.

One of the reasons that many students join Key Club



Key Club members volunteer at an event last month.
(photo by Michaela Pounds)

is to build their resumes for college.

"Colleges like a well-rounded student who has good grades, is involved in school, and is involved in the community," Boynton said. "Being in Key Club includes all three."

The Key Club attends a convention in Springfield, Massachusetts, each spring.

At last year's convention, members attended meetings on how to be a good Key Clubber, and officers attended separated meetings.

Dances and fun events were also held at convention. Key Club also received several awards at convention last year.

"Convention was a lot of fun and inspiring," bulletin editor **Carol Phillips** said.

Law's Key Club members go out of their way to be friends

with one another. The Key Club had a summer bonfire to get all of the members and friends together before the school year started.

"I think Key Club is great" junior member **Ismar Junuzovic** said. "I like everybody in the club; it's almost like a family. Everybody is responsible and it's a lot of fun, everyone gets along."

Boynton is always around to sign community service hour sheets, so students can track their hours.

Community service hour sheets can be picked up in the guidance office, and dropped off there once they are filled out.

"I'm looking forward to the new year and being able to volunteer with the new members," Phillips said.



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Fear Apparent Amazes With Latest Release

Matthew Tighe
Staff Reporter

Law's very own progressive metal band, Fear Apparent, plans to shock the Connecticut metal scene with their upcoming release.

The long-haired progressive rockers, with influences of thrash and power metal, plan to release their second EP this year by the end of 2013. The EP, containing a 20-minute epic, will demonstrate Fear Apparent's true artistic abilities with changing time signatures, shredding guitar, and a whole lot of double bass.

"We've been going strong," Law senior and guitarist **Keith Benway** said. "We could not be happier with what we've been writing."

The band is truly 'going strong' after years of practice, a name change, and several changes in the band's members.

"They have improved vastly from their humble beginnings," senior **Erik Chiarelli** said.

The band's most recent addition was senior and bassist **Walter Kiernan**.

"Walter is really fitting in,"



Law band Fear Apparent recently released their second EP. (photo courtesy Matt Tighe)

Law junior and drummer **Jesse Randolph** said. "He's writing new bass parts, and is really blowing our minds."

Kiernan was put into the band, after their former bassist decided to quit, following the release of their first EP.

"It's a very complex experience as a musician because our music is so

different and unique," Kiernan said.

The band released their first EP in July; it featured four tracks and 35 minutes of pure metal. The EP received a very positive response, and even received much attention outside of the country.

The first EP was recorded by Ear One Productions, who

travel to Randolph's basement to tediously record their songs in hour long sessions. Their affiliation with Ear One Productions will continue onto recording their new tracks in the near future.

"It was fun to record, and made waves in other countries, like Brazil," Randolph said.

The band's Facebook and

Bandcamp pages have shown a very positive response from places around the country, as well as in Brazil.

The band is determined to make their new releases even more dynamic than their last, hoping to gain even more publicity from other countries and fans alike.

"I can't wait for their new album," senior **Michael Vaccaro** said. "I just can't wait to see what the boys do next."

The band plays many local Connecticut venues, such as Cherry Street Station, Toad's Place, Dewey's Pub, and the Webster Theatre. They plan to play many more local shows in the future and keep releasing their music for all to enjoy.

Fear Apparent's dream is to get signed to a large record label and to someday play at Madison Square Garden. Benway also plans to take his musical talent outside of his band, and study audio engineering in college next year.

"I think that they can become big," Law senior **Justin Whitham** said. "Not only are they very talented, but they have great hair too."



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The Law football team is wearing heart stickers to remember Law graduate Morissa Barrette. (photo courtesy Kayla Patrick)

Law Remembers Morissa Barrette

Kayla Patrick
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Law will never forget Morissa Barrette.

Law shows their respect for former student Morissa Barrette throughout their student body this year. The Law cheerleaders will be selling t-shirts in honor of Morissa.

Law's ways of remembering Morissa start on the football field. Every cheerleader and football player will be wearing stickers on their helmets and milk crates they use every game in Morissa's memory.

"The significance of the sticker design includes a zebra heart because she loved zebra," junior cheerleading captain **Darby Hudd** said. "And the shirts will also say, 'Forever in our Hearts.'"

Morissa was a member of the Class of 2010 who passed away earlier this year. She was such a large part of the school, and gave so much time, effort, and love to the Law cheerleading community.

Morissa was a cheerleading captain throughout her high school career, and for the past two years, she was a role model and sister to the Law cheerleading team as an assistant coach.

Hudd said that the money raised from the fundraiser will go to the Morissa Barrette Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be given to the cheerleading team to help out with expenses throughout the season.

There was a moment of silence at the first home football game in honor of Morissa. Banners and signs made have also been hung along the fences of the football field.

"I think this fundraiser is absolutely amazing," captain of Law football team **Tim Maher** said. "It is for such a great cause and deserves so much support."

Maher wants the entire school to support the fundraiser because Morissa a student from Law. Morissa was part of Law's family and Milford's community.

"As a football player, the cheerleaders are like our sisters so we support the cause 100% and want to give back in memory of Morissa," Maher said.

Maher said that many underclassmen, who didn't know Morissa, didn't really understand at first why the team had received the stickers for their helmets.

But after telling them about Morissa, the freshman players were extremely supportive of the idea and glad to be a part of the cause.

Her former cheerleading teammates are honored to do their part in remembering Morissa.

"I'm happy that we're doing something in memory of her so we keep her memory alive within the team, school, and town," senior cheerleading captain **Christina Mazzeo** said.

Emma Grace
Staff Reporter

The Class of 2017 is adjusting well to Jonathan Law High School.

On the whole, this year's freshmen are enjoying the move up from middle school. They are adjusting to the new schedule, new courses, and new teachers.

"It's pretty confusing but I'm getting used to it and adjusting," freshman **Logan Henricksen** said.

Many of Law's teachers and administrators said that they have noticed that the freshmen are adjusting quite well to the new schedule.

"They seem like a really nice group ready for high school," Law principal **Mr. Thompson** said.

Teachers are helping get the freshmen ready for the high school experience.

"We are teaching the students about responsibilities and expectations they will face the next four years," English teacher **Mrs. Lucia** said.

High school has been a big change for the freshman, but they seem to welcome the new rules and freedoms that high school allows them.

"There is a lot of freedom

Unified Sports Team Kicks Off Busy Fall Schedule

Josh Weizel
Staff Reporter

Law's Unified Sports Team is already busy practicing for its first soccer tournament.

Unified Sports practices are held in the old gym on Mondays and Thursdays from 2-3 p.m. The team is open to kids of all abilities and skill levels.

"It is a fun way to help people," said senior **Matthew Capobianco**.

Presently, there are 19 students in Unified Sports. The team is looking for more partners to assist the athletes with their sports.

"It helps you become a better person," senior **April Allen** said. "It's a form of entertainment."

The Unified Sports Teams' first soccer tournament is at Amity High School in Woodbridge, CT, on October 16.

It will take a lot of preparation and practice to prepare for the tournament.

The team practices basketball shooting and dribbling and they also have scrimmages.

"It's pretty confusing but I'm getting used to it and adjusting."
- Law freshman **Logan Henricksen**

at Law and Law has great teachers," freshman **Matt Grace** said.

Although freshman year is going well, it is sometimes a huge challenge for the freshmen.

"Finding my way around school has been a big challenge for me," Grace said.

Grace is not alone.

"What has been most challenging is paying attention in class," freshman **Kevin Gonzales** said.

Thompson said that he has tried to help this year's freshmen by hosting seminars during the first three days of school.

"We started off by having the first three days of school meeting with the freshman and workshops," Thompson said.

Many of the freshmen have discovered their favorite

classes in no time, though.

"I really like History and Biology," freshman **Emily Broderick** said.

Already a month in, many of the members of the Class of 2017 have some goals set for the year ahead.

"I would like to try and get better grades and keep up with all my work," Broderick said.

Thompson has high hopes for the freshman this upcoming year.

"I think the freshman will have the chance to do anything if the work hard," Thompson said.

Although there may be some obstacles, they seem to be adjusting just fine.

"The work is easy because I finish it right when I get it," Gonzales said.

Thompson said that he has set some long-term goals for this year's freshmen.

"I would like to get students thinking more independently," Thompson said. "I am looking forward to everybody doing their best to stay safe."

Grace is one of many freshmen with high hopes for his first year at Law.

"I would like to get high honors and excel in sports," Grace said.

The Unified Sports team also has a softball clinic with softball coach **Ms. Paolini** where they practice skills. They then go in two to teams to play a game of softball.

