

New teacher quadfecta takes the school by storm

Christina Weaver
Feature Editor

As students flooded into the school on the morning of August 21, many noticed a few unfamiliar teachers within the crowd.

The new teachers include social studies teacher Christopher Grube, English teacher Rachel Appleby, music teacher Samantha Baldwin, and family and consumer sciences teacher Cora Shields.

Grube, who now coaches football, teaches cultural geography, civics and economics, sociology, and psychology, has many positive remarks about the school so far.

"When I received a phone call for an interview with the district, I was very happy. I really enjoy working here.

I knew this was an area that I could see myself as an educator and begin a new

chapter in my life. I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to follow my passion of teaching and coaching football," Grube said.

Appleby is new not only to the school district but to the county. She is very optimistic about her time here so far.

"I just moved to the York area and a friend told me about the district and how great it was, so I decided to apply here," said Appleby. "This has been a wonderful experience so far! Everyone has been so warm and welcoming!"

"I am so grateful for all the help and advice my colleagues and students have given me so far. I have taught in grades six through ten before, but tenth grade has been my favorite."

Baldwin, from Lancaster County, is also very thrilled to work in the district.

"I really enjoy working at [South Eastern School District]. Everyone is so warm



Photo by: Christina Weaver

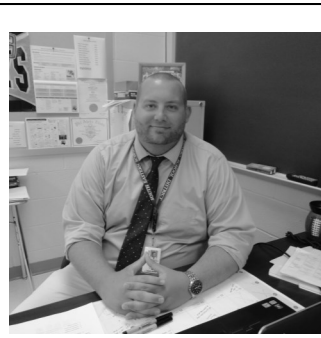


Photo by: Christina Weaver



Photo by: Sarah Buttiens

Introducing the new teachers from top left, clockwise: Music teacher **Samantha Baldwin**, social studies teacher **Christopher Grube**, and English teacher **Rachel Appleby**.

and welcoming and I am very grateful for that. Being a new teacher in a school can be a little scary, but the [South Eastern School District] community has helped make me feel right at home... I was

always aware of the great music program the school had. When the position opened up, it was an obvious decision to apply. I'm happy I did," said Baldwin.

All three teachers have posi-

tive goals they hope to achieve in their time working here.

"Hopefully, I will be able to impact students in a positive way not only in the classroom but in their everyday lives... It is more important to me that they are given the tools to be successful in life, alongside the tools to be successful in school," said Grube.

Baldwin is determined to make a difference in both the music program and her own teaching.

"I hope to help the choral program grow by getting students excited about singing. It is important that I make chorus a place that students want to be and become passionate about.

I hope to encourage my students to take risks and try new things, like audition for Districts or the musical. The more they try these new things, the more confident they will become.

"Something else I hope to

accomplish is to improve my own teaching and challenge myself every day to be as inspiring and helpful to my students as possible," said Baldwin.

Likewise, Appleby hopes to improve her own teaching skills along with her students'. She also commented on her strategies of adjusting to a new school.

"I hope to inspire my students to be successful not just in the classroom, but also in life. I also look forward to growing in my teaching by learning from my colleagues and students," Appleby said.

"My strategy, if you can call it that, was just to spend as much time picking the brains of my fellow English teachers as I could. Luckily, I already taught most of the material before, so it was just a matter of collaborating with Mr. [Grant] Leonard to make sure we were on the same page."

All of the new teachers are anticipating the new year.

What's up with the Light Up?



Photo By: Nick Verzolini

Nick Verzolini
Reporter

Students, staff and community have already begun to experience Friday night football games this year; unfortunately, these games aren't occurring in the new stadium, yet.

The Light Up the Night Campaign secured a loan last year via donations to purchase Musco lights which were installed on the field in the fall with the anticipated date for electrical installation in March.

The electrical lines are still not installed due to unforeseen complications.

"This process of communicating between engineers, land development plans, lighting installers, building and grounds, and the school board have taken much longer than anticipated. We are continuing to work together to get the field lighting completed," said Light Up the Night spokesperson Beverly Whiteford.

For now, the school will continue to rent lights until the new stadium can be built.

The estimated cost to build the stadium is around \$2.9 million dollars.

The new stadium will include safer seating for home and visiting teams. The plan is to have about a 3,000 person capacity, a new, up-to-date three-room press box with rooftop viewing. Also there will be stadium lights to enable night games and activities, a permanent restroom facility, a scoreboard and sound system, synthetic turf, a multi-purpose field and a permanent concession stand.

A variety of teams will play in the new stadium.



Photo by: Lauren Benedict

Students in Introduction to Software for Business work on their computers.

HACC Classes

Lauren Benedict
Assistant Editor

Academically driven students have more options to explore college classes and rigorous course work because this year's class offerings have been extended into Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) classes and additional AP courses.

HACC is a local community college located in York, Pennsylvania, which has worked with administration to allow students to sign up for college classes at a discounted price.

HACC's offering for the 2014-2015 school year is English Composition 101, Introduction to PowerPoint, and Introduction to Software for Business.

Because of his master's degree of Arts in English, Ed Smith now teaches English Composition 101 in addition to English

11. "I would strongly recommend this course to students who plan on pursuing a four-year degree.

