



# The VERITAS



The Student Newspaper of Rockland High School

Volume 40, Number 4

May 25, 2021

Rockland, MA 02370

## Class of 2021 looks forward to Senior Prom

**Calin Monett**  
*Veritas Staff*

After having their junior prom cancelled last year due to the pandemic, seniors are grateful to finally be given the opportunity to have their senior prom.

Obviously, with the COVID restrictions set by the Board of Health and by the school, prom will look a little different when it is held on Friday, May 28 in the high school parking lot adjacent to Veterans' Memorial Stadium.

Principal John Harrison has worked extremely hard to give the Class of 2021 a chance to have this special night.

He said in an email to students and parents, "A prom is an important event for our seniors and one they never experienced last year as juniors. The seniors have been excellent all year and I have confidence they will attend the Senior Prom safely."

Dr. Harrison is requiring all attending the prom to follow all state and local guidelines as well as school rules regarding COVID in order for this event to safely take place.

For example, masks will have to be worn at all times except when eating or having professional photos taken, or when taking mask breaks outside the tent.

Social distancing will always be in place even on the dance floor.

Obviously, everyone must be symptom free before and at the time of the prom.

Dr. Harrison is responsible for all ticket sales which are at the low price of \$30.

With approval from the Rockland Board of Health, Principal Harrison chose the date Friday, May 28 to host the dance since all seniors will be finished with classes. Also, if anything were to happen relating to the coronavirus, it would not affect attendance at school.

Many students had a concern about bringing dates from a different school, grade, or town.

Dr. Harrison said, "Yes, students may bring a date outside of school. However, they are required to have a negative test result three days prior to the prom."



**A model of the tent set-up from Baystate Tent and Party Rentals that will be used for the Senior Prom on May 28.**  
*Baystate website photo*

Our class advisor, Ms. Casey Morrison has also done a great deal of work to coordinate this event for the seniors.

Ms. Morrison explained some aspects of the plan. "A huge tent is coming, along with multiple food trucks." She said, "I have hopes it will be a great event."

She explained that each table is allowed six students which includes dates. Each table will be set up six feet from surrounding tables.

Another great thing Ms. Morrison mentioned is that a prom king and queen will still be chosen. The decision of how the award will be determined is still being discussed.

Ms. Morrison said that her main concern for the night is that seniors have the great time that they deserve.

Feedback about the prom has been mostly positive. Many seniors say they are excited to finally have a prom since last year was cancelled.

Others say how relieved they

are that they have the opportunity to bring guests outside of RHS.

Senior Class President Lauren Draicchio said, "From the entire class feedback, 99% of the class seemed ecstatic to be having a prom and can not wait to see how it turns out despite the differences from past years. Everyone seems to be grateful and excited for this event."

However, there are definitely some differences to this year's event compared to previous years.

There is no grand march taking place. Due to not being able to have space for families to come and watch students walk down the aisles in the gym while remaining socially distant, the hard decision to not have the march was made.

Another big tradition at any prom, slow dancing will not be allowed either.

Normally, the venue comes with a formal dinner; however, it was decided that the safer route would be to have food trucks for students to quickly grab their food

and return to their tables.

Two of the food trucks, according to Ms. Morrison, will be "South Shore Taco Guy, and Plymouth Party Food Truck for dessert (ice cream sundaes, cotton candy, root beer floats, snow cones, popcorn). Both are all you can eat."

Despite the changes, most seniors agree that this will be a way to finalize their year of uncertainty by spending time with their classmates.

Draicchio said, "I'm definitely looking forward to spending time with the class before we walk together at graduation and have this one last memory to offset all that we missed."

If any student tests positive after the prom, their quarantine would keep them from attending graduation which will be held on June 4. Dr. Harrison strongly recommends that seniors hold off on large gatherings until after our graduation so there is no risk of missing out on the ceremony.



**Food trucks for prom include South Shore Taco Guy, and Plymouth Party Food Truck for dessert. Both are all you can eat!**

## Spring sports athletes can breathe easier now

**James Tsiantoulas**  
*Veritas Sports Editor*

On May 17 the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association which governs high school sports came out with a ruling that changed the mask mandate for spring youth athletes who compete outdoors. The MIAA rule change on masks came after the announcement by Gov. Charlie Baker that all remaining COVID-19 restrictions will be lifted in Massachusetts on Memorial Day weekend.

As has been the case throughout the year, the final decision for a school to partake in a particular sport and/or to follow stricter guidelines belongs at the local levels.

On May 18 Rockland High School immediately put the new policy in place so that spring sports athletes do not

have to wear masks at games or meets for the rest of the season.

RHS Principal John Harrison sent an email to spring athletes and coaches.

"This morning I was informed that the MIAA (Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association) with the support of the DESE (Department of Elementary and Secondary Education) voted to adopt the new EEA (MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) guidelines. The new EEA guidance amends high school sports COVID protocols with the following changes:

\*Athletes on spring teams in active play outdoors are not required to wear a mask/facial covering.

\*Athletes when they are on the bench or in a dugout are not required to wear a mask/facial covering.



**James Tsiantoulas, Nick Leander and Nick Earner are seniors on the lacrosse team.**  
*Photo courtesy Coach Taylor*

\*Athletes in low-risk sports when indoors where a distance of at least 14 feet or more is consistently maintained between each participant, are not required to wear a mask/facial covering.

\*Spectators and chaperones,

coaches, staff, referees, umpires and other officials who can social distance while outdoors, are not required to wear a mask/face covering.

\*Visitors, spectators, volunteers, and staff while indoors are

required to wear a mask/facial covering.

Most athletes welcomed this news calling it fantastic as it really shows that we are finally getting back to a form of normalcy.

Senior captain of the boys track team Arthur Norton had this to say. "This is really exciting now that we don't have to wear our masks. I can finally see us getting back to our normal lives soon enough. I just hope we can finish out the year with no more issues."

Also, senior captain of boys lacrosse Nick Leander shared his thoughts, "I am happy we don't need to wear masks in game anymore."

Nick added, "Hopefully with this we can start looking forward to the idea of no masks at prom or graduation. But, we just have to wait and see."

All in all, the general consensus for no more masks is positive and there is cautious optimism that there won't be any COVID related problems with the athletes not wearing masks, but only time will tell.