"The best thing about working with these students is watching them as one team," said **Mrs. O'Connell**, a paraprofessional at Law who has been helping with Unified Sports for six years.

"I've learned that each person is an individual and how well each person treats one another."

When asked if the team gets enough attention, O'Connell emphasized that she would like more kids in the school to support Unified Sports.

"It would be nice to have more fans come out and support them," O'Connell said.

Post-graduate Michaela Baldwin, a Unified Sports athlete for the past six years who won't be able to participate next year due to her age, emphasized that she will miss participating in the team.

"I'm sad I won't see my friends," Baldwin said. "I will miss coming here next year"

Students Take On STEM Challenge

Hope Cupole
Staff Reporter

Multiple Jonathan Law High School students recently formed a Sikorsky STEM Challenge Team which will work towards researching and re-designing a F4U-4 Corsair fighter plane.

In the Sikorsky STEM Challenge, various high school teams compete to solve a design challenge related to the restoration of the F4U-4 Corsair aircraft. Its purpose is to challenge the minds of high school students in regards to their Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math skills (STEM).

Senior **Brandon D'Agostino** said that he is excited for the team to start competing.

"Every member of the team really offers new skills that work in tandem with the group effort," D'Agostino said. "I think we have a chance of winning. We have a diverse group of people that are all motivated to win."

A qualified engineer from Sikorsky will be visiting Law within two weeks to help Law's upcoming engineers with this project.

The students that make up the Sikorsky STEM Challenge Team are: **Ryan Siddall, Chris Mercaldo, James Mercaldo, Nick Nunno, D'Agostino, Krishnan Kumar, Hope Cupole, Esha Deshmukh, Trish Brady, Jason Savisky, Mark Bluemer, Giovanni Sciarappa, John Lawless, Dhruvit Patel, Nabeel Sherazi, Pierce Holveck, and Rasheeda Samih.**

"All of us are working together really well and helping each other out in any way we can," Senior Esha Deshmukh said.

On Friday, September 27, the Law STEM Challenge Team traveled to Chester to attend the "kick off" event. At this event the team won first place on their research paper and participated in a trivia and engineering challenge. They learned some terminology and saw the competition they were up against as well.

"I was impressed to see that they were able to come

"Every member of the team really offers new skills that work in tandem with the group effort.

I think we have a chance of winning.

We have a diverse group of people that are all motivated."

*- Law senior
Brandon D'Agostino*

together and collaborate in such a short period of time to write a first place report," Lawless said.

The Law STEM Team is now working on the second task, which is to theoretically plan a schoolwide event. This second task will determine if they keep their first place position in this challenge. The project is due at the end of October.

"We saw approximately 10 schools there, but given our performance on the previous portion of the competition, as long as we keep our writing quality up we should be fine and avoid any challenge from the other schools," Samih said.

After planning the schoolwide event, the third task the team will complete is to reconstruct/ redesign a specific part of the F4U-4 Corsair fighter plane. The part is not yet revealed to the public. The Law Team has some assumptions on what the specific part might be but cannot disclose that information.

"I am really excited about this Challenge," STEM Challenge Team supervisor **Mr. Stanton** said. "It is the first year Law has ever done it and everyone is doing really well. It is a good opportunity for students to learn real world engineering and career possibilities in engineering. They work well as a team and that is what will carry us through this thing. We should do really well if the team continues to work the way we started out."

Milford's Relay For Life Benefits Cancer Research

Frank Musante
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Law High School hosted Milford's annual Relay For Life that took place on September 7.

Relay For Life is sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Law had many students and teachers participate in this year's relay. In total, 58 groups and 623 people participated in this year's event and over \$72,000 was raised.

"It was a fun night," junior **Emily LaLuna** said. "It gives you a good reason to stay up all night and sleep all day. It was for a great cause."

The Law girls soccer team had a tent that was run by **Cassie Wasson**, a senior who served as the team's Relay For Life captain. The Law volleyball team also had a tent that was led by senior **Becca Minahan**.

Many Law teachers were also there walking. **Mr. Rhode** and **Mrs. Rowley** walked with the students of Jonathan Law.

A teacher that this event meant a lot to was Law history teacher **Miss Mannion**.

"I went down to Relay for Life because I am a cancer survivor and I like to participate in Law activities



*The Law girls soccer team participated in Relay For Life.
(photo courtesy Frank Musante)*

and it sounded like a lot of fun," Mannion said.

This event meant a lot to survivors and those that are still fighting cancer.

"It was definitely uplifting and inspiring to see all those people there and it makes you feel good to go down and donate your time and your money," Mannion said.

"It's nice to see the kids from Law and Foran come together for this event and make a difference."

During the end of the night there was a touching ceremony that showed a PowerPoint and tells the stories of many people who suffer from cancer.

People were given a glow stick and when different family members like uncles, aunts, dads, moms, grandparents, siblings and friends were announced, people cracked

their glow sticks and they lit up to remember those affected by cancer.

"I think that every family has a tie to cancer. So I thought it was great and very inspiring and uplifting you leave their feeling good," Mannion said.

The girls' soccer team sold drinks, chips and other deserts and even braided hair for everyone.

"I think that it was a great experience," LaLuna said. "We came together as a team and as a team raised money and all left with a great experience."

As a group, all of these people, even though they were separated and on different teams, really came together and forgot about what school they go to, what town they live in, and what sport they play and raised money together to help out a truly great cause.

Multicultural Club Teaches Students Global Knowledge

Aaron Tejada
Staff Reporter

This club is the club for anyone.

The Multicultural Club meets every Monday after school in the College and Career Room. The first meeting was hosted on September 30.

Every week, there is a new activity, like games focusing on global knowledge, presentations about different countries, weekly current events about the world, and cultural parties and celebrations.

Guidance counselor **Mrs. Reeves** and school psychologist **Mrs. Meyer** advise this club.

"This club was created for everyone to feel welcome," Reeves said. "It encourages students to expand other students knowledge of different race."

Multicultural Club is available to students of any grade. This club encourages students to learn about other countries using fun activities and enables students to share different kinds of food and beverages from different

*"This club was created for everyone to feel welcome."
- Law Multicultural Club advisor
Mrs. Reeves*

nationalities.

"This club is where there's a lot fun and sharing. Everyone is welcome and we're happy to be part of this big family," Reeves said. "We'd like to revive our cultural banquet, encourage new members and have international food banquets."

The goal of the club is for all students to expand their knowledge about their ethnicity and to meet new people.

"I'm really excited to express my Filipino ethnicity with students of different race," senior **Lara DeCastro** said. "I'm also ecstatic to learn about other different cultures in comparison to mine."

The Multicultural Club also looks great on a college resume.

"I'm excited to learn about new cultures of other people and their custom," sophomore **Laura Gonzalez** said. "I would enjoy sharing about my culture because I'm very proud of my nationality."

Sophomore **Madisyn Rauscher** is a new member of this club who attended the first meeting.

"The first day was very informative," said Rauscher. "We are going to make power points of our countries that talk about different kinds of foods, how marriage works in different countries, art, other and discuss the differences. We also get to make food from different countries and I'm really excited about it because I love food."

Junior **Mikala Fama** is participating in her third year of Multicultural Club.

"The first day was great, everyone seemed really very nice," said Fama. "We plan to have a big dinner at the end of the school year, and hopefully go on a field trip to New York. I joined this club because I love learning about different cultures."

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Apple Releases All-New iOS7 Software

Ben Buczek

Entertainment Editor

@benbuczek

“The world’s most advanced mobile OS. In its most advanced form,” is what Apple is calling its new iPhone platform, iOS7.

The new software was released on September 18 and 18 percent of all iOS devices downloaded the update within the first 24 hours of its release. This beats its pervious software, iOS6, which was downloaded by 15 percent of users on its first day of release.

Apple released the first iPhone back in 2007. It revolutionized what phones can be, but also how it can improve everyone’s lives and how we live. Ever since then, there have been newer models and major improvements to the phone which ultimately led it to become the best-selling phone in the country.

The new iOS7 update gives the phone a totally new look that makes it completely different from the previous software’s that we are familiar with. The phone now has a look that we



iOS7's new look makes older Apple software prehistoric. (photo courtesy apple.com)

would see in many Android phones, probably to get Android users to convert to iOS. A new transitioning background and moving clouds for the weather app is a few of the new features that can be compared to Android features.