"HACC's courses have wide acceptance at most universities, making it a financially wise decision," said Smith.

The course can range from \$800 to \$1,500 at various universities, but students enrolled will pay roughly \$250 for the course.

Smith commented, "I think this year's Comp. 101 courses will be a great success. The 21 students in this first semester's course each has an amazing amount of talent, and I have already seen a sincere commitment on their behalf to buy into the program, its expectations, and my teaching style."

HACC course teacher of Introduction to Software for Business and Introduction to PowerPoint this year is Rachel Bontoyan.

Bontoyan said, "One of the benefits of College in the High School is that students can earn credit toward graduation while earning three HACC college credits.

"The College in the High School courses are offered at a reduced rate, which is also a plus."

Intro to Software for Business has been offered for three years and teaches students computer concepts, Microsoft Windows, Word, Excel, and Access.

Bontoyan said, "The curriculum is an overview of what a young person [in the] workplace needs to know about computers and application software.

"Students complete assignments, quizzes, and tests online. Most of the course is web-based, which causes issues at times."

Also new these school years are some more Advanced Placement (AP) courses.

All AP courses now offered to academ-

ically inclined students are: biology, U.S. history, European history, chemistry, music theory, English, physics I and II, calculus AB and BC, psychology, and government.

The AP biology teacher for this year is science teacher Ryan Rupp.

The class focuses on basic biology topics such as cellular mechanics, evolution, and biotechnology.

Rupp said, "I'm going to do my best to cover the material that I think is the most difficult to help the students have a firm grasp of the theories and ideas.

"The students will definitely complete all the labs that the AP College Board stipulates must be completed."

Music director Matt Barr is teaching AP music theory, which is a course being offered this year for the first time in several years, as participation levels have prevented the class from being run in years past.

This year's course work is structured around composing music and establishing advanced theory principles.

Students enrolled will learn the fundamentals of music composition, condition their ears to recognize pitch intervals, and eventually learn to write four-part music.

Barr said, "The AP music theory exam is one of the most rigorous Advanced Placement tests. In terms of time it takes to take the exam; it is one of the longest, if not the longest.

"Students have multiple choice questions that are mostly listening-based [...] They also have to compose four-part music and sight sign (perform a piece of music after being given only the starting note) into a sound recording device."

These courses will provide new opportunities for students who wish to improve their critical thinking skills, academic achievements and overall intellectual success in and outside the classroom.

Sapphire: a dazzling gem of a system

Caitlin Salomon
News Editor

With the beginning of the new school year comes inevitable change, as all teachers and students know.

This cliché holds true to our school, especially in the case of the brand-new system called Sapphire that has replaced Homelogic, the old system that students and parents alike could use to monitor grades at home.

Sapphire is extremely similar to Homelogic in many ways, but is equipped with more features and tools.

The Steering Committee, which was comprised of eight personnel from different levels within the district chose the Sapphire System from among four other considered systems.

"Our guidance talked to other guidance departments such as the one at Suburban. This helped us to make an informed deci-

sion about the implementing of Sapphire into our school," Principal Heather Venné remarked.

The system does cost more money than Homelogic, but Technology Chair Terri McKnight said that the system was stable, and that it met user and state requirements.

The choice to switch grading systems was due to state data requirements, and the fact that it came with more timely support.

McKnight stated, "The whole [grading] system is now web-based. Before, the office still needed to have a client, but now the new system eliminates the need for that."

Having a client means that the office needed to rely on Homelogic's server in order to use the program.

There are many other benefits to the new system as well.

Math teacher James McDonald commented, "...The new system is more user-friendly than Homelogic. I can create categories for assignments, such as classwork, homework, projects, tests, etc. I can also color-code categories for quickly analyzing student performance."

Venné also stated that the system was much more user-friendly than Homelogic and that the district has not been having any recurring problems with it.

Upon logging on, students will see a home screen that allows users the option of navigating to different pages to see their grades, schedule, calendar, and upcoming assignments.

Students will also see their school photo from last year, and with just a few clicks, are even able to access information, including their homeroom teacher, bus-stop number, and locker information.

McDonald said, "I like that everything is found in a single spot.

I can do multiple tasks on Sapphire without having to log into another program. It has also helped cut down on paperwork as well."

However, there are some distinct disadvantages to Sapphire also.

"Tech training has been a tremendous undertaking; we [the technology department] had at least 15 days of training to do," McKnight stated.

In order to take advantage of all of the features and capabilities that the system has to offer, the school has created several goals for the program including the implementation of transcripts, online registration for incoming students in the second semester, elementary school report cards, better parent communication, and eventually going entirely paperless.

Students also find that they enjoyed the simple, easy-to-use layout of Homelogic.

Junior Maya Armeni commented "No, [I don't use the system], because I'm not quite sure how to use it. It's not that I'm not open to change, it's just that the old system was so easy and interactive, I didn't feel that we needed a new system."

The main issue occurring with Sapphire is that many teachers are unfamiliar with its setup.

McDonald commented, "I am still learning how to use the program, as it was introduced right before school started at the beginning of the year. I dislike the fact that I do not know how to do all of the tasks, etc. in Sapphire just yet."

However, administration is hoping to combat this problem, as both McKnight and Venné affirmed that there will be more opportunities for training, as well as assessment training.