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# Seniors plan for life after high school



**Anna Ferrante**

*Michaela Bruno  
Veritas Staff*

Despite this crazy 2020-2021 school year, students in the Class of 2021 will be graduating on June fourth.

All of the seniors at Rockland High are very excited about graduating this school year. While this may not have been the senior year students had been looking forward to, everyone has come together to make it the best year they could.

Although the college admissions process has been unique, many students have finalized their future plans after high school.

Multiple seniors have many different plans for after high school whether it is going to college, working, or going into the military. After sitting down with a few seniors, we got to see what their plans intend to be after high school.

Senior Jake Wells says, "My top plans as of right now for after high school are going to college to major in culinary arts."

He then explained, "I have applied to six different



**Jake Wells**

colleges which include Fitchburg, WNE, Salem State, Quincy, Massasoit, and Westfield State. I still haven't committed yet but as of right now Massasoit is my top school."

Senior Bella Seaton says, "As of right now, my top plans for after high school are to go to college to major in criminal justice. I have applied to four different schools, but I have just recently committed to SNHU."

Senior Anna Ferrante isn't sure where exactly she will be next fall. She explained, "I do plan on going to college, but as of right now I do not know where I am going or what I want to do. I plan to go in as undecided, and hopefully figure out something I want to do before college starts."

Anna then went on to say, "I have applied to Westfield, Framingham, and Bridgewater State. I still have Massasoit on my mind and I am still keeping my options open. Although I have not committed to a school yet and am keeping my options open, Westfield is my top school as of right now."

Lastly, senior Nick Earner had this to say. "I am



**Bella Seaton**

entering the Air Force after high school and planning on serving four years. After I come back from serving I plan to go to college to study in the medical field and eventually earn my degree."

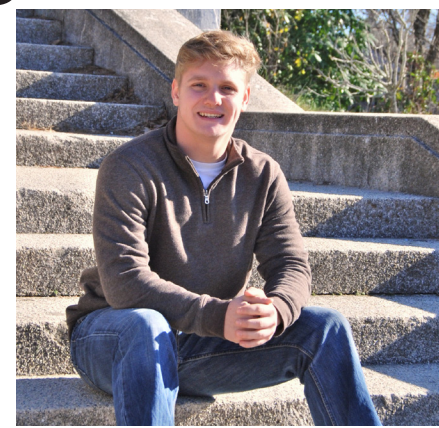
As far as where they see themselves ten years from now, the seniors had some interesting answers.

Ferrante said, "Although I do not know what I want to go to college for, I do see myself having some sort of degree in something ten years from now. I intend to finish college, get a steady job, and just be happy with life in general."

Earner said, "In ten years I see myself graduating from college with a degree, and working in a hospital as a physician assistant."

"In ten years I see myself with a degree in criminal justice, and hopefully have a job as a private investigator," Seaton stated.

Finally, Wells said, "In ten years from now I see myself graduated from college with a degree and a steady job. I also plan to live in my own house and hopefully start a family of my own."



**Nick Earner**

## Rockland schools resume full in-person learning

*Emily Gaboriault  
and Jonah Pishkin  
Veritas Staff*

The fully in-person return of students to RHS occurred on Monday, April 26. This was due to the Department of Education's mandate that all schools in Massachusetts needed to go back to full in-person learning.

The news of the school reopening was met with mixed emotions by students. Some of them thought that it was a great fit, mostly to see old friends, while others saw it as potentially dangerous, as vaccines were not fully available yet, and some people were still sick.

Senior Billy Robinson said, "From what I've seen, people have been doing fine with the new classes."

Senior Alexis DeFranc added, "I would say [the overall reaction is] neutral, considering the moods I see. Some look dazed, confused, or blatantly not

caring."

With doubling the student population, changes for safe distancing of students from six feet to three feet were made in the classrooms.

Some spatial changes consisted of the main gym being converted into a lunch area to accommodate the larger numbers of students during lunch while keeping the six foot distance and allowing mask removal while eating.

Tents are located in the courtyard center of the high school to allow for outdoor classes. Regular classrooms have added an abundance of desks to accommodate the larger classes. Spaces such as the chorus room and band room have also been converted into classrooms to allow for a bit larger space for classes with 20-30 students.

Hallways have been converted into one-way flows to reduce the traffic facing each other which, some say, might

help the virus to spread. This includes all halls with the exception of in front of the cafeteria, in front of the main office, and in the hallway leading to the music rooms. Bathrooms are still limited to one person capacity which causes lines, but it is necessary.

Robinson said, "The change took a bit of getting used to, but I've adjusted."

However, anxiousness is still in the mix, as DeFranc said, "It feels weird and uneasy after being so used to the old set up of things."

Unfortunately, during the first week of full return many students had to be absent due to positive COVID tests or being close contacts. Events such as parties and large gatherings are thought to have caused these outbreaks.

On Friday, April 30 Rockland High School went back to fully remote classes due to these spikes in cases, eight in all, and the 85 students who were close

contacts.

Sports teams that were affected were both the girls' and boys' lacrosse teams, causing all of the team members to quarantine from all aspects of their lives such as school or jobs.

After sorting out the protocols, RHS went back to in-person learning on the following Monday, May 3.

But this has left students wondering if events such as senior prom and graduation could possibly be canceled or postponed if cases were to spike again.

With so little time left in the school year, seniors are keeping their fingers crossed that they will be able to have their end of the year experiences.

We encourage all students to be mindful when outside of school and to try to stay away from large gatherings. We all have to work together to be able to have a great finish to a very stressful school year.

### The Veritas The Student Newspaper of Rockland High School

We are also on-line  
at [www.rhsveritas.wordpress.com](http://www.rhsveritas.wordpress.com)

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## Leading the Class of 2021

*Marissa Raymond  
Veritas Staff*

**Lauren Draicchio** is the President of our Senior Class and has done a great job leading the class through these crazy times. After high school she will be attending Curry College to major in nursing.

Lauren answered a few questions for us.

**What was your favorite class?**

My favorite class was calculus with Mr. Casagrande.

**What will you miss the most at RHS?**

I will most miss fan sections at basketball games and the feeling of being a part of a family.