Some of the new features on the update include the new control center, Airdrop, and iTunes Radio. Airdrop lets

people easily share photos, videos, and any documents with any iPhone around them with Wi-Fi and bluetooth. This makes it easier and faster than using iMessage or email.

iTunes Radio is a new feature that competes with Pandora and Spotify for a streaming radio station. People can have all the stations they want and can personalize it the

way they like. Users can check their history to see what songs they have listened to and can add them to their wish list. Then the songs they like will always be there when they want to download them on iTunes. This feature is one of the best for the new software and it makes other online radio like Pandora seem adequate.

The control center can be

accessed by swiping the bottom of the screen. There, users can turn on or off Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, airplane mode, etc. Also, perople can adjust the brightness of the screen and control the music that is playing. An interesting aspect for the control center is a flashlight button. In the past, users would need to have an app to access this feature on their phone.

Some other nice features on the update are a moving background, filters for photos, and a smooth, colorful look in general.

It seems like not everyone is ready to update to the new OS, though. Some people seem to be hesitating if they want a complete new look for their phone after reading some bad reviews online. Some say that it drains the battery faster and others are simply worried because it’s just not the same.

In reality, this update is what the iPhone needed. The old look that it use to have seem dated and Apple needed to give it a makeover sooner or later.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Capital Cities’ Debut Album Tops Charts In First Week

Michael Vaccaro

Entertainment Editor

@mikevaccaro0

Two years ago, Ryan Merchant was just a mere jingle writer who put out a craigslist ad seeking out another person to write jingles with. From that, Merchant was contacted by Sebu Simonian and the two began writing songs together. On June 4, they made their debut album, “In A Tidal Wave Of Mystery,” under the name of Capital Cities and have topped the charts with their number one hit, “Safe and Sound”.

“In A Tidal Wave Of Mystery” is a magical synth-pop experience that mixes in sounds of 70s disco and 80s pop with a hint of modern funk. Capital Cities is a band for anyone who likes The Strokes, MGMT, or Foster The People because of their modern sounding synthetic sounds and poppy guitars. The synth-pop sound is very apparent on the first song of the album and the top charted hit, “Safe and Sound”. The song has a main synth lead that plays throughout the track and features a trumpet during the chorus. The song is about the human tendency to think in apocalyptic terms. This is especially apparent in the lyrics, “You could be my luck/ Even if the sky is falling down/ I know that we’ll be safe and sound.”

The other single from the



(photo courtesy idolater.com)

album is the song “Kangaroo Court.” The song starts off with an ascending/descending synth lead and the drums and other synth then gradually come in. The chorus is very catchy and easy to sing, so much that it will lead to someone singing them in the shower. “Shut up, shut up, shut up/Sit up, sit up, sit up/ It’s a kangaroo court/ A kangaroo court.”

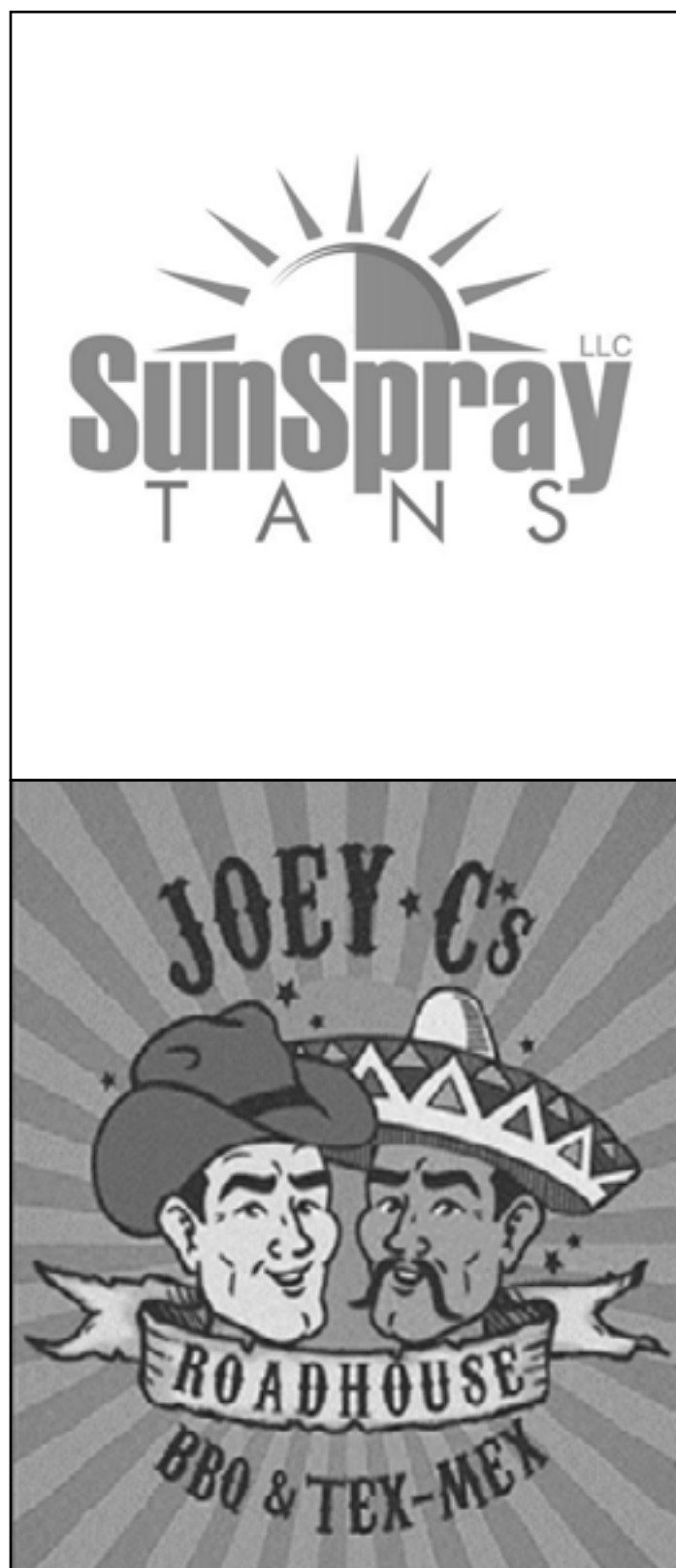
Other highlights from the album are the songs “Patience Gets Us Nowhere Fast” and “Origami.” “Patience Gets Us Nowhere Fast” is an upbeat pop song that sounds like an old MGMT song from their first album, “Oracular Spectacular”. “Origami” is a cheery and funky dance song. The vocals in the song use a vocoder to sing the word “origami” and because of that it makes the song reminiscent of a Daft Punk song. The song has a great slinking bass line and at one point the song gets really

slow and includes a trumpet that makes it sound like a 70s disco song.

While “In A Tidal Wave Of Mystery” is a great synth-pop album, it has some flaws. One of them is the song “Farrah Fawcett Hair.” The song features Andre 3000 who basically saves the song with his sweet rap flows. The song is too mashed up and confusing featuring many samples of people talking about random subjects that don’t actually pertain to the song. The song is also ruined by an annoying vocoder voice that says, “I like it when you play with my hair”.

“In A Tidal Wave Of Mystery” is a great album for anyone who likes old-school MGMT or The Strokes and for anyone who likes old school funk. Even though Capital Cities is an up and coming band, they sure proved that they are worth it with this album.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars





(photo courtesy nme.com)

New MGMT Album Not For Old Fans

Michael Vaccaro
Entertainment Editor
@mikevaccaro0

MGMT is a two-man band with Andrew VanWyngarden playing guitar and singing vocals and Ben Goldwasser playing drums. The two formed MGMT during their freshmen year at Wesleyan University. From that point they released two breakthrough hits, the songs "Kids" and "Electric Feel." After being in the sunlight of overplayed pop music they decided to start making psychedelic songs that have sound like they are from the 1960s.

MGMT's new album, "MGMT", is a psychedelic trip of songs that sound nothing like songs from their first two albums. The first song on the album is titled "Alien Days". The song is a slow psychedelic jam that sounds like a song from an old Pink Floyd album. MGMT's tendency to put in mysterious lyrics that seem to make no sense are very relevant on this song. They sing, "Be quick dear, times are uncertain/One month crawling, next year blurring/Decades in the drain/Monograms on the brain/ Decide what's working and what's moved on/To the last phase."

A few other good songs on the album are the songs "Cool Song No. 2" and "Mystery Disease." "Cool Song No. 2" is a trippy psychedelic rock song that sounds like something from an old Eastern movie. The song starts off with an electronic drum fill and the song then spreads out with a whipping guitar sound, a bell chime, and a churning piano riff.

"Mystery Disease" starts off with a buzzing noise that then escalates into the song. The song is based off of a synthesizer riff and a pounding drumbeat with a little flanger in the background. The chorus of the song features an out of tune synth piano that works well with the song because of its oddity. A highlight of the album is the song "Introspection." The song is a cover of an old

1960s song originally done by the artist, Faine Jade. The song works well with the album because introspection is about searching through the thoughts in your mind. It is a weird concept that works out well with the weird, psychedelic sounds of the album. The lyrics of the song also fit in well with the rest of the album. They sing, "Introspection, what am I really like inside?/ Introspection, why have all the prophets lied?/ There's a season when I will find out where I am/ And there's a reason, and I will someday find the plan."

Since "MGMT" is an experimental psychedelic album and is different from the bands old pop tunes, there are many disappointing songs on the album. "Your Life Is A Lie" uses the same lyrics and riff throughout the entire two minute song which makes it seem like it was just put on the album to be a filler song. "A Good Sadness" is just a bunch of random synth noise and unrecognizable lyrics while "I Love You Too, Death" is a jumble of random noises and has no song structure whatsoever.

While MGMT has made better albums and songs in the past, they are now trying to break out of their old songwriting shell and are experimenting with new sounds. "MGMT" is an experimental album for the band and listeners who liked their first album, "Oracular Spectacular," may not like it because there are no poppy songs on the album. However, fans of the bands second album, "Congratulations," may like the album because the psychedelic influences that were showcased on that album are now fully recognizable.

MGMT still has a long way to go if they want to produce better psychedelic sounding songs. "MGMT" is an experimental album and is a good experience for anyone who wants to take a break from overplayed pop songs that are heard on the radio.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

'AM' Shows New, Exciting Side For Arctic Monkeys

Ben Buczek
Entertainment Editor
@benbuczek

English indie rock band Arctic Monkeys set new standards for themselves and hit the charts hard on their latest album "AM".

The album was released in early September and reached number one on the UK charts in its first week.

This makes all five of their released albums hit number one on the charts in the UK in the bands history. This is an astonishing accomplishment for a band like Arctic Monkeys. Also, "AM" sold 42,000 copies in the United States in its first week out, the bands highest charting in the U.S. to date.

The band formed in 2002 in High Green, England. The band gained popularity on the internet when people posted their songs on sites like MySpace.

The band soon gained many more fans throughout England once BBC Radio found them online and liked what they heard. They are credited as to be being one of the first bands to gain major attention through the internet.

They released their first album in 2006, "Whatever People Say I Am, That's What I'm Not". This album became the fastest selling debut album in British music history and remains the fastest selling debut album by a band. Ever since then, all of the UK can't get enough Arctic Monkeys.

As for "AM", the indie band doesn't disappoint at all. In fact, the sound of the album can be quite shocking and mind blowing for past listeners of the band.

This can be easily argued as the best Arctic Monkeys album so far and possibly the best album of 2013.

This is the perfect example



(photo courtesy consequenceofsound.net)

of a band experimenting with a different sound, trying a new style out, but still keeping their original aspects that their fans expect to hear. Many bands have trouble doing that, but Arctic Monkeys couldn't do it any better.

An Arctic Monkeys fan would basically drop his jaw from the very first song "Do I Wanna Know?" on the list. The song shows how the vocals of the band evolved from screaming, rough heavy accents to smooth but strong vocals with incredible backup vocals that you fall in love with right from the beginning.

The backup singing could be one of the best parts on the album, which is something fairly new that you didn't hear a lot in previous albums.

Catchy guitar riffs are an Arctic Monkeys specialty that is at its best on songs like "Arabella" and one of the albums singles "R U Mine?" They have a sound that isn't rough like their old stuff, but almost hypnotizing that can get your heart pumping that makes someone want to punch something as smoothly as

possible, if that can even make sense.

The 12 song album is definitely enjoyable, but it seems like the last six songs on the album seem very "skip-worthy".

On songs like "Fireside" and "Knee Socks" the songs seem very bland and not enjoyable. You could easily fall asleep while listening without a problem. Though, "Why'd You Only Call Me When You're High?" and "I Wanna Be Yours" are songs that you do hear later on in the album, but aren't as boring as the other four. In fact, they are well written and are very chill jams.

Arctic Monkeys came through big time on this album, keeping it original and leaving their listeners on the edge of their seats. After listening to it, everyone should be excited what the band can produce in the future.

If they can pull off another "AM", then Arctic Monkeys will be easily known as one of the greatest bands that have come out since the beginning of the millennium.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

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What's In Your iPod?



(photo courtesy Meaghan Sollitto)

Freshman: Matt Zancewicz

1. Berzerk - Eminem
2. Jump Around - House Of Pain
3. Three Little Birds - Bob Marley
4. Irish Celebration - Macklemore
5. No Sleep 'Til Brooklyn - The Beastie Boys

Sophomore: David Patrick

1. Boys Round Here - Blake Shelton
2. Wagon Wheel - Darius Rucker
3. Get Your Shine On - Florida Georgia Line
4. On You - Luke Bryan



(photo courtesy Meaghan Sollitto)



(photo courtesy Meaghan Sollitto)

Juniors: Darby Hudd, Kayla Patrick

1. Don't You Worry Child - Swedish House Mafia
2. Don't Wake Me Up - Avicii
3. Roar - Katy Perry
4. Otherside - Jason Derulo
5. Applause - Lady Gaga

Senior: Colleen Bogucki

1. So Sick - Ne-Yo
2. Sail - Awolnation
3. Mexico - Fountains of Wayne
4. Little Boxes - Malvina Reynolds
5. G.N.O. - Miley Cyrus



(photo courtesy Meaghan Sollitto)

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Stop & Smell The Roses: Some Advice From A Senior...

Megan Fitzsimons
Staff Reporter
@meganfitzsimons

As usual, Law's freshmen are a little lost and confused at the beginning of the school year.

But it's not only them this year.

The new hybrid block schedule is still a little confusing for everyone, including teachers.

As a whole, students and faculty alike are having trouble adjusting to this year but it's getting easier by the day.

As things settle down and the year goes on, this column will offer some advice and helpful hints to all of Law's students. Here are some hints as the school year begins:

To the freshmen: keep in mind that this year does matter. Colleges will be paying attention to everything you do, so make them love you from the start.

Volunteering is the perfect activity to do starting your freshman year. At this point you're too young to get a job and you have a lot of free time. Even if you volunteer once a week all through high school you can graduate with distinction. A big plus for

*To the freshmen:
keep in mind that
this year does matter.
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from the start.*

getting into the college of your dreams.

A big part of your first year in a new school is finding yourself and making new friends.

Joining clubs or doing sports is an awesome way to get involved and find new people to hang out with. There are so many clubs here at Jonathan Law, something perfect for everyone. There's Key Club, Keyettes, and Interact Club which will help you get a start on volunteering.

If you enjoy giving others advice, Natural Helpers is the club for you. There are also so many sports you can do during any season.

One import thing to keep in mind is to be a leader. Just because your friends from middle school change and do their own thing doesn't mean

you have to join them. Don't be a follower.

One way to be an amazing leader is run for class office. It's an important role for your class, you decide things like when the dances are, what the theme will be, and ways to get your class together and do so many different things.

To the seniors: its time.

Applying for college can get extremely stressful and overwhelming, but always remember that guidance is there to help. Law is so lucky to have Mrs. Lindsay in the college and career room, she knows everything there is to know about the application process.

Senioritis hits hard after the first few months so I suggest starting the college application as early as possible. There are so many advantages to starting early anyways. Plus, you have a better chance of getting accepted since you're one of the first ones applying. And why not get it out of the way early so you can sit back and enjoy you senior year.

So, while you're figuring out who you are, applying for colleges, and just having fun on you're adventure through high school, don't forget to stop and smell the roses.

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What’s APPening?: 5 Apps To Download Now



Megan Fitzsimons
Staff Reporter
@meganfitzsimons
“What’s hAPPening?” is a monthly column that reviews the hottest, most popular, and newest apps that are out there for the iPod touch, iPhone, and iPad. Each month, it will have five different apps that have the highest ratings or have just recently been released.

Candy Crush Saga

Candy Crush is by far the best “saga” out right now. There are over 300 levels of this addictive and delicious puzzle adventure. Players can switch and match their way through the sweetest game ever. This game is completely free to play, but watch out. After every small group of levels you either need three Facebook friends to “send you levels” or you can pay \$0.99 to get to the next



group of levels. But, the addiction gets so bad you never want to wait for people to send you levels. That \$0.99 adds up fast. The worst part of this game is the lives. You get five lives to start and once you run out you have to wait 30 minutes to get each life back. If you’re lucky, your Facebook friends will send you some for free!