**What have you learned about yourself throughout high school?**

Through high school I have learned that it's important to put everything you have into all you do, and to take pride in your accomplishments!



**Lauren Draicchio**



## Senior Award Winners: Althea Olsen and Zachary Solomon

Seniors **Althea Olsen and Zachary Solomon** earlier in the year were recognized as recipients of the Reuben and Lizzie Grossman Scholarship Award which they will receive at Graduation.

The award, as stated in the Foundation's charter is "to recognize high ideals of leadership and service which has been demonstrated through outstanding accomplishments within the community and school, and to promote and encourage youth to place service above self."

Both Althea and Zach have been recognized this year as Top Dogs in the Senior Class and are members of the National Honor Society.

Althea is the National Honor Society Secretary. She has been the recipient of achievement awards such as the science award and English award. She attended the Boston Leadership Institute for Surgical Research. She has also achieved academic high honors.

Althea is the Editor-in-Chief of the Veritas' print and on-line editions of the high school newspaper.

She has been a Freshman Mentor, and competes on the softball and swim teams.

Zach is a National Honor Society student and is a three-time recipient of the Music Achievement Award. He participated on the cross country and swim teams.

Zach is a member of the concert band and also is in the astronomy club as well.

He says he has enjoyed participating in cross country, swimming and track.

Outside of school he is an Eagle Scout and his project this year was to organize shelving and files in the Music Department here at the high school.

Althea and Zach received the "Best Friends" senior superlative.

In the fall Zach will be attending Brandeis University to major in bio-



Zachary Solomon and Althea Olsen



Yearbook photos

chemistry.

He said that one thing he says he has learned this year is that he dislikes "sitting in front of a computer all day."

Althea will be attending UMass Amherst in the fall and majoring in biology.

Congratulations to Althea and Zach!



## Jones a talented student-athlete and leader

Jonathan Dunphy  
Veritas Staff

**Chloe Jones** is the Vice President of the Class of 2021. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. She is an accomplished student-athlete who played on the girls' soccer team and was chosen to the Enterprise All-Scholastic team this year for soccer. She received High Honor grades this year for Terms 1, 2 and 3!

The Veritas asked her a few questions about high school and her plans after she graduates.

**Q: What was your favorite class?**

A: My favorite class was either English with Mr. Bigsby, math with Mr. Casagrande, or Unified Gym because all the people and teachers in those classes made that time spent in the classroom so memorable.

**Q: What was your least favorite class?**

A: My least favorite class was either chemistry or physics because I had no idea what was going on in either of them.

**Q: What was your favorite thing about high school?**

A: My favorite thing about high school was the class and school activities like pep rally, football games, and homecoming.

**Q: What was your least favorite thing about high school?**

A: My least favorite thing about high school was waking up early in the morning and having homework.

**Q: What do you plan on doing after high school?**

A: After high school I plan to attend the University of New England where I will study nursing in hopes of becoming a labor and delivery nurse one day. I also plan to play on their Division III women's soccer team.

**Q: What will you miss most about high school?**

A: The thing I will miss most about high school is seeing everyone I grew up with in school who I do not necessarily hang out with outside of school.

## Leadership defines this graduating senior

Marissa Raymond  
Veritas Staff

Senior **Greta Russo** is a member of the varsity soccer and lacrosse teams. She is also a student council executive board member as well as the President of the Massachusetts Association of Student Councils. She is a member of the National Honor Society and was a nominee for Miss Rockland. She was voted "Most Likely to Become President" by the senior class!

**Q: What are your plans after high school?**

A: After high school I plan on attending UMASS Amherst and majoring in environmental science

**Q: What was your favorite class?**

A: My favorite class was calculus with Casa.

**Q: What will you miss most about high school?**

A: After high school I'll miss the fan sections at the different sporting events and being able to sit with all my friends enjoying the games.

**Q: What have you learned about yourself throughout high school?**

A: Throughout high school I have learned about myself that with anything that I do as long as I put in all my effort and I'm proud of it then it does not matter what others think.



## Robinson's friendly way recognized at RHS

Jonah Pishkin  
Veritas Staff

**Billy Robinson** is a member of the National Honor Society. He also has competed in cross country, track and wrestling. He was voted "Friendliest" by his classmates for senior superlatives!

**Q: What do you plan on doing after high school?**

A: I plan to go to college at Bridgewater State University; however, I'm undecided on what to study yet.

**Q: What was your favorite part of high school?**

A: My favorite part was getting to meet so many great people and friends.

**Q: Did you play any sports?**

A: Yes, I participated in cross country, wrestling, and track.

**Q: How would you say you did academically?**

A: I think I was academically successful.

**Q: Are you overall going to miss high school?**

A: I'll miss certain aspects, even if there are some parts I'm eager to leave behind.

See more Senior Profiles on our Website: [www.rhsveritas.wordpress.com](http://www.rhsveritas.wordpress.com)



## Senior says goodbye to Rockland High

Dear RHS,

Well, this is it. You have held me for the past 4 years and I can't believe I'm already 3 weeks out til' graduation.

When I sat in the auditorium during freshman orientation and the current seniors told me it flew by fast I didn't believe them.

My time at RHS has taught me many lessons. Lessons about myself, others, and what I want to do in my future career. Rockland high has been my favorite place as well as my least favorite at times.

Dragging myself out of bed in the mornings to come here for 8 am everyday was a hassle, but some

days were worth it.

Some of my favorite memories here revolve around the drama and music departments. Putting on "Moon Over Buffalo" my freshman year has got to be my favorite. Being the only freshman in the cast, and having it be my first real production was an eye opening experience for me. It made me realize that the stage is where I truly belong and solidified my dream to be an actress.

I went on to participate in every show in my high school career the following years. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 during my junior year, I was unable to play Mary Poppins in our spring musical, and wasn't able to participate in drama this year as well.

COVID-19 has really taken a toll on a lot of aspects of my junior year and especially senior year, taking things away such as fall pep rally, homecoming, attending final high school football games and sporting events, a NORMAL prom, and much more.

Especially the learning aspect as well. Having to go week to week being online or in school, divided into two groups, away from a majority of my class that I'll be graduating with.