Clash of Clans

Clash of Clans is an epic combat strategy game. Train your troops, build your village, and battle with thousands of other players online! If you’re into raising armies of barbarians, war wizards, dragons and many other mythical fighters, then this is the game for you. Clash of Clans is an addictive mixture of strategic planning and competitive fast-paced combats. Join a Clan of players and



rise through the ranks, or, even better, create your own Clan and contest ownership of the realm. Lead your Clan to victory today! **Angry Birds Star Wars II** The force is strong with this one. Get ready. Tired of the boring birds and pigs? Why not get angry birds star wars addition? In this sci-fi sequel, Rovio Entertainment still finds ways to mix up the challenges including well-crafted diverse stages, better graphics, and new powers. Players can use the force for good against the greedy Pork Federation, or choose the dark path. That’s right, you can now “join the pork side” and play as the Darth Maul or the Pigs. The star wars addition has the biggest line-up of playable characters, 30+ to can choose



from. There are so many more additions in this game so why wouldn’t you pay the \$0.99 and try it out yourself. **Hay Day** Remember Farmville from Facebook? Well, now it’s available for your iPhone or iPad. Players will get back to the simple farming life, working on the land and rearing chickens, pigs, cows, and sheep. You can produce delicious food using natural ingredients from your very own farm, play and trade with your friends on Facebook and Game Center, and even raise and care for funny farm animals with quirky personalities! The game is completely free to play but like many other games some items can be purchased with real money. What’s more fun than



harvesting crops and building bakeries, sugar mills and dairies that turn your fresh produce into wholesome goods you can trade with friends at your very own farmers market. **Pet Rescue Saga** Bored of Candy Crush? Now it’s time to burst through matching blocks to save the pets from the evil snatchers! An abundance of tricky puzzling levels await your excitement! Pet Rescue is a fantastic world alive with animals and wonders. All of the eye-catching colorful game play will get you intrigued for the spectacular boosters and bonus rewards. There are diamonds, bombs, animal cages, locks and keys, and plenty more challenges for you to attend to. A free game with seamless synchronization with the Facebook version, you can’t go wrong with this game.

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Law Draws!
The Advocate’s Monthly Focus on Art Section
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Mathilda Hill

I'm A Freshman...Again?:

The Life Of A College Freshman From The Eyes Of A Law Graduate

Bryan Creevy

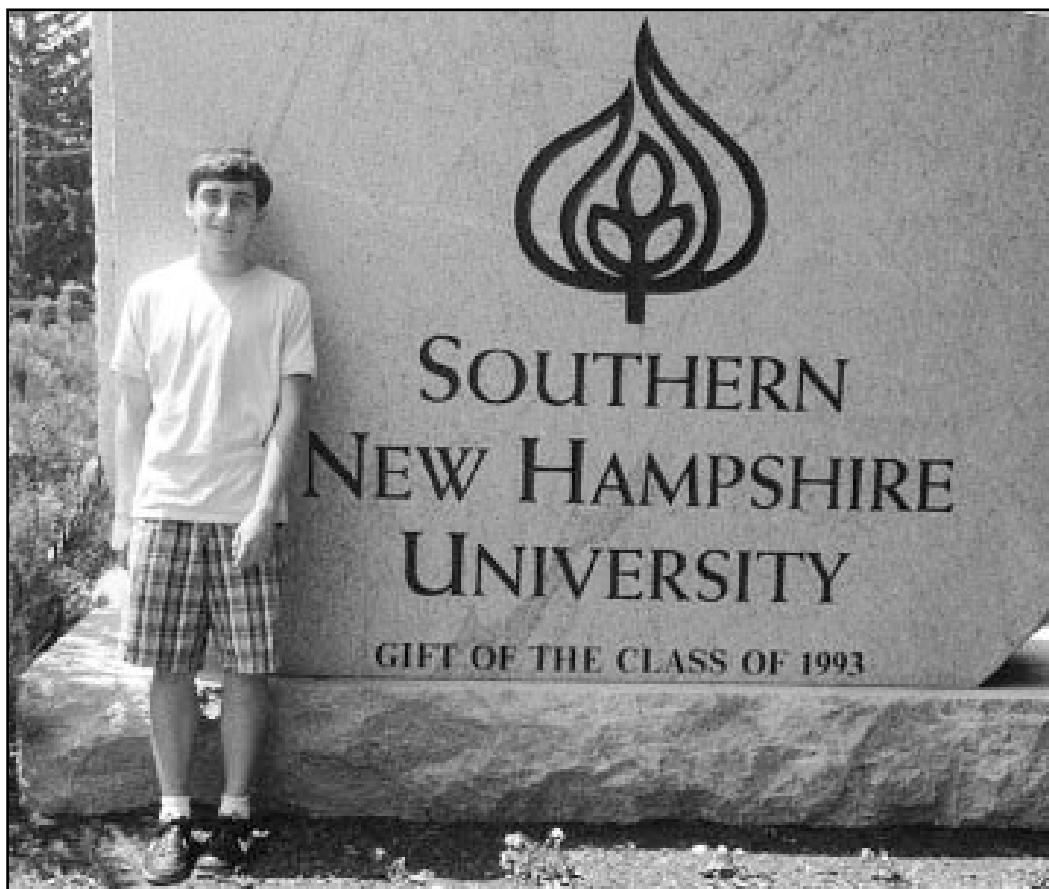
Alumni Columnist

In a college full of frats and sororities, insane homework, and somewhat decent meals, Bryan Creevy - that's me - and The Advocate will try to do the impossible: create a guide to help you survive college! This is Bryan Creevy's College Survival Guide. (Results may vary.)

I just couldn't stay away. That's right Law, I am back reporting straight from Southern New Hampshire University, and I am here to tell you about some of the Class of 2013's college experience along with some of mine. This year, I'll be informing you of my experiences and guiding you on how to prepare yourself for the college years ahead.

All throughout high school your teachers and parents try to prepare you for your transition into college. They tell you that it is nothing like high school: your classes will be more difficult, you'll be away from all of your friends, and you'll have to take on all new responsibilities; however, both your teachers and parents were most likely in college decades ago or didn't even go at all, so it's all speculation on how college life is now. As a Law graduate, I'm here to tell you how the change to college life really is.

Preparing for college and setting up your classes sounds tedious, but you really don't need anything different than what you survived with in high school. The basic school supplies, a TI-84 Graphing Calculator if you take math, and a laptop is pretty much all that's needed. When packing for your dorm, do not overpack. I packed too many things and my side of the room is jammed with items that weren't really



Law alumn Bryan Creevy standing in front of his school's rock. (photo courtesy Bryan Creevy)

needed.

"Preparing for college isn't as bad as it seems," Law alum Taylor Doran said. "Choosing the classes is the best part because you can choose what type of classes you want and what times you want to go in."

This is true. Classes where I go range from an 8 a.m. class to a 5 p.m. class, so you have the choice to either sleep in or wake up early.

The first day at college is all about ice breakers. The activities will most likely place you into large groups and make you do things that may seem stupid, but it truly does help. It's okay to be nervous about the whole situation, but remember that everyone is in your same position on that first day, and they're all looking to make new friends as well.

"I was so nervous to leave for college," said Law alum

Ryan Dennis, who is living at Worcester Polytechnic Institute, "But I shouldn't have been. The whole college thing causes so much stress for no reason."

People stress so much over getting into college and then they stress about how much harder it will be than high school when it's really just a change of pace. Each year in high school you have taken a higher level class than the previous year and taken it most days of the week. In college, you have it for usually only two days of the week, so you move quicker in class and are expected to do some of the studying on your own.

Don't be afraid about not being organized in all your classes. It does require organization on your part, but keeping track of separate things for each class isn't as

confusing as it sounds.

"Expect everything laid out in front of you on the first day (of classes)," said Law alum London Kopek, who now attends Southern Connecticut State University. "Every class syllabus I received had every scheduled thing for the whole semester."

Also, the people in your college aren't much like they were in high school. In high school, cliques are made and some people get shunned for being different than others. From what I've seen, this isn't the case in college.

"Be kind to everyone," said Valerie Hiller, a Law alum at Stetson University. "You never know who will become a life-long friend, meal buddy, etc."

One big part of the college experience is getting involved on campus whether you commute or live there. Find a

club for something you enjoy, and it'll definitely help you assimilate into the community and interact with other students.

"It's a great idea to get involved in clubs and activities on campus..." Matt Simmons, a Law alum at Western New England University, said. "... When you do this, you'll have such a great time that you'll feel less homesick. It's funny because I actually caught myself calling the campus home a few times."

Parties are a big concern for those high school students who plan to attend a university. All I can say is don't go to them or at least not during the week. It's okay to go out and have fun once in a while, but make sure it will not harm your grades or get you kicked out of the college. College is expensive, so don't ruin your privilege to attend one by making bad decisions.

College is different than high school, but it doesn't have to be as difficult as it seems. Sure, it is a higher level of education, but it's all about how you approach it and manage your time. Procrastination may have worked in high school, but it is not an ideal way of handling work up in college; you can easily get swamped with work when you put it aside because of how lost you will get in all the fun you will have.

The best piece of advice I can give you that would have helped is to not stress as much. People feel like college is way worse than it really is. Just prepare yourself for the different lifestyle by talking to other recent high school graduates about their experiences and figure out how they handled it. After all, they just experienced everything you will in the next year or so.



Volleyball Hopes To Continue Winning Ways

Mariah Root

Staff Reporter

@mariahrooot

Spiking and setting all the way to states seems to be the goal of the Jonathan Law volleyball team.

Their 6-5 record so far looks promising for the rest of the season.

With many key players this year, including seniors **Colleen Bogucki**, **Jenna Bernard** and **Brooke Bonetti**, the team is definitely led in the right direction.

“Our first 3-0 win against Trinity Catholic gave us the confidence we needed to win the next two games, East Haven and West Haven,” senior leader Bonetti said.

Following those games were a 2-3 loss to Guilford, 1-3 loss to Sheehan, and a 0-3 loss to Foran, but the team didn’t lose hope.

“We knew it would be a tough game, but that was the best I’ve seen some of our players play all season,” Bogucki said regarding their game against Foran. “Now we know what to expect next time we play them.”

The girls remained disciplined and determined as they won their next game against Daniel Hand 3-1.

As a vital member to



Seniors Jenna Bernard (left) and Colleen Bogucki (right) warm up before a match.
(photos courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC), the team plans to make the SCC tournament again this year, like they did last year with their 9-9 record.

“We hope to make states again this year,” junior **Kayla Patrick** said. “That’s our main

goal.”

Making it past the first round of states is another one of their goals. Losing in the first round last year motivates them to do so.

The support from peers has played a large role in their home games this year. The

student section at the games has been huge in comparison to past years.

“It feels great to have the support of friends in all grades at our games,” Bogucki said.

Sophomores **Molly Vargo** and **Kailee Frank** have been proving their starting positions

“I’m really excited for the rest of our season.

There are so many games on our schedule I know that we can win.”

- Law senior volleyball player Brooke Bonetti

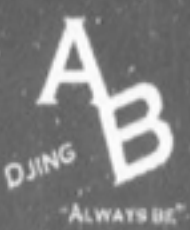
as varsity’s youngest players by playing their best in every game so far this season.

Many seniors were lost last year, but this year’s Senior Leaders have been stepping it up in their absence.

“I’m really excited for the rest of our season,” Bonetti said. “There are so many games I know that we can win.”

With three more wins the team will be on their way to states, which is definitely in reach. The last day to qualify for the state tournament is October 31 and they have many winnable games on the remainder of their schedule.

Some upcoming games include their rival Foran again on October 15, Daniel Hand October 16, and Hillhouse on October 18.



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*Captain Jeremy Doucette competes in a race earlier this season.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)*

Boys XC Races To Finish Line

Meaghan Sollitto

Columns Editor

Boys cross country is off to a running start.

Captains **Benjamin Buczek**, **Eric Kogan**, and **Jeremy Doucette** plan on making this a record season.

Buczek is the only team member who has been on the team since his freshman year.

"We have a lot of meets this year," Buczek said. "I hope it gives the underclassman more experience so they decide to keep coming out for the team in future years."

Some of the key runners this season are Doucette, Kogan, **Matt Zancewicz**, **Thomas Gambardella** and **Ryan Wasserman**.

"We have a lot of freshman this year," Buczek said. "It's the most we've had in a long time; it's really good to see that."

As of October 1, the team's record was 3-3.

The team is doing very well this year and they hope to continue to do so.

"The rest of the season should be really good and more people, mainly freshman, will greatly improve," senior **Mike Vaccaro** said.

The main goal of every boy on the team is to keep improving their personal time.

"I'm trying to beat my best time every race," Vaccaro said. "It's hard because I improve every race and am currently working on beating my best time of 20 minutes, 33

seconds."

The team has welcomed a lot of new members this year, including senior **Kurt Holden**.

"The team has definitely accepted me into their tribe," Holden said. "They actually look up to me as a senior and as a leader."

The Lawmen have some challenging meets coming up against Foran and Platt Tech. They also have SCC Championships later this month at Hammonasset State Park.

Another basic goal for the team is to improve their 5k (3.1 miles) times.

"Personally, I want to be running around 17 minutes for a 5k by the end of the season," Doucette said.

Doucette is the only junior captain and has high expectations for the rest of the season as well as next year.

Kogan, who has been on the team since his sophomore year, has fallen in love with the sport.

"I personally want to improve my 5k time and have a strong base for track season," Kogan said. "I hope to run Division III cross country or track in college."

All of the captains, including the team members, expect a .500 record for the season.

"The team is looking really good this year I'm excited to see how the rest of the season turns out," Buczek said. "And as always, no XCuses."

Senior Captains Lead Law Girls Cross Country Team

Nicole Macchio

Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law girls cross country team is hitting the streets.

The new head coach, **Mr. Schulte**, is pushing the girls to do their best. Improvement is his main goal this year.

"I'm trying to teach them to be competitive," Schulte said. "I'm trying to make them to always work to pass the girl in front of them."

The girls run on all terrain for 3.1 miles facing various schools from the SCC: Daniel Hand, Amity, Hillhouse, Chesire, and Sheehan.

This year's top runners are **Monica Macchio**, **Lianne Maynard**, **Maryann Lonergan**, and **Haley Palmer**.

Each girl is working hard to improve themselves and inspire others to do the same.

The seniors are setting a good example for the underclassmen. In one meet earlier this season, Macchio came in ninth out of 50 runners.

All of the girls are looking to improve their personal best times.

"I would like to accomplish my personal record of 23:34," Lonergan said.

Schulte is pushing them to go even further than that.

"To prepare my team I'm making them run," Schulte said. "I want them to reach their full potential."

The preparation for each



*Captain Lianne Maynard is one of Law's top runners.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)*

meet is a lot of work. The team will start off practices with a stretch and either go for an off-campus run or do some conditioning.

The most important thing to remember is to manage the time on their run. All of them are working to do just that.

The team has very high expectations and all of them are working hard to make their own records and do their best.

States will require the team to be one of the Top 7 teams at SCCs. Then the top individuals will go on to the next level.

One of the most anticipated meets of the season is the Foran meet. Coach Schulte is working them hard to have them be in the right mindset

and physical endurance to be able to leave their opponents in the dust.

"This year I can't wait for the Foran meet," Schulte said. "My girls are working very hard to prove themselves."

However, running to them is not just about getting personal records. The team is just a big family.

"I want to be able to keep this team fit and ready for every race, but I also want to keep them socially strong, so next year they could work just as hard with stringer bonds," Lonergan said.

The team works well to help each other improve and they hope that next year the girls will work just as hard.

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Girls Swimming Looks To Set Personal Bests

Morgan Hennessey
Staff Reporter

It will be a season full of hard work for the girls swimming and diving team as they strive for personal and team bests.

Forty girls, led by captains **Angelica Jaime Loma**, **Taylor Keramis**, and **Elizabeth Gregorio**, have so far achieved a record of 3-6.

"We have such great personalities and hard workers," head coach **Ms. Paolini** said. "It's just so much fun to coach and watch kids scream and cheer for their teammates as if they were cheering for themselves."

The team beat West Haven earlier this season with a score of 93-90. This was the first time the team ever beat West Haven and it was also Law's first win of the season.

The team is working toward qualifying more girls for states. Paolini hopes to qualify at least 10 swimmers this season.

The team is also aiming for a total of five wins by the end of the season.

"I'm glad with how things are going," team manager **Maren Sanchez** said. "They are all very motivated."



Captain Angelica Jaime Loma is one of Law's top swimmers. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

The team has grown greatly since last season, moving them from Class S to Class M.

"We have gotten a lot faster since last year," Loma said. "More than half the team has made SCCs this year, which is exciting."