COVID aside, I really enjoyed my classes here for the most part. Freshman year I passed with flying colors, sophomore year was a struggle, and junior year I was crying every other day due to the decline of my mental health from being stuck home all the time.

My favorite classes throughout the years really have to do with the teachers. The right teachers will teach you a subject and make you enjoy it as well as the class itself. Some of those teachers for me were Mr. Bigsby, Ms. Penny, Mrs. Folsom, Mrs. Hoffman, Ms. DiCanzio and Ms. Leighton, just to name a few.

The teachers are going to possibly be the main thing I miss about RHS. I have formed such strong connections with teachers over the years, being able to go to them with any troubles or questions I had, and connecting with them on a personal level rather than just a student-teacher professional relationship. I will definitely have to come back here to visit them.



I will miss RHS, but I think I'm ready to enter the next chapter of my life. I am planning to attend Bridgewater State University to major in theatre and further my education to hopefully be on that Broadway stage one day. I have a hope of one day winning a Tony award, and having my fellow peers and past teachers be able to see me and say: "I knew that girl."

Thank you RHS for shaping me into the person I am today and allowing me to make mistakes and get to my lowest points just so I could rise again stronger. Couldn't have done it without you.

Love,  
Emily Gaboriault,



Emily as Roz in "Moon Over Buffalo" in December, 2017 Theater Guild production.

## Senior Bids Farewell to RHS

Dear RHS,

Congratulations to every senior who has made it this far; we did it!

Although it has been a crazy ride, we should all be proud of the accomplishments we have all made thus far.

We are superstars for making education work throughout a pandemic, and going through the college application process. Now we are graduating despite the "road blocks" along the way.

Throughout my time at Rockland High School, I spent my time writing for The Veritas, playing on varsity softball and participating in varsity swim, and completing numerous volunteer and community service hours.

To my coaches, teachers, and advisors, thank you for your support and dedication throughout all of high school.

To the underclassmen, appreciate your time here!

I never believed anyone when people told me high school flies by, but it really does.

Take the risks; try out for the sports team you're interested in, join a club, or even make your own.

There is so much room for opportunity in high school and especially here at Rockland High School.

Your time here is short, so, utilize it to the best of your ability, and do not be afraid to leave your mark on the way!

To the Class of 2021, it has been an honor to be aside all of you for the past four years. Congratulations again on your great accomplishments. I know all of you will achieve great things in the future. I am super happy for all of you entering the next chapter of your life.

My time at RHS was an experience I am truly thankful for, and I am glad to say it really is a bittersweet moment having to say goodbye.

Always remember, once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog!

Althea Olsen  
Class of 2021 RHS (soon to be) Graduate



## Miku grateful for learning experiences at RHS

Emily Gaboriault  
Veritas Editor

Miku Yoshioka

**What are your plans after you leave RHS?**

I plan to attend Suffolk University to major in Biology, as well as in hope to transfer in two years to another school in New York. I'm on a pre-med route to med school, in hopes of someday becoming a neuro or pediatrician!

**What was your favorite class?**

AP Seminar my sophomore year, though Hoyo isn't around anymore. That class has taught me a lot about my writing and the current events of the world with immigration status. I was also able to enjoy many bonding times with other classmates!

**What were your favorite extracurriculars you were involved in?**

It is hard to pick one favorite, but one of the



main one I was involved in all four years was student council. I started from being secretary for my class to being council president, and without the encouragement and support from others I wouldn't be where I am today. I also really enjoyed sports and played both swim and tennis all 4 years, and I'm happy that I joined the team my freshman year!

**What is something you have learned about yourself during your time at RHS?**

Honestly, during my time at RHS, I really learned about our motto "once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog" and that really is gonna leave an imprint on me. From football games to our newly created unified pep rally, it really showed how much our school values connections and bondings.

**Any final thoughts?**

Graduation is around the corner, and our high school life is coming to an end, but the things we learned in our four years here will take us very far in the real world.



## Senior Profiles: Devin Cavicchi and Hannah Rich



Devin Cavicchi

By Calin Monett  
Veritas Staff  
Devin Cavicchi

**What are your plans after graduation?** After graduation, I plan to attend Bryant University to study mathematics.

**What are some of your favorite memories at RHS?**

“Some of my favorite memories at RHS are attending pep rallies, homecomings, and sports games.”

**Favorite lunch at RHS?** Mac and cheese.

**Advice you would give to your freshman year self?** “Not stress about school work because

most of the time the teachers are nice about it and will help you out if you need it.”

**Favorite class?** AP Calc or precalc.

**Any exciting rituals or traditions from sport?**

During soccer season we would always have team dinners before games to bond and this year we always sang on the bus before games and after wins.

**Favorite time of the school year and why?**

“My favorite time of the school year is the end because the weather gets warmer and we can go outside.”



Hannah Rich

Hannah Rich

**Post-Graduate Plans?** Hannah will be attending UMass Boston to study nursing

**Favorite RHS memories** are going to and playing in sports games. Her favorite is when they played Hanover in the tournament and won which advanced to the next round, which they were predicted to lose.

**Favorite lunch** is the pasta bar.

**Advice to her freshman self?** “The four years really do go by so take advantage of every second.”

**Favorite class** is math.

**Traditions from sports :** “We always had the best bus rides and team dinners during sports.”

**Favorite time of the year** is “spring because everyone gets excited for summer and that is when prom and lacrosse are.”

## Art Department showcases students’ talents

Veritas Staff

This year the RPS Art Department created a Virtual Arts Festival showcasing elementary, middle and high school art.

Cheryl Thompson, RPS Art Director for K-12, said that all the art teachers are so impressed with what Rockland art students created this year during remote, hybrid and full in-person learning.

In place of the Arts Festival which is usually held in the gym in the spring teachers placed students’ artwork on line in order to share it with everyone.

The first ever Virtual Arts Festival can be accessed at <https://sites.google.com/rocklandschools.org/rocklandartdeptartrocks2021/home>

The Festival has links for elementary, middle school and high school art work.

Mrs. Thompson said, “We want to thank all of our students for being so patient in working with us to find new ways to be creative and make art during the pandemic.”

Rockland’s art teachers are: Rockland High School: Cheryl Thompson, Kata Medeiros

Rogers Middle School: Colleen Haley

Elementary-Jefferson, Memorial Park, & Esten

School: Michael Guyette

Mrs. Thompson also recognized three seniors who are all pursuing a career in art next year.