SCCs are approaching

quickly and the girls cannot wait to dominate the pool.

Every member is contributing to the success of the team this season. Even freshman and sophomores are performing as leaders.

"A lot of freshmen are making it into the SCCs this

year," junior **Kailee Tierney** said.

Law meets show the large amount of school spirit the school has.

"It's really fun to watch the meets, so everyone should come and support Law," team manager **Rachel Escobar** said.

"We have such great personalities and hard workers."

- Law swimming coach Ms. Paolini

Another upcoming event that all of Milford anticipates is the Law vs. Foran meet.

The meet, which is a favorite among many students, will be the last meet of the season and an exciting way to end the year.

"Hopefully we can take Foran this year," junior **Kelsey Kopazna** said. "We have never beaten them in the past."

This event is what many of the swimmers look forward to all season.

"I most look forward to it because all of Milford gets together and cheers for everyone," Loma said.

Besides winning meets as a team, the girls are working toward personal bests.

"They go through grueling practices daily," Paolini said.

It all pays off, though, because the girls keep reaching their personal goals meet after meet.

Barrette Inspires Law Cheerleaders

Emily LaLuna
Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law cheerleading team is excited to start season with a new team.

They are planning on coming out strong this year, doing a lot of fundraising and adjusting to their new assistant coach.

"We're an all tumbling team this year, which means we will be more competitive," sophomore **Monica Lomme** said.

The team has one solitary goal: to compete at the highest level possible. They have mastered new skills as a team and individually. These new skills will help them achieve their goal of competing to their maximum potential.

Law's team has done a lot of fundraising this year including Shake the Can at Stop & Shop and Dunkin Donuts and having a car wash at Dulin Automotive.

"We are selling Jonathan Law bracelets for \$2 and will be selling Spirit Day shirts in November and having a Santa Breakfast in December," head coach **Bonnie Etense** said.

Many of the team members are enthusiastic for the season to begin.

"We have a lot of new girls on the team so we are excited to become a family and create

a strong bond," junior captain **Darby Hudd** said.

Others are excited about the new skills they are learning, improving in their tumbling and working hard towards nationals.

The team recently got a new assistant coach, Alyssa Willston, after the tragic loss last year of their previous coach, Jonathan Law alum **Morissa Barrette**.

"Losing our coach was such a horrific experience, but our new one is doing an awesome job adjusting and coaching our team," Hudd said.

Junior **Morgan Colombo** said that their new coach is the perfect fit for their team.

"We needed someone who could take her place and Alyssa did just that," Colombo said. "She has become a part of family and I think the team really loves her."

The team will be selling car magnets and T-shirts this fall in memory of Barrette.

Although the team has captains the other girls on the team must play the role of a leader to guide the underclassmen.

"The upperclassmen play a key role in success for this year because they have to influence the lower classmen to excel," senior captain **Christina Mazzeo** said.

Law Boys Soccer Captains Seek Successful Season

Christina Macaluso
News Editor

Senior captains **Gabe Salles** and **Josh Paton**, along with junior captain **Jon Costa**, plan to lead the boys soccer team to success this season.

Salles is the team's goal keeper, Paton plays center defense and Costa is a midfielder.

The soccer team, coached by Donato Piselli, has had nothing but optimistic attitudes about their season this year. Some of this may have to do with the motivation that is radiating off of the captains.

"All three captains have been leading the team in the right direction," senior **Chris Mercaldo** said. "They all want the best from all the players and work hard as an example for others."

In order to prepare for the season, those from the team that were able to attend joined a summer league team so that they could get used to playing together.

The league provided them with the chance to become comfortable with each other, which also helped the incoming freshman tremendously. The captains made sure to attend all games in order to lead and help their teammates.

"During the summer they

"All three captains have been leading the team in the right direction. They all want the best from all the players and work hard as an example for others."
- Law senior Chris Mercaldo

were extremely helpful and provided a team to play on," freshman **Dennis Sweeney** said. "I was nervous when I first started playing but they made me feel like part of the team right from the start."

When deciding who the captains should be, Piselli thought that it would be best if the returning players had a say in who they wanted leading them through the season. The team voted and came up with Salles, Paton, and Costa.

Team members have faith in their captains and look to them for guidance on and off the field.

"Our captains have provided excellent leadership this year," Piselli said. "They

show that they are totally committed to the team and I couldn't ask for better captains."

The captains make sure that the team stays close even when they aren't on the field.

"To bond we have pasta parties, play FIFA, and watch games together," Costa said.

The team has a big group text where they text each other the night before a game to try and motivate one another.

They have been showing Law, their fans, and their coach that they are not going to let any losses bring them down and that instead they are going to use those losses and doubts to fuel them.

"Our season will go well as long as we believe in each other and stay focused," Salles said. "I believe that we can do better than last year."

The captains have no doubt in their mind that they can reach their goals by the end of the season, if not exceed them.

"We hope to make states, beat Foran twice, and beat Guilford on our home turf," Paton said.

With the way the captains are leading, the players playing, and the team overall staying motivated, the boys soccer team hopes to end its season on a successful note.

Girls Soccer Eyes Return To State Tournament

Colleen Bogucki
Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law girls' soccer team is looking forward to an exciting 2013 season with new players and games.

As of now the team is 2-5-3 but they hope to get the six wins necessary to make it to states.

"We have a lot more confidence this season," senior captain **Brianna Grazynski** said, "our team is a lot closer and that will definitely help us get farther than last year."

Grazynski, along with her fellow captains, **Emily Romero** and **Bianca Stefanacci**, have been working extra to prepare the team for an intense season.

"The players really look up to all three of [the captains] and they have been fantastic with the organization of the team on and off of the field," said head coach **Mr. Rhode**.

The girls kicked off their quest to states with a 2-0 win over Lyman Hall on September 10.

They followed that up with losses to Amity, Guilford, and Branford.



Teammates celebrate after sophomore Erin Saley scores a goal. (photo courtesy of Leslie Romero)

The girls then beat Foran and tied Morgan and Daniel Hand in 0-0 matches.

"Despite the fact that we lost (some games early), we really played well," said senior defender **Mariah Root**. "Branford was the best team we played and we fought hard."

Rhode said that despite a

difficult schedule, the sky is the limit for this year's team.

"I would like to make the SCC tournament this year for the first time ever," said Rhode. "If we keep playing the way we have been and making it difficult for other teams to score on us, then we should be able to accomplish our goals

this year."

The team lost many key seniors last year and has had to make up for lost talent with new freshman and sophomores.

"[The freshman] are a very strong class in numbers and abilities," said Grazynski. "Many of them have gotten significant varsity time and

they are really helping us to build a stronger, more skillful team."

Freshman like **Jill Davis**, **Bethany Edwards**, **Kristen Passaro**, **Catie Rice**, and **Cassidy White** have been working hard to learn the ways of a varsity team.

"Kristen Passaro is doing a fantastic job playing center defense with Bianca (Stefanacci)," said junior midfielder **Emily Laluna**. "Catie Rice is also going to be huge help this year."

Law's freshmen proved their importance when White scored against Foran on September 26 help Law to a 1-0 win.

White scored 39 minutes into the game on a direct kick after Foran's defense had a handball on the 18-yard box. Law then used a powerful defense to keep their lead all the way to the buzzer.

"It was especially exciting because I know a lot of the girls on Foran's team so it felt good to beat them," Rice said.

Law plays Foran again on October 16 at Law's home field.

Romero Defends Her Final Season In Goal

Stephanie Cameron
Sports Editor

Senior **Emily Romero** is the backbone of the Law girls soccer team.

Romero is a three-year varsity starter and is excited to play her last season in goal. This season, the girls' soccer team hopes to make the state tournament for the second year in a row.

"Our goal is to improve our record from last year," Romero said. "Hopefully we'll make another run at states."

Romero keeps the team in line by pushing herself and others to be the best players they can be.

"Emily always encourages the team to work hard," sophomore **Megan Smith** said. "She is nice to everyone and is a great motivator."

Romero shows leadership qualities by helping her team out anyway possible.

"As goalkeeper, Emily can see the field and has to organize everyone," head coach **Mr. Rhode** said.

Romero shows leadership qualities by understanding the importance of putting the team's success before her own.

"Emily puts a lot of emotion into how she leads the team," Rhode said. "She cares so much about the success and general well-being of the team."

Romero's quick reflexes and skill has changed the

outcome of games for the Lady Lawmen.

"She's saved the team in lots of ways," Kalafus said.

Along with being a varsity goalkeeper, Romero is an honors student and balances her school activities with a part-time job.