Three senior art students who will be furthering their education in art. From left: Rebecca Killion, Alexis DeFranc and Julia DeLima  
Photos courtesy of Yearbook

Alexis DeFranc and Rebecca Killion will be attending Montserrat College of Art in Beverly, MA in the fall. Also, Julia DeLima will be majoring in architecture.

Their art work is featured in the virtual showcase.

In addition to their art work for their classes, all three seniors recently collaborated on a billboard for a Public Service Announcement (PSA) contest sponsored by Rockland Cares and the Brockton Area Prevention Center.

Alexis, Julia and Rebecca won the contest! They collaborated on an original slogan and artwork that focused on the dangers of drunk driving and the importance of making good choices.

In addition to getting their artwork displayed on the Hanover Mall Billboard on Rt 3, they were each given a \$25 Amazon gift card and a book titled, “Hey Kiddo” written by Massachusetts author, Jarrett J. Krosoczka.

The billboard will be up until June 13.

Congratulations to all the Rockland Schools’ artists and especially to our senior artists!



This is the billboard designed by Alexis DeFranc, Julia DeLima and Rebecca Killion that is now up on Route 3 in Hanover.  
photo courtesy of Rockland

## Spring sports teams going strong

The spring sports season began later this year due to the Fall 2 season which didn’t finished up until April.

Baseball, softball, girls and boys tennis along with girls and boys lacrosse and girls and boys track will be playing up until June 10, so there’s still plenty of time to catch a game or the playoffs.

Stories about the Fall 2 and spring sports teams by Veritas Sports Editor Jimmy Tsiantoulas can be found on pages 8 and 9.

**Boys Track Seniors: Bottom Row From Left to Right: Billy Robinson, Nick Murphy, Arthur Norton, Zach Ofurum, Evan Burke, Zach Soloman. Top Row: Russell Jones, David Ferraro, Damon Welles, Jared Allan and Anthony DiNino. Yearbook courtesy photo**





## Music department plays new 'tune' due to COVID



Music Department seniors were recognized on Senior Night in March.

Dr. Harrison Twitter Photo

**Emily Gaboriault**  
Veritas Co-Editor

COVID-19 has heavily impacted several aspects of Rockland High's classes and events, one of which being our music department. Many aspects of the music department have drastically changed due to having to wear masks and the social distancing required between the students.

Sadly, the biggest impact has been that the RHS chorus department has no longer been available for students during the 2020-2021 school year.

The RHS band, however, is going strong, but under strict guidelines due to the pandemic.



The band finally gets to march out to the football field in Fall 2 season this March. Veritas photo

John Piazza, music department head and band teacher, explained the situation. As to why the chorus department was removed from school, he explained, "If you recall early on in the pandemic, one of the early super-spreader events was at a church choir rehearsal."

He added, "There was not a lot of information about how COVID-19 spread at that time but one thing was certain, singing seemed to exacerbate transmission of the virus."

Because of this, he said, "The State of Massachusetts simply wouldn't allow singing in schools or elsewhere, even with masks on until very recently."

Mr. Piazza said that there was also an issue with cohorts. "In order to facilitate smaller class sizes to accommodate CDC social distancing requirements, we lost elective options. We also lost a couple of elective positions making it difficult to schedule required electives for the entire student body."

He admitted, "It was a logistical nightmare for administration. To top this all off, we lost our high school chorus teacher."

It was a perfect storm of unfortunate events and occurrences he explained. "Finding a place in the schedule for a chorus that couldn't sing due to state requirement, fitting the rest of the student body into electives with fewer electives and finding a teacher to teach a class that couldn't sing were the reasons the chorus was temporarily removed."

But Mr. Piazza is hopeful and he believes that music will return to the halls of Rockland High soon. He says that first it will have to go through a rebuild process to regain the potential it has lost over these past two years. "It's difficult to say until all the kids come back, but attrition rates are high."

He explained, "First year students never really got a chance to become functional on their instrument due to lack of instruction, and many quit. Our second year students who are in 6th grade lost critical instruction time and our starting 5th grade class is extremely small."

He concluded, "My best guess is that it will take a few years to recover. The growth of a music program always starts from the bottom. If our teachers have the time to teach basic musicianship early on, students will be successful and continue to play music. If they don't acquire skills, they can't be successful."

Zach Soloman, senior band member, says that he believes it's extremely unfair that the band was able to stay but not the chorus due to the choir kids losing out on another crucial year of musical education.

As a senior attending his last few months at RHS, Zach said he is satisfied with his music career as a whole.

"As my final year in the RHS music department, I am very satisfied with everything that has been done. I have learned a great deal of knowledge about music and music theory, as well as being able to hone my skills as a musician. I have had many positive and fun experiences in the program and have made friends that will last a lifetime."

COVID has been difficult for everyone but we know it's not permanent. Students will be back to singing and performing on that auditorium stage, bringing a light into the dark. Just like in any troubling times, this too shall pass.

Mr. Piazza said, "With the support of the Rockland Community, we'll be back, better than ever!"

## Students adapt to schedule changes once again

**Marissa Raymond**  
Veritas Staff

Over the course of 2020-2021 at RHS due to COVID-19 the schedule has changed many times. This time with the school going fully in-person right after April vacation, not many students were familiar at first with the changes in the schedule. But there were plenty of notices and emails from Dr. Harrison explaining things. Once again students had to remember where to go and when.

One of the schedule changes was eliminating homeroom. RHS freshman Melindah Taylor said, "My take on not having homeroom is that you won't be able to do your homework in homeroom anymore."

Freshman Katrina Young had the same feeling as Melindah. "My take is that having homeroom is nice because kids can do homework if they forgot to do it."

RHS history teacher Ms. Penney said, "I'm going to miss seeing students in homeroom and I think it was helpful for students to get caught up on missing assignments for their classes."

Another change is having each class period longer. Melindah's take on this was that "it will be helpful because people will be able to learn more and get more practice in one class." But Katrina said, "I think having classes longer will be tiring."

As a teacher, Ms. Penney welcomed the longer classes. "I'm excited for classes to be longer; 45 minutes is not

### Bell Schedule

8:15-9:10 AM [55 Minutes] A Block

9:20-10:10 AM [50 Minutes] B Block

10:20-11:10 AM [50 Minutes] C Block

11:20-12:40 PM [60 Minutes] D Block & Lunch Block

11:10-11:40AM First Lunch

11:40-12:10PM Second Lunch

12:10-12:40PM Third Lunch

12:45-1:35 PM [50 Minutes] E Block

1:45-2:50 PM [65 Minutes] F Block

\*Dismissal will start at 2:35PM

enough time to get through lessons in class."

The big question was if the schedule would seriously affect students.

"I don't think the schedule changing will affect me because they gave us a notice and are giving us time to adapt to the new schedule," Melindah said.

Katrina said, "My concerns are that it might get really confusing and that people might get confused about what lunch they have."

Ms. Penney was not concerned about its effect on her as she said, "Nope, just going with the flow."

But aren't students tired of all the changes? Melindah said, "I don't think it is a good idea to change the schedule because the people who are used to it might get confused and go to the wrong places."

Katrina was more positive in her feelings. "I believe that it was a good idea for them to change the schedule because it will make things easier for students and staff."

Ms. Penney said, "I think our school is doing everything they can to make this transition as smooth as possible."

During the first two weeks of May the schedule changed once again to adjust to the sophomores having to take MCAS tests in English and Math.

If students have learned anything this crazy year it would be not to get used to their schedule.



# Our teachers' flexibility is appreciated

Ryan Spano  
Veritas Staff

In high school it is very easy to focus on yourself and forget about others. We all hate how annoying some of the COVID rules can be.

But have you thought about what the teachers at Rockland High have experienced?

I asked a few teachers that I have had over the years how COVID has impacted them and their jobs.

Social Studies teacher, Brian Smith described what his experience from the beginning of the pandemic was as a teacher.

He said, "Last year was a whirlwind. It was really challenging at the beginning of the pandemic to know what was best for my students. It was hard to balance the right amount of rigor and work, with the right amount of flexibility during the crisis."

He concluded, "I think we did the best we could under the circumstances, but I certainly



Teachers like Matt Anzalone created a relaxed but rigorous learning environment this year. Yearbook photo

would have done some things differently."

I feel that every teacher who reads that can most likely relate to what Mr. Smith is saying.

Many people believe that in order to be comfortable with full in-person learning and safety, teachers should have actually been vaccinated first as they actually have the most exposure and risk out of anyone in the school.

Mr. Smith says he was lucky enough to get both of his COVID vaccination shots when CVS first offered them to teachers.

Transitions Program teacher Dan Kimball was not vaccinated as of April, but said he intends to getting vaccinated later this month.

This seems to be the case for

many teachers at Rockland High as many teachers I have interviewed have not yet been vaccinated.

Some students need to appreciate the flexibility that some teachers are giving us with our work in terms of when things are due and how it gets done. Not all teachers need to accept late work.

I feel like the teachers at RHS did an amazing job at realizing the situation and tweaking their class rules to create a more relaxed learning environment.

On another note, I asked teachers what they missed most about pre-COVID learning. Math teacher Matt Anzalone said, "I miss being able to see my students' faces as they laugh at my endless stream of jokes."

# Women's History Month celebrated at RHS



This drawing of the late Supreme Court Justice, Ruth Bader Ginsburg represented the celebration of Women's History Month at RHS back in March. Twitter photo

Jonah Pishkin  
Veritas Staff

Women's History Month is a way to show appreciation for women, especially in a society that is mostly driven by the male work force.

RHS celebrated women's history in the month of March, as during morning announcements, a quote by a famous woman was spoken, showing how influential they are.

However, what do women actually think of the celebration in general? For them, everyday life may be a struggle, but they manage to pull through. As famous feminist Gloria Steinem has said, "The story of women's struggle for equality belongs to no single feminist nor to any one organization but to the collective efforts of all who care about human rights."

Biology teacher Julia DiCanzio views Women's History Month as an important teaching tool. "I think Women's History Month provides a chance to honor and recognize women who might not receive any recognition. It also serves as an opportunity to educate everyone, particularly the younger generations, of what women have had to endure, and still endure, in the fight for equality."

Student Kendra Peretzman said, "Throughout history, women haven't been treated right or equal, so it's important to show recognition nowadays."

Women only began getting more equal rights since the 1920's. That was the right to vote, but even in the 50's,

many remained housewives, as it was harder for them to get jobs. Many women weren't included in the workforce, unless it was doing manual labor, like working in factories to make accessories like clothes.

There is no doubt that women have an impact on society today in large ways. Student Alexis DeFranc said, "Women have impacted our society by being the mothers of our own founding fathers, and by working their way through the ranks. So many women out there have struck society so others could grow. This includes working at major corporations, and not just being a house mother."

Ms. DiCanzio also explained how their impact can inspire the younger generations. "There are countless women who have made contributions in ways that we might not even realize because they've been overshadowed or silenced. Women are particularly impactful through representation right now. When young girls see women in society (the workforce, academia, pop culture, political offices, etc.) who look, talk, and act like they do, it inspires them to find their future path in society."

Women can be role models to pretty much everybody. This doesn't just need to include younger women, as it can include younger men too. Role models can be in the form of people they know and grew up with, to role models they see in everyday media.

Ms. DiCanzio gave an example of how her own grandmother was her female inspiration. In her words, "She was born to Italian immigrants into extreme poverty, and, as is customary for the daughter in an Italian household, she wasn't supposed to get an education or a job. But she wanted to be independent. So she went against her family's wishes, went to school, and worked her way up the ranks at the New Jersey Education Association. She was passionate about education and fair working conditions throughout her career, and she became an amazing grandmother after that!"

***"I think Women's History Month....serves as an opportunity to educate everyone, particularly the younger generations, of what women have had to endure, and still endure, in the fight for equality."***

***- Julia DiCanzio***

When asked who her female inspiration was, Peretzman gave her thoughts on people not closely related to her.

"Honestly, any woman athlete because they face discrimination in their field everyday, through rules and recognition. This also goes with women in the mostly male work environment."

Being a proud woman in today's society can be difficult. This comes from the fact that we live in what many consider a "male dominated world."