"I want to go to a good college and hopefully get a higher degree," Romero said.

Romero leads by example and understands the importance of working hard in practice.

"She pushes the team hard during practices and games," sophomore **Erin Saley** said. "Her leadership and skills help us win games."

Off the field, Romero's personality makes her an approachable captain.

"You can talk to Emily about anything," senior **Cori Kalafus** said. "She gives the best advice."

Romero is respected and idolized by her team mates because of how much she cares about her team.

"I'll miss Emily's humor and encouragement," Smith said. "She is such a great captain."

After being the soccer team's rock for the last three seasons, Romero looks forward to the next chapter of her life.

"I'm going to miss all the people I played with," Romero said.

"I'll also miss how competitive soccer is."

Boys Soccer Looks To Improve

Stephanie Cameron
Sports Editor

The Jonathan Law boys soccer team is off to an aggressive start to its season.

This year's team is led by seniors **Josh Paton** and **Gabe Salles** and junior **Jon Costa**. The team hopes to turn around the program and have a winning season.

"Our team goal is to make it to states," sophomore **Ian Hugo** said. "Last year it took us nine games to get a win, this year it only took us three."

The Lawmen have been preparing for this upcoming season since last year ended.

"Our available players played in an indoor winter league," Paton said. "There is more work put into this year's soccer season than ever before."

Along with playing in winter and summer leagues, the team's captains pushed them hard in captain's practices and regular season practice.

"We are working on our pace and tactics all the time in order to get better," senior **Chris Mercaldo** said.

The boys' soccer team has started the season 1-7, with a win against East Haven, but has been in every single game.

"We got our first win against East Haven at home," Salles said. "We also played a very good game against Guilford coming up just short in the final minutes."

Even with a young team, the boys soccer team is confident they will end with



Junior Craig Calderone controls the ball at midfield. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

a much better record than previous years.

"We have a young team and good spirits," Mercaldo said. "I expect some good wins this season to improve on the past season."

Everyone on the team is looking forward to getting back at Guilford for a heart-breaking loss and to playing Foran on Senior Night.

"It's the last game of our season," Paton said. "The last game I and all the other seniors will get to play with our teammates."

Several underclassmen have contributed to the success of the team by playing for all

the seniors on the team.

"I just want to make a memorable last season for the seniors," **Costa** said.

The team will be losing five seniors this year.

"I'm going to miss the seniors a lot," Hugo said. "They're great guys and have great work ethic."

The seniors also realize how bittersweet their last season is.

"I'm going to miss my team even though we get on each other's nerves," Salles said.

"Were pretty much a family and we all rely on each other to succeed."

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Law Football Faces Challenging Schedule

Richie Dow
Sports Editor
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The Jonathan Law football team is ready to kick off a fresh season.

A core group of seniors will look to have a final successful campaign. They will look to improve on a 4-6 record from last year.

“Our main goal is to compete every week and be the best that we can be,” head coach **Mr. Robinson** said.

The Lawmen opened up their season against the Harding Presidents at Kennedy Stadium on September 11th. They lost a physical game by the score of 32-14.

“I was very disappointed in our first loss,” Robinson said. “We could have and should have done better.”

The next obstacle would be Wilbur Cross. The Lawmen suffered a heartbreaking loss in overtime and fell 27-24.

“Cross was a heartbreaker,” defensive coordinator **Mr.**



Senior quarterback Tim Maher looks to hand off the ball. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Belser said. “We have to keep working hard and need to improve on finishing games.”

On September 29, the Lawmen lost their home opener to Hillhouse 42-7. They fell by the same score to Hamden the following week.

The Lawmen are led by

captains **Nick Casagrande, Tim Maher, Mark Thibault, and Ryan Siddall**. They were voted leaders by their team and awarded the prestigious position of captain.

“Being a captain is special,” Maher said. “Knowing that your teammates recognize

your hard work and leadership makes it even better.”

The Lawmen have no breaks in their upcoming schedule. They still have to play Guilford, Plainfield, Branford, Sheehan, and Foran.

“Despite the rough start and difficult schedule, we still

have high expectations for our team,” Beler said. “Our goals include winning the SCC division and qualifying for the state playoffs.”

The defense looks to improve on how many points they allow.

“We need to not give up so many points so we can give our offense a chance to win some games,” senior cornerback **Luke Mazzeo** said.

The Lawmen have suffered a vast array of injuries, most notably the injury of lineman **Alex Boyd**.

“Our team has had a lot of injuries this year,” senior **Joe Kirschner** said. “We have been fortunate enough for some young players to right up into these spots.”

The team will have an additional game this year altering the total number of games from the normal 10 to 11.

Law’s next game will be against the East Haven Yellow Jackets on October 11.

Captain Casagrande Leads Law

Richie Dow
Sports Editor
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Senior **Nick Casagrande** is not only an all SCC football player, but he is also a great leader.

He has been a varsity starter for four years and has frequently played both sides of the ball.

“He (Casagrande) is the anchor of our offensive line,” defensive coordinator **Mr. Beler** said. “He is the model of what a great football player is.”

Against Wilbur Cross, on September 20, he had a game to remember. Casagrande recovered a fumble and had an interception.

He recovered a fumble and took it 45 yards to the end zone. This was his first high school touchdown, and one to remember.

“I will remember that moment for the rest of my life,” Casagrande said. “Not often does someone on defense score, it makes it that much more special.”

Casagrande was elected to be a captain by his teammates. The other captains are **Mark, Thibault, Tim Maher, and Ryan Siddall**.

“Nick is a great captain, he motivates us for each and every game,” senior **Luke Mazzeo** said.

Casagrande doesn’t only excel on the football field, but



Senior Nick Casagrande is one of Law’s four captains. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

in the classroom, too. He is an honors student with intentions of majoring in sports medicine in college.

He also has intentions of playing Division I collegiate football. His top choice at the moment is Wagner College which is located in Staten Island.

Casagrande has played a plethora of positions in his Law football career. He has been a staple of the offensive line, starting at center for four years but has also played defensive tackle, middle linebacker, and long snapper.

“Nick has done just about everything in his Law football career,” head coach **Mr. Robinson** said. “The coaching staff can always count on him to do whatever he’s asked.”

In the three games that

Casagrande has played on defense, he has recorded 20 tackles

Although Casagrande isn’t regarded as a massive lineman, he gets the job done with his 5-foot-11 inch, 260-pound frame. He makes up for it with his impeccable footwork.

“I don’t try to do too much, on offense I just try to protect my quarterback and on defense I try to make tackles and point my teammates in the right direction,” Casagrande said.

In his four years of starting varsity he has played alongside many of Law’s best leaders: Dan Ziebell, Connor Falaguerra, and George Knoth.

“Nick has become a great leader from learning from our predecessors,” senior quarterback Maher said.

Thibault Points ‘D’ In Right Direction

Meaghan Sollitto
Columns Editor

Senior captain **Mark Thibault** is kicking off the football season with high hopes.

As a safety, Thibault oversees the whole defense. His duties include defending the pass and the run game of the opponent.

“I hope to see the team come together as a whole, we’ve been lacking that in past seasons which is probably why we haven’t gone too far,” Thibault said. “If everyone gives it their all, maybe we’ll be able to make something really good out of it.”

The team currently has a record of 0-4, with a recent loss to Hamden on October 4.

Thibault is a passionate athlete who plays three sports: football, indoor track, and outdoor track.

“Mark brings courage and heart to the game of football as well as friendship and family on and off the field,” junior **Max German** said. “He is by far one of the best captains and players on the field.”

Besides sports, Thibault also excels in the classroom.

“With three sports and long football practices it’s hard to find the time to do all of my school work,” Thibault said. “I

manage to get it done though because school is important to me too.”

Thibault has been on the football team since he was a freshman.

He has brought the same passion year after year and will continue to do so for the rest of the season.

“Mark is a good captain,” senior **Nick Casagrande** said. “He sets a really great example for the underclassmen too.”

Thibault brings strong leadership and a dedicated work ethic to the team and is a key player this season.

“Mark is a good captain because he has what it takes to lead a team,” German said. “He supports us and backs us up no matter what.”

Law football and track coach **Mr. Beler** has coached Thibault in three sports.

“I’ve seen Mark go from being a hardworking athlete to an overall exceptional leader,” Beler said. “He’s improved his own game and takes the time to be a leader.”

As a senior, Thibault is a captain of all three sports. He has what it takes to be a leader and to be a role model.

“Besides hard work, he has a great level of respect,” Beler said. “He gives as much as he receives.”