DeFranc explained, "Ruled by men or not, I am proud of where I stand in this society."

More on the 50/50 side of the matter, Peretzman, when asked if she was proud, said, "Yes and no. Women are starting to rise to the occasion, and I'm proud to be in that



The first American woman astronaut was physicist Sally Ride who flew on a space shuttle mission in 1983. She was honored on a postage stamp and will be one of two women featured on the U.S. quarter.

generation. However, it is still unfair that the world is mostly male dominated."

However, many women still have hope for themselves and for the other women that live around them. That hope can also be given to the celebration month itself.

When asked what her hopes for the future of women are, DiCanzio explained, "My hope is that more women's voices are amplified to reflect the diversity of all women. I hope that women are provided with even more opportunities than they have had in the past, and that we continue to fight for justice, equality, and representation all year and always, even after Women's History Month is over."

DeFranc added, "I hope women will get more attention for their impacts in society."

The women around the world, in and out of our lives, have proven themselves to be strong and capable time and time again. They work often, and make money to support not only themselves, but their families.

Every woman makes a difference in at least one person's life, even if their influence is not visible. Women, like men, have the capacity to change the world for the better, and strive towards their goals in healthy and realistic ways.

To understand even more the impact women have in our society you can look at the National Women's Hall of Fame on-line at <https://www.womenofthehall.org/women-of-the-hall/>.



# Football seniors get one last ride at RHS



**Terell Wright, Ryan Hindy, Nick Soares, Nick Earner, Jimmy Tsiantoulas, Colin McKerrell, Joe Nguyen, Zach Ofurum, Patrick Moriarty, Cullen Rogers, Nick Leander, Tom McSweeney, Jacob Moore, Hunter Wardwell, and Jendry Mejia on Senior Night.**  
Courtesy photo

**James Tsiantoulas**  
*Veritas Sports Editor*

Another fantastic season of sports has come and gone, and with it the RHS varsity football team was absolutely incredible. Although this “Fall 2” season was cut to only seven games and with no playoffs due to COVID, the team gave it their all every day.

Going from a full year with the idea of not knowing what will happen with football, to being given the go ahead to have a shortened season with only a 2 week offseason, the team as a whole relished this.

Normally, an offseason would be the entire summer with workouts leading up to August. But with the little time given this year, the team got to work.

The veteran team came out to a hot start, winning the first five games of the year on the backbone of clutch plays and big time players.

Some of the highlights included the season opener on March 12, a 28-7 win at Cohasset, and the 17-14 win against Abington in which Rockland came down with the game saving interception at the end.

However, the next week the team would be put to the test, playing Mashpee. The Bulldogs fell short early and had to claw back later in the game. But Mashpee was able to hold on for the victory and Rockland took its first loss of the season.

Senior Captain Colin McKerrell shed some light on the matter. “It was definitely a surprise after that final whistle. We came into this game with some fire but they (Mashpee) came out hotter. We just have to come back to work next week and finish out this year as strong as we can.”

Now most teams after such a promising start would probably crumble after such a tough game, but the Dogs were too good for that.

The team got back to work and were ready for the final game against East Bridgewater in a “Thanksgiving” game. But, two days before the game was scheduled, East Bridgewater had to be shut down due to close contact tracing among the team. Being the last week of the season and most teams being done for the year, it looked like the season might end right there.

Thankfully, Hull High School was still available to have one last game.

The Bulldogs traveled to Hull on a frigid and windy Thursday night and finished the year out strong, bringing the win total to 6 and finishing the year with a record of 6-1. This game was very special as it was the final game for the 15 seniors on the team, many who were a part of the youth program from the very beginning.

Senior Patrick Moriarty commented about the end of the season, “All of the seniors knew how much this game meant to us going in. We knew it was going to be emotional as it would be the last time the majority of us would ever play football again. I’m so proud of what we have accomplished throughout this messed up year.”

This season was definitely very special as the team was battling for just one win two years ago.

Since then the Bulldogs have won 22 of their last 24 games, and despite losing their veteran seniors, they look poised to make another big step next year.

**James Tsiantoulas**  
*Veritas Sports Editor*

The football team held their only home game of the season against Randolph on April 16. Due to the game being the only one on the home field, the senior night celebration was held before the game. This was a very special moment for the seniors as they were all praised for their time with the football program in Rockland as a whole.

There were 15 seniors in total that were celebrated before the game in front of the home crowd: Joey Nguyen, Cullen Rogers, Colin McKerrell, Nick Leander, Patrick Moriarty, Thomas McSweeney, Hunter Wardwell, Jacob Moore, Nick Soares, Nick Earner, Zach Ofurum, Ryan Hindy, Jendry Mejia, Terell Wright, and myself.

Many seniors on the team played football for over a decade and this was the culmination of it all, truly showing what it means to be a part of something special.

Senior captain Nick Leander was ecstatic with the way it turned out.

“This is what Rockland football is all about. Leading up to this moment was all of our hard work from youth all the way until now. This was a really special moment for all of the seniors. I wish this season could have played out differently, but we have worked so hard as a whole.”

Following the pre-game celebration, the team managed to handle Randolph High and won in a convincing fashion with a score of 49-0.

It was a fantastic game and it was a great way to end such an important day for the seniors.

# Volleyball team enjoys another year of success

**James Tsiantoulas**  
*Veritas Sports Editor*

The volleyball team of Rockland High finished their season with another fantastic year of success as they finished out the regular season undefeated, winning the SSL League championship.

The team had major success last year, making it all the way to the state championship behind the likes of Hannah Wyllie and Caroline Elie. This team was counted out once those major contributors graduated, but the Bulldogs proved everyone wrong. They managed to finish out their season undefeated with an underclassmen team, and won their league championship game.

In an article in The Enterprise at the end of the season, Coach Emily Adams said, “At the very beginning of this season I thought it would be a rebuilding year, but obviously you can see these girls work hard and they came right back.” Furthermore, “I said before they had big shoes to fill and they filled them.”

The team led by their all stars juniors Julia Elie, and Darcy McGuirk, freshman Maggie Elie, sophomore Jordan Stec, and sophomores Kiara Miguel helped prove that this team was a force to be reckoned with. The girls really pushed the boundaries and showed it does not matter the size or skill level of the team. As long as they work hard and trust in one another, anything is possible.

Again from the article in the Enterprise, junior all star Darcy McGuirk had this to say, “Honestly, I was surprised by what the underclassmen definitely brought. I was impressed by all of them and what they were able to do with such a short amount of time. For some of them, it’s only their first or second year playing and they stepped up.”



**Volleyball Team won the SSL championship. Back left to right: Myanna Reese, Madison Freeman, Darcy McGuirk, Jess Esposito, Maddie Murphy, Julia Elie, Jess Driscoll, Maggie Elie. Front left to right: Victoria Murray, Nadia Dutton, Julia Porto, Jordan Stec, Kiara Miguel.**  
Courtesy Photo

The seniors of the team were given a fantastic send off as they were a part of something special, really proving the doubters wrong and showing anything can be done. They were called upon to

lead this team and they were able to contribute to this fantastic season. The seniors leaving the program this year are Myavana Reese and Jessica Driscoll.



## Spring sports get long-awaited season

**James Tsiantoulas**  
Veritas Sports Editor

With Fall II coming to a close, the athletes have moved right into the spring season. Without missing a beat the teams were ready to take on the rest of the season.

Starting off with the **boys lacrosse team**, the team has gone 2-2 through the first 4 games and are poised to make a run before the end of the season.

Coming off a tough loss to Norwell, the Bulldogs came to play against Middleboro and won in convincing fashion with a huge 19-8 victory. This team has seen some hardships as numbers are much lower than previous years, but this team has some fantastic playmakers on both sides of the field.

Players such as Lucas Leander and Justin Cronin have been major contributors on the offensive side, as well as captains Nick Leander and myself on the defensive side. Nick Earner and Jendry Mejia are also seniors on the team.

Next, the **girls lacrosse team** may be having a tough season as of now, but are looking to turn that around. The team secured their first win on Friday, May 21 against Abington 12-2 and have had great games against teams such as East Bridgewater and Middleboro.

The team, with a balanced attack on offense from Cap-

tain Hannah Rich and seniors McKenzie Tsiantoulas and Sarah Gormley, have kept games close.

The defense led by Captain Lauren Dracchio as well as senior defender Kendra Peretzman and goalie Erin Gardner have played very well this season.

The **boys baseball team** has finally broken a losing streak this season and are gearing up to secure even more wins. The team has struggled this year but with their win against Hull they have been playing some great baseball.

With **Captain Robert Ivil** on the mound and **Captain Cullen Rogers** behind the plate, the Bulldogs have kept games close. Senior **Zack Phripp** also is a captain.

Contributing to Robert Ivil's near no hitter against Norwell, their defense has been great. The team, coming off a loss against Mashpee, are now 1-5 and are looking to turn it around and earn another win this year.

The **softball team** this year is playing well. Coach Emily Adams secured her first varsity win against Hull.

Both the teams' wins so far have come against Hull. The team is looking to turn it around this season and make it to the postseason. The team is led by captains **Macy Grass** and **Michaela Bruno** along with seniors **Althea Olsen** and **Alexxys MacDonald**.



**Softball Captains: Macy Grass and Michaela Bruno got to take off their masks this week.**  
photo courtesy of Coach Adams



Seniors playing baseball include from left: Cullen Rogers, Robert Ivil, Ryan Dobay, Ryan Hindy, Steve Tutkus, and Zachary Phripp.

Photos courtesy of Heather Ivil



Junior Adam Beatrice is the boys tennis captain. photo courtesy Coach Beatrice



Senior track captains Emily Marquis, Natalia Roosa and Hannah Markarski  
Yearbook photo



Senior captains Bridget Hughes and Miku Yoshioka  
Yearbook photo



Senior lacrosse captains Lauren Dracchio and Hannah Rich  
photo courtesy Coach Newcomb

The **girls tennis team** has had a great season, with a 4-2 record, they secured their first win on May 10 against East Bridgewater.

They did lose on May 13 to EB but it was a hard fought match from all the players. The team also won against Mashpee on May 19 with junior Hannah Higgins securing her first varsity win. On May 21 they won a "nail-biter" against Abington.

The team is led by seniors **Bridget Hughes** and **Miku Yoshioka**.

Also, the **boys tennis team** won their match on May 10 against EB, with another win May 19 against Mashpee. Will Maynard Pimentel and Mo Asid both won their first varsity match in doubles.

Junior **Adam Beatrice** is leading the way for this young team that has only three high school players and seven eighth graders on the team.

Coach Chris Beatrice said, "Our high school players are great leaders for the younger kids and our team is working hard each day to improve."

Both tennis teams are looking to make a push towards the end of the season and potentially make the playoffs.

Both the **boys and girls track teams** have yet to win a meet, but they have some incredible talent with captains **Zach Ofurum**, **Joey Nguyen**, and **Arthur Norton** leading the way for the boys and **Natalia Roosa**, **Hannah Markarski**, and **Emily Marquis** for the girls.

Some notable performances from both teams' meet against East Bridgewater include Joey Nguyen, 1st place in the 400 hurdles as well as 2nd in long jump and triple jump. Zach Ofurum, 1st in the 100m and 2nd in long jump. Nick Murphy placed 1st in jav, Arthur Norton was 2nd in the 400m and Kam Christ placed 2nd in the 2 mile.

The **girls track team** had some big contributions from Meghan Hoblitzelle who was 1st in shot put and discus. Natalia Roosa was 2nd in the 100m hurdles, and Hannah Makarski placed 3rd in the 400m.

Their meet against Norwell was very competitive as the Bulldogs only lost by a few points.

In all, the team is filled to the brim with athletes who are all fiery competi-

tors.

Mr. Grimmet, girls' track coach, said, "We have 17 girls this year. Most are freshmen or sophomores who have never participated in track before (no season last year due to COVID). We're currently at 0 wins and 4 losses; but we're improving every day."

He also praised his team for their character. "The team has a positive attitude and always demonstrates sportsmanship."

Let's not forget that these teams were all deprived of their entire seasons last year, so this year has been a welcome gift.

With the easing of the mask mandate the spring sports athletes are all looking to finish their seasons strong and compete well in the league play-offs.